

## FedFin Daily Briefing

Friday, May 3, 2024

## Fed Advances Long-Awaited Fedwire Fix

Finally moving to address a problem identified during the March 2023 bank failures (see Client Report REFORM222), the Federal Reserve proposed to make the Fedwire Funds Service and NSS operational every day of the year. As the Fed notes, the change would have considerable impact on the safety and efficiency of the payment system and would help "position" the payment system for the future. To some extent, that future is now given the growth of real-time payments, with this change also providing vital infrastructure as that initiative advances. The proposal also notes that use of these expanded operating days would be voluntary, with the Board deferring changes to the Fedwire Security Service at this time. FedFin will shortly provide clients with an in-depth analysis. Comments are due sixty days after publication in the Federal Register, with actual rewiring of Fedwire not taking place until at least 2027.

## **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: <a href="www.fedfin.com">www.fedfin.com</a> or clients may obtain the reports/analyses by e-mailing <a href="mailto:info@fedfin.com">info@fedfin.com</a> giving the requested item name, firm, and e-mail address. To learn more about GSE Activity Reports, click here.

- MERGER16: At today's HFSC Financial Institutions Subcommittee hearing on bank mergers, Democrats said that larger mergers pose numerous risks while Republicans criticized the applicationand-approval process as opaque and time-consuming.
- GSE-043024: In conjunction with releasing its new <u>fair-housing rule</u>, FHFA yesterday also <u>created</u> a new office of "Public Interest Examination."
- ASSETMANAGEMENT8: As we <u>noted</u>, the FDIC board late last week faced the unusual and perhaps unprecedented situation of a staff resolution supported by its Chair and one Democratic Director that was countered by a different proposal from Republican Directors, with both options finally tabled due to objections from the Acting Comptroller.
- SYSTEMIC99: The latest Federal Reserve financial-stability <u>assessment</u> continues the Fed's practice of detailing vulnerabilities without drawing bottom-line conclusions; the Board once did so, but ceased this practice after opining that the financial system's risk was "moderate" shortly before the 2020 crash.
- MORTGAGE122: Although there was no need for further evidence that campaign season has begun, today's Senate Banking housing hearing surely confirmed it.
- ➤ GSE-041724: Just as the CFPB readies its assault on <u>cashout-refi discount fees</u> comes <u>FHFA's request</u> for views on a new Freddie Mac product that would give borrowers access to their locked-up equity without a new first lien at a higher rate or a traditional home-equity second riding piggyback atop the first lien.
- <u>RESOLVE51</u>: In its first public statement since 2013 about how it would execute an SPOE resolution (<u>see FSM Report RESOLVE23</u>), the FDIC yesterday released a <u>report</u> Chair Gruenberg <u>described</u> as demonstrating the FDIC's readiness to resolve a U.S. GSIB and the process it has developed for doing so under the orderly liquidation authority (OLA) provided in the Dodd-Frank Act (<u>see FSM Report SYSTEMIC30</u>).
- GSE-041024: Bloomberg today reports that the CFPB may simply ban consumer payment for lender title insurance.

- ➤ <u>AML137</u>: Senate Banking Committee's Hearing with Deputy Secretary Adeyemo reviewed the Administration's request for additional digital asset AML/CFT authority.
- ➤ <u>GSE-040824</u>: It wasn't hard for us to forecast that, after NEC Director Brainard <u>endorsed</u> CFPB Director Chopra's jihad against mortgage "junk fees," that the discount points that received particular opprobrium would be moved up the priority ladder for federal restriction.