

## **Bonnell Named Banker Advocate of the Year**

Citizens Bank of West Virginia President & CEO Nathaniel S. Bonnell was recently named Banker Advocate of the Year at the 130th West Virginia Bankers Annual Convention held at the Greenbrier.

The award was presented by Mark Mangano, President and CEO, West Virginia Bankers Association, who recognized Bonnell for his thoughtful leadership, direct advocacy, relationship development, research, and industry perspective. Mangano also lauded his engagement with the political action committee, legislative advocacy, and administrative rule development.

In the past year, the West Virginia Bankers Association actively engaged in planning legislative initiatives, navigating legislative priorities put forth by others, working to shape the political environment, and engaging in a significant administrative rule writing effort related to a legislative initiative that will impact nearly every bank in the State.

Most notably in the past year, a group of bank leaders worked tirelessly to assist the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office to develop administrative rules to implement the Security for Public Deposits Program mandated under state law. The Security for Public Deposits Program is intended to provide increased efficiency and decreased collateral requirements for banks providing depository services to the state and its political subdivisions. The Program's value was entirely dependent on developing complex rules that balance the Treasurer's statutory obligations with industry needs.

According to Mangano, "Bonnell played a critical role in building trust between the Treasurer's staff and the banker working group by listening carefully, advancing mutually beneficial solutions, and providing research to inform discussions. His commitment to advancing the greater good was beyond any reasonable expectation and has benefited our industry and the State of West Virginia."

### **About Citizens Bank of West Virginia**

Citizens Bank of West Virginia, with assets of \$682 million and headquartered in Elkins, WV. From six office locations in North Central and northern West Virginia, the bank provides integrated financial services including retail and commercial banking, wealth management, and mortgage services. Citizens Bank was

recognized for the fourth consecutive year by American Banker magazine in the Top Performing Publicly Trading Community Banks Under \$2 Billion of Assets in the Nation, ranking 25th on the prestigious Top 100 list and #1 among WV banks. Citizens is also named to Newsweek's America's Best Banks list as the Best Small Bank in WV, ranked #7 as one of the Best Banks to Work for in the Country by American Banker, Best of West Virginia Corporate Citizen by WV Living, The Inter-Mountain's People's Choice Best Bank & Mortgage Lender, SBA WV Community Lender of the Year, and ranked the nation's no. 9 top lender by Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) in the consumer/mortgage category for banks \$300M-\$1B in assets and No. 1 as the consumer/mortgage lender in West Virginia in this class.