



DIVISION OF
CORPORATION FINANCE

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

October 9, 2012

Via E-mail

James L. Swarts
Vice President and Secretary
Commerce Bancshares, Inc.
1000 Walnut Street
Kansas City, MO

Re: Commerce Bancshares, Inc.
Form 10-K for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2011
Filed February 22, 2012
Form 10-Q for the Quarterly Period Ended March 31, 2012
Filed May 4, 2012
File No. 000-02989

Dear Mr. Swarts:

We have completed our review of your filings. We remind you that our comments or changes to disclosure in response to our comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the company or the filings and the company may not assert staff comments as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States. We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filings to be certain that the filings include the information the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and all applicable rules require.

Sincerely,

/s/ Hugh West

Hugh West
Accounting Branch Chief