

Mark G. Merlo - Partner at Castle Creek Capital

Mr. Merlo joined Castle Creek in 1996. Castle Creek Capital is a private equities firm that specializes in Financial Institutions. Mr. Merlo has worked on over 40 different mergers and acquisitions transactions with a success value of over \$4.4 billion and assisted in raising over \$1.3 billion in new private placement equity.

Mr. Merlo currently serves as Chairman of the Board of both Atlanta Bancorporation, Inc., an Atlanta based \$200 million asset portfolio thrift and The Bankshares, Inc., a \$600 million Florida based portfolio bank holding company. Previously he served on the Board of Directors of a \$1.6 billion Texas based State National Bancshares, Inc.

Prior to Castle Creek he has spent 11 years managing Bank and Thrift investment portfolios in excess of \$1 billion and the treasury operations for the \$4 billion former Farm Credit Bank of St. Louis. In addition to his portfolio responsibilities he managed the asset liability position for the \$1.2 billion United Postal Savings.

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