

Hello again Bank Slaters!

It's hard to believe I've been sending this newsletter out for two months. I've been enjoying this project quite a bit and, for the first time since launching, [Bank Slate](#) will surpass 5,000 monthly visits. I sincerely appreciate your interest in what I'm doing.

I thought I'd spend a few minutes looking at credit union acquisitions of banks. Specifically, a look at how some state legislatures and regulators have intervened to stop them from taking place. The Independent Community Bankers of America has pushed Washington to step in, but it looks like most roadblocks will come from the state level. Here are four examples.

**Colorado:** The state's banking board in 2020 rejected a bid by Elevations Credit Union to buy Cache Bank & Trust, backing an argument that state law bars purchases between different types of financial institutions. Cache [eventually sold](#) to Mountain Valley Bank.

**Nebraska:** GreenState Credit Union in Iowa wasn't allowed to buy Premier Bank after the Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance [determined in January 2022](#) that the credit union failed to provide supporting evidence that federal law allowed it to buy a national bank's assets.

**Mississippi:** A law that [goes into effect in July](#) would require that any assets or liabilities sold by state-chartered banks must be bought by institutions insured by the FDIC.

**Tennessee:** Orion Federal Credit Union's [planned purchase](#) of Financial Federal Bank is on hold after a judge granted an injunction sought by the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions. The agency argued that the state law allows only bank holding companies to acquire, form or control a bank.

It will be interesting to see if the ICBA, and the overall banking industry, will make more arguments like these in other states where credit unions are trying to buy banks. Are there other states where such deals have been stymied? If so, let me know at [paul.davis.mba@gmail.com](mailto:paul.davis.mba@gmail.com).

Now let's look at some headlines.

## **M&A**

- Farmers National in Ohio is [making a push into western Pennsylvania](#) with an agreement to buy Emclave Financial. Farmers will pay \$105 million in a deal expected to close later this year.
- The Fed [approved](#) Citizens Financial Group's planned purchase of Investors Bancorp in New Jersey. The [\\$3.5 billion deal](#) was announced in July 2021.
- Community Bancorp in Kansas has [agreed to buy](#) Quarry City Savings and Loan Association in Missouri. The \$10.4 million deal is expected to close in the third quarter.

## **Arrivals/Departures**

- Loyola University Maryland has hired former Howard Bancorp CEO Mary Ann Scully as the next [dean of its business school](#). The university said in a press release that Scully will join the Rev. Joseph A. Sellinger, S.J., School of Business and Management on July 1.

## **Miscellaneous**

- Several banks have announced plans to eliminate or reduce NSF and overdraft fees, including [Ameris Bancorp in Atlanta](#); [Trustmark in Jackson, Miss.](#); and [Hancock Whitney in Gulfport, Miss.](#)
- The proposed Battle Bank in Colorado plans to deal in [precious metals](#). Organizers said in their application that they plan to offer clients opportunities to buy, sell, take delivery of, and store non-FDIC insured precious metals. The bank would also originate loans backed by precious metals.
- Burke & Herbert Bank in Alexandria, Va., plans to expand into the Richmond, Va., market after [hiring a handful of commercial lenders](#). The state's oldest bank plans to open branches over time.
- Alliance Data Systems in Columbus, Ohio, has [rebranded](#) as Bread Financial Holdings, taking the name of a Buy Now Pay Later business it bought. Comenity Bank and Comenity Capital Bank will keep their names.
- EntreBank [opened](#) in Bloomington, Minn., just seven months after filing its application with the FDIC.

- Everett Co-operative Bank in Massachusetts [plans to convert](#) from a mutual to a stock-owned company. ECB Bancorp would raise up to \$120 million from the stock sale.

That's all for this week. Looking forward to some downtime over the next few days. Hope each of you has a terrific weekend!

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