

507 S. Grand Ave.

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OFIS Officially Becomes OFIR

The Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) is now called the Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation (OFIR). The name change is part of a reorganization of the department. The agency's Web site is now www.michigan.gov/ofir. The executive order also created a new position, Automobile and Home Insurance Consumer Advocate, that will focus on fair and affordable insurance rates for Michigan residents. The Governor appointed Butch Hollowell to that new position.

OFIR to Hire Mortgage Broker Examiners

HB 5344 was passed by both the House and Senate authorizing OFIR to begin hiring 10 more mortgage broker/ lender examiners as soon as the governor signs the bill. This legislation, that was endorsed and promoted by the MBA, will provide more scrutiny for mortgage lenders.

Mortgage Loan Officer Registration Passes

Legislation requiring mortgage loan officer registration is now in effect. Bank employees remain exempt from this new regulation.

Communication Kit Available

If your bank is looking for assistance communicating with customers and the public about the safety and soundness of their bank and its deposits, the ABA has a Safety and Soundness Communications Kit that includes an issue summary, statement stuffer and camera-ready ads. Click [here](#) for more information to read and download the kit.

MSHDA's Save the Dream Program

The MBA has endorsed MSHDA's Save the Dream Program. This program adds another useful product for banks to assist as many customers facing mortgage problems as possible. While legislation has been enacted, some aspects of the program are still being developed. You may contact MSHDA for more information or visit the MSHDA Web site for lender participation information.

MasterCard Settles in TJX Data Leak

TJX Cos. Inc. has agreed with MasterCard Inc. to reimburse issuers for costs they incurred in last year's data breach. Under terms of the agreement, TJX is to pay up to \$24 million into a fund to cover banks' expenses for issuing replacement cards and other costs and for fraud losses related to the breach. The settlement does not take effect unless issuers with at least 90 percent of the MasterCard accounts that have claimed losses agree to it by May 2. If you have not checked with your provider, you may wish to do so. The deadline is May 1. TJX reached a similar settlement with Visa Inc. in November.

Advocacy Report/ Grassroots News

Credit Union Facts

ABA's campaign to educate lawmakers, regulators and the public about the growth of new-breed credit unions has caused a stir with the Credit Union National Association (CUNA). The U.S. Treasury's regulatory reform blueprint is asserting that some credit unions are abandoning their mission and providing services which are difficult to distinguish from other depository institutions. CUNA calls the descriptions mischaracterizations that the banking industry routinely uses.

Call for Committee Volunteers

Serving on an MBA committee provides an outstanding opportunity to network with colleagues while stepping into a leadership role within your industry. Click [here](#) for more information.

Legislators and Lenders

Sixty bankers took advantage of the March 19 Legislators and Lenders Day to meet with state legislators and regulators. Attorney General Mike Cox encouraged bankers to take the time to educate their political officials. Michigan Treasurer Robert Kleine provided an in-depth economic forecast for the state. To view the complete presentation click [here](#).

Congressman Thad McCotter and 25 State Representatives and Senators participated in various events in the two-day program. The MBA coordinated several legislative dinners in downtown Lansing with member bankers. This event is a critical component to the MBA's advocacy efforts on behalf of the industry.



Read more about Legislators and Lenders Day in the June issue of MBA's newest publication *mbaBanking* magazine.

Peoples Federal Savings Bank hosts Congressman Upton in Three Rivers



MBA members discussed foreclosures, mortgage reform proposals and the local economy recently with Congressman Fred Upton in Three Rivers. The MBA would like to thank: Jeff Gattton (host) and Bill Cody, Peoples Federal Savings Bank; Eric Eishen, Sturgis Bank and Trust; Lynneise Gaddie, Flagstar Bank; and Bob Baldwin, Edgewater Bank for participating in the discussion.

2008 MBA Washington, D.C. Delegation – September 23-25

The MBA will host its annual Washington, D.C. Delegation September 23-25 at the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel. MBA members representing institutions from each congressional district are required for this important advocacy event. Participants will meet face-to-face with a governor from the Federal Reserve, leaders at the FDIC, OTS and OCC, in addition to visiting with members of Congress on Capitol Hill. Space is limited. Contact Jordan Kingdon for information at 517-342-9073 or jkingdon@mibankers.com.

Advocacy Report/ Grassroots News

Bankers Discuss Foreclosures and CURIA with Congressman Camp



Ten mid-Michigan banking industry leaders met earlier this spring with U.S. Representative Dave Camp in Midland to discuss mortgage/foreclosure issues, credit union expansion proposals, HR 2091, and the local economy. The MBA would like to thank the following bankers for participating: Tom Sullivan and Mark Perry, Firstbank; Dave Reetz, Leo Wickert and Greg Mapes, Isabella Bank; Dave Dunn, Wolverine Bank; David Ramaker, Chemical Bank; and Marjorie Green, Federal

Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis. Congressman Camp agreed to co-sponsor HR 2091, that aims to make certain municipal bonds tax-exempt through the FHLBI system.

Northwest Michigan Bankers Meet With Senator Michelle McManus

Banking industry leaders from northwest Michigan met in Cadillac earlier this spring with State Senator Michelle McManus. Topics included mortgage and foreclosure issues, the state budget, state taxes and the local economy. The MBA would like to thank: Della Bednarick and Kris Bowen, Chemical Bank; Norm Campbell, Central State Bank; Art Jeannot, Honor State Bank; John Morse, Wells Fargo Bank; Pat Bunting, Fifth Third Bank; Bob Marcus, Citizens Bank; Clare Colwell and Deb Christie from Firstbank-Cadillac for participating in the discussion.



Flagstar Bank Hosts Meeting With Congressman Tim Walberg



MBA members discussed local foreclosures, credit union expansion proposal and the local economy this spring with Congressman Tim Walberg. Flagstar Bank in Jackson hosted the meeting with industry leaders from throughout the region. The MBA would like to thank Sandro DiNello, Flagstar Bank (host); Chuck Maurer, OSB Community Bank;

Tim Jewell, Eaton Federal Savings Bank; Dave Hickman, United Bank and Trust; Craig Connor, Bill Jors and John Waldron, Hillsdale County National Bank; John Selenko, First Federal Bank and others who participated in the discussion.

OSB Community Bank in Brooklyn is hosting our next meeting with Congressman Walberg on Friday, April 25. Contact Jordan Kingdon at jkingdon@mibankers.com or 517-342-9073 if you are available to participate.