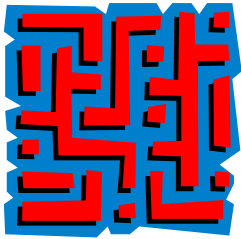


The Maine Association of Community Banks announces the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual  
**COMMUNITY BANK DIRECTORS' FORUM**

“Navigating the Maze of Economic Indicators”

May 11, 2007  
Augusta Civic Center



Economics and the importance of financial research in setting board strategy will be the theme of the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Community Bank Directors' Forum. Maine-based economist Dr. Charles Lawton will lead off the program with an update on our state's economic outlook. Next Dr. Edmond J. Seifried will provide a unique and simplified approach for navigating through the confusing maze of published economic indicators and financial news releases. He will show how boards can recognize key economic signals and prepare strategies to cope with the changing economic environment. His focus will be the U.S. economic prospects for 2007 and beyond.

- 8:15 a.m.           **REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**  
Augusta Room, Second Level, North Wing
- 9:00 a.m.           **WELCOME**  
Mark Johnston, Chairman, Maine Association of Community Banks  
President & CEO, Kennebec Savings Bank
- 9:15 a.m.           **MAINE ECONOMIC ISSUES '07**  
Charles Lawton, Chief Economist  
Planning Decisions, Inc.
- 10:00 a.m.          **NAVIGATING THE MAZE OF ECONOMIC INDICATORS**  
Edmond J. Seifried, Chief Economist and Strategic Advisor  
BNK Advisory Group
- The U.S. housing bubble: the aftermath?
  - The economy in 2007: will the recovery continue?
  - Interest rate outlook: what will the Fed do next?
  - Trade deficits, budget deficits: what's the impact?
  - The latest changes in the economic indicators.
  - Energy inflation and interest rates going up: good for the economy?
- 11:00 a.m.          **COFFEE BREAK**
- 11:30 a.m.          **DR. SEIFRIED'S PRESENTATION CONTINUES**
- 12:30-1:15 p.m.   **LUNCHEON**  
Fort Western Room, First Level, North Wing

Continuing Legal Education credits have been requested, and certificates of attendance for the Maine State Board of Accountancy will be available at the conference.

## GUEST SPEAKERS



**EDMOND J. SEIFRIED**, a nationally recognized speaker on economic issues and forecasting techniques, is Chief Economist and Strategic Advisor for BNK Advisory Group, a community bank investment firm and former Professor of Economics and Business at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. He received his doctorate in economics and business from West Virginia University. Dr. Seifried is also a faculty member of numerous banking schools including the Stonier Graduate School of Banking, School of Banking of the South, and Graduate School of Retail Bank Management. He serves as the dean of the Virginia and West Virginia Banking Schools. He acts as a consultant to the banking industry, and is author of the book "The Art of Strategic Planning for Community Banks." Dr. Seifried has also served as a director of a community bank.



**CHARLES LAWTON** is senior economist at Planning Decisions Inc., with offices in South Portland, Hallowell and York, Maine. He specializes in economic policy, fiscal impact studies, smart growth and economic development studies. He has worked both in private business and in state government, and was a professor at the University of Maine at Farmington. He holds a Ph.D. degree from The Fletcher School at Tufts University and writes a weekly column on the Maine economy for the Maine Sunday Telegram.

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