Whitney hires away Bank One president

Three corporate bank officers change top jobs.

Terry O'Connor
Business Editor

LAFAYETTE — Bottom line: Bank One’s loss appears to be Whitney Bank’s gain.

After less than a year at the helm, Duwayne Richard resigned Tuesday as Bank One president and chief executive officer of the Lafayette region.

Richard has been named city president of Whitney National Bank operations in Lafayette, succeeding James Corbett, who was promoted to Bank One’s statewide manager of institutional banking.

Barry Berthelot, who still manages his statewide duties from Lafayette, is also responsible for institutional banking strategy in Oklahoma and Texas.

“Terry is looking forward to this move,” Richard said.

Richard, 48, took over at Bank One Jan. 28. He succeeded Berthelot when Berthelot was promoted to Bank One’s statewide manager of institutional banking.

Berthelot, who still manages his statewide duties from Lafayette, is also responsible for institutional banking strategy in Oklahoma and Texas.

“His leaving is not a big deal for us,” Corbett said. “He’s leaving on very good terms with the bank.”

Richard resigned Monday afternoon, leaving Bank One to fall back once again on Berthelot’s expertise.

“I will resume the duties as president and CEO, at least on an interim basis,” Berthelot said. “It becomes a priority to get it resolved very quickly.”

We’ll make a decision on how to structure the job and how to fill it.”

“Terry will remain in Lafayette for an indeterminate transition period to help Richard become acclimated,” Berthelot said. “It will take a short time, Corbett said. “Duwayne will get up to speed very fast.”

Bank One holds no grudges from the personnel move, Berthelot said. It’s become the nature of the business.

“In today’s world of constant change, particularly in our industry, these are not rare events,” Berthelot said. “This is another challenge for us to face here but I believe we will do fine. I am not going anywhere. I appreciate your patience and support.”