

TRANSLATION



THE SUPERINTENDENCY OF BANKS

ANNOUNCES:

Based on the provisions set forth in Article 131 and 132 of the Banking Law and by means of S.B.P. Resolution 57-2009 dated 17 February 2009, the Superintendency of Banks of Panama ordered the Seizure of Administrative and Operating Control of **STANFORD BANK (PANAMÁ), S.A.** as of seven in the morning (7:00 a.m.) on eighteen (18) February 2009.

This decision was adopted by the Superintendency of Banks due to actions taken by the regulatory and judicial authorities of the United States of America that directly affect the sole shareholder of the Bank in Panama as well as other companies related to that person, resulting in massive deposit withdrawals by clients.

As of today, the Bank is in compliance with the capital and liquidity ratios according to legal and Superintendency requirements. However, in our opinion, the depositors' interests were jeopardized due to the client withdrawals that the Bank has experienced. Consequently, it was necessary to adopt the above measures to safeguard the interests of the bank's depositors.

The situation experienced by **STANFORD BANK (PANAMÁ), S.A.** is an isolated event that is the result of the decisions adopted by authorities abroad, and has not been the result of deterioration in the financial situation of the Bank in Panama.

Finally, and for the purpose of promoting public trust in the Banking System, the Superintendency reiterates that neither the Bank's situation nor the decision adopted affects the rest of the Banks established in our Banking System.

Panama, 17 February 2009.