



FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TODAY

News and topics of interest to financial institutions regulated by the Department of Banking and Finance

Monthly Bulletin #10

October 2013

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Inaugural Community Banking in the 21st Century Research Conference Wraps Up October 3, 2013

The first Community Banking in the 21st Century Research Conference was held October 2-3, 2013 at the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank and was co-hosted by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) and the Federal Reserve System. The conference brought together academics, policymakers, bank supervisors, and community bankers to focus on the challenges and opportunities that community bankers face in the 21st century.

More than 1,700 community bankers from 28 states participated in a series of town hall events, where they shared their thoughts on the state of the community banking industry. The result is the publication "Community Banking in the 21st Century: Opportunities, Challenges and Perspectives," put together by the Federal Reserve and the CSBS, in which participating states share bankers' aggregate views on topics such as the industry's biggest national and local opportunities and challenges and the effects of competition from entities outside the community banking world. This report is available electronically from the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank's website at: <http://www.stlouisfed.org/CBRC2013/town-hall.pdf>

Detailed information about the conference, including the Town Hall Publication, abstracts and the full research papers of studies presented during the conference are available online at: <http://www.stlouisfed.org/banking/community-banking-conference>.

DBF Outreach AND UPCOMING SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- ❖ Senior Deputy Commissioner Steve Pleger will be representing the Department at the CBA Regulatory Forum on **November 7th**. [Register for the Forum here.](#)
- ❖ Supervisory Manager Lori Binford participated in a Supervisory Committee 101 Compliance Call hosted by the Georgia Credit Union Affiliates (GCUA) on **October 29th**. The calls were recorded and will be made available on the GCUA's website.

"Safeguarding Georgia's Financial Services"

Financial Institution Supervision Division Changes



Gary Ford

District Director Gary F. Ford will retire effective December 31, 2013, after 34 years of faithful service to the State of Georgia. Gary began his career with the Department of Banking and Finance (Department) on August 18, 1980 as an examiner in the District 4 - Dublin office. He progressed through the examiner ranks, becoming a Senior Financial Examiner in 1985. In 1990, he was promoted to Assistant District Director and then to District Director on October 1, 1994. For his entire 34 year career, Gary served the Southeast Georgia region from the Dublin office.

Gary graduated from the University of Tennessee with a B.S. in Finance. During his career with the Department, he also received an M.B.A. from Georgia Southern University and attended the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, graduating in the top ten percent of his class. Gary was a member of the 2002 class of Leadership Dublin/Laurens County. He is a Certified Examination Manager.

During his tenure, Gary was an active lecturer and facilitator for various regulatory organizations. He was a bank holding company instructor for the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and the Federal Reserve Training Center, Washington, DC. In addition to serving as member and chairman of the credit curriculum committee, Gary taught and assisted in curriculum development for a variety of schools for the CSBS. He has also presented programs for the Georgia Bankers Association and Community Bankers Association. *The Examiner* magazine honored Gary with the Editor's Choice Award for his article *Current Issues in Liquidity Analysis: A Regulator's Perspective*. He went on to serve as banking editor for *The Examiner*. Throughout his career, Gary has been a strong advocate of constant learning to improve examiner performance.

Congratulations Gary! We wish you the best in your well-deserved retirement.

With the announcement of Gary's retirement, Janet Bryan has been selected to fill the District Director position in the District 4-Dublin office for the Southeast Georgia region. Janet joined the Department in May of 1996 as an Assistant Financial Examiner. She is a subject-matter expert in the Bank Secrecy Act, information technology, and credit unions and has taught several internal training classes at the Department.

Janet has a B.B.A. in accounting and an M.B.A. from Georgia College, Milledgeville, Georgia. She is currently in her senior year at the Louisiana State University Graduate School of Banking. She is also a Certified Examiner-in-Charge.

Congratulations Janet!



Janet Bryan

Georgia Department of Banking and Finance Re-accredited By CSBS

On October 24, 2013, the CSBS announced that the Department has received its fifth consecutive certificate of accreditation from CSBS, certifying that the Department maintains high standards and practices in state banking supervision.



CSBS re-accredited the Department for a five-year period on October 16, 2013. The Department was first accredited by the CSBS on December 1, 1992, and was subsequently re-accredited in December 1998, August 2003 and May 2008.

"I am very pleased we have received re-accreditation," said Kevin Hagler, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance. "This is well-deserved recognition of the commitment of the staff here at the Department, who work hard each day to provide a safe financial system for the citizens of Georgia."

"The Georgia Department of Banking and Finance has maintained its accreditation for more than 20 years, which is a tremendous accomplishment" said John W. Ryan, CSBS President and CEO. "Congratulations are in order for Commissioner Hagler and his staff."

Read the full CSBS media release at: <http://www.csbs.org/news/press-releases/2013pr/Pages/pr102413.aspx>

Department Issues Proposed Rulemaking and Provides Opportunity to Comment

On October 31, 2013, pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-13-1 et seq., and by the authority of O.C.G.A. §§ 7-9-3, 7-9-12, and other cited statutes, the Department gave notice of its intent to adopt new rules. The new rules are in response to the enactment of the Georgia Merchant Acquirer Limited Purpose Bank Act, O.C.G.A. § 7-9-1 et seq.

Comments to the Department must be received by the close of business on **Monday, December 2, 2013**.

The Proposed Rules may be viewed or downloaded from the Department's website at:

http://dbf.georgia.gov/sites/dbf.georgia.gov/files/related_files/document/DBFProposedRulemaking10-31-2013.pdf

Annual Assessment for State-Chartered Financial Institutions

Annual assessment fee letters will be e-mailed to banks and credit unions early in December, and the **fees will be assessed on January 22, 2014**. Please complete and submit any change of information by December 31, 2013, using the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Authorization Form. The EFT Authorization and Instructions Form can be found on our website at: <http://dbf.georgia.gov/documents/electronic-funds-transfer-authorization-form-and-instructions>

Please e-mail or call Renee` Martin with any questions at rmartin@dbf.state.ga.us or 770-986-1641.

Action on Applications for the Month of October:

The following is a summary of official action taken on applications by State Financial Institutions under Chapter 7-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and petitions for Certificate of Incorporation of Financial Institutions and other matters of interest during the month of October 2013.

APPLICATIONS TO ESTABLISH A BRANCH OFFICE

<u>FINANCIAL INSTITUTION</u>	<u>BRANCH OFFICE</u>	<u>APPROVAL</u>	<u>BEGIN BUSINESS</u>
United Community Bank Blairsville	Greenville, SC Branch Office 40 West Broad Street, Suite 510 Greenville, SC 29601 Greenville County	10-09-2013	
LaGrange Banking Company LaGrange	Columbus Branch Office 2921 Airport Thru Way Columbus, GA 31909 Muscogee County	10-29-2013	
Fidelity Bank Norcross	Alpharetta Branch Office 5015 Windward Parkway Alpharetta, GA 30004 Fulton County	10-18-2013	
Fidelity Bank Norcross	Ponce de Leon Branch Office 494 Ponce de Leon Avenue Atlanta, GA 30308 Fulton County	02-29-2012	10-18-2013
Fidelity Bank Norcross	Flowery Branch Branch Office 7375 Spout Springs Road Flowery Branch, GA 30542 Hall County	10-16-2013	
Fidelity Bank Norcross	Hiram Branch Office 5749 Wendy Bagwell Parkway Hiram, GA 30141 Paulding County	10-16-2013	

APPLICATIONS TO CHANGE LOCATION

<u>FINANCIAL INSTITUTION</u>	<u>CHANGE LOCATION OF</u>	<u>APPROVAL</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>
The Citizens Bank of Cochran Cochran	From: Dublin Branch Office 1303 Bellevue Avenue Dublin, GA 31021 Laurens County To: 605 Bellevue Avenue Dublin, GA 31021 Laurens County	08-07-2013	10-21-2013

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION MERGERS**FINANCIAL INSTITUTION
(SURVIVOR)****MERGED INSTITUTION****APPROVAL****EFFECTIVE**Atlanta Postal Credit Union
Atlanta, GAAsheville Postal Credit Union
Asheville, NC

08-15-2013

10-01-2013

Community & Southern Bank
Atlanta, GAVerity Bank
Winder, GA

Pending

Georgia Commerce Bank
Atlanta, GABrookhaven Bank
Atlanta, GA

Pending

Hamilton State Bank
Hoschton, GACherokee Bank, National Association
Canton, GA

Pending

**APPLICATIONS TO BECOME A BANK HOLDING COMPANY
AND/OR TO ACQUIRE VOTING STOCK OF A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION****ACQUISITIONS ONLY****BANK HOLDING COMPANY**Community & Southern Holdings, Inc.
Atlanta, GA**TO ACQUIRE**Verity Bank
Winder, GA**APPROVAL**

Pending

Hamilton State Bancshares, Inc.
Hoschton, GACherokee Bank, National Association
Canton, GA

Pending

**NOTIFICATION OF APPROVAL OF APPLICATION
TO SERVE A RESIDENTIAL GROUP COMMON BOND****CREDIT UNION**The Southern Credit Union
Fayetteville**RESIDENTIAL GROUP COMMON BOND**

Coweta County, GA

APPROVAL

10-11-2013

UPCOMING 2013 HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

This is a reminder that the Department will be closed on
Monday, November 11th for Veterans' Day,
Thursday, November 28th for Thanksgiving Day, and
Friday, November 29th in observance of
Robert E. Lee's Birthday.



**DEPARTMENT OF
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The Department is the state agency that regulates and examines banks, credit unions, and trust companies chartered by the State of Georgia. The Department also has regulatory and/or licensing authority over mortgage brokers/processors, lenders and loan originators, money service businesses, international banking organizations, and bank holding companies conducting business in Georgia.

Our **Mission** is to promote safe, sound, competitive financial services in Georgia through innovative, responsive regulation and supervision.

Our **Vision** is to be the best financial services industry regulator in the country – Progressive. Proactive. Service-Oriented.

We're on the Web!

**Visit our website at:
dbf.georgia.gov**

Our Motto is: "Safeguarding Georgia's Financial Services"

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