



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: **JoAnne Coy**, Vice President,
Corporate Communications
253-305-1965; jcoy@columbiabank.com

**COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM ANNOUNCES THIRD QUARTER 2010
EARNINGS RELEASE DATE AND CONFERENCE CALL**

TACOMA, Washington--- Columbia Banking System, Inc. (NASDAQ: COLB) expects to report third quarter 2010 financial results on Thursday, October 28, 2010 at 6:15 a.m. PDT. Management will discuss these results on a conference call scheduled for that afternoon at 1:00 p.m. PDT (4:00 p.m. EDT). Interested parties may listen to this discussion by calling 1-888-318-7969; Conference ID code #17852058.

A conference call replay will be available from approximately 4:00 p.m. PDT on October 28, 2010 through midnight PDT on November 4, 2010. The conference call replay can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering Conference ID code #17852058.

About Columbia

Headquartered in Tacoma, Washington, Columbia Banking System, Inc. is the holding company of Columbia Bank, a Washington state-chartered full-service commercial bank which was awarded third place in the large employer category by *Seattle Business Magazine's* 100 Best Companies to Work For 2010 and was designated one of Puget Sound Business Journal's "Washington's Best Workplaces 2009".

With the January, 2010 FDIC-assisted acquisitions of Columbia River Bank and American Marine Bank, Columbia Banking System has 83 banking offices, including 59 branches in Washington State and 24 branches in Oregon. Columbia Bank does business under the Bank of Astoria name at the Bank of Astoria's former branches located in Astoria, Warrenton, Seaside, Cannon Beach, Manzanita and Tillamook. More information about Columbia can be found on its website at www.columbiabank.com.

Note Regarding Forward Looking Statements

This news release includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which can be identified by words such as “may,” “expected,” “anticipate”, “continue,” or other comparable words. In addition, all statements other than statements of historical facts that address activities that Columbia expects or anticipates will or may occur in the future are forward-looking statements. Readers are encouraged to read the SEC reports of Columbia, particularly its form 10-K for the Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2009, for meaningful cautionary language discussing why actual results may vary materially from those anticipated by management.

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