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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**First County Bank receives the Women's Choice Award®
as a highly recommended Financial Firm
by Women for Women**

Stamford, CT, October 21, 2015 - As the leading advocate for female consumers, WomenCertified Inc. is pleased to announce that First County Bank has received the Women's Choice Award for Financial Advisors and Firms based on rigorous research, 17 objective criteria and additional points of reference that obtain feedback regarding the advisor's service and practices. First County Bank is the first and only independent community Bank to have earned this award.

The Women's Choice Award is the only recognition program for well-qualified advisors who are committed to the women's market and serving their female clients. Achieving this award reaffirms the commitment First County Bank has to extraordinary service in addressing the financial needs of women and their families. "First County Bank is honored to be chosen as a recipient of the Women's Choice Award. As our goal is to be a trusted advisor to our clients, this recognition validates our commitment to excellence in serving women and all members of the community. Thank you for this honor," said Rey Giallongo, First County Bank chairman and CEO.

WomenCertified, originator of the Women's Choice Award, was created by Delia Passi, the leading advocate for female consumers and former group publisher of Working Woman and Working Mother magazines. Delia has created the Women's Choice Award for Financial Advisors in an effort to help women identify those advisors who are committed to providing quality service. The award allows this outstanding group of advisors to showcase their commitment to the women's market, while giving potential clients a starting point for entrusting their finances to an advisor.

Recent studies indicate the following in regards to women and their finances:

- Only 35 percent of women use a professional financial advisor, most (79 percent) doing so for retirement investment recommendations.**
- In the US, Women control about \$11.2 trillion of the nation's investable assets (39% of the country's estimated \$28.6 trillion of investable assets). Nearly half of that, is managed solely by women.***
- Fewer than two in 10 women feel "very prepared" to make wise financial decisions. Half indicate that they "need some help," and one-third feel that they "need a lot of help."****

As the financial industry wakes up to the fact that a great majority of the female population are seeking advisors they can trust and greatly value financial security, WomenCertified Inc. has created the solution. This powerful, national initiative distinguishes advisors who support female consumers in their quest for financial education.

About First County Bank

Headquartered in Stamford, CT for more than 163 years, First County Bank, an independent, mutual community bank with 15 branches in Stamford, Greenwich, Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk and Westport, offers deposit products, mortgages, trust and

investment services, business banking services and online banking. First County Bank has more than 220 employees and assets in excess of \$1.4 billion. For additional information, please visit www.firstcountybank.com/firstcountyadvisors and www.firstcountybank.com. Become a fan by clicking “Like” on the bank’s Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/firstcountybank>. Follow it on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/firstcountybank> or look for First County Bank on LinkedIn at <http://www.linkedin.com/company/920207>.

ABOUT WOMEN’S CHOICE AWARD

The Women’s Choice Award Financial Advisor Program is based on 17 objective criteria associated with providing quality service to women clients such as credentials, experience and a favorable regulatory history, among other factors. Financial advisors do not pay a fee to be considered or placed on the final list of Women’s Choice Award® Financial Advisors, though they may have paid a fee to participate in the Women’s Choice Award Financial Advisor Marketing Program. WomenCertified Inc., home to the Women’s Choice Award, awards businesses, brands and services based on high recommendation ratings by female consumers. The Women’s Choice Award represents the collective voice of women so they can help each other identify businesses that deserve their loyalty and referrals. To learn more, visit www.womenschoiceaward.com.

** 14th Annual Transamerica Retirement Survey of Workers (2014)

***Source: Harnessing the Power of the Purse, by the Center for Talent Innovation 2014

****Source: Financial Experience & Behaviors Among Women, 2010–2011 Prudential Research Study (article breaking it down here).

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