

Cathy Hastings Owen
Chair, President & CEO – State Holding Company
Executive Chair – Eagle Bank & Trust Company
Little Rock, AR

Bio

Cathy Owen is currently Chair, President & CEO of State Holding Company, which is the holding company for Eagle Bank & Trust Company, Little Rock, AR. She is also Executive Chair of the bank, which is 104 years old, \$485 million state bank, with 13 branches in central Arkansas, and Mortgage Loan Offices in Arkansas, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Owen remains active in the banking industry, business, and the community. Last year, she celebrated her 50th year in banking, having started to work at the bank when she was sixteen, as the shred clerk. She has served in nearly every position in the bank, up to and including president. She served as Chair of the Arkansas Bankers Association (2018-2019) and remains the only female to serve in this position in its 135-year history. This was a particularly tough year, as the Association President became ill and passed away, unexpectedly. She was tasked with not only hiring a new President, but also running the Association in the interim, and working with the new President. She currently serves on the American Bankers Association Board as Vice- Chair and on the Executive Committee. She is Past Chair of the Government Relations Council, the Compensation Committee, the Professional Development Council and has served on the Membership and Dues Committee. In 2024, she began serving on the Conference of State Bank Supervisors Bank Advisory Board..

Owen is responsible for the management and oversight of One Financial Centre Real Estate Holdings, and serves on the Boards of Hastings Holding Company, Moon Distributors, and Arkansas Bolt Company.

Owen is Past-Chairman of the Baptist Hospital Foundation Board, and currently serves on the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum Foundation Board, Fifty for the Future Board, Arkansas State Fair Association, and the North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce Board. She is also a member of the International Women's Forum and was named one of American Banker's 2022 Most Powerful Women in Banking to Watch. In 2023, Owen was inducted into the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame.

Arkansas Business named Owen a 2023 Contemporary Legend, after she had been named one of Arkansas' Most Influential Leaders for several years, which retired from consideration for this ongoing recognition. Owen was named a 2022 & 2023 Arkansas Money & Politics Powerful Woman in Banking, 2022 & 2024 Girl Scout CEO Honoree, and the 2019 Sandra Wilson Cherry Award Recipient in recognition of female leadership and exemplary community service. In 2019, she was Knighted into the Knights of Saint Martin, in Rome, Italy, a knighthood sanctioned by the Pope, in recognition of and focused on promoting equality and service to those less fortunate.

Owen earned her BSBA in Finance and Banking from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and her Graduate Banking Degree from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking, at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX. She is also honored to be a National Security Forum Air War College Alumnae, Montgomery, Alabama.

Owen has been married to her wonderful husband for 42 years, has 2 grown children, one son-in-law, and two beautiful granddaughters.

About Eagle Bank & Trust Company

The bank has been serving customers continuously since 1919, not even closing its doors during the depression. To prevent a run on the bank, the bank president stacked what money the bank had on the counter behind the tellers, so the customers would feel confident the bank had ample cash and would not close.

Owen's family entered banking in 1967, when her father chartered First State Bank of Sherwood, because he observed a need for a bank in this unbanked community. Since he never worked at the bank, he wanted Owen to learn about banking, which she did. In 1984, she led the formation of State Holding Company as well as the purchase of the Heber Springs State Bank (Chartered 1919), which was scheduled to be closed the bank the next day by regulators. She flew the plane to Heber Springs, AR, where she signed the agreement to purchase the bank on the tail wing of the plane. She became the bank president and worked with the staff to rebuild a healthy bank. Later, the two banks were merged under what is now Eagle Bank & Trust Company.

Eagle Bank's Mortgage Division has continuously been one of the top three originators in Arkansas.