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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

