

Thain leaves Bank of America

Without commenting on the departure of John Thain, Bank of America issued the following press release on his replacement. It is believed that Thain was forced to resign following the announcement of the US\$ 15 billion in losses in the 4th Qtr and after publication that Thain had brought forward to December of last year the payment of bonuses for his division. It is believed that bonuses in excess of US\$ 4 billion were paid prior to year end. The New York attorney general has begun an investigation into the bonus payments.

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Jan. 22 /PRNewswire/ -- Bank of America today announced that Brian Moynihan has been named President of Global Banking and Global Wealth and Investment Management.

Moynihan replaces John Thain who is leaving the company.

The company also said that Tom Montag will continue to run Global Markets and will now report to Ken Lewis, Bank of America chairman and chief executive officer. Montag will also become a member of the Management Executive Team, which sets strategy for the company.

Moynihan has been General Counsel of Bank of America. He will occupy that role while the company searches for his replacement. Previous to the merger with Merrill Lynch, Moynihan ran Global Corporate and Investment Banking for Bank of America. Before that, he was President of Global Wealth and Investment Management at the company.

"Brian Moynihan is a strong manager and one of those people who can effectively envision strategy and execute," said Ken Lewis, Bank of America chairman and chief executive officer. "He has excelled at everything we have asked him to do." Lewis emphasized that the change in leadership in no way reflects a significant change in direction for the Global Banking or wealth management units.

"Those organizations, which formed the heart of Merrill Lynch, will continue to serve their clients as world class financial service providers," Lewis said. "We are quite happy with their performance since the merger."

Lewis added that, "Tom Montag is getting a well-deserved promotion. He has provided strong leadership during our transition so far, and we believe that Global Markets will in the future be a significant profit center for our company."

Moynihan, 49, continues to report to Lewis and be a member of the company's Management Executive Team. He joined Bank of America in 2004, following Bank of America's merger with FleetBoston Financial. At Fleet, he led Brokerage & Wealth Management after leading Fleet's Internet strategy. Before that, he directed the corporation's strategic development for six years, overseeing all mergers and acquisitions. He joined Fleet Financial Group in April 1993 as Deputy General Counsel.

Montag, 52, joined Merrill Lynch as executive vice president and head of global sales and trading in 2008, prior to the company's merger with Bank of America. Before that, he was with Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., where he was co-head of the global securities business and a member of the company's Management Committee and Equities/FICC Executive Committee. During his 22 years with Goldman Sachs, Montag was co-president of the firm's Japanese operations and co-head of Asian FICC and Equities, before becoming co-head of the global securities business. Earlier in his career, Mr. Montag ran the firm's global derivatives business.