#### **Attachment**

Below is a list of regulations and other executive actions taken by the Trump Administration over the past four years within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Financial Services that your Administration should reverse. Also included are recommendations to strengthen certain regulations after the damage the Trump Administration has caused is reversed.

# **Housing and Insurance**

# **Fair Housing**

• Preserving Community and Neighborhood Choice (AFFH Rule)

o Agency: HUD

Date Issued: 08/20/2020Effective Date: 09/8/2020

o Type: Final Rule

- O Notes: The AFFH Rule shifts the focus of fair housing compliance and enforcement almost entirely to increasing housing supply, which cannot be expected to address fair housing concerns without consideration to the cost, location, availability, and accessibility of the housing supply that is created. The rule also weakens enforcement and accountability by reducing the requirements for jurisdictions to analyze and report barriers to fair housing and by exempting public housing authorities (PHAs) from all responsibilities under AFFH as long as they self-certify their compliance.
- o Recommendation: Rescind and reinstate 2015 AFFH Rule
- <u>HUD's Implementation of the Fair Housing Act's Disparate Impact Standard</u> (Disparate Impact Rule)

o Agency: HUD

Date Issued: 09/24/2020Effective Date: 10/26/2020

o Type: Final Rule

- O Notes: This final rule weakens the disparate impact standard under the Fair Housing Act by shifting the burden of proof from the perpetrators of discrimination onto the victim, making it significantly more difficult for victims of housing discrimination to prevail in court. It also provides broad defenses for defendants, ultimately making it easier for discriminatory policies and practices to plague our housing markets, including through algorithms and automation.
- o Recommendation: Rescind and reinstate 2013 Disparate Impact Rule
- Executive Order 13878: Establishing a White House Council on Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing

Date Issued: 06/25/2019Type: Executive Order

- Notes: Fails to acknowledge the effect of residential segregation and housing discrimination on the affordable housing market, while also disparaging important policy tools, such as environmental protections, labor requirements, and rent control.
- Recommendation: Revoke and replace with an executive order that recognizes the need to preserve and increase the supply of affordable housing, while also acknowledging the need to address historic patterns of racial segregation of affordable housing in communities
- Executive Order 13950 on Combatting Race and Sex Stereotyping

Date Issued: 9/22/20Type: Executive Order

- O Notes: Prohibits federal contractors and grantees from using funds for trainings and workshops related to "divisive concepts" such as race and sex "stereotyping" and "scapegoating." This bars the use of federal funds for implicit bias trainings and other important work being done to understand the impact of racism on issues in housing and financial services, and their potential solutions.
- Recommendation: Revoke and replace with executive order that recognizes the importance of dismantling race and sex inequality through educational workshops and trainings of individuals who are responsible for equitably administering federal funds

# **Discrimination Based on Gender Identity**

<u>Making Admission or Placement Determinations Based on Sex in facilities Under</u>
 <u>Community Planning and Development Housing Programs</u> (Equal Access Rule)

o Agency: HUD

Date Issued: 07/24/2020Type: Proposed Rule

- o Legislation: H.R. 3018, introduced by Rep. Wexton, voted out of Committee by a vote of 33-26 on 06/11/2019
- o Notes: Would allow homeless service providers to discriminate against trans individuals who are experiencing homelessness and seeking emergency shelter.
- Recommendation: Rescind and reinstate <u>guidance</u> issued by the Obama administration

#### **Religious Exemptions and Discrimination**

• Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in HUD Programs and Activities: Implementation of Executive Order 13831

o Agency: HUD

Date Issued: 02/13/2020Type: Proposed Rule

o Notes: Removes the requirement that faith-based service providers receiving federal funds to notify the people they serve of their religious freedom and rights

and to provide referrals to alternative providers upon request. Also allows for discrimination in employment.

o Recommendation: Rescind

# **Immigration**

• Housing and Community Development Act of 1980: Verification of Eligible Status (HUD Mixed-Status Family Rule)

o Agency: HUD

- Date Issued: 05/10/2019Type: Proposed Rule
- Legislation: H.R. 2763, introduced by Rep. García (TX), voted out of Committee by a vote of 32-26 on 06/11/2019
- Notes: Would require every member of a household in which any member of the household receives public housing, Section 8 project-based rental assistance or Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers to be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen. HUD's own Regulatory Impact Analysis acknowledges that implementation of the proposed rule would result in evictions, homelessness, and family separation primarily for U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens, including approximately 55,000 eligible children.
- o Recommendation: Rescind
- <u>Implementation of the Multi-Family Housing U.S. Citizenship Requirements</u> (USDA Mixed-Status Family Rule)

o Agency: USDA

o Date Issued: Spring 2020 Regulatory Agenda

o Type: Proposed Rule

- Notes: Similar to HUD's Section 214 proposed rule, USDA's proposal would require every member of a household in which any member of the household receives assistance through the Rural Development (RD) Voucher program and rental assistance for the Section 515 and Section 514/516 programs to be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen. The chilling effect of such a regulation is expected to result in evictions, homelessness, and family separation primarily for U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens.
- o Recommendation: Rescind
- DREAMers and FHA Lending Eligibility

o Agency: HUD

o Date Issued: 11/2018

- o Type: Administrative Policy Change
- o Legislation: H.R. 3154, introduced by Rep. Vargas, voted out of Committee by a vote of 33-25 on 06/11/2019
- Notes: Despite being approved for FHA mortgages under the Obama
   Administration, the Trump Administration began denying Deferred Action for

- Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients lending due to HUD's reinterpretation of the "lawful status" of DACA recipients. There remain questions about whether the implementation of the policy was done <u>lawfully</u>.
- Recommendation: Rescind and revise FHA <u>Single Family Housing handbook</u> to clarify that DACA recipients with active Employment Authorization Documentation are eligible for FHA lending
- <u>Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds</u> (Public Charge Rule)

o Agency: DHS

o Date Issued: 8/14/2019

o Delayed Effective Date: 2/24/2020

o Type: Final Rule

- O Notes: Expands the terms of inadmissibility under public charge, which is used to determine whether an immigrant can receive a green card, visa, or admission to the U.S. Under the final rule, public charge would discourage struggling families, based solely on immigration status, from accessing housing opportunities, healthcare, food assistance, among other critical resources.
- o Recommendation: Rescind

#### Homelessness

- Expanding the Toolbox: The Whole-of-Government Response to Homelessness (federal strategic plan for preventing and ending homelessness)
  - o Agency: U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

Date Issued: 10/19/2020
Effective Date: 10/19/2020
Type: Federal strategic plan

- o Notes: Misrepresents Housing First strategies and their effectiveness and presents homelessness date inaccurately for political purposes.
- Recommendations: Rescind plan and ask for the resignation of the current USICH Director, Robert Marbut

# **Public Housing**

• Operations Notice for the Expansion of the Moving to Work Demonstration Program

o Agency: HUD

Date Issued: 08/28/2020Effective Date: 08/28/2020

o Type: Final Notice

- Notes: Allows participating PHAs to impose work requirements, time limits, and steep rent increases on tenants, even if they are not part of the cohort where those specific policies are being tested.
- Recommendation: Revise to ensure that MTW policies are only applied for the purpose of ensuring they can be evaluated to determine their effect on tenants through rigorous research

• Notice PIH 2018-04: Demolition and/or disposition of public housing property, eligibility for tenant-protection vouchers and associated requirements.

o Agency: HUD

Date Issued: 03/22/2018Effective Date: 03/22/2018

o Type: Notice

- O Notes: Updated notice significantly undercuts the role of resident consultation, the PHA plan, and other resident-oriented protections in the process of demolishing or disposing of public housing properties. Earlier in 2018, HUD withdrew a proposed rule from 2014 from 2014 that would have implemented resident-oriented protections.
- o Recommendation: Rescind and reinstate 2014 proposed rule
- Enhancing and Streamlining the Implementation of Section 3 Requirements for Creating Economic Opportunities for Low- and Very Low-Income Persons and Eligible Businesses

o Agency: HUD

Date Issued: 09/29/2020Effective Date: 11/30/2020

o Type: Final Rule

- Notes: Includes harmful provisions advocates find problematic, including the elimination of a complaint process, removing monitoring and enforcement from HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the establishment of insufficient benchmarks.
- o Recommendation: Revise to address advocate concerns

#### **Housing Finance**

#### FHA:

 Termination of Federal Housing Administration-Federal Financing Bank Partnership Program

o Agency: HUD

o Type: Program termination

- Notes: HUD's Budget Request for FY 2019 indicated without any explanation that HUD would be winding down FHA's partnership with the Federal Financing Bank (FHA-FFB Partnership) by honoring existing commitments but refusing to take on new commitments in 2019. The FHA-FFB Partnership had been in place since June 26, 2014 and supported affordable housing preservation and construction by providing low-cost financing for multifamily risk-share loans that are originated by state and local housing finance agencies.
- o Recommendation: Renew FHA-FFB Partnership Program

• Refinance and Home Purchase Eligibility for Borrowers in Forbearance

o Agency: HUD

o Issue Date: 9/10/2020

o Type: Administrative Policy Change

- O Notes: Requires that borrowers make at least three consecutive monthly payments post-forbearance in order to purchase a home or refinance their mortgage. Such a policy threatens to cut out many people who are returning to work and who need to take advantage of lower interest rates.
- o Recommendation: Rescind
- 60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: FHA Single Family Model Mortgage Documents

o Agency: HUD

o Issue Date: 11/29/2016

o Type: Notice

- Notes: Currently, FHA's mortgage contract language excludes long-standing text that, for 25 years, enabled homeowners facing foreclosure to raise a mortgage company's noncompliance with HUD rules as a defense to foreclosure. Near the end of 2016, the Obama Administration proposed changes to restore the contract language, allowing FHA borrowers who qualify for loss mitigation to contest their foreclosure and potentially receive the relief for which they qualify. However, the comment period closed after the 2016 inauguration and the current administration has since failed to finalize this rulemaking that would help prevent avoidable foreclosures.
- o Recommendation: Complete the rulemaking that was initiated in 2016

#### FHFA:

• Adverse Market Refinance Fee

o Agency: FHFA

o Date Issued: 9/22/20

o Effective Date: 12/1/2020 (delayed from 9/1/2020)

o Type: Administrative Policy Change

- o Legislation: H.R. 6794, introduced by Rep. Vargas, included as Section 204 of Division O, Title II of the updated version of the Heroes Act.
- O Notes: Imposes significant fees and increased costs for loans that go into early forbearance prior to endorsement by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) or purchase by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac (collectively, the Enterprises). These policies unfairly penalize lenders for loans that were fully underwritten according to FHA or Enterprise requirements, have contributed to significant credit overlays that may be disproportionately impacting access to credit for borrowers of color and other underserved borrowers, and may also be preventing borrowers from accessing forbearance and other protections available for federally backed loans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### o Recommendation: Rescind

Purchasing of Qualified Loans in Forbearance

o Agency: FHFA

- o Date Issued: 4/22/2020
- o Type: Administrative Policy Change
- Notes: Imposes a 500-700 bps fee on loans that are sold to the Enterprises while in forbearance. This policy has resulted in lenders imposing higher costs or limiting the loans made to borrowers posing a higher credit risk, thus limiting access to credit at a time when borrowers and the economy needed it most
- o Recommendation: Rescind
- Refinance and Home Purchase Eligibility for Borrowers in Forbearance

o Agency: FHFA

- o Date Issued: 5/19/2020
- o Type: Administrative Policy Change
- Notes: Similar to FHA, requires that borrowers make at least three consecutive monthly payments post-forbearance in order to purchase a home or refinance their mortgage.
- o Recommendation: Rescind
- Enterprise Regulatory Capital Framework (Capital Standards Rule)

o Agency: FHFA

Date Issued: 6/30/2020Type: Proposed Rule

- O Notes: This proposal seeks to align Enterprise capital requirements and the capital back-stop leverage ratio with bank capital requirements and require the Enterprises to hold more capital than is needed to account for the Enterprises' current risk, as shown by recent stress-testing, or what would have been needed withstand the 2008 downturn.
- o Recommendation: Rescind
- Redesigned URLA and Extended Implementation Timeline

o Agency: FHFA

Date Issued: 6/12/2019Effective Date: 3/1/2021

o Type: Administrative Policy Change

O Notes: Delayed implementation of the Uniform Residential Loan Application (URLA) form, removed a language preference question and housing counseling information from the form, as well as relocated a military service question after the borrower's signature line on the form, which makes it difficult for borrowers to see this important information.  Recommendation: Reverse URLA changes by adding the language preference and housing counseling as required fields, as well as placing the military service question in a location where borrowers can see it before signing the form

#### Flood Insurance

- Executive Order 13807: Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects
  - o Date Issued: 08/15/2017
  - o Type: Executive Order
  - Notes: Revoked Obama Executive Order 13690 that established a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.
  - o Recommendation: Reinstate Executive Order 13690

## **Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions**

#### **CFPB Structural Reforms and Enforcement**

- Reverse Mulvaney/Kraninger Structural CFPB Reforms
  - o CFPB
  - o Date Issued: November 2017 to Current
  - o Type: Administrative actions
  - Notes: After former Director Richard Cordray resigned from the CFPB, the Trump Administration's appointees to run the agency -- Mick Mulvaney and Kathy Kraninger have made a series of administrative and structural reforms that undermine the CFPB's ability to fulfill its statutory purpose and mission to protect consumers in the financial marketplace. This includes, but is not limited to, weakening fair lending enforcement and undermining the CFPB's Office of Fair Lending and Equal Opportunity (OFLEO), cutting staff, creating a costbenefit office intended to curb the implementation of strong regulations, ceasing to supervise financial institutions for compliance of the Military Lending Act (MLA), and eliminating coordination on student lending oversight with the Department of Education.
  - Recommendation: Reverse these and other administrative decisions, including those addressed in <u>H.R. 1500</u>, the <u>Consumers First Act</u>.
- Executive Order 13891 on Promoting the Rule of Law Through Improved Agency Guidance Documents
  - o Date Issued: 10/19/2019
  - o Type: Executive Order
  - Notes: EO limiting the use of guidance in enforcement, curbing efforts to clarify how laws and regulations are being implemented, and making it harder to hold bad actors accountable.
  - o Recommendation: Rescind

- Policy Regarding Prohibition on Abusive Acts or Practices
  - o Agency: CFPB
  - o Date Issued: 1/24/20
  - o Type: Statement of Policy
  - Notes: CFPB issued a statement of policy that makes it harder for CFPB to hold bad actors accountable for violating the Dodd-Frank Act's prohibition on unfair, deceptive, or abusive acts or practices (UDAAP) that harm consumers in the financial marketplace.
  - Recommendation: Rescind

#### **Small Dollar Protections**

- Payday, Vehicle Title, and Certain High-Cost Installment Loans—Revocation Final Rule
  - o Agency: CFPB
  - o Date Issued: 7/7/2020 (Federal Register 7/22/20)
  - o Type: Final Rule
  - Notes: Final rule "concerning small dollar lending in order to maintain consumer access to credit and competition in the marketplace": 1) Rescinds 2017 rule's mandatory ability to repay underwriting provisions; 2) Leaves in place 2017 rule's payment provisions.
  - Recommendation: Rescind and reinstate the 2017 Payday rule with improvements to strengthen consumer protections. Congress should also pass H.R. 5050, the Veterans and Consumers Fair Credit Act.
- <u>Permissible Interest on Transferred Loans reversing Madden</u> (OCC)
- Permissible Interest on Transferred Loans reversing *Madden* (FDIC)
  - o Agency: OCC, FDIC
  - o Date Issued: OCC 5/29/20; FDIC 6/25/2020
  - o Type: Final Rule
  - o Notes: OCC and FDIC issued two similar but separate rules that would effectively overturn the *Madden v. Midland* court decision and provide that whether an interest rate on a loan is permissible under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act would be determined at the time the loan is made, and the interest rate would not be affected by a change in State law, a change in the relevant commercial paper rate after the loan was made, or the sale, assignment, or other transfer of the loan, in whole or in part. These rulemakings will encourage rent-a-bank schemes, allowing non-bank lenders to evade state usury caps that protect consumers from predatory lending. Consumer groups and several state AGs strongly oppose.
    - Dissent from FDIC Board Member Marty Gruenberg
  - o Recommendation: Rescind
- National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders ("True Lender")
  - o Agency: OCC
  - o Date Issued: 7/20/20
  - o Type: Proposed Rule

- Notes: Rule proposal would apply the true lender doctrine to banks in non-bank partnerships if at origination, the bank is listed in the loan agreement and if the bank is the entity funding the loan. Consumer law advocates, State Attorneys General, and other experts have expressed deep concerns about the proposed rules and corresponding guidance. They have highlighted that allowing rent-a-bank partnerships could lead to a return of triple-digit interest loan products in the states and territories that passed laws prohibiting them.
- o Recommendation: Withdraw

### Fair Lending and Community Reinvestment

• OCC's Community Reinvestment Act Final Rule

o Agency: OCC

Date Issued: 5/20/20Type: Final Rule

- O Notes: Otting rushed to finalize this harmful rule in the middle of a pandemic in his last few days on the job. Most banking rules are done jointly with the FDIC and Federal Reserve, but those agencies did not support the OCC's rule. If unchecked, Otting's rule will create regulatory arbitrage and harm minority communities that are disproportionately suffering during this crisis.
- Recommendation: Rescind rule and work with Federal Reserve and FDIC to develop a new, consensus proposal that incorporates the feedback of civil rights and community organizations, and addresses modern day redlining
- Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA; Regulation C)

o Agency: CFPB

o Date Issued: 4/16/2020

o Type: Final Rule

- Notes: Increases the closed-end HMDA threshold for collecting and reporting from 25 to 100 loans effective July 1, 2020. Increases the open-end HMDA threshold from 100 to 200, effective January 1, 2022, when the current temporary threshold of 500 of open-end lines of credit expires. Beginning in 2021, this rule would exempt 40 percent of financial institutions from reporting data that is critical to fair lending oversight.
- o Recommendation: Rescind and utilize existing authority to gather as most data to better monitor fair lending trends
- Redesigned HMDA research and data website page

o Agency: CFPB

o Date Issued: 5/2/2019

o Type: Administrative Change

O Notes: Removed the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) Explorer tool for new data from the CFPB's website as well as its Public Data Platform API that powered it. The HMDA Explorer tool and its API have allowed for the public, including consumers, journalists, academics, public officials, and consumer advocates, to easily access and analyze millions of documents on mortgage

- lending. These tools allowed for the measurement of trends and disparities in mortgage credit access.
- Recommendation: Rescind and strengthen public disclosure of HMDA data, including providing a variety of tools to ensure accessibility for the public as well as researchers
- Outline of Proposals Under Consideration and Alternatives Considered for Small Business, Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Lending Data Collection (Section 1071 of the Dodd-Frank Act)

o Date Issued: 09/15/2020

- o Type: Outline of proposals, preceding a rulemaking
- o Notes: This outlines several options CFPB is considering to implement Section 1071 of the Dodd-Frank Act as part of its SBREFA panel it will be conducting.
- o Recommendation: Strengthen and Promptly Implement

# Ability to Repay / Qualified Mortgage

 Qualified Mortgage Definition Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z): General QM Loan Definition (General QM Rule)

o Agency: CFPB

o Date Issued: 7/10/2020

o Type: Proposed Rule

- o Notes: Amends Regulation Z to remove the General QM loan definition's 43 percent debt-to-income (DTI) limit and replace it with a price-based threshold.
- Recommendation: Pause rulemaking until various options can be thoroughly analyzed examining the potential impact for access to credit and consumer protections, especially with respect to communities of color, and the results of such data and analysis is published for further public comment.
- Qualified Mortgage Definition Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z): Extension of Sunset Date (GSE Patch Rule)

o Agency: CFPB

o Date Issued: 10/20/2020

o Type: Final Rule

- Notes: Amends Regulation Z to extend the GSE Patch to expire upon the effective date of a final rule regarding the proposed amendments to the General QM loan definition in Regulation Z.
- Recommendation: Modify to extend further to provide a reasonable transition period, especially for community banks and credit unions
- Qualified Mortgage Definition Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z): Seasoned QM Loan Definition (Seasoned QM Rule)

o Agency: CFPB

o Date Issued: 8/28/2020

o Type: Proposed Rule

- Notes: This proposal create a new category of qualified mortgages (QMs), referred to as Seasoned QMs, which would require lenders to hold loans on portfolio for 36 months while meeting a number of performance requirements such as underwriting standards and product features.
- Recommendation: Withdraw

#### **Debt Collection**

- <u>Debt Collection Practices (Regulation F)</u>
  - o Agency: CFPB
  - o Date Issued: 5/7/19, published in Federal Register 5/21/19, Rule finalized 10/30/20
  - o Type: Final Rule
  - Notes: The rule, among other things, would allow debt collectors to call a borrower 7 times a week per debt and send an unlimited number of emails and texts. See NCLC statement.
  - Recommendation: Rescind and reissue with meaningful consumer protections, along with new time-barred debt rule proposal
- <u>Debt Collection Practices (Regulation F) Supplemental Proposal on Time-Barred Debt</u>
  - o Agency: CFPB
  - o Date Issued: 2/21/2020, published in Federal Register 3/3/20
  - o Type: Proposed Rule
  - O Notes: The CFPB proposes four model disclosures for out-of-court collection of time-barred debt. However, aggressive debt collectors who comply with the letter of the disclosure requirements will continue to use high pressure collection tactics to limit the likelihood that consumers will be protected by such disclosures. Rule does not protect consumers from legally dead debt and consumer groups say disclosures of time barred debt do not go far enough.
  - Recommendation: Rescind and reissue with new debt collection rule that has meaningful consumer protections

## **Additional Consumer Protections**

- Remittance Transfers under the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (Regulation E)
  - o Agency: CFPB
  - o Date Issued: 5/21/2020
  - o Type: Final Rule
  - Notes: The CFPB proposes to gut consumer protections in potentially disastrous ways. For example, by entirely exempting providers that make fewer than 500 remittance transfers a year from EFTA requirements. The rule also permits financial institutions that make fewer than 1,000 remittance transfers a year to a particular country to estimate the exchange rate, and thus the exact amount to be received by the recipient, in certain circumstances.

- Recommendation: Rescind
- <u>CFPB's No-Action Letter (NAL) Policy</u> 12 CFR Chapter X [Docket No. CFPB-2018-0042]

- Date Issued: 09/10/2019Type: Policy Guidance
- o Notes: Streamlines the review process for risky products and services, building upon a murky regulatory environment that does not help consumers
- o Recommendation: Rescind
- <u>CFPB Takes Action to Help Struggling Homeowners Seeking Mitigation Efforts;</u> <u>Consumers Seeking Small-Dollar Loans template issuance</u>

o Agency: CFPB

o Date Issued: 5/22/2020

- o Type: CFPB Template Issuance
- o Notes: The CFPB announces two No-Action Letter (NAL) Templates: 1) Electronic loss mitigation portal and; 2) Small dollar lending program for insured depository institutions. NCLC notes that the templates have no immediate, practical impact).
- o Recommendation: Rescind
- <u>CFPB's Trial Disclosure Program (TDP)</u> Policy to Encourage Trial Disclosure Programs [Docket No. CFPB-2018-0023]

o Agency: CFPB

- o Date Issued: 09/10/2019
- o Type: Policy guidance and procedural rule
- Notes: Permits entities seeking to improve consumer disclosures may conduct inmarket testing of alternative disclosures for a limited time upon permission by the Bureau.
- o Recommendation: Rescind
- <u>CFPB's Compliance Assistance Sandbox (CAS)</u> 12 CFR Chapter X [Docket No. CFPB-2018-0042]

o Agency: CFPB

o Date Issued: 09/10/2019

- o Type: Policy guidance and procedural rule
- o Notes: Enables the testing of a financial product or service where there is regulatory uncertainty.
- o Recommendation: Rescind
- Request for Information to Assist Taskforce on Federal Consumer Financial Protection Law

o Agency: CFPB

o Date Issued: 3/27/2020

o Type: Request for Information

- Notes: CFPB seeks information on: 1) Expanding access to consumer financial products and services; 2) the protection and use of consumer data; 3) regulations the Bureau writes and enforces; 4) Federal and State coordination; and 5) improving the market for consumer financial products and services. Given the task force's radically pro-business and anti-consumer lean, this task force should be dissolved.
- Recommendation: Dissolve the Taskforce on Federal Consumer Financial Protection Law or restructure to focus on strengthening consumer protections

#### **COVID Related Actions**

• <u>CFPB Policy Statement Suspending HMDA and PACE Reporting Requirements</u>

o Agency: CFPB

Date Issued: 3/26/2020Type: Policy Statement

- Notes: This policy update suspends 1) Quarterly Home Mortgage Disclosure Act reporting requirement and 2) reporting requirements for credit and prepaid card issuers. Additionally, it indefinitely postpones surveys of 1) financial institutions in connection with Dodd-Frank Act Section 1071 and 2) Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) lenders "for the purposes of implementing Section 307 of the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act." Also, it announced "good faith efforts" standards in enforcement and supervision during the pandemic.
- Recommendation: Rescind
- <u>Joint Statement Encouraging Responsible Small-Dollar Lending in Response to COVID-</u> 19

o Agencies: CFPB, Fed, FDIC, OCC, NCUA

Date Issued: 3/26/2020Type: Policy Statement

- o Notes: CFPB issues a joint statement "to specifically encourage financial institutions to offer responsible small-dollar loans to both consumers and small businesses." The statement adds that "the agencies are working on future guidance and lending principles for responsible small-dollar loans."
- o Recommendation: Modify to emphasize compliance with consumer protection laws, guard against rent-a-bank schemes, etc. Congress should also pass H.R. 5050, the Veterans and Consumers Fair Credit Act.
- Statement on Supervisory and Enforcement Practices Regarding the Fair Credit Reporting Act and Regulation V

o Agency: CFPB

Date Issued: 4/1/2020Type: Policy Statement

o Notes: CFPB issues guidance which 1) suspends enforcement of time limits for consumer reporting agencies (CRAs) or furnishers to investigate disputes; 2)

Reminds furnishers and CRAs that need not investigate disputes they deem frivolous and; 3) Expects furnishers to comply with CARES Act reporting requirements.

- Recommendation: Rescind and strengthen to ensure consumer protection laws are abided by
- Joint Policy Statement Suspending Enforcement of Mortgage Rules
  - o Agency: CFPB, Federal Reserve, FDIC, OCC, NCUA, Conference of State Bank Supervisors
  - o Date Issued: 4/3/2020
  - o Type: Policy Statement
  - Notes: Interagency policy statement suspending indefinitely enforcement and supervision of most loss mitigation rules mortgage servicers are supposed to comply with, particularly notice requirements for borrowers seeking assistance.
     CFPB issues own Mortgage Servicing Rules FAQs. These policies, in part, allow lenders to ignore customer complaints and continue unfair practices
  - o Recommendation: Revise to ensure strong enforcement to protect consumers
- Revised Interagency Statement on Loan Modifications by Financial Institutions Working with Customers Affected by the Coronavirus
  - o Agency: CFPB, Federal Reserve, FDIC, OCC, NCUA
  - o Date Issued: 4/7/20
  - o Type: Policy Statement
  - Notes: Revises the March 22 interagency statement to clarify the previous statement's "interaction with Section 4013 of the CARES Act" and addresses consumer protection approach. "Good faith efforts" approach to supervision and enforcement, with no public enforcement actions for violations, so long as circumstances related to the pandemic.
  - Recommendation: Revise to ensure strong enforcement of laws and regulations to protect consumers when it comes to loan modifications and forbearance
- Statement on Supervisory and Enforcement Practices Regarding the Remittance Rule in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - o Agency: CFPB
  - o Date Issued: 4/10/2020
  - o Type: Policy Statement
  - Notes: For international remittance transfers that occur on or after July 21, 2020 and before Jan. 1, 2021, the policy statement states that the Bureau will neither cite supervisory violations nor initiate enforcement actions against insured institutions for continuing to provide estimates to consumers under the temporary exception, instead of actual amounts.
  - Recommendation: Expires 1/1/21, should not extend
- <u>Interpretive Rule on Treatment of Pandemic Relief Payments under Regulation E and</u> Application of the Compulsory Use Prohibition

Date Issued: 4/13/2020Type: Interpretive Rule

- O Notes: Relaxes restrictions on placing government benefits on prepaid cards to allow CARES Act economic impact payments to be distributed via prepaid card instead of check. However, there are concerns with implementation, including limited free ATMs, fees for replacing cards, and binding mandatory arbitration clauses.
- Recommendation: Revise to ensure strong consumer protections
- <u>Interagency Statement on Appraisals and Evaluations for Real Estate Related Financial Transactions affected by the Coronavirus</u>

o Agency: CFPB, Fed, FDIC, OCC, NCUA

o Date Issued: 4/14/2020

o Type: Interagency statement

- Notes: CFPB issues joint interim final rule "to temporarily defer real estaterelated appraisals and evaluations under the agencies' interagency appraisal regulations."
- Recommendation: Modify to ensure a robust appraisal and evaluation process that protects homebuyers
- <u>CFPB/FHFA Borrower Protection Program</u>

Agency: CFPB, FHFADate Issued: 4/15/2020

o Type: New Program

- Notes: Joint CFPB and FHFA program to share servicing and consumer complaint data between agencies to "protect borrowers during the coronavirus national emergency."
- Recommendation: Monitor, share data and reports publicly, and ensure the program helps enhance fair lending oversight
- Bulletin 2020-02 Compliance Bulletin and Policy Guidance: Handling of Information and Documents During Mortgage Servicing Transfers

o Agency: CFPB

Date Issued: 04/24/2020Type: Policy Statement

- O Notes: Compliance bulletin covers "(A) transfer related policies and procedures, and (B) loan information and documents for ensuring accuracy." The Bureau notes that it began developing this guidance before the pandemic but plans to consider challenges entities may face as a result of the pandemic.
- Recommendation: Modify to emphasize compliance with all consumer protection laws and regulations given consumers are at greater risk during pandemic
- Supervisory and Enforcement Practices Regarding Electronic Credit Card Disclosures in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Date Issued: 6/3/2020Type: Policy Statement

- O Notes: The statement provides guidance on credit card issuer compliance with Regulation Z, which requires that creditors provide written disclosures to consumers for account-opening and temporary rate or fee reduction.
- Recommendation: Modify with an emphasis on consumer protections and appropriate consumer notice with respect to credit card disclosures

### • CFPB Pilot Advisory Opinion (AO) Program

o Agency: CFPB

o Date Issued: 6/18/2020

o Type: Pilot Advisory Opinion (AO) Program

- o Notes: Launches a pilot advisory opinion program announced March 6, allowing regulated entities to submit requests for advisory opinions, to provide clear guidance to help companies understand their legal and regulatory obligations.
- Recommendation: Modify the program to ensure consumer protections are the priority of this AO process

## • Interim Rule on Regulation X

o Agency: CFPB

o Date Issued: 06/23/2020

o Type: CFPB Interim Final Rule

- O Notes: Issued two interim final rules: 1) Making clear that "servicers do not violate Regulation X by offering certain COVID-19-related loss mitigation options based on an evaluation of limited application information collected from the borrower" and; 2) Providing servicers "relief from certain requirements under Regulation X that normally would apply after a borrower submits an incomplete loss mitigation application." Consumer advocates have noted that blessing the deferral option is helpful, but failure to provide rigorous foreclosure protections for people for whom the deferral option doesn't work is not helpful.
- Recommendation: Monitor, consider improving to ensure robust consumer protections

#### Policy Statement on Early Termination of Consent Orders

o Date Issued: 10/08/2020

o Type: CFPB Policy Statement

- Notes: The policy statement outlines the early termination application process for entities subject to a Consent Order and the standards that the Bureau intends to use when evaluating applications.
- Recommendation: Rescind

#### • Executive Order 13924 on Regulations

o Agency: President

Date Issued: 05/19/2020Type: Executive Order

- Notes: Agencies should address the economic emergency by rescinding, modifying, waiving, or providing exemptions from regulations and other requirements that may inhibit economic recovery, consistent with applicable law and with protection of the public health and safety...They should also give businesses...guidance on what the law requires; by recognizing the efforts of businesses to comply with often-complex regulations in complicated and swiftly changing circumstances; and by committing to fairness in administrative enforcement and adjudication
- o Recommendation: Rescind
- Policy Statement on Billing Errors

Date Issued: 05/13/2020Type: Policy Statement

 Notes: CFPB instituted a flexible supervisory and enforcement approach regarding the timeframe within which creditors complete their investigations of consumers' billing error notices.

o Recommendation: Rescind

## **Financial Stability and Prudential Regulation**

## Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) and Office of Financial Research (OFR)

• <u>Authority To Require Supervision and Regulation of Certain Nonbank Financial</u> Companies

o Agency: FSOC

o Date Issued: 12/04/2019

- o Type: Final Interpretive Guidance
- o Notes: FSOC adopted harmful guidance regarding the process in which it designates a nonbank financial company as a systemically important financial institution (SIFI) under Title I of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Key elements of this rule include a greatly increased use of cost-benefit analysis in designation and a requirement that designation take into account the "likelihood of distress" as a factor in designation. These changes create unjustified and insurmountable hurdles to designating any company that threatens U.S. financial stability. In the words of former Fed Chairs Janet Yellen and Ben Bernanke, as well as former Treasury Secretaries Jack Lew and Timothy Geithner, "Though framed as procedural changes, these amendments amount to a substantial weakening of the post-crisis reforms... These changes would make it impossible to prevent the buildup of risk in financial institutions whose failure would threaten the stability of the system as a whole."
- Recommendation: Rescind and return to previous version of the designation process, reassess the financial landscape, and designate any entity that poses a threat to financial stability
- Staffing and Operations of FSOC and OFR

- Agency: FSOC and OFRDate Issued: 2017-2020
- o Type: Staffing and Administrative Work
- Notes: As identified by the Committee in <u>several hearings</u> and documented by <u>experts</u>, FSOC and OFR under the Trump Administration has been undermined through steep reductions of staff, with a reduction of important research work and meetings to better identify a wide variety of risks to the financial system and economy, including risks that arise from climate change, leveraged lending, hedge funds, private equity, asset management, etc.
- Recommendations:
  - Return FSOC and OFR staffing to at least 2016 levels, convene a meeting of principals no less than every two months
  - Revive FSOC's Hedge Fund Working Group
  - Publish analysis of developments and the existing regulatory framework by the Digital Asset and Distributed Ledger Technology Working Group
  - Establish a Climate Change Working Group
  - Consider designating cloud computing companies as Systemically Important Financial Market Utilities (SIFMUs)

# **Prudential Regulation**

- "Tailoring Rules" with Respect to Large U.S. and Foreign Banks (Fed), <u>Title I Resolution Plans</u> (Fed/FDIC), and <u>Changes to Applicability Thresholds for Regulatory Capital and Liquidity Requirements</u> (Fed/FDIC/OCC)
  - Agency: Fed, FDIC, OCCDate Issued: 10/10/2019
  - o Type: Final Rules
  - O Notes: The Fed, FDIC, and OCC approved a new rule to reduce the liquidity coverage ratio by 15% for banks with between \$250 billion and \$700 billion in assets, and eliminated the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) entirely for banks between \$100 billion and \$250 billion. The Fed and FDIC also finalized a rule that severely weakened resolution planning requirements by greatly reducing the frequency of resolution plans so that full resolution plans would only have to be submitted every 4 to 6 years. The weakening of the process was especially evident for foreign banking organizations. These were so-called "tailoring" rules that were mandated to some extent by S. 2155, although the agencies went beyond what S. 2155 required.
    - Dissents from <u>Fed Governor Lael Brainard</u>, and FDIC Board Member Marty Gruenberg on Capital/Liquidity Thresholds and Living Wills
  - Recommendation: Rescind and strengthen the capital/liquidity/living will regulatory framework for larger U.S. and foreign banks. The living will changes in frequency should be reversed to at least the S. 2155 requirement that resolution plans be fully updated every other year, if not be reconsidered more broadly. Congress should make any necessary corresponding statutory modifications.

• Amendments to the Regulatory Capital, Capital Plan, and Stress Test Rules (Regulations Q, Y, and YY; Docket No. R-1603 and RIN 7100-AF 02)

Agency: Federal ReserveDate Issued: 3/4/2020

- o Type: Final Rule
- O Notes: The Fed weakened the stress testing and capital (CCAR) framework in multiple ways, building on a 2019 <u>announcement</u> they were curtailing qualitative objections to bank capital distribution, as well as another <u>change</u> making the stress testing regime more "transparent" in a manner that could be gamed, while changing a range of stress tests assumptions to require less capital. The overall stress testing framework requires a more in-depth reconsideration, given the failure of stress testing to induce counter-cyclical capital provisioning prior to these changes.
  - Brainard Dissent
- Recommendation: Rescind and modify the stress testing process to make it more robust
- Inter-Affiliate Swap Margin Rule

Agency: Fed, OCC, FDICDate Issued: June 25, 2020

- o Type: Final Rule
- O Notes: The banking agencies modified initial margin rules to exempt swaps between bank affiliates from initial margin. This means that risk can be transported from less regulated foreign affiliates over to U.S affiliates, or from speculative capital markets affiliates to insured depository affiliates, without reserving any money against the possibility that the riskier affiliate fails to perform. This reduced the amount of large bank margin resources reserved against derivatives losses by tens of billions of dollars.
  - Brainard Dissent; Gruenberg Dissent
- o Recommendation: Rescind
- "Tailor" Enhanced Supplementary Leverage Ratio (eSLR)

Agency: Fed, OCCDate Issued: 4/11/18Type: Proposed Rule

- Notes: The Fed and OCC proposed a rule that would reduce the enhanced supplementary leverage ratio (eSLR) capital requirements applicable to the 8 U.S. G-SIBs for their holding companies and insured depository institution (IDI) subsidiaries. The proposal would reduce capital by approximately \$121 billion for the G-SIBs.
  - Statement by FDIC Board Member Marty Gruenberg
- Recommendation: Rescind
- Temporary Exemptions from Supplementary Leverage Ratio (SLR)

Agency: Fed, FDIC, OCCDate Issued: 4/1/20

o Type: Interim final rule

- Notes: The Fed, FDIC, and OCC issued a temporary rule exempting Treasuries and Federal Reserve deposits that effectively lowered the SLR at the eight globally systemically important banks (G-SIBs) by 9 percent, and also required the G-SIBs to obtain approval before pursuing capital distributions. In August, the agencies also issued a rule that determined that capital distributions that were scheduled were "eligible retained income" and would not be suspended.
  - Gruenberg dissent

    Pagemendation: Pageind and
- Recommendation: Rescind and suspend all buybacks and dividend payments until the pandemic and economic fallout has subsided
- Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR): Liquidity Risk Measurement Standards and Disclosure Requirements

Agency: Fed, FDIC, OCCDate Issued: 8/20/20

o Type: Final rule

- O Notes: The net stable funding ratio (NSFR) rule weakens liquidity requirements for megabanks and other large banks compared to the original 2016 proposed rule, part of which is in contradiction to our international agreements through the Basel Committee It also was narrowed to exempt 15 banks with more than \$100 billion that individually and collectively can pose systemic risks, and it delays/reduces reporting requirements, which is problematic when market conditions can rapidly and unexpectedly change, as we've seen in the pandemic.
  - Gruenberg <u>dissent</u>; Brainard <u>dissent</u>
- > Recommendation: Rescind
- Total-Loss Absorbing Capacity (TLAC) Requirements

Agency: Fed, FDIC, OCCDate Issued: 10/20/20

o Type: Interim final rule

- O Notes: The Fed, FDIC, and OCC issued a final rule implementing total-loss absorbing capacity (TLAC) requirements, but narrowed the application of the final rule, exempting 11 super regional banks and foreign banks with large U.S. operations compared to the original proposal. FDIC Board Member Marty Gruenberg argues that these large banks can individually and collectively pose systemic risks, and exempting them from the final rule is inappropriate.
  - Gruenberg <u>dissent</u>
- Recommendation: Rescind and modify to apply to large banks that individually and collectively pose systemic risks
- Volcker Rule Revisions to Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests in, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds (10/8/2019) and Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests in, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds (6/25/20)

o Agencies: Fed, FDIC, OCC, SEC, CFTC

o Date Issued: 10/8/2019, 6/25/2020

Type: Final Rules

- Notes: Financial regulators finalized two rules substantially rolling back the Volcker Rule, first by eliminating the "short-term intent" test in the agencies' definition of proprietary trading, then by narrowing the definition of "covered fund" to allow commercial banks to make more investments in private equity, hedge funds, and venture capital funds.
  - Prop trading (Brainard <u>Dissent</u>; Gruenberg <u>Dissent</u>)
  - Covered funds (Brainard <u>Dissent</u>; Gruenberg <u>Dissent</u>)
- Recommendation: Since the Volcker Rule was flawed even before it was gutted, the agencies should reverse these changes and seek to strengthen the implementation of the rule, including by collecting data on trading practices and making the data public. Agencies should collect data on trading practices in the past year and conduct analysis comparing it with data on trading practices between 2014 and 2019 when the more robust version of the Volcker Rule was in place. Furthermore, Congress should consider legislation strengthening the wall between investment banking (and other financial activities) and commercial banking.

# • "Controlling Influence" Rule

o Date Issued: 04/01/2020

o Type: Final Rule

o Notes: The Fed lowered the definition of "control" under the Bank Holding Company Act to allow private firms to control up to 24.9 percent of a bank's voting equity

o Recommendation: Rescind

# Leveraged Lending Guidance

Date Issued: March 21, 2013Type: Interagency Guidance

- Notes: The Fed, OCC, and FDIC adopted guidance in 2013 that stated that leverage above six percent "raises concerns," but various regulators made comments emphasizing the guidance was non-binding.
- Recommendation: Publicly reaffirm the 2013 guidance and consider enhancements to mitigate risks associated with leveraged lending (some which may take corresponding action by Congress), such as requiring arrangers of corporate loan securitizations to retain a share of the risk of those securitizations by clarifying that managers of collateralized debt obligations are subject to the Dodd-Frank Act's risk retention requirements established.

# • Industrial Loan Company (ILC) Loophole

o Agency: FDIC

Date Issued: 3/31/2020Type: Proposed Rule

- Notes: The FDIC issued a proposed rule guiding their approval process for new ILC, and granted the first new ILC charters since before the 2008 financial crisis to Square and NelNet.
- o Recommendation: Monitor. Congress should eliminate the "ILC loophole" to subject ILCs to the Bank Holding Company Act, as most other banks are.

- Fair Access to Financial Services
  - o Agency: OCC
  - o Date Issued:
  - o Type: Proposed Rule
  - Notes: Using highly questionable statutory authority, the OCC proposed this rule to compel large banks to serve energy and gas companies, even if doing so would increase risks to the bank and the financial system, in addition to contributing to climate change
  - Recommendation: Rescind. Instead, banking regulators like the OCC should be using their authority to ensure minority consumers who have been routinely discriminated against by banks receive fair access to financial services.

#### **Digital Banking**

- OCC Chief Counsel's Interpretation on NBFSA's Authority to Hold Stablecoin Reserves
  - o Agency: OCC
  - o Date Issued: 09/21/2020
  - o Type: Policy Statement/Interpretation
  - o Notes: This policy states that a national bank may hold stable coin reserves as a service to bank customers.
  - o Recommendation: Rescind
- Federally Chartered Banks & Thrifts May Provide Custody Services for Crypto Assets
  - o Agency: OCC
  - o Date Issued: 07/22/2020
  - o Type: Policy Statement
  - Notes: Statement clarifying national banks' and federal savings associations' authority to provide cryptocurrency custody services for customers
  - o Recommendation: Rescind
- NBFSA Digital Activities: Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
  - o Agency: OCC
  - o Date Issued: 06/04/2020
  - o Type: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
  - o Notes: The OCC is seeking comment on 12 CFR 7, subpart E and 12 CFR 155 on national bank and federal savings association digital activities.
  - o Recommendation: Monitor
- OCC Requests Comment on Proposal to Update Activities and Operations Rules and its Rules on Digital Activities
  - o Agency: OCC
  - Date Issued: 06/04/2020Type: Request for Comment

- Notes: The OCC published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR) for public comment to update its rules for national bank and federal savings association activities and operations. The agency also released an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) seeking comment on rules on national banks' and federal savings associations' (banks) digital activities.
- o Recommendation: Monitor

## **International**

- Treasury Guidance for U.S. Positions on Multilateral Development Banks Engaging on Energy Projects and Policies
  - o Date Issued: July 2017
  - o Type: Guidance
  - O Notes: Instructs U.S. executive directors at the multilateral development banks (MDBs) to vote to "help countries access and use fossil fuels more cleanly and efficiently," which, in effect, means voting "yes" to most coal projects that come up for approval. This supersedes <u>guidance issued by President Obama in 2013</u> that established a U.S. position at the MDBs against the financing of new coal plant projects except in rare circumstances.
  - o Recommendation: Rescind and reverse
- Executive Order 13928 on Blocking Property of Certain Persons Associated with the International Criminal Court
  - o Date Issued: June 11, 2020
  - o Type: Executive Order
  - Notes: In response to an ongoing investigation of U.S. military actions in Afghanistan by the International Criminal Court (ICC), President Trump declared a national emergency and authorized the imposition of asset freezes and family entry bans that could be imposed against certain ICC officials, personnel, and non-US persons who assist in ICC investigations to which the U.S. objects. On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Trump Administration announced the imposition of sanctions against the ICC chief prosecutor and another senior ICC official.
  - o Recommendation: Rescind and reverse

#### Cuba

- National Security Presidential Memorandum on Strengthening the Policy of the United States Toward Cuba
  - o Type: Presidential Policy Memorandum
  - o Date: June 16, 2017
  - Notes: Outlines the Trump Administration's policy toward Cuba and policy implementation actions to be taken by heads of departments and agencies, including restricting certain financial transactions and travel. Supersedes and replaces Obama-era Presidential Policy Directive on U.S.

Policy toward Cuba (June 28, 2007) and Presidential Policy Directive on United States-Cuba Normalization (October 14, 2016).

o Recommendation: Rescind

# • November 2017 Amendments to the Cuban Assets Control Regulations

- o Agency: Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)
- o Date: Effective November 9, 2017
- o Type: Final Rule
- Notes: Amends the Cuban Assets Control Regulations to limit authorizations for travel to Cuba and related transactions, educational activities, and restrict direct financial transactions with entities and sub-entities listed on the State Department's Cuba Restricted List.
- o Recommendation: Rescind

# • <u>June 2019 Amendments to the Cuban Assets Control Regulations</u>

- o Agency: Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)
- Date: June 5, 2019Type: Final Rule
- o Notes: Eliminates the authorization for group people-to-people educational travel.
- o Recommendation: Rescind

#### • September 2019 Amendments to the Cuban Assets Control Regulations

- o Agency: Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)
- o Date: September 9, 2019
- o Type: Final Rule
- Notes: Capped family remittances (not previously limited) to \$1,000 per quarter per Cuban national and eliminated the category of donative remittances. Also ended the use of *U-turn transactions*, which allowed banking institutions to process certain funds transfers originating and terminating outside the United States.
- o Recommendation: Rescind

# • September 2020 Amendments to the Cuban Assets Control Regulations

- o Agency: Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)
- o Date: September 23, 2020
- o Type: Final Rule
- Notes: Prohibits any person subject to U.S. jurisdiction from lodging, paying for lodging, or making any reservation for or on behalf of a third party to lodge at any property owned by a prohibited Cuban government official or Communist Party member, or close relative.
- o Recommendation: Rescind

• October 2020 Amendments to the Cuban Assets Control Regulations

o Agency: OFAC

o Date: October 26, 2020

o Type: Final Rule

- O Notes: Amended the scope of certain remittance-related general authorizations to prohibit any transactions relating to the collection, forwarding, or receipt of remittances involving any entities or sub-entities under the control of, or acting for or on behalf of, the Cuban military, intelligence, or security services or personnel with which direct financial transactions would disproportionately benefit such services or personnel at the expense of the Cuban people or private enterprise in Cuba.
- o Recommendation: Rescind

# **Investor Protection and Capital Markets**

• Exemptive Order Permitting Finders to Function as Unregulated Broker-Dealers in Promoting the Sale of Private Offerings

Date Issued: 10/7/20Type: Exemptive Order

- Notes: Allows finders to solicit accredited investors (see below regarding expanding definition of accredited investor) and receive transaction-based compensation without being registered as a broker or a dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- o Recommendations: Reverse
- Proposed Rule Amendments and Guidance Addressing Cross-Border Application of Certain Security-Based Swap Requirements (File Number S7–07–19)

o Date Issued: December 18, 2019

o Type: Proposed Rule

- o Notes: Rulemaking package, consisting of amendments, interpretive guidance and an order. The package revises regulations governing cross-border application of certain security-based swap requirements, by rolling back applicable protections and requirements. This packages undermines the SEC's oversight ability.
- o Recommendations: Reverse
- Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests in, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds

o Date Issued: July 31, 2020

o Type: Final Rule

 Notes: Rulemaking and guidance issued by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to provide new exclusions and ease reliance on existing exclusions. This may open avenues for banking entities to avoid restrictions and prohibitions on investments in Covered Funds and indirect proprietary trading.

- o Recommendations: Rescind
- Procedural Requirements and Resubmission Thresholds Under Exchange Act Rule 14a-8 (Release No. 34–87458; File No. S7–23–19)
  - o Date Issued: October 1, 2020
  - o Type: Final Rule
  - Notes: Rulemaking rendering it more difficult for shareholders to resubmit shareholder proposals, which will have a disproportionately adverse impact ESGrelated proposals.
  - o Recommendations: Reverse
- Whistleblower Program Rules (Release No. 34-83557; File No. S7-16-18)
  - o Date Issued: June 28, 2018
  - o Type: Proposed Rule
  - Notes: Rulemaking giving the SEC discretion to reduce awards to whistleblowers and includes problematic interpretive guidance regarding what would constitute "original information."
  - o Recommendations: Reverse
- Amendments to the "Accredited Investor" Definition (Release Nos. 33–10734; 34-87784; File No. S7–25–19)
  - o Date Issued: August 26, 2020
  - o Type: Final Rule
  - Notes: Rulemaking expanding the definition of accredited investor to include other natural persons who will now qualify as accredited investors and will have access to investments with less stringent investor protections.
  - o Recommendations: Rescind
- Amendments to the Accelerated Filer and Large Accelerated Filer Definitions (Release No. 34–85814; File No. S7–06–19)
  - o Date Issued: May 9, 2019
  - o Type: Proposed Rule
  - Notes: Rulemaking amending the accelerated filer and large accelerated filer definitions.
  - o Recommendations: Reverse
- Regulation Best Interest: The Broker-Dealer Standard of Conduct
  - o Date Issued: June 5, 2019
  - o Type: Final Rule

- Notes: Establishes a standard of conduct for broker-dealers and natural persons
  who are associated persons of a broker-dealer when they make a recommendation
  to a retail customer of any securities transaction or investment strategy involving
  securities.
- o Recommendations: Rescind
- Retail Disclosures (Form CRS, Variable Annuity Summary Prospectus, Mutual Fund Shareholder Reports)
  - o Date Issued: June 5, 2019
  - o Type: Final Rule
  - Notes: Rule establishing a disclosure form providing retail investors a brief relationship summary informing retail investor of potential conflicts of interest.
  - o Recommendations: Rescind
- <u>Procedural Requirements and Resubmission Thresholds Under Exchange Act Rule 14a-8</u> (Release No. 34–87458; File No. S7–23–19)
  - o Date Issued: September 25, 2020
  - o Type: Final Rule
  - Notes: Rulemaking rendering it more difficult for shareholders to resubmit shareholder proposals, which will disparately impact proposals on issues such as climate change, diversity and other environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) issues.
  - o Recommendations: Rescind
- Amendments to Exemptions from the Proxy Rules for Proxy Voting Advice (Release No. 34–87457; File No. S7–22–19)
  - o Date Issued: September 3, 2020
  - o Type: Final Rule
  - Notes: Rulemaking providing increased issuer involvement in the proxy voting advice process. This increased issuer involvement means that proxy voting advice will not be as independent.
  - o Recommendations: Rescind
- Oil and Gas Reporting Modernization
  - o Date Issued: February 2017
  - o Type: Rule reversal
  - Notes: Rule rescinded a pending SEC rule that would have required oil companies to disclose details of their payments to international governments in connection with oil and gas production
  - o Recommendations: Reverse and reinstate pending rule
- Customer Protection Rule
  - o Date Issued: October 22, 2020

o Type: No-action letter

- o Notes: The SEC issued a no-action letter permitting non-compliance with certain aspects of the Customer Protection Rule for a six-month period
- o Recommendations: Rescind
- Public Statement on the Effect of the Court of Appeals Decision on the Conflict Minerals Rule

o Agency: SEC, Division of Corporation Finance

o Date: April 7, 2017

o Type: Public Statement/Guidance

O Note: In an update to its 2014 guidance, the Division of Corporation Finance announced that it will not recommend enforcement action to the Commission if a company does not include disclosure in Form SD relating to due diligence on the source and chain of custody of conflict minerals or a Conflict Minerals Report and associated Independent Private Sector Audit

o Recommendation: Rescind

# **Derivatives Regulation**

• Cross Border Derivatives

o Agency: CFTC

o Date Issued: 9/14/2020

o Type: Final Rule

- O Notes: The derivatives market is fully globalized and the largest Wall Street banks have tremendous discretion to book derivatives in foreign subsidiaries around the world. Thus, it is critical that U.S. rules be properly applied to derivatives even when they are booked in foreign subsidiaries. Unfortunately, from the beginning of the implementation of U.S. derivatives rules, cross-border regulatory coverage has been flawed and contained significant loopholes. The Trump CFTC completed this process by passing a rule that effectively eliminated the ability of U.S. regulators to apply most Dodd-Frank requirements to the bulk of derivatives activity conducted by large U.S. global banks. The rule can be seen as making Dodd-Frank derivatives compliance effectively optional for these banks
- Recommendation: The key elements of this rule weakening coverage should be reversed, but this should be done in the context of a general reconsideration and strengthening of cross-border derivatives coverage. This process should include reconsideration of various exemptions granted to foreign entities including clearing houses and trading platforms.
- Commodity Speculation

o Agency: CFTC

o Date Issued: 10/15/2020

o Type: Proposed Rule

o Notes: The Dodd-Frank Act required the limitation of commodity speculation in order to restrict wild price swings in critical commodities created by excessive

speculation. A number of rules were proposed to implement this requirement, but the intensity of industry opposition prevented them from being finalized. In early 2020 the CFTC proposed a new rule that would effectively gut the capacity of the agency to implement strong position limits.

- Recommendation: Key elements of this rule must be reversed and a stronger position limits regime designed and put in place, based on an improved version of previous proposals.
- Capital Requirements of Swap Dealers and Major Swap Participants
  - o Date Issued: 7/22/20
  - o Type: Final Rule
  - Notes: The CFTC has jurisdiction over capital requirements for non-bank derivatives dealers. In 2020, the agency finalized rules that would significantly reduce such requirements as compared to previous agency proposals and to likely derivatives risks.
  - Recommendation: These rules have not yet been implemented, but need to be reversed and reconsidered as new data on derivatives exposures at non-bank dealers is reported.
- Automated Trading
  - o Agency: CFTC
  - o Date Issued: 6/25/2020
  - o Type: Proposed Rule.
  - O Notes: Derivatives trading markets are now effectively dominated by high-speed automated trading. Yet there is no specialized set of rules or mechanisms to register automated traders, keep records on their trading techniques, and require a minimum level of risk control. During the Obama Administration the CFTC proposed a rule, Reg AT, that would have started the process of providing effective oversight. However, the Trump Administration withdrew Reg AT and instead proposed a set of automated trading principles that effectively outsources any regulation of automated trading to private exchanges who have deep conflicts of interest.
  - Recommendation: Reg AT should be re-proposed and the agency should make clear that regulation will not be outsourced through a purely principles-based approach.

#### **Diversity and Inclusion**

- Executive Order 13950 on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping
  - o Date Issued: 09/22/2020
  - o Type: Executive Order
  - Notes: Bans certain types of anti-bias and discrimination training by agencies and contractors. The administration threatens to suspend or cancel federal contracts with companies that violate the order.
  - Recommendation: Rescind and reverse

- Presidential Executive Order 13672 on the Revocation of Federal Contracting Executive Orders
  - Date Issued: 03/27/2017Type: Executive Order
  - Notes: Revokes key components of the Obama administration's previous executive order banning federal contractors from discriminating against employees on the basis of sexual orientation or identity
  - o Recommendation: Rescind and reverse
- Notice of Information Collection—Request for new Control Number for a Currently Approved Collection: Employer Information Report (EEO-1) Component 1; Revision of Existing Approval for EEO-1 Component 2.
  - Date Issued: 04/23//2019Type: Agency Notice
  - O Notes: Provides guidance to regulated entities regarding the 2015 Final Interagency Policy Statement Establishing Joint Standards for Assessing the Diversity Policies and Practices of Entities Regulated by the Agencies, noting that regulated entities are expected to submit diversity self-assessments no more than every two years.
  - o Recommendation: Rescind and reverse
- Standards for Assessing the Diversity Policies and Practices of Entities Regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission
  - o Date Issued: 09/2017
  - o Type: Agency Guidance
  - Notes: Provides guidance to regulated entities regarding the 2015 Final Interagency Policy Statement Establishing Joint Standards for Assessing the Diversity Policies and Practices of Entities Regulated by the Agencies, noting that regulated entities are expected to submit diversity self-assessments no more than every two years.
  - Recommendation: Remove 2-year guidance and require collection of data every year