

FedFin Daily Briefing

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

FRB-NY Renews Culture Analyses With Fintech Focus

Although the New York Fed's corporate-culture efforts were high profile in the wake of the great financial crisis, attention has shifted to matters leading the Reserve Bank to retool its effort. In remarks today, James Hennessy, head of this work at the New York Fed, announced that focus has turned to how the digital transformation affects corporate culture, looking for example at how new entrants affect bank decision-making. This appears to be a reference to a new inter-agency worry: that fintech or similar partnerships are driven more by bank profit considerations than attention at the same time to risk management and consumer protection. The Reserve Bank is also looking not only at financial, but now also at non-financial compensation to identify employee incentives. Finally, the Fed is focused on understanding "learning cultures" to see why these are often not to be found in banking organizations.

Recent Files Available for Downloading

The following reports and analyses have been sent to retainer clients recently. Copies are also available to retainer clients on the Archives section of Federal Financial Analytics' website: <u>www.fedfin.com</u> or clients may obtain the reports/analyses by e-mailing <u>info@fedfin.com</u> giving the requested item name, firm, and e-mail address. To learn more about *GSE Activity Reports*, click <u>here</u>.

- FEDERALRESERVE72: Although Chairman Powell's testimony kept exclusively to monetary policy, today's Senate Banking hearing seemed only to go through the motions set at previous hearings with regard to inflation, growth, and the Fed's long-term objectives.
- <u>GSE-030123</u>: A recent FRB-Atlanta <u>study</u> finds that closing the racial homeownership gap alone would not redress housing market racial disparities because minority homeowners cannot equitably access home equity and thus enjoy comparable access to the economic opportunities afforded by homeownership.
- SANCTION20: In a remarkably bipartisan session, the Senate Banking Committee today made it clear that Congress wants tougher sanctions against Russia, near-term action against hold-out nations to oilprice caps and other efforts, and perhaps even confiscation of Russian assets to fund U.S. Ukraine aid.
- <u>CRYPTO40</u>: In the wake of revelations by Silvergate and other banks about significant deposit exposures to cryptoasset entities, federal banking agencies have issued a statement about the need to manage liquidity risk associated with cryptoassets.
- GSE-022723: FHFA has proposed a set of refinements to the current GSE <u>capital construct</u>.
- CUSTODY5: Making full use of powers granted in the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act, the SEC is proposing a wholesale rewrite of the rules dictating how investment advisers must place assets in custody and which institutions are considered qualified for this purpose.
- GSE-022123: As we noted, FHFA is venturing onto treacherous political ground with a request for input on expanding Fannie and Freddie's ESG imprint.

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- CRYPTO39: Although Chairman Brown (D-OH) remained non-committal on the need for crypto legislation, he emphatically called for reform to protect consumers and investors.
- <u>GSE-021323</u>: Following our <u>initial report</u>, we turn here to a more detailed analysis of what's in store for the Home Loan Banks following the <u>Brookings high-impact forum</u> on Home Loan Banks that are also facing far more unflattering public attention than has been their fate for years.
- CREDITCARD36: Following on a controversial advance notice of proposed rulemaking, the CFPB has now released an NPR setting specific standards for credit-card late fees that also eliminates the inflation adjustments established by the Federal Reserve when implementing the 2009 credit-card law.