

Happy Monday, Bank Slaters!

I have finally readjusted to life post-vacation and I'm back to sharing news events from the past week. I'm also happy to announce the debut of our new website (www.thebankslate.com). While a work in progress, you can now access all previous content as well as our [past newsletters](#).

Let's talk about the CFPB's plan for overseeing Buy Now, Pay Later platforms.

The bureau, which obtained data from a number of BNPL providers, [recently said](#) it views the product as a "close substitute for credit cards." It expects consumers to receive the same disclosures and protections that they expect from credit cards, and the plan is to supervise along those lines.

I noted in my [latest SRM blog](#) that banks and credit unions should be pleased. Many FIs have been reluctant to dive into the popular consumer offering, largely due to uncertainty over the regulatory environment.

Banks and credit unions, by and large, have the compliance infrastructure to satisfy any CFPB requirements structured to resemble credit card oversight. FIs that offer credit cards seem to be in good shape to add BNPL as another payments tool. The other key consideration is managing credit risk, which I addressed in [previous blog](#).

What do you think? Does the CFPB's statement make you feel better about BNPL? Let me know at info@thebankslate.com.

Let's look at our weekly headlines.

The Big Headline

The Fed and FDIC will seek public comment on possible changes to how large regional banks prepare for potential failure. One option would be to require them to hold certain types of long-term debt. Another scenario would hold them to certain standards currently applied to larger financial institutions.

The Fed and OCC [also approved](#) U.S. Bancorp's pending acquisition of MUFG Union Bank, with the OCC requiring U.S. Bancorp to identify any business lines and portfolios that could be sold quickly "in the event of stress and a plan to effectuate that separability."

M&A

- A [regulatory filing](#) details how Heritage Southeast in Georgia negotiated to sell its bank to a credit union, which fell through, and a subsequent agreement to sell itself to First Bancshares in Mississippi.
- Prosperity Bancshares in Houston agreed to buy Lone Star State Bancshares in Lubbock, Texas, and First Bancshares of Texas in Midland, marking its [first bank deals since 2019](#).
- HomeStreet in Seattle [agreed to buy three branches](#) in California from U.S. Bancorp and MUFG Union Bank. MUFG Bank is selling the branches to get the Justice Department to back its sale to U.S. Bancorp.

Arrivals/Departures

- Columbia Financial in New Jersey [hired Manesh Prabhu as its chief information officer](#). He previously served as chief technology officer at People's United Financial, which recently sold to M&T Bank.
- Capital Bank in Maryland tapped Karl Dicker had become [president of OpenSky and fintech](#). OpenSky is the bank's secured Visa credit card. Dicker was the company's chief operating officer.
- Dover Advisors [launched in August](#) when four investment advisers left Atlantic Union Bankshares in Virginia.
- State Street in Boston hired Yvette Hollingsworth Clark, a former Google executive, to serve as its [global chief compliance officer](#).

(Fin)tech

- Intrafi, which offers cash and liquidity management services to financial institutions, [added Broadway Financial CEO Brian Argrett](#) to its board.
- Bank of New York Mellon [formed a platform](#) to manage digital assets. The digital asset custody platform lets clients hold and transfer bitcoin and ether.

Odds & Ends

- Battle Financial, the holding company for a proposed digital bank in Colorado, [received conditional OCC approval](#). Organizers hope to open the bank early next year.
- Edward Jones in St. Louis scrapped a quest to form an industrial bank. The company [withdrew its applications](#), citing talks with the FDIC and "the current environment."

- Business First Bancshares in Louisiana [plans to raise about \\$46.8 million](#) by selling common stock. The company could use net proceeds for a variety of purposes.

While I enjoyed the time away, it is energizing to be back at it here in the U.S. Stay safe. Find contentment. Have a terrific week everyone!

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