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**Local Agency Garners “Best of Community Banking Award”
for Texas Banking Client in 2009 IBAT Awards**

Houston, Texas – Work produced by The Lee Group for First Victoria National Bank has garnered a gold award in this year’s annual **Best of Community Banking** competition sponsored by the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT). The award was received for a multi-media campaign that announced the bank’s opening of a new banking center in Victoria.

The bank was notified of the award on July 23rd and will be recognized during IBAT’s upcoming 4th Annual Convention to be held in San Antonio at the La Cantera resort October 11—13, 2009.

The announcement marks the second year in a row for First Victoria and The Lee Group to strike gold. In 2008, the bank was awarded a gold award for its *Change Your World* branding campaign produced by The Lee Group.

The firm also created award-winning work in 2008 for Independent Bank who was recognized with a gold and bronze award as well as an honorable mention.

IBAT is the largest state community banking organization in the nation with a membership surpassing 500 banks across the state. The Best of Community Banking Awards recognize IBAT member institutions for involvement that sets distinguished community bankers apart from the rest. Projects are judged for innovation and creativity, number of people benefited or affected and the success in fulfilling a community need.

Founded in 1980, **The Lee Group** is a full-service advertising and marketing communications firm with offices in Houston and Beaumont. For more information on the firm and its services, call 713.864.8651 or visit www.theleegroup.us.com.

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