PRIVATE BANCORP OF AMERICA, INC. CONTINUES RECORD GROWTH IN 2017

La Jolla, Calif. – January 17, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – Private Bancorp of America, Inc. (OTCQX:PBAM)

Private Bancorp of America, Inc. (the "Bancorp"), parent company of San Diego Private Bank (the "Bank"), announces unaudited financial results for the fourth quarter and the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017.

Total assets increased 23% during 2017 to a record \$671.2 million at December 31, 2017. 2017 Net interest income increased 21% to \$22.5 million and pre-tax income for 2017 was up 13% over 2016 at \$7.9 million; both also record levels. Total deposits grew 30% during 2017, ending the year at \$530.7 million. Total loans were \$492.6 million at 12/31/2017, up 13% from the prior year end. Loan and deposit growth achieved record levels. The Bancorp and the Bank accomplished significant successes in 2017:

- Strategic decision made to expand into West Los Angeles.
- Appointed Richard Smith to Bank Board of Directors in the first quarter and Monica Navarro hired to build the Beverly Hills presence.
- Opened its Beverly Hills Office in the third quarter.
- Bancorp was "up listed" to the OTCQX platform added to three indices.
- Successfully completed a \$17 million capital raise at market.
- Added James Parks to Bank Board of Directors in the fourth quarter.
- Bancorp's market cap exceeds \$125 million for the first time in the fourth quarter.
- Branded "RELATIONSHIPS, SOLUTIONS, TRUST."
- Robert Pedersen hired in fourth quarter to manage the Bank's SBA Department.
- Beverly Hills branch exceeds \$100 million in deposits in December.

"We could not be more proud of our Team Members who worked tirelessly in 2017 to implement the Board's and Management's visions and strategies." said Thomas V. Wornham, President and CEO. "We remain committed to providing outstanding creative solution-based customer service to ensure sustained safe and sound organic growth."

Credit quality and capital ratios remain healthy by all standards.

Changes in accounting rules related to the recently passed tax law negatively impacted the Bank and Bancorp. Bancorp's net income was \$3,425,000 after a one-time \$1,516,000 tax adjustment related the revaluation of deferred tax assets. Without the impact of the 2017 Tax Reform Bill, Bancorp's 2017 net income would have been \$5.0 million, resulting in a 15% increase over 2016. 2017 earnings per share is \$.74. If adjusted for the impact of the deferred tax asset revaluation of \$.30 per share, earnings per share would have been \$1.04. To accurately compare the adjusted 2017 EPS to 2016 it is important to recognize that after the 2017 capital raise there are 21% more shares outstanding at December 31, 2017 versus the same date of 2016.

Selwyn Isakow, Chairman of the Board, said "We have doubled the asset size of the Bank in a little over three years. We have successfully expanded the size of our service footprint from the Mexican Border to Beverly Hills. We remain committed to being the finest relationship-focused financial service provider in Coastal Southern California. I would like to thank our Clients, Shareholders, Directors, Team Members and Management who continue to support our record growth. We remain committed to building client relationships through outstanding service and customized solutions in order to create exceptional trust."

About Private Bancorp of America, Inc.

Private Bancorp of America, Inc. (OTCQX: PBAM), is the holding company for San Diego Private Bank. San Diego Private Bank, provides a Distinctly Different banking experience through unparalleled service and creative funding solutions to high net worth individuals, professionals, locally owned businesses and real estate entrepreneurs; serviced through offices in Coronado, San Diego, La Jolla, Newport Beach and Beverly Hills as well as efficient electronic banking offerings. The Bank also offers various portfolio and government guaranteed lending programs, including SBA and cross-border Export-Import Bank programs. San Diego Private Bank is a SBA Preferred Lender.

Investor Relations Contact

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Safe Harbor Paragraph

This press release may include forward-looking statements that involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Private Bancorp of America, Inc. cautions readers that a number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements. These factors include economic conditions and competition in the geographic and business areas in which Private Bancorp of America, Inc. operates, our ability to successfully integrate the operations of merged banks, inflation, fluctuations in interest rates, legislation and governmental regulation. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements and we undertake no obligation to update those statements whether as a result of changes in underlying factors, new information, future events or otherwise.

[FINANCIAL TABLES FOLLOW]

		For the three months en	ded	December :	-	December 31, 2017 Y-o-Y		
SELECT FINANCIAL DATA AND PERFORMANCE RATIOS (unaudited)	December 31, 2017	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	change (\$)	change (%)	change (\$)	change (%)	
Common shares outstanding at period-end	5,008,627	4,999,427	4,139,664	9,200	0%	868,963	21%	
Book value per common share	\$ 15.88	\$ 15.94	\$ 13.73	\$ (0.07)	0%	\$ 2.15	16%	
Tangible book value per common share	\$ 15.79	\$ 15.84	\$ 13.55	\$ (0.06)	0%	\$ 2.24	17%	
PERFORMANCE RATIOS (%):								
Return on average assets (annualized)	-0.07%	0.92%	1.05%	-0.99%	-107%	-1.12%	-107%	
Return on average equity (annualized)	-0.55%	6.69%	9.36%	-7.23%	-108%	-9.91%	-106%	
Return on average tangible common equity (annualized)	-0.55%	6.71%	9.47% 4.01%	-7.27% -0.18%	-108% -4%	-10.03%	-106% -2%	
Net interest margin Net interest spread	3.92% 3.87%	4.11% 4.05%	3.97%	-0.18%	-4%	-0.09% -0.10%	-2%	
Efficiency ratio	64.98%	64.12%	56.75%	0.86%	1%	8.23%	15%	
Noninterest expense / average assets	2.54%	2.68%	2.32%	-0.14%	-5%	0.22%	10%	
CAPITAL RATIOS (%):								
Tier 1 leverage ratio	12.11%	13.39%	10.83%	-1.28%	-10%	1.28%	12%	
Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio	14.80%	15.99%	12.05%	-1.19%	-7%	2.75%	23%	
Common equity Tier 1 ratio	14.80%	15.99%	12.05%	-1.19%	-7%	2.75%	23%	
Total risk-based capital ratio	15.71%	16.90%	12.95%	-1.19%	-7%	2.76%	21%	
Tangible equity / tangible assets	11.78%	13.43%	10.66%	-1.64%	-12%	1.12%	11%	
				December :		December 31, 2017		
CREDIT QUALITY PROFILE AND METRICS:	December 31, 2017	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	Q-o- change (\$)	change (%)	Y-o-Y change (\$) change (%)		
Total Loans (\$000s)	497,152	450,468	438,295	46,684	10%	58,857	13%	
30-89 day past due loans (\$000s)	1,424	-	-	1,424	NM	1,424	NM	
90+ day past due loans (\$000s)	-	-	-	-	NM	-	NM	
nonaccrual loans (\$000s)	1,586	1,606	191	(20)	-1%	1,395	730%	
NPAs / Assets (%)	0.24%	0.27%	0.04%	(0)	-13%	0	575%	
NPLs / loans & REO (%)	0.32%	0.36%	0.04%	(0)	-11%	0	632%	
Net chargeoffs (\$000s)	0	0	0	=	NM	=	NM	
NCOs / avg loans (annualized) (%)	0%	0%	0%	-0.03%	NM	-	NM	
Reserve ratio (%) Reserve coverage ratio (%)	0.91% 285%	0.94% 263%	0.92% 2104%	-0.03%	-3% 8%	-0.01% -1819%	-1% -86%	
Reserve coverage ratio (/a)	20370	20370	2104/0	2270	370	1015/0	30%	
				December : Q-o-	-	December 3		
LOAN PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION (\$000s)	December 31, 2017	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	change (\$) change (%)		change (\$)	change (%)	
Real estate - investor owned	189,355	183,587	178,209	5,768	3%	11,146	6%	
Real estate - owner occupied	62,657	46,501	46,201	16,156	35%	16,456	36%	
Real estate - multifamily	56,500	52,595	50,434	3,905	7%	6,066	12%	
Real estate - single family	48,362	51,225	47,715	(2,863)	-6%	647	1%	
Commercial business Land and construction	113,218 24,679	93,860 20,585	78,725 36,929	19,358 4,094	21% 20%	34,493 (12,250)	44% -33%	
Consumer	1,734	318	82	1,416	445%	1,652	2015%	
Leases	=	=	=	=	NM	=	NM	
Other Total loans held for investment	496,505	448,671	438,295	47,834	NM 11%	58,210	NM 13%	
Loans held for sale	647	1,797	-	(1,150)	-64%	647	NM	
Total loans, including loans held for sale	497,152	450,468	438,295	46,684	10%	58,857	13%	
Allowance for loan losses	(4,521)	(4,221)	(4,018)	(300)	7%	(503)	13%	
Net loans	492,631	446,247	434,277	46,384	10%	58,354	13%	
DEPOSIT COMPOSITION (\$000S)								
Non interest bearing DDA	162,049	124,055	122,023	37,994	31%	40,026	33%	
Interest bearing DDA	16,373	10,963	13,292	5,410	49%	3,081	23%	
Savings & MMA Retail CD	295,075 6,035	258,235 6,793	180,258 5,458	36,840 (758)	14% -11%	114,817 577	64% 11%	
Jumbo CD	53,651	48,064	87,654	5,587	12%	(34,003)	-39%	
Total deposits	533,183	448,110	408,685	85,073	19%	124,498	30%	

PRIVATE BANCORP OF AMERICA, INC. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

				December 31, 2017 Q-o-Q		December 31, 2017 Y-o-Y		
BALANCE SHEET	December 31, 2017	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	change (\$)	change (%)	change (\$)	change (%)	
(unaudited - in \$000s)	, , ,			5-1.7	3-()	5-1.7	0 ()	
Assets								
Cash and due from banks	15,128	13,363	38,368	1,765	13%	(23,240)	-61%	
Interest-bearing deposits at Federal Reserve Bank	87,401	70,336	32,092	17,065	24%	55,309	172%	
	102,529	83,699	70,460	18,830	22%	32,069	46%	
Interest-bearing time deposits with other institutions	2,997	2,997	1,245	-	0%	1,752	141%	
Investment securities available for sale	61,568	45,512	27,984	16,056	35%	33,584	120%	
Investment securities held to maturity	-	-	-					
Loans	497,152	450,468	438,295	46,684	10%	58,857	13%	
Allowance for loan losses	(4,521)	(4,221)	(4,018)	(300)	7%	(503)	13%	
	492,631	446,247	434,277	46,384	10%	58,354	13%	
Federal Home Loan Bank stock, at cost	2,295	2,295	2,135	-	0%	160	7%	
Premises and equipment, net	1,530	1,416	923	114	8%	607	66%	
Goodwill	-	-	-					
Other intangible assets	487	503	690	(16)	-3%	(203)	-29%	
Deferred tax asset/liability	4,233	5,553	5,703	(1,320)	-24%	(1,470)	-26%	
Accrued interest receivable	1,811	1,450	1,277	361	25%	534	42%	
Other assets	1,164	800	980	364	46%	184	19%	
	671,245	590,472	545,674	80,773	14%	125,571	23%	
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity								
Liabilities								
Noninterest Bearing	162,049	124,055	122,023	37,994	31%	40,026	33%	
Interest Bearing	371,134	324,055	286,662	47,079	15%	84,472	29%	
Total Deposits	533,183	448,110	408,685	85,073	19%	124,498	30%	
FHLB Borrowings	50,000	50,000	68,000	-	0%	(18,000)	-26%	
Other borrowings	7,896	7,892	7,882	4	0%	14	0%	
Accrued interest payable and other liabilities	645	4,756	2,310	(4,111)	-86%	(1,665)	-72%	
	591,724	510,758	486,877	80,966	16%	104,847	22%	
Shareholders' equity								
Common stock	57,857	57,684	40,713	173	0%	17,144	42%	
Additional paid-in capital	2,569	2,528	2,343	41	2%	226	10%	
Retained earnings	19,265	19,350	15,814	(85)	0%	3,451	22%	
Accumulated other comprehensive income	(170)	152	(73)	(322)	-212%	(97)	133%	
	79,521	79,714	58,797	(193)	0%	20,724	35%	
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	671,245	590,472	545,674	80,773	14%	125,571	23%	

							December 31, 2017			December 31, 2017		
		For the three months ended			Q-o-Q			Y-o-Y				
INCOME STATEMENT	December 31, 2017	Septe	mber 30, 2017	Decer	nber 31, 2016	cl	hange (\$)	change (%)	cl	hange (\$)	change (%)	
(unaudited - in \$000s, except per share data)												
Interest Income												
Loans	6,241		5,962		5,283		279	5%		958	18%	
Investment securities	321		227		259		94	41%		62	24%	
Deposits in other financial institutions	214		195		67		19	10%		147	219%	
	6,776		6,384		5,609		392	6%		1,167	21%	
Interest Expense												
Deposits	429		379		383		50	13%		46	12%	
Borrowings	267		263		202		4	2%		65	32%	
-	696		642		585		54	8%		111	19%	
		-		-								
Net interest income	6,080		5,742		5,024		338	6%		1,056	21%	
Provision for credit losses	300		17		340		283	NM		(40)	-12%	
Net interest income after provision for credit losses	5,780		5,725		4,684		55	1%		1,096	23%	
Noninterest income:												
Service charges on deposit accounts	72		77		94		(5)	-6%		(22)	-23%	
Net gain on sale of loans & leases	73		69		168		4	6%		(95)	-57%	
Gain (loss) on sale of investment securities	-		-		-		-	NM		-	NM	
Other noninterest income	26		45		46		(19)	-42%		(20)	-43%	
	171		191		308		(20)	-10%		(137)	-44%	
Noninterest expense:												
Salary and employee benefits	2,581		2,492		2,025		89	4%		556	27%	
Occupancy and equipment	458		466		302		(8)	-2%		156	52%	
Data processing	260		278		251		(18)	-6%		9	4%	
Professional services	217		175		105		42	24%		112	107%	
Other expenses	546		457		343		89	19%		203	59%	
	4,062	-	3,868		3,026		194	5%		1,036	34%	
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Income before provision for income tax	1,889		2,048		1,966		(159)	-8%		(77)	-4%	
Provision for income tax	1,999		815		598		1,184	145%		1,401	234%	
Net income available to common shareholders	(110)		1,233		1,368		(1,343)	-109%		(1,478)	-108%	
Earnings per share												
Basic earnings per share	\$ (0.02)	\$	0.27	\$	0.34	\$	(0.29)	-108%	\$	(0.36)	-107%	
Diluted earnings per share	\$ (0.02)	\$	0.26	\$	0.33	\$	(0.28)	-108%	\$	(0.35)	-107%	
Average shares outstanding	4,948,981		4,596,013		4,071,993		352,968	8%		876,988	22%	
Diluted average shares outstanding	5,071,375		4,712,015		4,187,134		359,360	8%		884,241	21%	

PRIVATE BANCORP OF AMERICA, INC. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

	For the three months ended			For t	he three months en	ded	For the three months ended			
		December 31, 2017		5	September 30, 2017		December 31, 2016			
	Average		Average	Average		Average	Average		Average	
RATE AND YIELD TABLE	Balance	Interest	Yield/Rate	Balance	Interest	Yield/Rate	Balance	Interest	Yield/Rate	
(unaudited - in \$000s)										
Interest-Earnings Assets:										
Deposits in other financial institutions	78,516	214	1.08%	65,682	195	1.18%	54,702	67	0.49%	
Investment securities	54,751	321	2.33%	40,053	227	2.25%	30,697	259	3.35%	
Loans	481,667	6,241	5.14%	448,915	5,962	5.27%	411,814	5,283	5.09%	
Total interest-earning assets	614,934	6,776	4.37%	554,650	6,384	4.57%	497,213	5,609	4.48%	
Noninterest-earning assets	18,781			18,041			19,842			
Total Assets	633,715			572,691			517,055			
Interest-Bearing Liabilities										
Interest-bearing transaction accounts	13,469	7	0.21%	12,376	6	0.19%	13,032	6	0.18%	
Money market	279,626	302	0.43%	227,391	242	0.42%	176,234	204	0.46%	
Savings deposits	5,230	3	0.23%	5,551	3	0.21%	4,749	3	0.25%	
Certificates of deposit	53,685	116	0.86%	56,758	129	0.90%	79,818	170	0.84%	
Total Interest-Bearing Deposits	352,010	428	0.48%	302,076	380	0.50%	273,833	383	0.55%	
FHLB advances	50,000	163	1.29%	50,761	158	1.23%	50,554	97	0.76%	
Other borrowings	7,894	104	5.23%	7,890	104	5.23%	7,881	105	5.29%	
Total Interest-Bearing Liabilities	57,894	267	1.83%	58,651	262	1.77%	332,268	202	0.24%	
Noninterest-bearing deposits	140,454			129,918			124,203			
Total Funding Sources	550,358	695	0.50%	490,645	642	0.52%	456,471	585	0.51%	
Noninterest-bearing liabilities	3,623			3,021			2,586			
Shareholders' equity	79,734			79,025			57,998			
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	633,715			572,691			517,055			
	·						<u> </u>			
Net interest spread			3.87%			4.05%			3.97%	
Net interest income		6,081			5,742			5,024		
Net interest margin			3.92%			4.11%			4.01%	