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LIBOR IS COMING TO AN END WILL YOU BE READY!

A Presentation For The Bankers' Forum Center for Financial Training Connecticut Bankers Association September 25, 2019 David J. Wiese Hinckley Allen <u>dwiese@hinckleyallen.com</u> (860) 331-2714



Libor is the "London Interbank Offered Rate"

- Set Daily By a "Panel" of Large Banks in London
- Quoting on Interest Rates Banks Would Have to Pay If They Borrowed From Other Banks On An Unsecured Basis
 - Quoted in Five Different Currency Denominations
 - And Seven Different Maturities



- Massive Population of Contracts Pegged to Libor
- \$370 Trillion Worldwide for All Denominations
- \$200 Trillion U.S. Dollar Libor, Including
 - \$81 Trillion in Interest Rate Swap Contracts
 - \$1.2 Trillion in Retail Mortgages
 - Fannie/Freddie Created Robust Secondary Market
 - \$800 Billion in Non-Syndicated Business Loans
 - \$1.1 Trillion in Non-Syndicated CRE/Commercial Mortgages



- In 2005, Regulators Discovered That Panel Banks Were "Rigging" The Quotes to Their Own Advantage
 - Paid Billions in Fines
 - Reforms Were Implemented
- ▶ In the Aftermath, Many of the Banks Wanted to Exit the Panel
 - Due to Very Thin Markets in Unsecured Borrowing
 - Litigation Risks for "Educated Guesses"
- In 2017, British Regulators Announced That After the End of 2021, They Would Stop Compelling Banks to Submit Quotes



- Could Libor Cease to Exist <u>Before</u> the End of 2021?
 - Fear of A So-Called "Zombie Index"
- Could Libor Continue to Exist <u>Beyond</u> 2021?
- In U.S., Fed Convenes the Alternative Reference Rate Committee ("ARRC")
 - To Identify Alternative Reference Rates
 - Create an "Adoption Plan"
 - To Promote a "Smooth and Orderly Transition"



In 2017, ARRC Introduces a New Index Called "Secured Overnight Financing Rate" ("SOFR")

- Based on Cost of Repurchase Agreements
- Overnight Loans Secured by U.S. Government Debt
- Over \$650 Billion in Daily Transactions
- SOFR is Not a Perfect Substitute for Libor
 - No Credit Risk in Rate
 - Only Daily Maturities (No Term Risk in Rate)



- Estimated that SOFR Will Track Lower Than Libor
- According to Urban Institute, If Used As a Substitute in Outstanding Residential Mortgage Contracts (Roughly \$1.2 Trillion)
 - Estimated Windfall to Borrowers Would Be \$2.5 to \$5 Billion Per Year
- ARRC Expected to Develop Alternative "Term" Rates Based on SOFR
 - Also Introduce an "Add-On Adjustment Margin"
 - Unclear When That Will Happen



- We Know Libor Will Come to an End!
- What Can You Do To Manage the Risks?
 - Existing Contracts
 - New Contracts
- Perform Inventory Across Institution to Identify Contracts Tied to Libor
 - When Do They Mature?
 - When Does it Reprice?
 - Which Index (i.e., Term and Denomination)?
 - Does It Provide For a Substitute Index?
 - What if Your Contract is Silent?



► If Contract Provides For A Substitute Index

- What is the Triggering Event?
 - E.G., When the Index Becomes "Unavailable"
 - When is that?
 - What Happens If There Is A Zombie Index?
- Are You Substituting a "Comparable" Index
 - What is That?
 - Libor is Based on Unsecured Interbank Lending



- ► Is SOFR "Comparable"?
 - No Credit Risk
 - Overnight Term
 - Libor 2.03%
 - SOFR 1.85% (18 Basis Points Lower)
- What Else is There?

One-Year Treasury Securities Rate - 1.77% (26 Basis Points Lower)Ameribore Rate- 1.92% (11 Basis Points Lower)Fed Funds- 2.19% (16 Basis Points Higher)

- There Will Likely be A Winner and A Loser
 - Can You Adjust the Margins
- Consider TILA Rate Adjustment Disclosure Requirements



Should you Change Indexes For New Contracts?

Consider Comments From Fed Vice Chairman Quarles

"At this moment, many seem to take comfort in continuing to use Libor ... it is familiar; and it remains liquid. But history may not view that decision kindly; after Libor stops, it may be fairly difficult to explain to those who may ask exactly why it made sense to continue using a rate that you had been clearly informed had such significant risks attached to it."



- What Should You Change To?
- On the Consumer Side, We Expect Fannie and Freddie to Designate Comparable Substitutes
 - But When?
 - Servicer vs. Portfolio
 - In the Meantime, Should You Look to Other Marketable Reference Rate Products?
- On the Commercial Side, ARRC Has Been Working On Models and Publishing "Consultations"
 - Still Rely on Libor
 - But Have "Fallback" Provisions With Different Options
 - "Amendment Approach"
 - Versus The "Hardwired Approach"



Closing Remarks

- Questions & Answers
- Thanks for Coming

