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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EQUITY BANCSHARES, INC. ANNOUNCES 2nd QUARTER 2011 EARNINGS

Wichita, Kansas (July 29, 2011) – Equity Bancshares, Inc. (“EBI” or the “Company”), the Wichita-based holding company for Equity Bank, N.A. and Signature Bank, today announced unaudited results for the six months ended June 30, 2011.

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

“We are very pleased with our performance for this first half of 2011. We’ve grown total assets by over \$60 million in the last six months, which is similar to adding one branch through organic growth versus acquisition.

Our income after tax was \$1.2 million for the first six months. We are striving to maintain this pace for the remainder of 2011.

We’ve continued to keep our focus on increasing our deposits. Our retail team is continually looking for opportunities to build our customer relationship portfolio. Their efforts have paid off, as they’ve increased our total deposits by almost \$50 million in the last twelve months.

We are all well aware how the struggling economy has affected everyone. However, I am pleased to report that our loan portfolio grew in the first half of 2011, and we have a strong loan pipeline. In addition, Equity Bank, N.A. has just received approval from the U.S. Treasury Department to participate in the Small Business Lending Fund (SBLF) program. Specifically, we expect to sell \$16.4 million of preferred stock through the SBLF, a portion of which will be used to expand our small business loan portfolio. Small business lending has been an integral part of our loan portfolio, but participation in the SBLF program will allow us to meet the expanding demand for loans by small businesses in all the communities we serve.”

Financial Review

Net income allocable to common shareholders was \$887,143 for the six months ended June 30, 2011; an increase of \$183,623 compared to the six month period ended June 30, 2010. The earnings per share as of June 30, 2011 were \$0.39 as compared to \$0.57 as of June 30, 2010. This reduction in the earnings per share value is attributable to the \$20 million capital raise that was completed in October, 2011.

Total deposits at the end of the second quarter were \$386.6 million, up \$46.7 million from \$339.9 million at June 30, 2010. Core Deposits increased to \$226.8 million, up from \$187.0 million at June 30, 2010, an increase of \$39.8 million.

Total assets increased by \$60.9 million to \$487.2 million as compared to \$426.3 million at June 30, 2010.

Equity Bancshares, Inc.'s book equity as of June 30, 2011 was \$72.7 million, up approximately \$21.8 million from \$50.9 million on June 30, 2010. As of June 30, 2011, the Company had 4,550,206 common shares outstanding and the book value per common share was \$14.13, down from \$17.10 on June 30, 2010. Tangible book value stood at \$11.36 per share on June 30, 2011 compared to \$11.80 as of June 30, 2010.

Non-performing assets (non-accrual loans and accruing loans 90 days or more past due) and Other Real Estate Owned ("OREO") totaled \$9.0 million, or 1.86% of Total Assets as of June 30, 2011, up \$1.7 million from \$7.3 million, or 1.71% of Total Assets on June 30, 2010. As of June 30, 2011, the allowance for loan losses stood at \$4.2 million, or 1.42%, of total loans, compared to \$4.1 million, or 1.40% of total loans, on June 30, 2010. Gross loans totaled \$297.5 million, up from \$294.5 million a year earlier.

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>	<i>EQUITY BANK</i>	<i>FDIC WELL-</i>
	<i>CAPITAL TO</i>	<i>CAPITAL TO</i>	<i>CAPITALIZED</i>
	<i><u>ASSETS (6/30/11)</u></i>	<i><u>ASSETS (6/30/10)</u></i>	<i><u>STANDARD</u></i>
Core capital (leverage) ratio	12.20%	9.12%	5.00%
Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio	17.26%	11.85%	6.00%
Total risk-based capital ratio	18.51%	13.10%	10.00%

Non-interest expenses totaled \$7.4 million, or 3.10% of average assets, for the six month period ended June 30, 2011, compared to \$7.2 million, or 3.44% of average assets, for the six months ended June 30, 2010.

The net interest income after the loan loss provision was \$7.5 million for the six month period ended June 30, 2011, up from \$7.3 million for the comparable period in 2010, an increase of \$214,796.

The net earnings after tax were \$1.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2011, as compared to \$988,736 for the six month period ending June 30, 2010, an increase of \$183,623.

Equity Bancshares, Inc. is the bank holding company for Equity Bank, N.A., a nationally chartered bank with locations in and around Wichita, Kansas City and Ellis and Hays, Kansas. 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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