

BUSINESS

ATG TRUST CO.

Trust services being provided to Centrue customers

By The News-Gazette

KANKAKEE — ATG Trust Co., a division of Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund, has begun providing trust services to customers of Centrue Bank.

Dennis Norden, the trust company's senior vice president, will lead the operations from the bank's Kankakee headquarters.

Trust services will be extended to branch offices as well, including those in Champaign and Urbana.

The partnership "will enable the bank to bring an even broader range of personalized services to our customers," said Michael O'Gorman, president of Centrue Bank's North region.

ATG Trust was established in 1998. Formerly known as Guaranty Trust Co., it changed its name in July 2003 to build on its connection with its parent company.

The trust company topped \$150 million in assets in 2004.

Norden had a law practice in Kankakee for 30 years before helping to found ATG Trust.

Until the arrangement with Centrue was made, the trust

company had marketed its services solely to attorneys specializing in trust and estate planning, he said.

"This is our first venture working with the general public," Norden said.

"We were excited about the idea, in effect having a statewide network of facilities we can offer trust services out of."

Norden said Centrue Bank started a trust department about five years ago but recently decided to let ATG Trust handle those services.

"Trust can be a very cumbersome thing," Norden said. "It's expensive (for banks) as far as costs are concerned."

Norden noted that ATG Trust is separate and independent from the bank, and that ATG has only trust powers and not retail banking powers.

The bank's parent company, Centrue Financial Corp., completed its acquisition of Effingham-based Illinois Community Bancorp on Friday.

Centrue now has offices in 17 cities throughout Illinois.