

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For information contact:
Kevin Langin
402-633-3541

First National Investment Banking Adds Public Finance Team

(OMAHA, Neb. Oct. 15, 2008) -- First National Investment Banking (FNIB), a full-service investment bank and wholly-owned subsidiary of First National of Nebraska, Inc., has announced the opening of its new Public Finance Department, said David Cota, senior managing director, First National Capital Markets.

"This is a vital addition to our capabilities, bringing value-added new issue underwriting, financial advisory and derivative product capabilities to state and local governments, hospitals, higher education and 501(c)(3) organizations, as well as to all types of corporate issuers of tax-exempt bonds," Cota said. The Public Finance Team will partner with these entities as they issue debt for the financing of new facilities, equipment and infrastructure improvements or the refinancing of existing debt.

The team is comprised of Charles Ziese, managing director; Keri Trolson, vice president; and Jennifer Kobza, associate. Ziese has a broad base of experience in Public Finance, having served as investment banker, issuer and guarantor of municipal bond issues and has served as an investment banker on virtually all types of tax-exempt debt financing. Before joining First National Investment Banking, he was the senior public finance banker for Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC, a Philadelphia-based brokerage/investment banking firm, focusing on the utility and renewable energy sectors, municipal advance refundings, pension debt restructurings and variable rate bond issuance for small issue industrial development borrowers and specialty 501(c)(3) organizations. A graduate of Dartmouth College, he received his MBA in Finance from Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business Administration.

-More-

First National Adds Public Finance Team, page 2.

Trolson has a decade of experience in the municipal finance industry, managing the structuring and issuance of more than 80 bond issues with a total par amount

exceeding \$2.25 billion. She has completed project financings and refundings for municipalities, higher education institutions and a diverse group of health care providers. Trolson also has expertise in cash flow modeling, debt capacity analysis, credit analysis and derivatives analysis. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from George Washington University and received a Masters of Public Policy degree from the University of Chicago.

Kobza previously specialized in individual and S-Corporation tax compliance at Deloitte and Touche. She received her Bachelors of Science and Business Administration degree in Accounting and Finance and her MBA from Creighton University.

"The introduction of our Public Finance team marks the next major enhancement for First National Investment Banking as we build our reputation as the only full-service investment bank in the Heartland," Cota said. "It provides an additional set of value-added capabilities to our already extensive list of products and services for our municipal, non-profit and corporate customers."

He said Public Finance will bring specific industry expertise to bear in such areas as healthcare, higher education, 501(c)(3) organizations and utility, renewable energy and corporate-related tax-exempt issuance, along with the full array of First National's financial products and services.

-More-

First National Adds Public Finance Team, page 2.

ABOUT FIRST NATIONAL INVESTMENT BANKING

First National Investment Banking is one of the fastest growing investment banking firms in the Midwest. FNIB serves corporations, institutions and high-net-worth individuals by providing a comprehensive array of sophisticated financial resources and staff that can provide leadership in a complex investment environment. FNIB, a wholly-owned subsidiary of First National of Nebraska, Inc., is headquartered in Omaha, Neb.

and has regional offices in Kansas City, Mo., Des Moines, Iowa and Sacramento, Calif. For more information, visit www.fnib.com.

ABOUT FIRST NATIONAL OF NEBRASKA

First National of Nebraska has grown into the largest privately owned banking company in the United States. First National and its affiliates have \$21 billion in managed assets and more than 8,000 employee associates located in 35 states. Primary banking offices are located in Nebraska, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota and Texas.

#