

# **Consumer Financial Services Outlook 2018**

Thursday, January 11, 2018, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET

### **Speakers**

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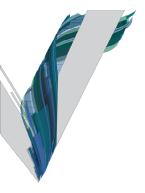
Kara M. Ward, Counsel, Consumer Financial Services Practice, Venable LLP



Alexandra Megaris, Counsel, Consumer Financial Services Practice, Venable LLP

## **Today's Topics**

- CFPB Under New Management and the Political Landscape
- CFPB Rulemaking Agenda
- Consumer Financial Services Enforcement
- Advertising Financial Products
- Consumer Lending
- Fintech
- Debt Collection



# **CFPB Under New Management and the Political Landscape**

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## **CFPB Director Cordray Resigns**

**\$11.9 billion** in relief to consumers from CFPB enforcement actions

**29 million +** consumers will receive relief because of CFPB actions

**1.2 million +** complaints handled from consumers



November 24, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump The President The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President

I am writing to inform you that I am resigning my position as the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau effective at the close of business (midnight) on Friday, November 24, 2017.

It has been one of the great joys of my life to have had the opportunity to serve as the first director of the Consumer Bureau for the past six years. I have worked alongside extraordinary men and women who are dedicated to improving the economic health of our country and the financial health of its cinzens. Our work has established new safeguards against any repeat of the irresponsible mostgage lending which caused the financial crisis and the economic melidown that damaged so many families and communities. We have returned almost \$12 billion to more than 30 million consumers who had been cheated or mistreated by banks or other large financial companies. We have created new ways to bring financial education to the public so people can take more control over their economic lives. And we have helped hundreds of thousands of Americans who brought their problems to us when it seemed nobody else would listen to them.

Since it inception, the Consumer Bureau has stood on the side of consumers to see that they are treated fairly, worked to improve their economic circumstances, and held financial institutions accountable to the basic prunciple that every consumer counts. This role is vital in our economy, where consumer demand is responsible for two-thirds of the economic activity that makes up our country's GDP. When consumers are supported and protected, when they can have trust and confidence in the marketylace, they drive our economy forward. That is exactly what they have been doing in the past few years, as strong demand for bousing, home improvements, and cars and trucks have led to continuing economic recovery from the financial civits. Making sure that everyone plays by the rules promotes fair economic competition and benefits consumers. In these ways, the ongoing and future work of the Consumer Bureau makes key contributions to the health of our economy and the well-being of all Americans.

I am grateful to have been able to serve my country in this capacity, and in departing I now look forward to finding further ways to continue to advocate for those who are facing economic anxiety and uncertainty in their lives.

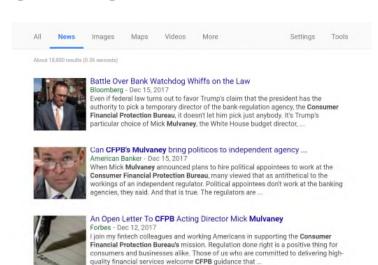
Sincerely.



- New Regulatory Rules
- Supervisory Exams and Enforcement
- Consumer Education and Financial Literacy
- 1,500+ employees
- \$575.6 million incurred in FY2016

# Mulvaney Takes Reins, Triggering Court Battle





Lawsuit: Trump appointee Mick Mulvaney has 'no more right' to lead ...

The Fight to Control the CFPB Isn't Over Yet

Washington Examiner - Dec 12, 2017

The Intercept - Dec 13, 2017
A federal court ruling last month, which denied CFPB Deputy Director Leandra 
English's request to block Mulvaney from assuming the directorship, was widely seen 
in the media as legitimizing Trump's appointment of Mulvaney and ending English's 
challenge. But that decision pertained to a temporary ....

CUNA Supports Mulvaney as Acting CFPB Director The National Law Review - Dec 13, 2017

View all

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## Leandra English v. Donald J. Trump, et al.

Case 1:17-cv-02534 Document 1 Filed 11/26/17 Page 1 of 9 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Deputy Director and Acting Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20552, COMPLAINT FOR DONALD JOHN TRUMP. DECLARATORY AND in his official capacity as President of the United States of America, INJUNCTIVE RELIEF 1600 Pennsylvania, Avenue, NW, EMERGENCY TEMPORARY Washington, DC 20500. RESTRAINING ORDER SOUGHT JOHN MICHAEL MULVANEY. in his capacity as the person claiming to be acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 725 17th Street, NW. Washington, DC 20503. INTRODUCTION The Dodd-Frank Act of 2010 created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau as an independent federal agency, to be led by a single director. Effective at midnight on November 24, 2017, the Bureau's first Director, Richard Cordray, resigned his post. At that point, plaintiff Leandra English, the Bureau's Deputy Director, became the agency's Acting Director by

operation of law. The Dodd-Frank Act is clear on this point: It mandates that the Deputy Director "shall... serve as the acting Director in the absence or unavailability of the Director."

12 U.S.C. § 5491(b)(5)(B). By statute, she serves in that capacity until such time as the President

appoints and the Senate confirms a new Director, Set 12 U.S.C. § 5491(b)(2)

- The plaintiff, Leandra English, alleged that the defendants, Donald Trump and Mick Mulvaney, violated 12 U.S.C. § 5491(b)(5)(B), a component of the Dodd–Frank Act of 2010, when President Trump appointed Mulvaney to be Acting Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- On January 10, 2018, Judge Kelly denied request for injunction sought by English, concluding that President Trump had authority to install Acting Director under Federal Vacancies Reform Act.

# Cordray Era vs. Modern Era

### **Cordray Era**

#### **Mission Statement**

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is a 21st century agency that helps consumer finance markets work by making rules more effective, by consistently and fairly enforcing those rules, and by empowering consumers to take more control over their economic lives. For more information, visit consumerfinance.gov

#### **Modern Era**

The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection is a 21st century agency that helps consumer finance markets work by regularly identifying and addressing outdated, unnecessary, or unduly burdensome regulations, by making rules more effective, by consistently enforcing federal consumer financial law, and by empowering consumers to take more control over their economic lives. For more information, visit consumerfinance.gov

### Frequent Reference Sources









#### **Oversight focus**

#### Consumer Complaint Database









# **CFPB Rulemaking Agenda**

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# **CFPB Rulemaking Outlook 2018**

#### Agency Rule List - Fall 2017

#### **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**

Agency	Agenda Stage of Rulemaking	<u>Title</u>	RIN
FPB	Prerule Stage	Business Lending Data (Regulation B)	3170-AA09
CFPB	Prerule Stage	Overdraft Services	3170-AA42
CFPB	Prerule Stage	Submission of Credit Card Agreements Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z)	3170-AA70
CFPB	Prerule Stage	Review of Inherited Regulations	3170-AA73
CFPB	Proposed Rule Stage	Supervision of Larger Participants in Markets for Personal Loans	3170-AA07
CFPB	Proposed Rule Stage	The Expedited Funds Availability Act (Regulation CC)	3170-AA31
CFPB	Proposed Rule Stage	Debt Collection Rule	3170-AA41
CFPB	Proposed Rule Stage	Mortgage Servicing Rules Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z)	3170-AA75
CFPB	Final Rule Stage	Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA) (Regulation P)	3170-AA60
CFPB	Final Rule Stage	Amendments Relating to Disclosure of Records and Information	3170-AA63
CFPB	Final Rule Stage	Amendment to the Federal Mortgage Disclosure Requirements Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z)	3170-AA71
CFPB	Final Rule Stage	Rules Concerning Prepaid Accounts Under the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (Regulation E) and the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z)	3170-AA72
CFPB	Final Rule Stage	Home Mortgage Disclosure (Regulation C) Increase in Institutional and Transactional Coverage Thresholds for Open-End Lines of Credit	3170-AA76

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### **Re-Focus on Mortgage Rules**

- 5-Year Lookbacks (Title XIV Mortgage Rules)
  - CFPB published lookback plans and requests for comment in 2017
  - Assessment reports by January 2019
    - o Findings considered for future rulemakings
  - Focus on "access to credit"
    - o GSE "patch" and other issues
    - o More market-friendly environment at CFPB
- TRID, Servicing and HMDA "fixes"
  - TRID cures, "black hole," other issues
  - HMDA implementation support

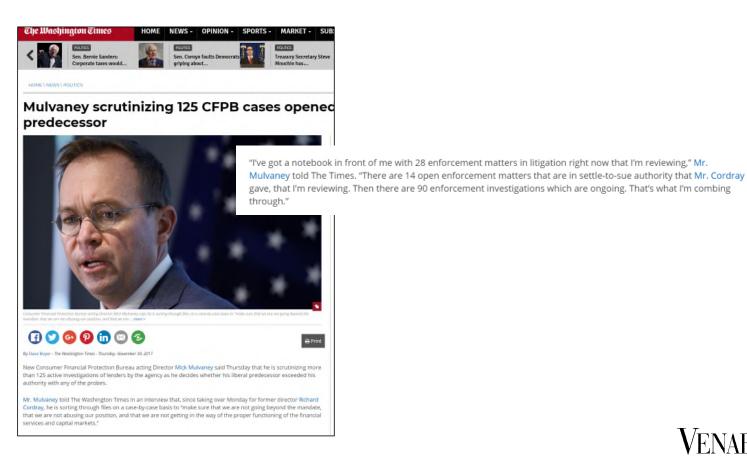
# **Non-Mortgage Rules**

- Payday/Small Dollar
  - Potential CRA challenge
  - Implementation
  - Larger participant rule
- Debt Collection
  - Proposal
- Prepaid Card Rule
  - April 2018 effective date
- Other Rules
  - Small Business Data Collection
  - Overdraft



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# **Acting Director Reviewing Enforcement Matters**



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- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
  - Still active in litigation
  - Still actively pursuing investigations and enforcing civil investigative demands
  - Still issuing <u>Notice</u> and <u>Opportunity to <u>Respond</u> and <u>Advise calls (NORA Calls)</u>
    </u>

- Federal Trade Commission
  - Still issuing civil investigative demands, but more conscientious about the burden on businesses
  - Still actively litigating
  - Targeted market areas

- Prudential Banking Regulators: Scaled back, but have they really
  - Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
  - Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
  - Federal Reserve Board

- State Attorneys Generals Offices
  - Some have publicly stated that they will pick up any lull in federal enforcement
  - Mini UDAP laws and other regulations
    - o Key States: NY, CA, PA, IL, and others
  - Anticipate use of their authority pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street
     Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010
    - o UDAAP
    - o 19 enumerated regulations from Regulation E to Z and the Military Lending Act



# **Advertising**

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### **Advertising Consumer Finance Products**

- FTC and CFPB have invested significant resources in understanding and pursuing lead generation industry, particularly in the small dollar and education sectors. Most controversial is CFPB's pursuit of lead generators for selling leads to lenders that, per the CFPB, fail to comply with state lending laws.
- Application of state lending license laws to lead generators still gray;
   some states passing specific laws to address lead generation.
- Use of native advertising and social media influencers—two very hot marketing techniques—continue to be FTC enforcement priority. FTC has published guidance and its expectations.

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## **Consumer Lending**

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# **Non-Mortgage Lending**

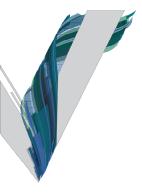
- Fintech trends
  - OCC FinTech Charter
    - o Will anyone get one?
  - Fair lending and underwriting
    - o CFPB No Action Letter: Will there be more?
  - "True lender" issues/state regulatory
- CFPB Installment Loan rule
  - Effect on installment loan and payday industries
  - Payday alternative loans
- Auto lending
  - CFPB, FTC, and state supervision
  - Fair lending/enforcement/examinations

# Mortgage (Origination)

- Continued evolution of non-QM
- HMDA
  - New data collection protocols
  - "Good faith efforts at compliance" for examinations
  - Reporting
- Disclosures/cures
- State activity

# **Mortgage (Servicing)**

- Effective date for rule changes
  - Successor in interest
  - New periodic statement rules
  - Bankruptcy servicing
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
  - Fair lending/servicing
  - How (and when) to provide LEP services



### **Fintech**

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### **Fintech Introduction**

- Fintech General term used to describe the provision of financial services using technology.
  - Online lenders (small business/consumer/mortgage)
  - Digital wallets/mobile payments/money transfers
  - Savings, financial management, and investment apps
  - Crowdfunding
  - Data analytics and lead generators
  - Cryptocurrencies

### **Fintech Introduction**

- Federal and state regulatory developments will continue to impact fintech industry in 2018
  - Federal scrutiny for an industry perceived (mistakenly) by many to be "unregulated"
  - Competition between federal and state regulators
  - State regulatory challenges
  - Disruption continues is 2018 the year cryptocurrencies and blockchain technologies break out?

## **Continued Federal Scrutiny**

- Topics likely to attract significant attention at the federal level
  - Data breach and Cybersecurity
    - o Is it time for national standards?
  - Data Sharing/Third party access to consumer financial data
    - o CFPB Outline of Principles for Consumer Authorized Data Sharing
  - Use of alternative data in lending
    - o CFPB RFI in 2017
    - o No action letter to Upstart Network, Inc.
  - Continued scrutiny of payments industry by CFPB and FTC (consumer fraud)
    - Notwithstanding "end" of Operation Chokepoint, regulators continue to bring enforcement actions against payment processors
  - Anti-money laundering
    - o Implementation of new beneficial ownership rule

# Competition between Federal and State Regulators — OCC Charter Update

- In 2016, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) limited purpose national bank charter for fintechs.
- In 2017, applications filed, but no charters issued yet. Key considerations from OCC perspective:
  - No inappropriate comingling of banking and commerce
  - No predatory, unfair, or deceptive products or services
  - Rigorous supervision
  - Emphasis on financial inclusion
- Will a charter ever be approved?
  - Several in Congress have raised questions about the OCC's plans.
  - Separate lawsuits filed by Conference of State Bank Supervisors and New York Department of Financial Services challenging the OCC's plans.
    - NYDFS lawsuit was dismissed in December 2017

# Competition between Federal and State Regulators — CSBS Vision 2020

- In 2017, the CSBS announced its Vision 2020 plan to modernize state regulation of non-banks, including fintechs.
  - Redesign the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System (NMLS).
  - Harmonize multi-state supervision.
  - Form an industry advisory panel.
  - Assist state banking departments.
  - Make it easier for banks to provide services to non-banks.
  - Make supervision more efficient for third parties.
- Still a long way to go to harmonize patchwork of state licensing requirements and applications.

# Competition between Federal and State Regulators — NYDFS (and maybe other states?)

- In 2016 and 2017, the NYDFS issued several rules that created legal requirements that overlap with existing federal requirements:
  - In 2017, NYDFS issued cybersecurity requirement for covered entities.
  - In 2016, NYDFS issued AML requirements for covered entities.
- Will other states follow this lead in 2018 by establishing their own cybersecurity, AML, or other regulations?
  - How will these state laws mesh with existing federal laws?

## **State Regulatory Challenges**

- "Patchwork regulation" has become a popular phrase in describing the differing approaches states have taken in supervising fintech companies and other non-bank financial services providers.
- There are two main fintech lending models:
  - Bank partnership model
  - Non-bank direct lending model
- Each model presents its own challenges

## **State Regulatory Challenges**

- Bank Partnership Model Challenges
  - "True Lender" issues
  - Madden v. Midland (valid-when-made doctrine)
  - Madden v. Midland (choice of law)
  - Potential licensing issues for brokering, servicing, and debt collection
  - Bank oversight and supervision

## **State Regulatory Challenges**

- Direct Lender Model Challenges
  - Funding challenges
  - Obtaining state lending licenses
  - Associated burden of administrative and regulatory compliance
    - o Additional regulatory compliance requirements
    - o Examinations/Regulatory supervision

# Cryptocurrencies

- Blockchain Applications on the Horizon
  - Financial services
  - Non-financial services (real estate, healthcare, energy, government)
- Regulatory Developments

Federal	State
<ul> <li>Hearings in Congress 2013-2017, but no legislative developments as of yet</li> </ul>	Illinois and Delaware blockchain initiatives
SEC – Investigative report on DAO initial coin offering	<ul> <li>Arizona HB 2417 – governing the enforceability of blockchain powered smart contracts</li> </ul>
SEC – Endorsements warning	• Vermont S. 135 – studying blockchain opportunities
CFTC Primer on Virtual Currencies	<ul> <li>Nevada S. 398 – use of blockchain for electronic records and signatures</li> </ul>
FinCEN – Money Transmission Guidance	<ul> <li>Uniform Law Commission publishes model law for regulation of cryptocurrencies</li> </ul>



### **Debt Collection**

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### **Debt Collection**

- CFPB rulemaking in limbo
- CFPB examinations proceeding on schedule
- Increased scrutiny over collections litigation practices by state licensing and enforcement agencies
- Student loan debt continues to be top issue for regulators



# **Questions?**

Thank You!

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