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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EQUITY BANCSHARES, INC. ANNOUNCES 4th QUARTER 2011 EARNINGS

Wichita, Kansas (February 2, 2011) – Equity Bancshares, Inc. (“EBI” or the “Company”), the Wichita-based holding company for Equity Bank and Signature Bank (collectively, the "Banks"), reported net income allocable to common shareholders of \$1.4 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2011, an increase of 44 percent compared to the prior year.

Commenting on the Company’s 2011 results, Brad Elliott, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer stated:

“The Company remained in a financially strong position, which position was strengthened by improved earnings in 2011. Our total assets were \$610 million as of December 31, 2011, an increase of \$118 million, compared to \$492 million for the comparable period ending December 31, 2010. This increase is due in part to the successful completion of the acquisition by Equity Bank of the four Topeka Branch locations from Citizen’s Bank & Trust Co. in December 2011.

The Banks' loan portfolios grew by \$49 million dollars. This loan growth is significant in light of the volatile economy that we experienced in 2011. While the economy is showing some signs of recovery, overall loan demand in our markets remains soft. We are starting to see increased loan opportunities; however, we continue to focus on loan quality.

With Tier 1 Capital of approximately \$64 million, Equity Bank’s capital ratios exceed the FDIC regulatory standards for a well capitalized bank. Being a well capitalized banking franchise benefits our investors, employees, customers and the communities we serve. The Banks are positioned to respond to anticipated increased loan demand in 2012, and we can accommodate expansion opportunities as they arise.”

2011 Financial Highlights

Net earnings after taxes were approximately \$2.3 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2011; an increase of almost \$750,000, or 49 percent, compared to the twelve month period ended December 31, 2010. The earnings included \$380,000 of expenses associated with the transactions that the Company entered into in 2011 (one was completed and one was terminated). The new GAAP rules now require these items to be expenses versus capitalized as in previous transactions.

Total deposits at the end of the fourth quarter were \$479 million, up \$105 million from \$374 million at December 31, 2010. Transaction Accounts increased to \$252 million, up from \$208 million at December 31, 2010, an increase of \$44 million.

Total assets increased by \$118 million (up 24 percent) to \$610.0 million as of December 31, 2011, compared to \$492 million a year earlier.

The Company's book equity as of December 31, 2011 was approximately \$81 million, up approximately \$10 million from \$71 million on December 31, 2010. As of December 31, 2011, the Company had 4.55 million common shares outstanding and the book value per common share was \$14.17, up from \$13.71 on December 31, 2010. Tangible book value stood at \$11.08 per share on December 31, 2011 compared to \$10.91 the prior year-end.

Non-performing loans (non-accrual loans and accruing loans 90 days or more past due) and Other Real Estate Owned ("OREO") totaled \$8.2 million, down from \$8.3 million on December 31, 2010. As of December 31, 2011, the allowance for loan losses stood at \$4.4 million, or 1.30%, of total loans, compared to \$3.6 million, or 1.28% of total loans, on December 31, 2010. Gross loans totaled \$334 million, an increase of \$49 million (up 17 percent) from \$285 million, for the twelve month period ending December 31, 2010.

EQUITY BANK's capital ratios exceed the FDIC regulatory standards for well capitalized banks (see below). This capital structure positions the Bank for continued growth.

	<i>EQUITY BANK</i> CAPITAL TO <u>ASSETS (12/31/11)</u>	<i>EQUITY BANK</i> CAPITAL TO <u>ASSETS (12/31/10)</u>	<i>FDIC WELL-</i> <i>CAPITALIZED</i> <i>STANDARD</i>
Core capital (leverage) ratio	12.23%	12.23%	5.00%
Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio	17.25%	17.27%	6.00%
Total risk-based capital ratio	18.42%	18.38%	10.00%

The Company's non-interest expenses totaled \$15.9 million, or 3.18 percent of average assets, for the twelve month period ended December 31, 2011, compared to \$15.3 million, or 3.48 percent of average assets, for the twelve month ended December 31, 2010.

EBI's net interest income was \$17.8 million for the twelve month period ended December 31, 2011, compared to \$15.8 million in 2010, an increase of \$2 million, or 13 percent. The net interest margin for all the full year 2011 was 3.56 percent, the same as for 2010.

The financial results reported in this release are based on unaudited financials for the twelve month period ending December 31, 2011, so the audited financials may change some of results set out above.

About Equity Bancshares, Inc.

Equity Bancshares, Inc. is the bank holding company for Equity Bank, a nationally chartered bank which operates fourteen locations in four markets [Wichita (4), Kansas City (4), Topeka (4) and Western Kansas(2)]. The holding company also owns Signature Bank, a state-chartered bank located in Haddam, Kansas. The two banks' deposits are insured up to the maximum legal amount by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC").

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