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Business

BANKING ON FOOD **Vernon W. Hill II** went from acquiring dozens of Burger Kings to building [Commerce Bancorp](#) into New Jersey's largest bank, until he was ousted in June.

Now Mr. Hill, 62, is returning full circle to the food business. He has made a "major investment" and became chairman of the executive committee of Saladworks Inc., a restaurant chain based in Conshohocken, Pa.

Mr. Hill will work with the founder of Saladworks, **John Scardapane**, who remains majority owner. The chain of 88 stores plans to open 42 more locations this year.

Commerce, which Mr. Hill founded in 1973, has 400 branches in the New York-Philadelphia-Washington corridor. But he was forced out after bank regulators criticized a mixing of his family's business interests with those of the bank.

Since Mr. Hill's departure, Commerce has been sold to [Toronto-Dominion Bank](#) of Canada — a deal that Mr. Hill opposed. He also sued Commerce, contending wrongful dismissal, and is asking for \$57 million.

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