

Monthly Bulletin

Department of Business Oversight



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DBO Promotes Two New Financial Institutions Managers in L.A. and Sacramento Banking Programs

Thomas Egu has been promoted to the position of Financial Institutions Manager (Portfolio Manager) in the Los Angeles Office of the DBO's Banking Program. In addition, Devin Bragg has been promoted to the position of Financial Institutions Manager (Portfolio Manager) in the Sacramento Office of the Banking Program. Both promotions took effect Feb. 8.

Thomas Egu began his banking career in Ghana after receiving his bachelor's degree with an emphasis in Banking and Finance from the University of Ghana. He then took a position with American Savings Bank (later acquired by Washington Mutual). Thomas earned an MBA degree from Pepperdine University's Graziadio School of Business and Management before returning to banking with U.S. Bank.

Thomas joined the DBO in March 2005 as a Financial Institutions Examiner in the Los Angeles Office Banking Program. He was promoted to the position of Senior Financial Institutions Examiner in 2009. Thomas has served as the Examiner-In-Charge of East West Bank (the largest state-chartered bank headquartered in Southern California) and has served as the Examiner-In-Charge for examinations of Banamex USA.

Devin Bragg spent five years in the U.S. Marine Corps as a helicopter mechanic and air-crewman. He worked his way through college in the Veterans Services Offices of Shasta and Butte counties, where he helped veterans apply for disability

and other service-related benefits. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from CSU, Chico and is currently in his final year of Graduate Banking School at the Pacific Coast Banking School in Seattle, Washington.

Devin joined the DBO's Sacramento office in 2006 as a Financial Institutions Examiner and was promoted to Senior Financial Institutions Examiner in 2011. He has served as the Examiner-in-Charge for banks of various sizes, risk and complexity, including several cycles as Examiner-in-Charge at Westamerica Bank.



Bret Ladine Appointed Assistant General Counsel for DBO

Bret Ladine on Nov. 2 began serving as DBO Assistant General Counsel on Feb. 23. Bret was appointed by to the position by the Governor on Nov. 2.

From 2012 until his appointment, Bret worked as a senior associate at the Hogan Lovells law firm. Prior to that job, he was an associate at the prominent Silicon Valley firm of Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich and Rosati from 2008 to 2012, a summer associate at Pillsbury, Winthrop, Shaw, Pittman LLP in 2007. Bret also spent the summer of 2006 working as a law clerk in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California.

From 2003-2005, Bret served as press secretary and communications director for California Congressman Dennis Cardoza. Prior to that time, he was a correspondent at the Boston Globe and a staff writer at the New Orleans Times-Picayune. Bret earned his law degree in 2008 from the University of Virginia.



Notice to DBO of Extraordinary Events of Public Interest

The Commissioner of Business Oversight requests that banks and credit unions notify the DBO of business developments or incidents that may draw media attention or otherwise subject the institution to public scrutiny. Reportable events include extraordinary incidents that may result in the temporary closure of a branch. Examples of such incidents include branch takeover robberies, bomb threats, staff members being taken into custody during working hours or hacking of a computer system.

Notice should be made in a timely manner to the Assistant Deputy Commissioner

Notice should be made in a timely manner to the Assistant Deputy Commissioner who oversees the institution.



Reminder to Credit Unions: You Can Apply to DBO for Low-Income Designation

The Commissioner reminds credit union officials they can apply to the DBO to obtain a low-income designation. The DBO will affirm that designation by letter if the credit union meets the criteria established under federal law. A primary criterion is that the majority of the credit union's membership must qualify as low-income.

The low-income designation provides a credit union with several benefits. Institutions with the designation can: accept non-member deposits from any source; offer secondary capital account; obtain an exemption from aggregate limits on member business loans; apply for grants and low-interest loans from the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA); and more.

For more information, credit unions should contact their DBO portfolio manager.

Additional resources are available at NCUA here:

<https://www.ncua.gov/services/Pages/small-credit-union-learning-center/Documents/Maximizing-Low-Income-Designation.pdf>.



DBO Announces Roundtable Discussions with Consumer Advocates

In a new initiative, the DBO will hold regular roundtable meetings with consumer advocates, starting this fall.

DBO Commissioner Owen said the effort's aim is to "start and maintain a dialogue that helps us better protect financial services consumers and the market."

The roundtables will be held twice annually, in the spring and fall. Agendas will be set jointly by DBO and the consumer advocates, and cover issues related to financial services licensees and activities within DBO's jurisdiction. Discussions will encompass the DBO's work related to banks, credit unions, money transmitters, mortgage lenders and servicers, payday lenders, non-bank consumer finance lenders, investment advisers, securities broker-dealers and more.

Consumer advocacy groups currently on the list of participants include: Center for Responsible Lending; Consumers Union; California Reinvestment Coalition; Public Good Law Center; East Bay Community Law Center; Bet Tzedek Legal Services;

Good Law Center; East Bay Community Law Center; Dot Leader Legal Services; Public Law Center of Orange County; Housing and Economic Rights Advocates; Watsonville Law Center; Rural Community Assistance Corporation; and SAFE-BIDCO.



Escrow Law Advisory Committee

The next Escrow Law Advisory Committee meeting will be held Tuesday Mar. 15 at 10 a.m. in the seventh floor conference room at the DBO's Los Angeles office, located at 320 West Fourth Street. The [agenda](#) for the next meeting and the [minutes](#) from the Dec. 8 meeting are available at the DBO website. Please contact Special Administrator Richard Malme in the Los Angeles office at (213) 576-7595 if you have any questions.



National Consumer Protection Week: March 6-12

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. has encouraged all Californians to work together during National Consumer Protection Week to give consumers the knowledge and skills to make safe and successful financial choices. Every day, Californians make important decisions about finances, health care, privacy, technology and more. [NCPW.gov](#) offers consumers a wealth of tips and information from federal and state government and non-profit partner organizations. DBO is promoting NCPW. For more, visit [DBO's NCPW page](#) or the national [NCPW page](#).



California Financial Literacy Month: April 2016

DBO will celebrate California Financial Literacy Month (CAFLM) in April. Learn more by visiting DBO's [CAFLM homepage](#). California Financial Literacy Month promotes information, news and resources to help Californians make informed financial decisions and achieve their financial goals. CAFLM partners include government agencies, financial institutions and nonprofit and community-

based organizations.



DBO Commissioner Owen to Chair National Non-Depository Supervisory Committee

DBO Commissioner Jan Owen will serve as chairwoman of the Conference of State Banking Supervisors' (CSBS) new Non-Depository Supervisory Committee. The CSBS membership approved formation of the new standing committee last

December.

The Non-Depository Supervisory Committee will provide oversight of and support for committees established by national cooperative agreements for non-depository supervision. The Committee also will provide a forum for discussion of interstate non-depository supervisory matters and provide advice on non-depository policy development to other CSBS standing committees or CSBS task forces. The Committee may serve as a liaison between the Board of Directors and other state-regulator associations, as well as federal agencies, to help foster a coordinated system of non-depository supervision.

Other members of the new Committee are Charles Cooper (Texas), David Cotney (Massachusetts), Gavin Gee (Idaho), Ray Grace (North Carolina), Bryan Schneider (Illinois) and Robin Wiessmann (Pennsylvania).



Californians Save 1.1 Million Acre-Foot of Water; Urged to Stay

Focused on Conservation

California urban water users in January reduced their consumption by 17.1 percent compared to the same month in 2013, according to State Water Board data. That savings rate was down from 18.4 percent in December.

The Board also reported the state was 96 percent of the way to meeting the Governor's goal of saving 1.2 million acre-feet of water during the period June

2015 through February 2016. The savings total from last June through January was 1.1 million acre-feet.



The state remains in a record drought. Californians are urged not to relax their water-saving habits and reduce or eliminate



outdoor irrigation when it's wet and limit household water use to the essentials. For more information on the drought and conservation programs, go to www.ca.gov/drought/.

Commercial Bank Activity

New Bank

Blue Gate Bank
611 Anton Boulevard, Costa Mesa, Orange County
Correspondent: Gary Steven Findley
Gary Steven Findley & Associates
3808 E. La Palma Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92807
714-630-7136
Filed: 2/23/16

Merger

County Commerce Bank, Ventura, to merge with and into Citizens Business Bank, Ontario
Effected: 2/29/16

Orange County Business Bank, Irvine, California, to merge with and into HomeStreet Bank, Seattle, Washington
Effected: 2/1/16

Pan American Bank, Los Angeles, to merge with and into Beneficial State Bank, Oakland
Filed: 2/16/16

TomatoBank, Alhambra, to merge with and into Royal Business Bank, Los Angeles
Approved: 2/11/16
Effected: 2/19/16

Credit Union Activity

Merger

Faith Based Federal Credit Union, Oceanside, to merge with and into Pacific Marine Credit Union, Oceanside
Filed: 2/9/16

ILWU-FSC Federal Credit Union, Oakland, to merge with and into ILWU Credit Union, Wilmington

Union, Wilmington

Approved: 2/1/16

Effectuated: 2/1/16

Union Oil Santa Fe Springs Employees Federal Credit Union, Brea, to merge with
and into Credit Union of Southern California, Whittier

Filed: 2/17/16

Premium Finance Company Activity

New Premium Finance Company

Heritage Premium Finance Company

660 Newport Center Drive, Newport Beach, Orange County

Opened: 1/27/16

TAFS Premium Finance, Inc.

818 West Seventh Street, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Filed: 2/1/16

Foreign (Other Nation) Bank Activity

Relocation

Cooperatieve Rabobank U.A.

From 4 Embarcadero Center, to 600 Montgomery Street, City and County of San
Francisco (Representative Office)

Filed: 2/5/16

Approved: 2/10/16

Effectuated: 2/12/16

Foreign (Other State) Bank Activity

New Facility

First Liberty Bank

1260 Corona Pointe Court, Corona, Riverside County (Facility – Insured Bank)

Opened: 2/1/16

Northeast Bank

915 E. La Veta Avenue, Orange, Orange County (Facility – Insured Bank)

No Objection: 2/5/16

Discontinuance

Pacific Continental Bank
26 Center Street San Rafael, Marin County (Facility – Insured Bank)
No Objection: 2/1/16

Money Transmitter Activity

New Money Transmitter

Kaah Express, Inc.
Opened: 2/12/16

Acquisition of Control

TIO Networks USA, Inc. to acquire control of Softgate Systems of California, Inc.
Approved: 12/15/15

Jan Lynn Owen

Commissioner of Business Oversight

The **Month Year** Monthly Bulletin covers the month ended **February 29, 2016**. It is issued pursuant to Financial Code section 376.

DBO California Department of Business Oversight

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