

**CITIZENS TRUST BANK RECOGNIZED AMONG
ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION'S TOP 100**

Atlanta, GA (06/16/2008). Citizens Bancshares Corporation, the holding company of Citizens Trust Bank, has ranked within The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's top 100 Georgia based public companies in 2008. In this very challenging and uncertain financial market it is difficult for many banks to maintain, let alone prosper. Citizens Trust Bank (CTB) wasn't just able to make the list which includes several Fortune 500 Companies, but has moved up in the ranking since last year making this the second consecutive year that CTB's efforts have been recognized.

This is the 15th year that the AJC has published the Georgia 100 *Best of Business* list, celebrating the accomplishments of Georgia companies based on several categories including revenue, total return on investment, annual profit change, return on equity, and annual revenue change. The data was compiled by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP who assembled the data from the respective companies' annual reports filed through the SEC. "Out of the hundreds of publicly owned companies within the state of Georgia, it is truly an honor and a privilege to be a part of Georgia's top 100 and to have received this prestigious award," says CTB President and CEO **James Young**.

In the selection process, each company is ranked in each of the five different categories and the total is calculated to determine the final score, with a lower score placing the company in a higher ranking. The compiled list describes where the Georgia companies are traded, through the NYSE, NASDAQ, AMEX, and unlisted stocks that are traded on the OTCBB.

For the complete listing of all companies and rankings, you can go to www.ajc.com.

About CTB

As a leader in the financial services industry, Citizens Trust Bank prides itself on offering a full range of quality products and services. Since its inception, the Bank has remained dedicated to the growth and development of communities through superior products and extraordinary service. Citizens Trust Bank has assets of approximately \$355 million and financial centers throughout metropolitan Atlanta and Columbus, Georgia, and in Birmingham and Eutaw, Alabama. Through its parent company, Citizens Bancshares Corporation, its common stock is offered over-the-counter to the general public under the trading symbol CZBS. For more information please visit Citizens Trust Bank on the web at www.CTBconnect.com. Citizens Trust Bank – A relationship you can bank on.