



First BancTrust Corporation

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October 23, 2008

FIRST BANCTRUST CORPORATION REPORTS SPECIAL SHAREHOLDER MEETING RESULTS

PARIS, IL – First BancTrust Corporation (the “Company”) (Pink Sheets: FIRT) held its special meeting of stockholders on October 21, 2008 to consider its previously announced going private transaction. The Company reports that the transaction was approved by the requisite vote of the stockholders of the Company in accordance with the Delaware General Corporation Law and the Company’s Certificate of Incorporation. The transaction occurred on October 22, 2008 (the “Effective Time”), upon the effectiveness of the filing of the certificate of merger with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware. As a result, as of the Effective Time, (i) each share of the Company’s common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, held of record by a stockholder who owned, as of the close of business on October 21, 2008, fewer than 250 shares of common stock was converted into the right to receive \$11.00 in cash from the Company; and (ii) each share of the common stock held of record by a stockholder who owned, as of such date, 250 or more shares of common stock was not affected by the merger and remains outstanding. The new trading symbol for the Company’s common stock following the transaction is “FIRT.”

This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve assumptions and potential risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from those discussed herein. Readers should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which are applicable only as of the date hereof.