

## Ex-Bank One executive Burke joins CIT



Brian Burke has returned to small-business lending after two years away.

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By David Milstead, Rocky Mountain News

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Brian Burke, who ran national Small Business Administration lending from Denver for Bank One, has taken on an executive role with another major lender.

Burke is a senior vice president for CIT Small Business Lending Corp., in charge of all states touching the Mississippi and points west. His new role comes after two years of running his own consulting and loan-brokering business.

After Bank One's sale to JPMorgan Chase & Co. in 2004, the company wanted the SBA lending operation based in Texas, Burke said. Like many other Coloradans, he chose to find a new opportunity rather than transfer.

Burke said he gave up his consulting business because the offer from CIT was too good to refuse.

While the company is not as well-known as Wells Fargo or U.S. Bank, it's also a major player in business lending. It's made at least \$20 million in SBA loans in Colorado in each of the past five years. In the year ended Sept. 30, 2005, it made 39 SBA loans totaling \$21.8 million.

Nationally, it bills itself as the nation's No. 1 SBA lender, and its parent, CIT Group, is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Burke, a summa cum laude graduate of Regis University, has served on the board of the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders.

He has also held board positions on organizations including the Aurora Economic Development Council and Colorado Governor's Small Business Advisory Council.

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