THIS WEEK IN WALL STREET REFORM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Grassroots Activities

Anti-Wall Street Protests Spreading to Cities Large and Small
Erik Eckholm and Timothy Williams (NYT)
October 3, 2011

"A loose-knit populist campaign that started on Wall Street three weeks ago has spread to dozens of cities across the country, with protesters camped out in Los Angeles near City Hall, assembled before the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago and marching through downtown Boston to rally against corporate greed, unemployment and the role of financial institutions in the economic crisis. With little organization and a reliance on Facebook, Twitter and Google groups to share methods, the Occupy Wall Street campaign, as the prototype in New York is called, has clearly tapped into a deep vein of anger, experts in social movements said, bringing longtime crusaders against globalization and professional anarchists together with younger people frustrated by poor job prospects." Click here for more.

Click here to view the AFL-CIO's press statement in support of Occupy Wall Street, click here to view Public Citizens', and **click here** to view SEIU's.

Police Scuffle With Protesters As Thousands March To City Hall As Part Of 'Occupy Wall Street'
CBS 2 (NY)
October 5, 2011

"The 'Occupy Wall Street' rally gained thousands of new supporters as New York City became protest city on Wednesday when the group marched to City Hall. The protests, however, were not without incident. The NYPD said that there were about a dozen arrests Wednesday night. Most of those were for disorderly conduct, but at least one arrest was for assaulting a police officer. Police said a protester knocked an officer off his scooter." Click here for more.

25 Occupy Bank of America and Victory for Rose Gudiel!
Ian Pajer-Rogers (New Bottom Line)
October 6, 2011

"Embattled homeowner Rose Gudiel and ReFund California announced a huge victory today in Los Angeles after a week of action to Make Banks Pay! The action in L.A. in the midst of a ten-city campaign to stand for The New Bottom Line. Right now, the intersection of Figueroa and 7th outside Bank of America has been overtaken by marchers and over 25 protesters are occupying Bank of America in downtown LA, they are refusing to leave until Bank of America commits to keep families in their homes, pay their fair share of taxes and help rebuild hard-hit neighborhoods." Click here for more.

9 arrested in Pasadena protest over home foreclosure
LA Times
October 5, 2011

"Nine people were arrested Wednesday afternoon in Pasadena after protesting the foreclosure of a La Puente woman's home. A group of about 70 people supporting Rose Gudiel and her disabled mother began protesting outside Pasadena City Hall, then moved to a Fannie Mae building nearby. Fannie Mae owns the loan on Gudiel's house." Click here for more.

ACCE - An epic two weeks: get ready for tomorrow!
Dave Lagstein (ACCE)
October 5, 2011

"As the Re-Fund California coalition is preparing for its final march of the two-week action blitz, it's worth taking a moment to report on several epic actions throughout California. Today's story in the front page of the business section of the LA times captured the momentum against Wall Street banks that is building from coast to coast. This video by Ernest Savage captures many of the actions and the struggle of homeowner Rose Gudiel. The actions started last week in the Bay Area and they were relentless. The group started the week by holding a vigil at a foreclosure auction, the symbolic site of the death of the American Dream. For one day, the auctioneers were stopped from selling homes to bidders. On Tuesday, a group of 100 people greeted high-level bank executives, including Janet Lamkin of Bank of America and Perry Pelos of Wells Fargo at an event of the business-backed Bay Area Council at AT&T Park, the home of the San Francisco

Giants. Our group sent the message that we want to 'Stay at Home' with [ACCE member Annie McKenzie leading the crowd in song], singing 'shame, shame, shame.'" [Click here for more.]

ACCE – California Protestors Rally Against Banks Over Housing Crisis
Gerri Detweiler (Credit.com)
October 4, 2011

"Just a few months ago, Peggy Mears stood a good chance of becoming another foreclosure statistic. She was behind on her payments on her San Bernardino home and was afraid she would lose her home. "I was really depressed and ashamed," she said. Nearly out of options, she happened to hear about a community organization, [Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment], and went to their offices seeking help. "The next day I went out on an action (event) and I've been hooked ever since," she says. [Click here for more.]

Hundreds of protesters take over downtown intersection
LA Times
October 6, 2011

"Police said Thursday that the number of protesters that had been picketing banks downtown has swelled to about 500 and that a march had taken over the intersection of 7th and Figueroa streets. Officers in riot gear were dispatched to the scene and arrests may be imminent if the protesters did not disperse, police said. The march was sponsored by the ReFund California campaign with support from Occupy Los Angeles protesters who have been camping outside City Hall since Saturday." [Click here for more.]

Bank Protesters Arrested After Trying to Cash $673-billion Check
KTLA News
October 7, 2011

"Ten protesters were arrested at a downtown Los Angeles Bank of America branch on Thursday afternoon, after a group marched inside the bank and tried to cash a $673 billion check." [Click here for more.]

'Occupy DC' protesters rally in Freedom Plaza
Annie Gowen (Washington Post)
October 6, 2011

"They're out of work. They're from out of town. And they're fed up. Many of those who 'occupied' Freedom Plaza on Thursday said they had never been to a protest before but were inspired to come to downtown Washington by the Occupy Wall Street movement that [began last month in New York] and has spread to cities across the country." [Click here for more.]

Occupy St. Louis starts out small, but aims to grow
Jo Mannies (The Beacon – St. Louis, MO)
October 6, 2011

*"If it weren't for Wednesday night's arrests, the public might not even be aware of the several dozen, largely young, protesters camping out in Kiener Plaza this week as they wave signs decrying corporate excesses and lack of jobs. The Occupy St. Louis movement admittedly has a way to go before its activities can compare with the crowds that have packed Kiener Plaza over the past couple years for rallies organized by tea party groups or labor unions. But organizers locally and nationally believe that Occupy St. Louis and its national parent, Occupy Wall Street, have the potential to build a progressive force that could attract the attention, and clout, that has given the tea party real political muscle. 'People are fed up,' said **Jeff Ordower**, a member of **Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment (MORE),** among the supporters of the Occupy St. Louis movement." [Click here for more.]*

Occupy Wall Street is this year's tea party
David Weidner (MarketWatch)
October 4, 2011

"The revolution just might be televised, after all. More than two weeks after a band of young people began camping out in the shadow of the New York Stock Exchange, the movement to remake America's inequitable financial system is growing It's been called the Woodstock of Wall Street, but that's hardly an apt

*comparison. The gathering at Max Yasgur's farm 42 years ago was built on a generation looking for peace, love, some drugs and acid rock. The kids today are looking for real, tangible change of the capitalist sort. They're organized, lucid and motivated. View MarketWatch Slide Show: Pictures of 'Occupy Wall Street' in action. … Moreover, there are signs the Left Coast wants to get into the action. On Sunday a group called **Refund California** announced a series of protests throughout Los Angeles. On Monday, a teach-in took place aimed at bringing awareness to how Wall Street has worsened California's budget problems. On Tuesday, Refund California is going to Orange County for a protest. On Wednesday, the group will target the home of a bank executive. And on Thursday a big bank in L.A. will be the next target. Protests in Chicago this weekend showed the message isn't lost in flyover country." Click here for more.*

Op – ed - Rescuing America from Wall Street
Harold Meyerson (Washington Post)
October 4, 2011

"Better late than never, the movement to take America back from Wall Street has arrived. On Wednesday, the ranks of the Occupy Wall Street encampment will swell as MoveOn.org members, union activists and ordinary disgruntled citizens join the demonstration against our financial sector's misrule of the American economy. What's more, long-planned anti-bank demonstrations in major cities this week are growing beyond their organizers' fondest hopes as the Wall Street protest movement catches fire." Click here for more.

Democrats' Populist Puzzle
Jonathan Weisman and Laura Meckler (WSJ – subscription required)
October 7, 2011

"The Democratic Party is grappling with the promise and peril of the anticorporate populism of the Occupy Wall Street movement, seeking to tap its energy without opening the party to charges of class warfare." Click here for more.

A Manifesto for Wall Street Protesters
Richard Beales, Edward Hadas, Peter Thal Larsen, and Anthony Currie (NYT)
October 6, 2011

"For public relations professionals, the protesters in Zuccotti Park in Lower Manhattan must inspire mixed feelings. The location works, and the crowd makes for good television, but crunchy sound bites are hard to find. The movement's anticorporate rant lumps together complaints as varied as mortgage foreclosure wrongs and torture. And the idea of 'a feeling of mass injustice' is less compelling than the Tea Party's clear 'taxed enough already.' Breakingviews offers a practical and sharper, if only partial, manifesto for Occupy Wall Street." Click here for more.

Go Back to Table of Contents

Attacks on Regulations

Misrepresentations, Regulations and Jobs
Bruce Bartlett (NYT – Economix)
October 4, 2011

"Republicans have a problem. People are increasingly concerned about unemployment, but Republicans have nothing to offer them. The G.O.P. opposes additional government spending for jobs programs and, in fact, favors big cuts in spending that would be likely to lead to further layoffs at all levels of government. Perspectives from expert contributors. Republicans favor tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations, but these had no stimulative effect during the George W. Bush administration and there is no reason to believe that more of them will have any today. And the Republicans' oft-stated concern for the deficit makes tax cuts a hard sell. These constraints have led Republicans to embrace the idea that government regulation is the principal factor holding back employment. They assert that Barack Obama has unleashed a tidal wave of new regulations, which has created uncertainty among businesses and prevents them from investing and hiring." Click here for more.

Regulations aren't to blame for the 'uncovery'
Ezra Klein (Washington Post)
September 30, 2011

"The Republican narrative on the economic recovery — or, as [some] are calling it, the "uncovery — is simple: It's not Europe, or deleveraging, or lack of consumer demand. It's government. Businesses, Speaker John Boehner has said, have been "slammed by uncertainty from the constant threat of new taxes, out-of-control spending and unnecessary regulation." It is, for conservatives, a convenient narrative, as it argues for deregulation, tax cuts and spending cuts — policies that they have supported all along. But is it true? A new [paper] by Larry Mishel, president of the Economic Policy Institute, attempts to test the proposition. Mishel proposes three ways of seeing whether an unusual amount of regulatory uncertainty is holding back the recovery: the growth in business investment; the growth in business employment; and what businesses themselves are saying. The story fails all three tests." *Click here for more.*

Bipartisan regulatory reform bill draws administration's silence
Charles S. Clark (Government Executive)
October 3, 2011

*"Agencies would be required to be more transparent and subject their cost-versus-benefit judgments to greater scrutiny by business under legislation to revamp federal rulemaking recently introduced by Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas. A contrary view was offered by **Rick Melberth**, director of regulatory policy for the **nonprofit OMB Watch**. In a blog post last month, he called the bill "a dangerous, misguided regulatory attack" based on 'misguided assumptions about the connection between regulations and job creation.' …**Amit Narang**, regulatory policy advocate for **Public Citizen**, also opposed the bill, warning that it affords big business 'special access and influence, above and beyond what even small business owners and concerned citizens are afforded.' He added that the bill 'will breed needless litigation and uncertainty once a rule is finalized: The judicial review provisions will involve courts in second-guessing technical decisions based on agency expertise by making the numerous additional agency requirements under this bill subject to court scrutiny.'"* *Click here for more.*

Maine Small Business Coalition op-ed - Collins' 'time-out' not the right call
Nate Libby (Op-ed for Bangor Daily News)
October 4, 2011

"Small-business owners know what's happening in our communities because we serve and employ the workers who make our local economies thrive. Here in Maine, where the majority of workers either own or work for a small business, the perspective of small-business owners could be considered a thumb on the pulse of Maine's economy. My organization, the Maine Small Business Coalition, counts 2,500 businesses among its ranks. Our members feel the impacts of policies that affect small business every single day. …Nate Libby is director of the Maine Small Business Coalition, a coalition of 2,500 business owners whose mission is advocacy for small businesses and investment in the local economy." *Click here for more.*

Go Back to Table of Contents

CFPB and Consumer Issues

AFR hosted a press call with two consumers and Ed Mierzwinski with US PIRG and Jean Ann Fox with Consumer Federation of America to discuss the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and the importance of getting a Director in place so consumers are protected in the financial marketplace.

Click here to view the press advisory and replay instructions.

Rich Cordray Nomination

Financial watchdog director moves closer to approval -- or a brick wall
Connie Prater (Creditcards.com)
October 6, 2011

"President Obama's nominee to head the new consumer financial protection watchdog moved a step closer to approval Thursday as a key U.S. Senate committee voted to confirm the appointment. The Senate

*Banking Committee voted 12-10, along party lines, to approve Richard Cordray's nomination. However, the real battle over the nomination is expected in the next step -- when Cordray's appointment goes before the full Senate. Forty-four Republican senators have vowed to block the nomination unless the bureau is stripped of some of its powers. …**Lisa Donner**, **executive director of Americans for Financial Reform** challenged Republican senators to 'stand up for families' and confirm the nomination. 'Will you implement the law and make sure the CFPB can do its job helping people defend themselves from loan sharks big and small?' Donner asked. 'Or will you block consumer protection and instead protect wrongdoing by companies that caused the financial crisis?'"* [*Click here for more.*]()

Cordray CFPB director nomination passes Senate Banking Committee
Kerri Panchuk (Housing Wire)
October 6, 2011

*"A majority of the Senate Banking Committee voted to pass President Obama's nomination of Richard Cordray to lead the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Thursday morning. …Americans for Financial Reform released a statement Thursday supporting the nomination as it heads to the Senate for a vote. 'American families want and need someone to level the playing field and prevent tricks and traps in the financial services market,' said **Lisa Donner**, executive director of **Americans for Financial Reform**. 'We call on all Senators to stand up for families and confirm Richard Cordray as CFPB director.' Other consumer agencies weighed in on the Senate Banking Committee's majority vote for Cordray's nomination to move forward. 'The Senate Banking Committee did the right thing this morning,' said Preeti Vissa of the Greenlining Institute community reinvestment director. 'Richard Cordray is an outstanding nominee, and CFPB is a vitally important bureau that can't fully do its job until a director is in place. Threats to filibuster Mr. Cordray's nomination are nothing less than an assault on American consumers.'"* [*Click here for more.*]()

Click on organization to view their press statements - Consumers Union and The Greenlining Institute, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, VoteVets.org, DEMOS, and Center for Responsible Lending.

Consumer Groups Urge Senate Approval Of Consumer Watchdog
Jim McConville (Financial Advisor)
October 6, 2011

*"Consumer advocates are exhorting the U.S. Senate to approve Richard Corday as the first director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, arguing that the CFPB can exert little authority in consumer protection matters until a director is appointed. The Senate Banking Committee approved Cordray's nomination Thursday morning by a 12-to-10 along party lines. The nomination is ready for action by the full Senate, where Cordray's nomination is less certain. Republicans have not backed down from their position of blocking any nominee to head the new bureau unless its structure is changed. Republicans fear the bureau will wield too much power and have too little oversight. "This [delay] is harming consumers," said Ed Mierzwinski, consumer program director for the **U.S. Public Interest Research Group** and chairman of **Americans for Financial Reform** Task Force on the CFPB, during a conference call on Wednesday that was sponsored by the consumer group Americans for Financial Reform. 'The lack of the full authority of the CFPB is a serious problem, which leaves students, military families, veterans and older Americans at risk of financial problems,' Mierzwinski added. 'Only with a director can the CFPB go after the other non-bank financial companies.' **Jean Ann Fox**, **director of Financial Services for the Consumer Federation of America,** said the CFPB needs a director before it can fully enforce the laws that are already on the books—the rules that apply to non-bank financial service companies. Without a director the CFPB can't write new rules that define unfair, deceptive or abusive financial practices, Fox said. Mierzwinski said Americans for Financial Reform is calling upon 'those senators who have been opposing to move forward on the (Cordray) nomination to let it go forward.'"* *Click here for more.*

Obama: Bank of America's Debit-Card Fee Shows Need for Consumer Bureau
Jared A. Favole (WSJ blog)
October 3, 2011

*"President **Barack Obama** on Monday pointed to Bank of America Corp.'s decision to charge some of its customers a $5 monthly fee for debit-card purchases as an example of why the U.S. needs a strong consumer watchdog. In an interview with ABC's **George Stephanopoulos,** Mr. Obama said the debit-purchase fees are 'exactly why we need somebody whose sole job it is to prevent this kind of stuff from*

happening.' The decision by Bank of America and other banks to charge debit-purchase fees has sparked outrage among some consumers, and Mr. Obama said he hopes that banks discover on their own that raising fees is not a good business practice. Mr. Obama suggested the federal government could crack down on fees when banks are treating consumers unfairly. 'You can stop it,' he said, adding that the government can tell the banks 'you don't have some inherent right just to, you know, get a certain amount of profit, if your customers are being mistreated.'" Click here for more.

Video: http://abcn.ws/oeQEns Transcript: http://abcn.ws/r4su3F

Click here to view the press statement from Consumers Union on the BofA fee.

Sneak Peek – Coordinated Dem Attack Will Tie Republicans to Wall Street
Politico's Morning Score
October 6, 2011

"*The Democratic Party, state parties, outside groups and the Obama campaign plan to dramatically step up criticisms of Republican presidential candidates for their vows to repeal Wall Street reform and on Senate Republicans who are blocking the president's choice to lead the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Up to a dozen state parties will offer public support today for Richard Cordray, Obama's nominee to head the bureau. The organizations will partner with consumer advocates, including current and former state attorneys general, and link Cordray's confirmation with consumer protection, credit card company abuses and predatory lending. Watch for statements, letters, calls, press conferences and conference calls and social media efforts. The following states are likely to be involved: OH, CO, NM, AZ, IA, ME, NH, PA, MA, NV and WI. This morning the Democratic National Committee is releasing a new web video called 'Republicans: On the side of Wall Street, Not Consumers.' Watch the 105-second video, which includes clips of Republicans pledging to repeal Dodd-Frank: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EL_fLz1FyY4"*

PENNPIRG - Please protect consumers, Sen. Toomey - The financial protection bureau needs a director, not dismantling
Alana Miller (Post Gazette – PA)
October 6, 2011

"For more than two months, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau -- a centerpiece of the 2010 Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act -- has been up and running. It's the nation's first federal financial regulator with the singular duty of protecting consumers -- including, specifically, members of the armed services -- from unfair financial practices. … ***Alana Miller*** *is a program associate for PennPIRG" Click here for more.*

LCCR Op-ed - Consumer nominee deserves support
Wade Henderson (The Tennessean)
October 6, 2011

"African-Americans have long been targets of financial predators, but a new agency that will protect consumers has opened its doors. President Obama's nominee to head the agency has been a true champion for minorities — but he will face an uphill battle to be confirmed after today, when the nomination is expected to move to the Senate floor. …But Cordray will not have an easy time getting confirmed. The same lawmakers who fought to keep the CFPB from launching have set their sights on weakening it. They have announced that they will block Cordray's confirmation unless its enforcement powers are gutted." Click here for more.

Dems to hit GOP on Cordray
Alexander Burns
October 6, 2011

"Will 'confirm this man' be the new 'pass this bill'? The Democratic National Committee, state parties and other Democratic groups plan to start drawing a sharper contrast with Republican presidential candidates on the issue of Wall Street regulation, spotlighting the GOP field's opposition to banking reform and urging Republicans to confirm the president's nominee to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau." Click here for more.

Bank fees prompt call for more disclosure on checking accounts
Jim Puzzanghera (LAT)
October 6, 2011

*"As the backlash continues over [Bank of America]'s new debit card fee, the acting head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau called for more disclosure about what customers pay for checking accounts. … 'A lot of changes are being made to the cost structure of bank accounts,' said **Jean Ann Fox**, director of financial services for the **Consumer Federation of America**. 'If we're going to count on a competitive market to keep fees down, consumers need a lot more information and leverage.'" [Click here for more.]*

Consumer Bureau not looking to ban new debit card fee
Peter Schroeder (The Hill)
October 5, 2011

*"The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) isn't looking to crack down on any single banking fee, but rather just want those fees to be presented in broad daylight. … Meanwhile, consumer groups were gearing up for the latest round over Cordray's nomination. On Thursday, the Senate Banking Committee is scheduled to vote on the pick. However, even if the former Ohio attorney general is cleared by the Democrat-controlled panel, he faces an uphill battle in the full Senate. Republicans have vowed to block any nominee to be CFPB director unless several changes are made to its structure. But at least for now, consumer groups are showing no willingness to haggle. 'They don't really want to compromise, they want to kill the CFPB,' said **Ed Mierzwinski**, director of the consumer program for the left-leaning **U.S. Public Interest Research Group**. 'We're not ready to compromise. We don't think there's a need to compromise.'" [Click here for more.]*

[Click here] to view the press statement from the CFPB's Raj Date.

[Click here] to view a press statement from CFA which "identifies a number of financial practices that harm American families that the CFPB will need strong leadership to address**."**

Bank Of America Targeted By Brad Miller In National Campaign
Ryan Grim (Huffington Post)
October 6, 2011

"On Sunday night, Rep. Brad Miller, a Democrat from Bank of America's home state of North Carolina, attended a general assembly meeting of Occupy Raleigh, the local offshoot of the national protest movement against Wall Street greed and abuse. When he returned to Washington, he announced the introduction of a bill that aims to make it easier for millions of consumers to take part in their own personal marches -- away from big banks. As of now, major banks employ a variety of tactics to make it difficult for consumers to walk away when they jack up fees, as Bank of America did recently by announcing a new $5 monthly debit fee, blaming Wall Street reform for necessitating the hike. Congress can pass legislation countering abusive fees, but without a real free market, banks are able to figure out new ways to wring money from customers. Instead of focusing on regulation, said Miller, the goal should be to create a true free market. 'If we can find a way to introduce real competition into banking, that'd do more than any regulation,' Miller told HuffPost. 'The biggest banks have turned the switch for market forces to the off position. If consumers could shop around for banks the way they can for everything else, banks wouldn't think they had a God-given right to pay their executives vulgar bonuses and still make enormous profits, and consumers would get a much better deal.'Miller's bill, [The Freedom and Mobility in Consumer Banking Act], would make it easier for consumers to switch accounts and end [certain bank practices.]" [Click here for more.]

Consumer Issues

NACA - House Proposal Would Flood Consumer Cell Phones with Nuisance and Debt-Collection Phone Calls
NACA press release
September 30, 2011

"Under the guise of modernization and providing consumers with more 'information' the ACA, International – an association of debt collectors – has obtained Congressional support for a dangerous proposal that would allow debt collectors to flood cell phones with robo-calls. The bill, HR 3035 Mobile Informational Call Act of 2011, was introduced on September 22, 2011 by Congressmen Lee Terry (R-NE), Edolphus Towns (D-NY),

John Shimkus (R-IL) and Jim Matheson (D-UT). If HR 3035 is enacted, every day around the country consumer cell phones will be flooded with harassing and nuisance phone calls." *Click here for more.*

Fecher Urges Balance on Financial Regulation
Claude R. Marx (Credit Union Times)
October 4, 2011

"While the credit union model is the most effective one for helping middle class citizens improve their financial health, government officials should enact policies to enable credit unions to do even more, Wright-Patt FCU President/CEO Doug Fecher told a Senate panel on Tuesday….Fecher said his credit union was at a disadvantage because until the CFPB has a permanent director it is forbidden by law to regulate payday lenders and pawn shops. While credit unions are the most heavily regulated financial institution his competitors aren't and this creates an uneven playing field, he said." *Click here for more.*

Click here to view/read testimony from the Senate subcommittee's hearing entitled "Consumer Protection and Middle Class Wealth Building in an Age of Growing Household Debt".

Report shows Payday Lending Law is helping keep people out of debt
Lisa Loevsky *KNDO (NBC affiliate - Yakima, WA)*
September 29, 2011

"A new report by the Department of Financial Institutions shows the Payday Lending Law which went into affect January 1, 2001 has made major differences for consumers in Washington. Since going into affect Washington consumers paid $122 million dollars less in fees than they did in 2009. It also shows that in Washington, payday lending locations decreased by one third. Last January, the payday lending industry in Washington was slapped with several restrictions. One, no one can take out more than eight pay day loans a year. This information is now shared via computer, so people can't go from one place to another trying to get more than eight advances per year." *Click here for more.*

Consumer advocates urge Fed to reject Capital One-ING merger
Liz Enochs (Housing Wire)
October 4, 2011

Consumer advocates Tuesday focused their criticism of the proposed Capital One Financial Corp. acquisition of ING Direct USA on what they described as Capital One's predatory lending practices and inadequate commitment to reinvest in local communities. … "Capital One has not made their case that the increase in systemic risk is outweighed by a significant public benefit," said Jesse Van Tol, director of communications for the ***National Community Reinvestment Coalition****, in a conference call Tuesday with the* ***California Reinvestment Coalition****, the* ***Greenlining Institute****, and the* ***U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce****.* *Click here for more.*

Geithner says CFPB key to limiting future crises
Ronald D. Orol (MarketWatch)
October 6, 2011

"Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner on Thursday pressed Republicans who voted against confirming a White House nominee for a new consumer protection bureau, arguing that a failure to conform the candidate will "leave a vast array of non-bank financial institutions, consumer finance companies outside the scope of consumer protection." He added that such a "mistake" left the U.S. economy so vulnerable to the financial crisis that shook the economy to the brink in 2008. The Senate Banking Committee in a partisan vote earlier Thursday approved former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray to head the newly formed Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Twelve Democrats voted for Cordray and 10 Republicans voted against him."
This is the full article.

Go Back to Table of Contents

Shadow Markets and Systemic Risk

Details Emerge on Draft of Volcker Rule
Ben Protess (DealBook/NYT)
October 5, 2011

"Federal regulators are planning to vote next week on plans to prohibit banks from making certain lucrative, yet risky trades, the latest step toward reining in risk-taking on Wall Street in the aftermath of the financial crisis. As the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation prepares on Tuesday to vote on the so-called Volcker Rule, some clues have emerged on the details of the proposal. The American Banker on Wednesday published a document on its Web site that appeared to be the latest version of the proposal. The document spelled out the scope of the rule's ban on proprietary trading and its broad exemptions for more routine business practices that can be mistaken for riskier trades." Click here for more.

Geithner Says European Debt Crisis Poses Significant Risk
Cheyenne Hopkins (Bloomberg)
October 6, 2011

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner said the debt crisis in Europe poses a 'significant risk to global recovery' and it is critical that governments and financial institutions have a 'powerful financial backstop.' Click here for more.

Click here to view Secretary Geithner's Financial Stability Oversight Council Annual Report to Congress.

Wall Street Goes to Sefcon II on Swaps
Ben Protess (DealBook/NYT)
October 3, 2011

"The title of the lead-off panel on Monday at the Sefcon conference, a Wall Street gathering devoted to the relatively obscure world of the swap execution facility, asked a question that most people outside the financial industry would appreciate: 'What is a S.E.F. and what is it good for?' The term S.E.F. did not even exist until last year, when it was born out of the Dodd-Frank financial regulatory overhaul. The law shook up the unregulated $600 trillion derivatives market, requiring the creation of swap execution facilities, or marketplaces where derivatives can openly trade." Click here for more.

Click here to view a letter from Tim Johnson and Barney Frank to regulators regarding implementing the derivatives reform portion of Dodd-Frank (Source: Politico's Morning Money).

U.S. and New York Sue Bank of New York Mellon Over Foreign Exchange Fees
Eric Dash and Peter Lattman (NYT)
October 4, 2011

"The New York attorney general and the United States attorney in Manhattan filed separate lawsuits on Tuesday against the Bank of New York Mellon, accusing it of cheating state and other pension funds nationwide out of foreign exchange fees over the last decade. In a civil lawsuit filed in state court, the attorney general, Eric T. Schneiderman, said that the Bank of New York Mellon had consistently overcharged customers for processing foreign currency transactions. He is seeking about $2 billion, which is the ostensible ill-gotten profits that the bank generated over the last decade." Click here for more.

ThinkProgress - Stop Snitchin: Fox News And Wall Street Banks Hustle To Kill New Whistleblower Protections
Lee Fang (ThinkProgress)
October 4, 2011

"…Financial experts and academics agree that strong whistleblower regulations could have prevented the Bernie Madoff Ponzi scheme and indeed much of the financial crisis if employees at firms engaged in fraudulent activity had spoken up early or had reported complex crimes to the appropriate authorities. Employees at firms at the center for the financial crisis, including troubled lender Countrywide, have cited intimidation and other illicit tactics as the reason few people spoke up as whistleblowers. Since the old whistleblower laws provided for weak legal protections for informants and relatively rare rewards, the Dodd-

Frank financial reform law passed last year revamped the system with new rights for informants blowing the whistle on financial crimes. …Freshman Rep. Michael Grimm (R-NY) sponsored a bill specifically to repeal the whistleblower law. Grimm's legislation is a wish-list for corrupt banks: it would not only reduce rewards for reporting fraud, but would force whistleblowers to report crimes to their supervisors before notifying authorities. Consumer groups have [decried](#) Grimm's proposal as an 'extreme approach that would silence would-be whistleblowers, endanger critical inside informants, undermine investigations, hamstring enforcement at the [Securities and Exchange Commission] and [Commodity Futures Trading Commission], and provide lawbreaking financial firms with an escape hatch from accountability.'" *Click here for more.*

Still Too Big To Fail? Looking at This Year's Most Profitable Big Banks
Rebecca Lipman (for Nasdaq)
October 6, 2011

"Chairman of the Federal Reserve Ben Bernanke testified Wednesday morning that the Dodd-Frank legislation on Wall Street reform prevents the nation's central bank from rescuing any major financial institutions, reports Forbes. The Dodd-Frank Act is designed to cut the interconnectedness of financial firms and establish plans to wind down troubled companies in a way that avoids future bailouts or triggers a financial tidal wave." Click here for more.

Commodity Speculation and Position Limits

How Lobbyists Are Undermining Dodd-Frank: A Case Study
Darius Tahir (The New Republic)
October 6, 2011

*"On October 18 the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) will vote on a proposed rule to limit the percentage of contracts in a given commodity that any individual trader can own. The rule, mandated by the Dodd-Frank financial reform bill, could potentially be very important: If a trader or bank is allowed to own too high a share of any given market, financial reform advocates argue, that entity can control the price of the market for its own purposes; or, even if there is no manipulation, market prices may simply rocket higher, untethered to any real-world conception of supply and demand. Indeed, in the past few years, allegations of speculation and market manipulation have been thrown at grain markets, oil markets, and even commodities like silver and cocoa. … As **Marcus Stanley** of **Americans for Financial Reform** told me, all sorts of people rely on predictable commodity markets for their business: gas stations, businesses that supply heating oil, enterprises that order food in bulk such as confectioners, and so on. Higher volatility often ends up being passed on to businesses as a higher cost on their balance sheet, with predictable consequences. …The rule has no chance of going into effect, however, unless it garners enough votes. At present, the CFTC is divided along partisan lines, with two presumed votes for the rule (Chairman Gary Gensler, appointed by Obama, and Bart Chilton, appointed by Bush and reappointed by Obama) and two votes against (Jill Sommers and Scott O'Malia, both former Republican Congressional aides). Meanwhile, Commissioner Michael Dunn, the swing vote who was appointed and re-appointed by Bush, appears to be leaning towards voting no, arguing the CFTC hasn't performed the proper cost-benefit analysis to back up the rule. Such sentiments from the commissioners are causing financial reform advocates to fear that the situation is grim. "I am absolutely worried," **Michael Greenberger**, **professor of law at the University of Maryland and formerly of the CFTC**, said in a phone interview about the rule's prospects. Privately, an aide to Senator Bernie Sanders told me that he shares Greenberger's worries. Click here for more.*

Gensler: US position limits delayed to get rule right
Jonathan Spicer (Reuters)
October 4, 2011

"The head of the U.S. derivatives regulator, scrambling to get internal support for steps to tackle excessive commodity speculation, said delays are of little concern as long as they yield improved rules. 'We're not trying to do this against a clock. We're trying to do this in a way that gets it right,' Gary Gensler, chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, said on Monday." Click here for more.

Media Squawked When It Should Have Jumped on Oil Market Speculation Coverage
Dan Froomkin (Huffington Post)
September 30, 2011

Faced with some hot data on oil speculation, the media squawked when it should have jumped. *After firebrand Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders leaked confidential data from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to the* Wall Street Journal *last month -- data that dramatically illustrated how speculators were dominating the oil futures market during the 2008 spike in oil prices -- other news outlets jumped on the story. In the worst possible way. The data, which exposed precisely how much Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, and other Wall Street speculators dominated the crude oil futures market, was a big new lead reporters could have used to further explore the dynamics behind the staggering gas price increase that resulted in a huge transfer of wealth from ordinary Americans to the very rich. Another valid response to the story would have been to examine why data this revelatory isn't routinely made public. Click here for more.*

US Senate panel cancels Oct 6 speculation hearing
Christopher Doering (Reuters)
October 4, 2011

"A U.S. Senate watchdog has canceled an Oct. 6 hearing focused on excessive speculation after the futures regulator said it would finalize new trading curbs later this month, the head of the panel told reporters on Tuesday. The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission has set "a fixed date" of Oct. 18 to vote on a measure that would limit the number of contracts any one speculative trader could hold in commodity markets, said Senator Carl Levin, head of the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations." Click here for more.

** Note – The hearing has been rescheduled for November 3rd (see 'Upcoming Events').*

Go Back to Table of Contents

Foreclosures and Housing

Housing Industry Asks U.S. Congress to Adopt 'No Harm' Principle
Lorraine Woellert and Kristin Jensen (Bloomberg)
October 6, 2011

"There was a time when Jerry Howard and his lobbyists at the National Association of Home Builders would buttonhole lawmakers to ask for a favor or policy fix. Today, confronted with stagnant home prices, mounting foreclosures and the thinning ranks of housing lobbyists, Howard and his remaining allies are asking for something new. 'Shut up,' Howard said, paraphrasing his message to lawmakers. 'Stop saying we're going to eliminate the mortgage interest deduction. Stop saying we're going to require everyone to put 20 percent down on a house. Stop saying there's no role for the federal government.'" Click here for more.

Suit alleges banks and mortgage companies cheated veterans and U.S. taxpayers
Steve Vogel (Washington Post)
October 4, 12:25 PM

"A whistleblower suit unsealed in federal court in Atlanta on Monday alleges that some of the nation's largest banks and mortgage companies have cheated military veterans and taxpayers out of hundreds of millions of dollars by hiding illegal fees in veterans' home loan refinancing. The suit accuses the companies, including Wells Fargo, Bank of America, J.P. Morgan Chase and GMAC Mortgage, of engaging in 'a brazen scheme to defraud both our nation's veterans and the United States treasury' of millions of dollars in connection with home loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs." Click here for more.

Fannie Mae Knew Early of Abuses, Report Says
Gretchen Morgenson (NYT)
October 3, 2011

"Fannie Mae, the mortgage finance giant, learned as early as 2003 of extensive foreclosure abuses among the law firms it had hired to remove troubled borrowers from their homes. But the company did little to correct

the firms' practices, according to a report issued Tuesday. Only after news reports in mid-2010 began to describe the dubious practices, like the routine filing of false pleadings in bankruptcy courts, did Fannie Mae's overseer start to scrutinize the conduct. The report was critical of that overseer, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and was prepared by the agency's inspector general." [Click here for more.]

Shaun Donovan's focus altered by foreclosures
Joseph Williams (Politico)
October 3, 2011

"At a recent forum on the stumbling economy sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan seemed like a diligent student as he dutifully recited how HUD and the Obama administration met the home foreclosure crisis with billions of stimulus dollars, pressure on banks and mortgage modification programs. But asked a question about housing and income equality, Donovan seemed transformed. Drawing 'mmm-hmms' of approval from the mostly African-American audience, he gave an impassioned argument for how the nation must promote affordable rental homes as much as homeownership, how smart housing policy should include programs to lift people from poverty and how, without it, 'we really will have class warfare…. "You'd be hard pressed to find a coherent strategy," said ***Dean Baker*** *of the* ***Center for Economic Policy Research****. "You might have one set of ideas coming from Treasury and another set coming from HUD, and they never meshed and [that conflict] never got resolved, so everything is case by case."""*[Click here for more.]

Op-ed - Foreclosures Are Killing Us
Craig E. Pollack and Julia F. Lynch (NYT op-ed)
October 2, 2011

"After slowing down in the first half of the year, the rate of homes entering foreclosure is rising again. First-time default notices were served on 78,000 homes in August, a 33 percent increase from July. A $1 billion federal program to help jobless and underemployed homeowners ended Friday. Foreclosure notices were filed against a record 2.9 million properties last year, and an additional 1.2 million in the first half of this year. Foreclosure is not just a metaphorical epidemic, but a bona fide public health crisis. When breadwinners become ill, they miss work, lose their jobs, face daunting medical bills — and have trouble making mortgage payments as a result….Craig E. Pollack is an assistant professor of internal medicine at Johns Hopkins. Julia F. Lynch is an associate professor of political science at the University of Pennsylvania." [Click here for more.]

Secret Docs Show Foreclosure Watchdog Doesn't Bark or Bite
Paul Kiel (ProPublica)
October 4, 2011

"Why has the administration's flagship foreclosure prevention program been so ineffective in helping struggling homeowners get loan modifications and stay in their homes? One reason: The government's supervision of the program has apparently ranged from nonexistent to weak. Documents obtained by ProPublica — government audit reports of GMAC, the country's fifth-largest mortgage servicer — provide the first detailed look at the program's oversight. They show that the company operated with almost no oversight for the program's first eight months. When auditors did finally conduct a major review more than a year into the program, they found that GMAC had seriously mishandled many loan modifications — miscalculating homeowner income in more than 80 percent of audited cases, for example. Yet, GMAC suffered no penalty. GMAC itself said it hasn't reversed a single foreclosure as a result of a government audit." [Click here for more.]

HUD cuts to devastate mortgage counseling agencies across nation
Ben Hallman (iWatchnews.org)
September 28, 2011

"Housing counselors at Western Tennessee Legal Services were plenty busy, even before one of the region's largest employers, a Goodyear tire factory in tiny Union City, shut its doors in July. The plant closing, which put nearly 2,000 employees out of work in a rural part of the state, meant more work for counselors like Emma Covington. Covington said she already takes 18 to 20 calls a day and meets in person with people who need counseling on foreclosures and other housing issues." [Click here for more.]

Op –ed - Obama needs to do more to keep the jobless in their homes
Eileen Mauskopf (Baltimore Sun)
October 03, 2011

"Four years into the financial crisis, foreclosure numbers remain daunting, with nearly 80,000 U.S. households receiving default notices for the first time in August. But help might be at hand, now that the Obama administration is requiring mortgage servicers to offer up to 12 months of payment 'forbearance' to homeowners who have lost their jobs. The idea is to give borrowers breathing room while they seek work in a difficult job market. And with 111,000 people out of work in the Baltimore area as of August, the need is certainly great locally." Click here for more.

Fed's Raskin Seeks to Link Mortgage Servicer Pay to Workouts
Donna Borak (American Banker -subscription required)
October 4, 2011

" A top Federal Reserve Board official on Tuesday pressed for changes in mortgage servicing agreements to encourage more workouts of troubled loans. 'The standard servicing contract provides disincentives for servicers to act in the best interests of investors and borrowers," Sarah Bloom Raskin, a Fed governor, said in prepared remarks to the Maryland State Bar Association. "This misalignment of incentives has more profound consequences when defaults are high.' Click here for more.

Op-ed - Foreclosure Crisis Lessons Not Yet Learned
Neil Barofsky (Huffington Post)
October 6, 2011

"The Home Affordable Modification Program ('HAMP') emerged from Treasury's initial promise that Troubled Asset Relief Program would be used to bail out homeowners on Main Street as well as the megabanks on Wall Street. As originally sold to Congress, TARP funds would be used to purchase 'troubled assets' -- the mortgages and mortgage-backed securities whose plummeting value helped trigger the financial crisis. Treasury promised that once it purchased those mortgages, it would then modify them where appropriate, potentially helping millions of struggling homeowners keep their homes. It was this promise, of course, that helped deliver many of the votes from Congress that ultimately authorized TARP." Click here for more.

Click here to view the House Financial Services subcommittee entitled "The Obama Administration's Response to the Housing Crisis", where Mr. Barofsky testified.

Op-ed -U.S. Can Rent Its Way Toward a Housing Recovery: Peter Orszag
Peter Orszag (for Reuters)
October 4, 2011

"After any financial collapse, housing plays a key role in the hard slog that typically follows: a weak housing market feeds into a weak economy, which then feeds back onto a weak housing market. So even if the European banking system somehow avoids a meltdown, economic recovery in the U.S. will continue to languish unless we act more aggressively on housing." Click here for more.

Freddie and Fannie Reject Debt Relief
Shaila Dewan (NYT)
October 5, 2011

"Home values have fallen so much in Arizona that almost half the people with mortgages there owe more than their homes are worth. So when federal money became available to help stem the tide of foreclosures, the state flagged that group for help. If banks would forgive some of a homeowners' mortgage debt, the state said it would pay half, up to $50,000 of a $100,000 loan reduction. Despite the generous terms, most banks balked. Only three homeowners have been approved for debt reduction since the program began in September 2010. A major obstacle has been that the two largest mortgage guarantors, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, will not participate — in Arizona or elsewhere. No loans are eligible for the state's program if they were bought and held or securitized by the two companies, which are now under government control and guarantee more than 70 percent of the country's home loans." Click here for more.

Special Report: A "great haircut" to kick-start growth
Jennifer Ablan and Matthew Goldstein (Reuters)
October 3, 2011

"More than three years after the financial crisis struck, the economy remains stuck in a consumer debt trap. It's a situation that could take years to correct itself. That's why some economists are calling for a radical step: massive debt relief. Federal policy makers, they suggest, should broker what amounts to an out-of-court settlement between institutional bond investors, banks and consumer advocates - essentially, a 'great haircut' to jumpstart the economy. What some are envisioning is a negotiated process in which cash-strapped homeowners get real mortgage relief, even if it means forcing banks to incur severe write-downs and bond investors to absorb haircuts, or losses, in some of the securities sold by those institutions." Click here for more.

Foreclosure Talks Move Forward
Ruth Simon (WSJ – subscription required)
October 7, 2011

"California Attorney General Kamala Harris, who dropped out last week from talks aimed at wringing a huge settlement from banks accused of foreclosure abuses, remains open to a deal if it involves 'a stronger proposal' from lenders, according to a person familiar with the situation. U.S. and state officials held daylong meetings Tuesday and Wednesday, trying to forge a deal with Ally Financial Inc., Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc., J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. and Wells Fargo & Co. In return for a settlement, those companies would get some protection from legal claims tied to their foreclosure practices." Click here for more.

House Is Gone but Debt Lives On
Jessica Silver – Greenberg (WSJ –subscription required)
October 1, 2011

"Joseph Reilly lost his vacation home here last year when he was out of work and stopped paying his mortgage. The bank took the house and sold it. Mr. Reilly thought that was the end of it. In June, he learned otherwise. A phone call informed him of a court judgment against him for $192,576.71. It turned out that at a foreclosure sale, his former house fetched less than a quarter of what Mr. Reilly owed on it. His bank sued him for the rest. The result was a foreclosure hangover that homeowners rarely anticipate but increasingly face: a 'deficiency judgment.'" Click here for more.

Battle brews over responsibility for defaulted West Coast Bank home loans in Oregon
Jeff Manning (The Oregonian)
October 1, 2011

"Did former Bend banker Jeff Sprague go rogue during the housing boom and make a series of dishonest loans egregious enough to get him charged with bank fraud? Or was he a low-level flunky just following orders from his bank-executive bosses? Those are the questions at the heart of a legal battle between Sprague and his former employer, West Coast Bank. Sprague, facing criminal fraud charges stemming from a series of 2007 loans he handled to employees of Desert Sun Development, has subpoenaed the Lake Oswego bank, attempting to force it to hand over internal documents, including the findings of its own investigation into the loans." Click here for more.

Did Gibbs pre-empt rival investor group in BofA's MBS deal?
Alison Frankel (On the Case – Reuters)
October 3, 2011

*"The most dramatic moment at the Sept. 21 hearing on Bank of America's proposed $8.5 billion settlement with Countrywide mortgage-backed securities investors came near the end, when **Gibbs & Bruns** partner **Robert Madden** stood up to address Manhattan federal judge **William Pauley's** concerns about how the settlement came to be. Tall and clear-spoken, Madden captured the judge's attention as he explained that his clients, a group of 22 large institutional investors, hadn't entered a sweetheart deal with BofA, but had banded together to force the bank to pony up billions to investors for claims BofA thought it would never have to deal with." Click here for more.*

Tom Miller bruised in another messy Wall Street protest
Rekha Basu (Des Moines Register)
October 5, 2011

"It's hardly shocking that thousands of protesters occupying Wall Street and other cities can't specifically name what reforms they are seeking. Even some officials within the same political party negotiating a financial sector settlement have gotten into bruising battles over its terms. Just ask Tom Miller. Miller, Iowa's Democratic attorney general, is heading negotiations on behalf of a 50-state committee with the largest banks over their mortgage lending practices. He recently kicked New York's attorney general, Eric Schneiderman, a Democrat, off the executive committee, saying he was trying to undermine the group's efforts." Click here for more.

Go Back to Table of Contents

Executive Compensation

Click here to read the Federal Reserve report entitled 'Incentive Compensation Practices: A Report on the Horizontal Review of Practices at Large Banking Organizations'

Cozy relationships and 'peer benchmarking' send CEOs' pay soaring
Peter Whoriskey (Washington Post)
October 3, 2011

"As the board of Amgen convened at the company's headquarters in March, chief executive Kevin W. Sharer seemed an unlikely candidate for a raise. Shareholders at the company, one of the nation's largest biotech firms, had lost 3 percent on their investment in 2010 and 7 percent over the past five years. The company had been forced to close or shrink plants, trimming the workforce from 20,100 to 17,400. And Sharer, a 63-year-old former Navy engineer, was already earning lots of money — about $15 million in the previous year, plus such perks as two corporate jets. The board decided to give Sharer more. It boosted his compensation to $21 million annually, a 37 percent increase, according to the company reports. Why?" Click here for more.

Op-ed - Say on Pay rule is working to cut management pay
Susan Estep and Bartlett Naylor (Op-ed – The Missoulian)
October 4, 2011

"Corporate apologists claim that a new requirement that shareholders weigh in on pay for top executives is ineffective and unnecessary. Just look - most pay packages won easy majority votes. How wrong they are. The Say on Pay requirement, which we enjoy thanks to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act of 2010, scored impressive results. The votes, in which management asks a nonbinding, up-or-down vote on the proposed management pay, are attracting significant shareholder dissent. In just the first year, shareholders have blocked higher pay at more than a dozen companies. Generally, management at companies where a significant proportion of shareholders cast votes against pay packages responded with significant voluntary reforms. … Susan Estep is principal of Missoula-based Estep, Hope and Weber Capital Management and former vice president of JP Morgan & Co. ***Bartlett Naylor*** *is a financial policy advocate for* ***Public Citizen's Congress Watch division****." Click here for more.*

Go Back to Table of Contents

Student Lending

For-profit colleges grab big share of GI Bill money
Bill Sizemore (The Virginian-Pilot)
October 3, 2011

"It might be widely assumed that the federal dollars flowing out of Washington to educate Virginia veterans under the Post-9/11 GI Bill are mostly going to traditional public or private nonprofit colleges and universities.

That assumption would be wrong. Nearly half of the $321 million in GI Bill benefits paid out on behalf of Virginia veterans last year went to for-profit schools." *[Click here for more.](#)*

For-Profit School Dodges Shareholder Lawsuit
Carrie Ann Cherry (Courthouse News)
October 5, 2011

"A federal judge dismissed a shareholder class action that claims the for-profit college system Education Management Corp. exaggerated the company's growth prospects and failed to disclose illegal recruiting practices. U.S. District Judge Nora Barry Fischer in Pittsburgh based her decision on the [recommendations](#) of U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert Mitchell, who said the lawsuit be dismissed because Education Management was upfront about the risks it could face with changing regulations, including those dealing with recruiting." [Click here for more.](#)

[Go Back to Table of Contents](#)

FTT

[Click here](#) to add your signature to an organizational sign on letter supporting financial transaction tax that AFR is collecting.

Op-ed - The Bankers and the Revolutionaries
Nicholas D. Kristof (NYT)
October 1, 2011

"After flying around the world this year to cover street protests from Cairo to Morocco, reporting on the latest 'uprising' was easier: I took the subway. The '[Occupy Wall Street](#)' movement has taken over a park in Manhattan's financial district and turned it into a revolutionary camp. Hundreds of young people chant slogans against 'banksters' or corporate tycoons. Occasionally, a few even pull off their clothes, which always draws news cameras. … So for those who want to channel their amorphous frustration into practical demands, here are several specific suggestions: Impose a financial transactions tax. This would be a modest tax on financial trades, modeled on the suggestions of [James Tobin](#), an American economist who won a Nobel Prize. The aim is in part to dampen speculative trading that creates dangerous volatility. [Europe is moving toward a financial transactions tax](#), but the Obama administration is resisting — a reflection of its deference to Wall Street. " [Click here for more.](#)

U's financial transaction tax is feasible, and if set right, desirable
Avinash Persaud (VoxEU.org)
September 30, 2011

"The 'Tobin tax' has once again appeared in the headlines having been proposed by the European Commission and opposed by the US. This column argues that such taxes are more feasible than most think when they are linked to legal enforceability, and that the burden would be disproportionately borne by high-frequency traders that provide liquidity only when the markets don't really need it. The announcement on Wednesday that the European Commission will propose an EU-wide, 0.1% tax on bond and equity transactions, and 0.01% on derivative transactions between financial firms, to support European countries in crisis, will generate substantial opposition. Cassandras will shout that it is another crazy idea from Europe that will presage financial Armageddon." [Click here for more.](#)

Wall St. trading could generate taxes
Josh Boak (Politico)
October 4, 2011

"Brace yourselves Wall Street: Rep. Peter DeFazio is angling to tax the trading of stocks, bonds and derivatives. The Oregon Democrat has teamed up with Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) to introduce the measure — a sequel to their 2009 bill — before the November G-20 meeting in Cannes, France. Declaring Wall Street a 'gambling casino,' DeFazio said the new tax would 'both raise needed revenue for the Treasury and rein in speculation on Wall Street.'" [Click here for more.](#)

Nurses' prescription for healing our economy
Katrina vanden Heuvel (Washington Post)
October 4, 2011

"If you want to know just how bad things are for those hit hardest by the Great Recession, [ask a nurse]: They see more young men suffering heart attacks, more anxiety in children, and more ulcers and stomach illnesses in people of all ages. Financial struggles are forcing more patients to forgo necessary medicines and treatments. A Princeton/Georgia State study reports [a 39 percent increase] in ER admissions for suicide attempts precipitated by home foreclosures, and a direct correlation between foreclosure rates and increases in emergency-room visits and hospitalization for hypertension, diabetes and anxiety. Given this widespread hardship and pain, it makes sense that nurses who are on the frontlines in our communities every day are leading an effort to hold Wall Street accountable for causing these economic troubles while raising hundreds of billions of dollars for vital human needs. [National Nurses United] (NNU), the nation's largest union and professional association of nurses, representing 170,000 RNs, is out in the streets, in congressional offices and just last week in Liberty Park with the Occupy Wall Street protesters pushing a good idea that has been around for decades and whose time has come: [a financial-transactions tax .] This is a small levy on trades of stocks, derivatives and currencies meant to curb short-term speculation while raising massive revenue for urgent needs." *[Click here for more.]*

[Go Back to Table of Contents]

Interchange

Throwing Jabs in Bank-Fee Fight Keeps Durbin in Spotlight
Stacy Kaper (National Journal)
October 5, 2011

*"It may be about Round 100, but Sen. **Dick Durbin**, D-Ill., shows no signs of fatigue in his seemingly never-ending battle with banks over debit-card processing fees. Bank of America's decision last week to impose a new $5 monthly debit-card fee—which it blamed on a financial-reform provision authored by Durbin—assures that the banks versus retailers/Durbin grudge match will continue. So far, Durbin is winning the public-relations battle, with consumer groups and, indirectly, President Obama, defending him from Bank of America's claim that the measure capping how much banks can charge retailers to process debit-card transactions is translating into higher fees for consumers. 'We are getting to the point where Bank of America is scared that this a fee too far,' said **Ed Mierzwinski**, **consumer-program director for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group,** which joined merchants in the fight for Durbin's 'swipe fee' amendment. 'How many times did taxpayers bail them out?'"* *[Click here for more.]*

Bully for BofA: New Debit Card Fees!
Adam Levitin (Creditslips.org)
October 1, 2011

"Bully for you, Bank of America. Bank of America's starting charging monthly fees for debit card usage to some customers. This is being taken as an 'I told you so' by opponents of the Durbin Amendment, who argued that it would only result in higher costs for consumers. Actually, the BoA move is exactly what we might expect: consumers are having to pay for their rewards. That's how it should be. They might be paying too much, but that's another matter. So what does Bank of America's move tell us? (1) The Market Works! On broad level, what BoA is doing is exactly what should happen if the market works. Customers who get rewards will have to pay for them. Put differently, customers who use debit will have to internalize the cost of their payment medium. BoA has not eliminated or even cut its debits rewards programs as far as I can tell (but please correct me if I'm wrong). That means if you want debit rewards, then go to BoA and pay for them. If you don't, [go to USAA, which cut debit rewards rather than raise fees]. That's how the market should work. (But see #3, below, about why the market doesn't work so well.) The market should bifurcate into a rewards market, where customers pay for their rewards, and a non-rewards market. And that's what's happening."
[Click here for more.]

Durbin Savages BofA
Ben White (Politico's Morning Money)
October 4, 2011

"*From Sen. Dick Durbin's floor statement: 'What I have said in the media and I'll say here is, Bank of America customers, vote with your feet. Get the heck out of that bank. Find yourself a bank or credit union that won't gouge you for $5 a month and still will give you a debit card that you can use every single day. What Bank of America has done is an outrage ... 'It is particularly hard to believe this fee would come from a bank with a track record like Bank of America. After helping to drive our economy off the cliff's edge in 2008, Bank of America was happy to accept a $45 billion federal bailout for their stupidity, their greed, and their stupidity and it was just as happy to take that money and hand out $3.3 billion in employee bonuses in the same year 2008.' Durbin letter to BofA CEO Brian Moynihan: http://politi.co/mXz2tc"*

Durbin says B. of A. fee to help small banks
Ronald D. Orol (MarketWatch)
October 4, 2011

"A decision by Bank of America Corp. to soon start charging customers a $5 monthly fee for debit-card purchases is an opportunity for community banks and credit unions to attract new customers, according to the author of a rule that's prompted lenders to impose increased fees. 'There have been announcements across the United States stating publicly that they are not going to penalize their customers,' Sen. Richard Durbin, an Illinois Democrat, told reporters Tuesday." Click here for more.

Partisan Fight Flares Over New Bank Fees
Victoria McGrane (WSJ – subscription required)
October 5, 2011

"The dispute over higher bank fees for consumers heated up Tuesday, with Republicans and the industry blaming new federal regulations a day after President Barack Obama criticized the increases. The latest contretemps was sparked by Bank of America Corp.'s decision last week to levy a $5 monthly fee on most customers who make purchases with debit cards. The bank said it was trying to recover revenue lost under a provision of the Obama administration's 2010 Dodd-Frank law, which overhauled financial-industry regulations." Click here for more.

Op-ed - Charging for Debit Cards Is Robbery
Lloyd Constantine (NYT op-ed)
October 6, 2011

"When Bank of America told its customers recently that it would start charging them $5 a month to use debit cards, it argued that it was forced to make that change because of regulations that altered the economics of the cards. Other banks agreed. The chief executive of JPMorgan Chase, Jamie Dimon, put the effects of the regulations this way: 'If you're a restaurant and you can't charge for the soda, you're going to charge more for the burger.' Both banks were responding to the Federal Reserve's actions to limit the interchange fees banks charge stores each time a debit card is used for a purchase. But the banks' simplistic statements are merely an attempt to rationalize and obfuscate one of the largest illegal transfers of wealth from consumers to banks in American history." Click here for more.

Go Back to Table of Contents

OTHER

Geithner Says Banks Are Trying to Weaken Financial Overhaul
Cheyenne Hopkins (Bloomberg)
October 4, 2011

"U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner said banks are trying to weaken efforts to overhaul financial regulation, and 'we're going to push back harder.' 'There's nothing strange about the fact that the banks are resisting it' Geithner said in an interview today on CNN television. 'In the end we're going to prevail because

what we're doing is a reasonable, sensible thing, which is to make sure the economy is never again vulnerable to this degree of basic abuse, mistakes, excessive risk taking.'" *Click here for more.*

Wall Street's New Watcher
Liz Rappaport (NYT)
October 3, 2011

"Two weeks after moving into a skyscraper near Wall Street to start assembling a muscular new agency overseeing banks and insurers in New York, Benjamin M. Lawsky got a surprise during an introductory meeting with a midlevel manager: His power was even broader than he thought. The 41-year-old former federal prosecutor, who spent the last four years as Andrew Cuomo's confidant and adviser in the New York attorney general's office, learned that he had greater latitude to pursue criminal fraud cases than he initially knew. As the head of the New York State Department of Financial Services, which officially opens its doors Monday, he says he plans to use that authority to put the new agency on the map." Click here for more.

Others Go, but Buffett Stays on President's Side
Susanne Craig and Ben Protess (DealBook/NYT)
October 2, 2011

"When it comes to business, everyone on Wall Street wants a piece of Warren E. Buffett. His presidential politics, however, appear to be another matter altogether. On Friday evening, Mr. Buffett was the host of a fund-raiser for President Obama at the Four Seasons restaurant in Manhattan, typically a magnet for the who's who of finance. Democrats had bet that the star power of one of the world's richest men would draw an overflow crowd of Wall Street's elite for an affair that ran $10,000 a plate, or $35,800 for one-on-one time with Mr. Buffett." Click here for more.

Hedge Funds Pay Top Dollar for Washington Intelligence
Brody Mullins and Susan Pulliam (WSJ – subscription required)
October 4, 2011

"At a breakfast fund-raiser last year at the Liaison Capitol Hill hotel, former lobbyist Paul Equale pulled up a chair next to Sen. Richard Durbin. As they chatted, the Illinois Democrat told him about a recent breakthrough in his efforts to push through a bill to cap debit-card fees. In Washington, such shop talk between political insiders is so routine that it hardly warrants mention. For Mr. Equale, however, it yields intelligence that fetches good money on Wall Street." Click here for more.

Taking Out the Trash
Suzanne Kapner (WSJ – subscription required)
October 4, 2011

"Gone are a U.S. student-loan business, a U.K. online bank and a Japanese brokerage operation. Citigroup Inc. cast them off as it undertakes a housecleaning. The sales have paid off for the third-largest U.S. bank, shrinking a pool of unwanted assets that Citigroup executives no longer see as central to the company's main business of corporate and consumer banking, securities trading and cash management for large companies. The remaining unwanted pile, known as Citi Holdings, has $308 billion in assets, less than half its size when it was created in 2009." Click here for more.

So, When's Obama Going To Start Freaking Out About The Banks?
Henry Blodget (Business Insider)
October 3, 2011

"In case you hadn't noticed, the bank stocks are imploding. Bank of America smashed through $6 barrier this afternoon and is now in the mid-$5s. Citigroup has been cut in half. Morgan Stanley's back where it was in the depths of 2009. Back in the financial crisis—the last financial crisis—the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve were heavily and obviously involved in trying to make sure the banks didn't collapse, frantically negotiating behind the scenes and ultimately persuading Congress to approve the TARP." Click here for more.

Bernanke says economic recovery close to faltering
Martin Crutsinger (AP)
October 4, 2011

"Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke says the economic recovery 'is close to faltering' and the central bank is prepared to take further steps to support it. The economy is growing more slowly than the Federal Reserve had expected, Bernanke said Tuesday before the congressional Joint Economic Committee. He said the biggest factor depressing consumer confidence is poor job growth." Click here for more.

Morgan Tries to Quell Rumors About Its Holdings
Susanne Craig (DealBook/NYT)
October 4, 2011

"Morgan Stanley executives are battling a daily barrage of speculation and nay-saying to try to stem a sharp slide in the company's stock. It is a war that is being fought in large part in the shadows: against anonymous blogs and market whispers, but also against undefined fears about exposure to troubled European banks. While those worries are common to all the big Wall Street banks, Morgan Stanley, as the smallest, is perhaps the most vulnerable among them. In response, Morgan Stanley executives have been rallying employees and talking to the company's biggest shareholders. The campaign culminated late on Monday, with the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, which owns approximately 22 percent of Morgan Stanley, publicly reaffirming its support for the company." Click here for more.

Tale of Two Loan Programs
Emily Maltby and Angus Loten (WSJ – subscription required)
October 6, 2011

"More than half of $4 billion in federal funds disbursed this year to spur small-business lending by community banks was used to repay bailout funds that the banks received under the government's Troubled Asset Relief Program. The Small Business Lending Fund was meant to raise capital at smaller banks, which tend to lend more heavily to small businesses, in the hopes of jump-starting growth and employment. But instead of directly lending to small businesses, many of the banks used the money to rid themselves of higher-cost TARP debt and tougher restrictions." Click here for more.

America's six key lessons for a 'euro Tarp'
Gillian Tett (FT – registration required)
October 6, 2011

"'We told you so'. That captures the reaction of many American bankers and policymakers towards Europe these days. Ever since America unveiled its own troubled asset relief programme in 2008, observers in Washington and New York have muttered darkly about Europe's failure to grasp its banking nettle. More specifically, it has long been suspected that Europe's banks were shying away from revealing their bad loans; it has also been clear that some banks would need more capital, particularly if they had to write down deteriorating sovereign debt. Thus the obvious solution to some is what might be called euro Tarp – or a eurozone version of the capital injections and stress tests that in effect halted the American banking crisis back in late 2008 and 2009." Click here for more.

Go Back to Table of Contents

Upcoming Events

From The New Bottom Line: Schedule of Direct Actions Demanding that Wall Street "Pay US Back"

Chicago	October 9-14	Mass mobilization, escalating actions throughout the week. Focus on revenue, jobs, foreclosure, and TIFs
New York City	October 11-14	Range of actions targeting banks, billionaires, state agencies and donors of elected officials against extending

		millionaires' tax. Tactics include marches, subway turnstile hopping, using moving trucks as props.
Minneapolis	October 10-14	Community groups, faith and labor organizations will confront banks and financial institution from Oct 11 - 14 with demands that they support jobs not budget cuts, repay the public, and reform the worst practices of the industry. Coalition event Fri., Oct 14th at 3 pm, Minneapolis.
Denver	October 25-29	Direct actions targeting Wells Fargo on foreclosures, predatory/payday lending, and private prison divestment.
Honolulu	November 5-7	All-day conference kicking off New Bottom Line campaign in Hawaii, clergy leaders speaking at more than dozen Oahu churches. Holding events/actions during Asian Pacific Economic Conference.

SEC

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 (10 a.m.)

What: Open Meeting - *see* Sunshine Act Notice - The subject matters of the Open Meeting will be:

> Item 1: The Commission will consider whether to propose a new rule under Section 619 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Pub. L. No. 111-203, that would generally prohibit any banking entity from engaging in proprietary trading or from acquiring or retaining an ownership interest in, sponsoring, or having certain relationships with a hedge fund or private equity fund subject to certain exemptions.
>
> Item 2: The Commission will consider whether to propose new rules under Section 764(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to provide for the registration of security-based swap dealers and major security-based swap participants.

Where: SEC Headquarters
100 F Street NE, Room L-002 (Auditorium)
Washington, DC 20549

Contact: Office of the Secretary - (202) 551-5400

Date: Monday, October 17, 2011, 1 - 5 p.m.

What: Roundtable on Microcap Securities - see Press Release

Where: SEC Headquarters
100 F Street, NE
Washington, DC 20549

Contact: Division of Enforcement, 202-551-6607

CFTC

No open meetings as of 10/7/11

Capitol Hill

Senate

Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee

No pertinent markups/hearings scheduled as of 10/7/11

Senate Committee on Finance

Tax Reform Options: Capital Investment and Manufacturing
United States Senate Committee on Finance
Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 10:00 AM
215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Witness Testimony

Dr. Jane Gravelle, Senior Specialist in Economic Policy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, **Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Ph.D.**, President, American Action Forum, Washington, DC, **Dr. Robert D. Atkinson**, President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, Washington, DC, **Dr. J.D. Foster**, Norman B. Ture Senior Fellow, Economics of Fiscal Policy, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC, **Dr. Michelle Hanlon**, Associate Professor of Accounting, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sloan School of Management, Cambridge, MA

Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

HEARING RESCHEDULED TO NOVEMBER 3rd * Excessive Speculation and Compliance with the Dodd-Frank Act**

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations - Watch this hearing live!

Thursday, October 6, 2011
09:30 AM
Dirksen Senate Office Building, room SD-342

In light of the CFTC announcement that it will be voting on a final rule on October 18, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations' hearing, "Excessive Speculation and Compliance with the Dodd-Frank Act," scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2011, has been RESCHEDULED TO THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD at 9:00 a.m. in SD-342.

The Subcommittee plans to hold a hearing on speculation in the commodities markets and implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act's provisions on speculative position limits for futures, options, and swap contracts for oil and other commodities. Hearing witnesses will include a panel of experts and the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. A final witness list will be available Tuesday, November 1, 2011.

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

No pertinent markups/hearings scheduled as of 10/7/11

House

House Committee on Financial Services

Hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals to Bring Certainty to the Over-the-Counter Derivatives Market"
Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises
October 14, 2011 9:00 AM in 2128 Rayburn HOB

Hearing entitled "The Section 8 Savings Act of 2011: Proposals to Promote Economic Independence for Assisted Families"
Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity
October 13, 2011 2:00 PM in 2128 Rayburn HOB

Hearing entitled "The U.S. Housing Finance System in the Global Context: Structure, Capital Sources, and Housing Dynamics"
International Monetary Policy and Trade
October 13, 2011 10:00 AM in 2128 Rayburn HOB

Hearing entitled "H.R. 1418: The Small Business Lending Enhancement Act of 2011"
Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit
October 12, 2011 2:00 PM in 2128 Rayburn HOB

Hearing entitled "Oversight of the Federal Home Loan Bank System"
Oversight and Investigations
October 12, 2011 1:00 PM in 2220 Rayburn HOB

House Small Business Committee

No pertinent markups/hearings scheduled as of 10/7/11

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, October 12, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.
1300 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C.
Full Committee -- Public Hearing
RE: To review legislative proposals amending Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

No pertinent markups/hearings scheduled as of 9/30/11

Subcommittee on TARP, Financial Services and Bailouts of Public and Private Programs

No markups scheduled as of 10/7/11

From UC Berkley Law:

Effective Consumer Privacy Enforcement
October 13-14, 2011

Registration is now open for Effective Consumer Privacy Enforcement (ECPE), a two-day, invite-only conference focusing upon emerging technology and litigation strategies to remedy consumer harms. ECPE will feature expert-led tutorials on the technology of online advertising and strategies for litigating consumer privacy cases. It will be held Thursday and Friday, October 13-14th at the Bancroft Hotel in Berkeley, California.

We are going to focus upon five enduring challenges in this field:

-The challenge of understanding new tracking and advertising technologies.
-How to remedy consumer rights in light of the recent Dukes and Concepcion cases.
-The nuances of American privacy law.
-The challenge of proving privacy "harm."
-The "Streisand" effect: this occurs where a victim of a privacy wrong becomes the target of even more adverse news coverage and publicity.

Registration is only $250, and this event offers 10 hours of CLE, including an hour of ethics.

The agenda is available here: http://www.law.berkeley.edu/ECPEconference.htm and registration is here: https://berkeleylaw.wufoo.com/forms/effective-consumer-privacy-enforcement/

From the Communications Workers of America, The Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University, and the Center for Economic and Policy Research cordially invite you to:

Jobs, Inequality, and the Role of Government: Improving the Economic Competitiveness and Innovative Capacity of the U.S.

Tuesday, October 11, 2011
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Georgetown University Law Center
Gewirz Student Center, 12th Floor Reception Area
120 F Street, NW, Washington, DC

To register for this event, please click here.

Panelists and speakers: Katharine G. Abraham, Member, Council of Economic Advisers (invited), Dean Baker, Co-director, Center for Economic and Policy Research, Margaret Mendenhall Blair, Milton R. Underwood Chair in Free Enterprise, Vanderbilt University Law School, Abby Joseph Cohen, President of Global Markets Institute and Senior Investment Strategist, Goldman Sachs, Larry Cohen, President, Communications Workers of America, Mark Doms, Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Commerce, Richard Freeman, Professor of Economics, Harvard University and Program Director for Labor Studies, National Bureau of Economic Research, J. Erik Garr, Principal, Price Waterhouse Coopers (former General Manager, National Broadband Plan, Federal Communications Commission), Kate Gordon, Vice President for Energy Policy, Center for American Progress, Michael Greenberger, Professor, University of Maryland School of Law (former Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission), Matthew Keller, Assistant Professor, Southern Methodist University (Co-editor, *State of Innovation: The U.S. Government's Role in Technology Development*), James Manyika, Director, McKinsey Global Institute and Senior Partner, McKinsey & Company (invited), Terrell McSweeny, Domestic Policy Advisor to the Vice President (invited), Edward B. Montgomery, Dean, Georgetown Public Policy Institute

Panel 1: Competitiveness, Job Creation and Inequality: Over recent decades, the U.S. economy has been restructured at the expense of many sectors of the economy. Economic growth and job creation require that we rebalance the economy so that workers' wages are reconnected to economy-wide productivity growth. Policies that support innovation, competitiveness, and collective bargaining and encourage value-added production and services in the U.S. can help us move from a debt-driven economy to one based on rising household incomes and wealth.

Panel 2: The Role of the Public Sector in Innovation: Public investment in research and development, education, training, and infrastructure are essential to the economic growth of the U.S., improving economic competitiveness, and increasing innovative capacity. Plans for robust public investment -- in areas like broadband, health research, and clean energy -- are crucial to promoting the United States' global competitiveness.

To register for this event, please click here.

From Public Citizen:

Public Citizen is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year. Please join us! Many of our achievements were possible only through partnerships with you.

Helping us commemorate this milestone will be iconic journalist Bill Moyers and Public Citizen founders Ralph Nader, Dr. Sidney Wolfe, Alan Morrison and Joan Claybrook.

If you can be in DC we hope you will join us. You can honor Public Citizen's past, present and future by:
• Purchasing tickets to our 40th Anniversary Gala
• Placing a Congratulatory Message in the Gala program
• Sponsoring Public Citizen's 40th Anniversary Gala

Visit www.citizen.org/40th-anniversary-gala to join the celebration!

I hope to see you at our 40th Anniversary Gala in Washington, D.C., on October 20.

P.S. Click here to learn more about the variety of ways you can be part of Public Citizen's 40th Anniversary Gala.

From Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP):

What: 18th Annual Gala.

Date: October 20, 2011

Time: 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center, 127 Public Square, Cleveland, OH 44114

esop-cleveland.org
216-361-0718

Richard Cordray sits at the center of one of the biggest standoffs in Washington.

As the Presidential nominee for Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Corday faces opposition from Senators who vow not to approve anyone for the post. Meanwhile the White House and financial reform advocates press for his confirmation.

During his keynote speech Cordray will address to the importance of the CFPB in protecting American consumers, the role of the Bureau will take in regulating mortgage lenders and servicers, and his perspective on the foreclosure crisis. (Note: Not all answers will be in the form of a question.)

From GW's Center for Law, Economics & Finance (C-LEAF) presents the Third Annual Financial Regulatory Reform Symposium:

"Dodd-Frank's Future Direction: On Track or Off Course?"

Friday, October 21, 2011
8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Jack Morton Auditorium, Media & Public Affairs Building
805 21st Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20052

Featuring:

The Manuel F. Cohen Memorial Lecture
delivered by
Simon Johnson, Ronald A. Kurtz (1954) Professor of Entrepreneurship; Professor of Global Economics and Management, MIT Sloan School of Management

and

Keynote Address *delivered by*
The Honorable Sheila C. Bair, Former Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

The event also will include two panel discussions dealing with financial regulatory reform topics, including new regulations affecting large, systemically important financial companies and the future of housing finance. Join us for lively question-and-answer sessions with our guest speakers and panelists.

More details, including registration information, to follow.
www.law.gwu.edu/C-LEAF

The Honorable Sheila C. Bair
Sheila C. Bair served as the 19th chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation from June 2006 through July 2011. She served as chairman of the FDIC during one of the nation's most severe financial and economic crises. During her five-year term, Chairman Bair worked tirelessly to bolster public confidence and the stability of the financial system. She has been an outspoken advocate of legislative and regulatory reforms to end the doctrine of too-big-to-fail and prevent future taxpayer bailouts of large financial institutions.

Simon Johnson
Simon Johnson is the Ronald A. Kurtz (1954) Professor of Entrepreneurship at MIT Sloan School of Management. He also is a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, DC, co-founder and co-author of BaselineScenario (a much-cited blog on the global economy), a member of the Congressional Budget Office's Panel of Economic Advisers, and a member of the FDIC's Systemic Resolution Advisory Committee.