

Deborah A. Meekins

Executive Vice President and Chief Production Officer

Deborah (Debbie) A. Meekins is executive vice president and chief production officer for Sterling Savings Bank. Debbie joined Sterling in 2007 with the Sonoma National Bank acquisition. Previously, Debbie was president and chief executive officer of Sonoma National Bank and its parent financial holding company, Northern Empire Bancshares.

She joined the bank in 1985 as vice president and CFO and became president and CEO in 1990. Debbie grew the bank's assets to \$1.3 billion and oversaw 13 branches and six loan production offices. The bank was nationally recognized for growth, ROE and its efficiency ratio. Debbie has more than 30 years of banking experience.

Debbie assumed the role of director of retail banking for Sterling Savings Bank in May 2007. In her role, she worked closely with retail leaders and oversaw the implementation of Sterling's deposit strategy. Debbie was named chief production officer in late 2009.

In 2006, she was named one of the top "25 Women to Watch" by U.S. Banker magazine. In May 2007 she received an award for "Best Business Community Leader" in Sonoma County from the North Bay Biz magazine based on a reader's poll. Sonoma Bank has also been voted as one of the areas "Best Business Banks" and "Best Places to Work".

Debbie is currently a board member for the California Bankers Association and Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital Foundation.



Sterling Financial Corporation
NASDAQ: STSA

