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# Liberty Bank Officer Joins Oklahoma Rival

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The first of Liberty Bancorp's top managers has jumped ship to join rival Bank of Oklahoma.

Jeff Pickryl, former president of Liberty Tulsa, joined Bank of Oklahoma recently as executive vice president reporting to chief executive officer Stanley A. Lybarger.

Pickryl is the first of a nine-member executive level management committee to leave Liberty Bancorp since Ohio-based Banc One Corp. closed its purchase of the holding company and its Oklahoma City and Tulsa banks two weeks ago.

Other executives are considering leaving Banc One-Liberty, Pickryl said Monday.

Liberty officials didn't return phone calls for comment.

Pickryl joined Bank of Oklahoma last week along with three of Liberty's commercial lending officers, including Brad Vincent, David Sutter and Glenn Floresca.

The three will work under Pickryl on a statewide commercial marketing team assembled by Bank of Oklahoma.

In addition to being president of Liberty's Tulsa bank, Pickryl was chief credit officer for Liberty Bancorp.

As chief credit officer, Pickryl was involved in credit approval on all Liberty business loans, he said.

"For me and the people who came along with me, I firmly believe that we are better posi-

tioned to meet the banking needs of Oklahoma businesses in an environment like Bank of Oklahoma," said Pickryl, 45.

Pickryl spent 15 years with Liberty and said Oklahoma is a small part of mammoth Banc One's overall corporate strategy while the state is key to Bank of Oklahoma.

"We have an ability to be much more flexible by virtue of the fact that all the decision makers are right here," he said.

Pickryl and Bank of Oklahoma management began discussing his future about three and half weeks ago, he said.

While other Liberty executives weigh their futures, some of Liberty's employees

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already have been notified that Banc One will cut their jobs.

Banc One spokesman Joseph C. Bowles said Banc One would not release information on the specific numbers of employee layoffs during reorganization of operations, but would after the reorganization is complete.

Bowles said employees are given 60 days notice and added that he knew of no exception to the notification time.

Liberty employed about 1,100 people in 1996. Bank One employed about 240.

According to reports, operating costs could be cut 30 percent after the merger into Banc One.

If the combined employment is cut by 30 percent, the new Bank

However, Bowles recently said Banc One had no predetermined quota of reductions at Liberty.

Liberty's logo will be changed to Bank One's logo, either later this year or early next year, Bowles said.

Banc One also said that Edward F. Keller will be president and CEO of Liberty Bank and Trust in Tulsa. James R. Daniel retains the title of chairman and CEO of Bank One Oklahoma, and is president and CEO during the reorganization.