

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. Once the application has been accepted for processing, it will also be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act, including whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company can "reasonably be expected to produce benefits to the public, such as greater convenience, increased competition, or gains in efficiency, that outweigh possible adverse effects, such as undue concentration of resources, decreased or unfair competition, conflicts of interests, or unsound banking practices" (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than February 25, 1997.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of New York (Christopher J. McCurdy, Senior Vice President) 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10045-0001:

1. *Amboy Bancorporation*, Old Bridge, New Jersey; to acquire 9.9 percent of the voting shares of The Community Bank of New Jersey, Freehold, New Jersey (in organization).

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland (R. Chris Moore, Senior Vice President) 1455 East Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44101-2566:

1. *F.N.B. Corporation*, Hermitage, Pennsylvania, and Southwest Banks, Inc., Naples, Florida; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of West

Coast Bancorp, Inc., Cape Coral, Florida, and thereby indirectly acquire First National Bank of Southwest Florida, Cape Coral, Florida.

C. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Lois Berthaume, Vice President) 104 Marietta Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2713:

1. *Regions Financial Corporation*, Birmingham, Alabama; to merge with West Carroll Bancshares, Inc., Oak Grove, Louisiana, and thereby indirectly acquire West Carroll National Bank of Oak Grove, Oak Grove, Louisiana.

D. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (Lloyd W. Bostian, Jr., Senior Vice President) 701 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia 23261-4528:

1. *Peoples Bancorp, Inc.*, Chestertown, Maryland; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Peoples Bank of Kent County, Maryland, Chestertown, Maryland.

E. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (John E. Yorke, Senior Vice President) 925 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64198-0001:

1. *FirstBank Holding Company of Colorado*, Lakewood, Colorado; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of FirstBank of Evergreen, Lakewood, Colorado.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, January 27, 1997.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 97-2339 Filed 1-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

Signet Banking Corporation, Richmond, Virginia; Notice to Engage in Certain Nonbanking Activities

Signet Banking Corporation, Richmond, Virginia (Notificant), has provided notice pursuant to section 4(c)(8) of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 USC 1843(c)(8)) (BHC Act) and § 225.23 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.23) of its intention to acquire 49.99 percent of a limited liability company (tentatively to be titled "SoHo CFO, L.L.C.") (Company), a *de novo* joint venture with United Video Satellite Group, Inc., Tulsa, Oklahoma, and thereby engage in certain data processing and transmission activities pursuant to § 225.25(b)(7) of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.25(b)(7)), management consulting to depository institutions pursuant to § 225.25(b)(11) of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.25(b)(11)), and related incidental activities. Company proposes to conduct these activities nationwide.

Notificant proposes that Company develop and maintain a Web site

("SoHo Web site"), accessible via the Internet, targeted to business owners and managers, with particular emphasis on small office and home office businesses. In this regard, Company would provide an electronic interface or communications gateway through which customers could: (1) obtain information on and access, via the Internet, business banking or financial services offered by Notificant and its banking and nonbanking subsidiaries; (2) obtain information on and access, via the Internet, business banking and financial services provided by other depository institutions; and (3) obtain information on and access Internet sites of selected providers of other financial products or services, including payroll, insurance, retirement planning, and investment and brokerage services, and financial educational information. Company also would advise participating depository institutions on the design and implementation of their Home Pages on the SoHo Web site and electronic commerce initiatives, as well as provide marketing and technical support to these institutions. Customers also would be able to effectuate payments for products and services through Company's system by using credit cards or an "electronic wallet" made available by a third party provider. Company also would engage in various activities which it maintains are incidental to the foregoing, including the provision of information on and access to, via the Internet, nonfinancial business products and services (such as office supply, marketing, and human resources products and services), making available to its customers the Internet access to products and services of third party providers, and offering on-line access to business educational information.

Section 4(c)(8) of the BHC Act provides that a bank holding company may, with Board approval, engage in any activity which the Board, after due notice and opportunity for hearing in the case of an acquisition of a savings association, has determined to be so closely related to banking or managing or controlling banks as to be a proper incident thereto. In publishing the proposal for comment, the Board does not take a position on issues raised by the proposal. Notice of the proposal is published solely to seek the views of interested persons on the issues presented by the application and does not represent a determination by the Board that the proposal meets, or is

likely to meet, the standards of the BHC Act.

Any comments must be submitted in writing and received by William W. Wiles, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C. 20551, not later than February 13, 1997.

This application may be inspected at the offices of the Board of Governors or the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, January 24, 1997.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 97-2284 Filed 1-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or To Acquire Companies That Are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y, (12 CFR Part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.25 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.25) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. Once the notice has been accepted for processing, it will also be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act, including whether consummation of the proposal can "reasonably be expected to produce benefits to the public, such as greater convenience, increased competition, or gains in efficiency, that outweigh possible adverse effects, such as undue concentration of resources, decreased or unfair competition, conflicts of interests, or unsound banking practices" (12 U.S.C. 1843). Any request for a hearing on this question must be accompanied by a statement of the reasons a written presentation would not suffice in lieu of a hearing, identifying specifically any questions of fact that are in dispute, summarizing the evidence that would be presented at a hearing, and indicating how the party

commenting would be aggrieved by approval of the proposal.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than February 13, 1997.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Lois Berthaume, Vice President) 104 Marietta Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2713:

1. *Republic Bancshares, Inc.*, St. Petersburg, Florida; to acquire Firststate Financial, F.A., Orlando, Florida, and thereby engage in operating a savings association, pursuant to § 225.25(b)(9) of the Board's Regulation Y. The proposed activity will be conducted throughout the State of Florida.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, January 24, 1997.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 97-2282 Filed 1-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 a.m. (EST), February 10, 1997.

PLACE: 4th Floor, Conference Room 4506, 1250 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Approval of the minutes of the January 13, 1997, Board member meeting.
2. Thrift Savings Plan activity report by the Executive Director.
3. Review of investment policy.
4. Review of KPMG Peat Marwick audit report: "Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration Review of Thrift Savings Plan C and F Fund Investment Management Operations at Barclays Global Investors, N.A."

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Thomas J. Trabucco, Director, Office of External Affairs, (202) 942-1640.

Dated: January 28, 1997.

Roger W. Mehle,

Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

[FR Doc. 97-2461 Filed 1-28-97; 2:46 pm]

BILLING CODE 6760-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

Advisory Committees; Notice of Meetings

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces forthcoming meetings of public advisory committees of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This notice also summarizes the procedures for the meetings and methods by which interested persons may participate in open public hearings before FDA's advisory committees.

FDA has established an Advisory Committee Information Hotline (the hotline) using a voice-mail telephone system. The hotline provides the public with access to the most current information on FDA advisory committee meetings. The advisory committee hotline, which will disseminate current information and information updates, can be accessed by dialing 1-800-741-8138 or 301-443-0572. Each advisory committee is assigned a 5-digit number. This 5-digit number will appear in each individual notice of meeting. The hotline will enable the public to obtain information about a particular advisory committee by using the committee's 5-digit number. Information in the hotline is preliminary and may change before a meeting is actually held. The hotline will be updated when such changes are made.

MEETINGS: The following advisory committee meetings are announced:

Arthritis Advisory Committee

Date, time, and place. February 4, 1997, 8:30 a.m., and February 5, 1997, 8 a.m., Gaithersburg Hilton, Ballroom, 620 Perry Pkwy., Gaithersburg, MD.

Type of meeting and contact person. Open public hearing, February 4, 1997, 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., unless public participation does not last that long; open committee discussion, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; open public hearing, February 5, 1997, 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., unless public participation does not last that long; open committee discussion, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Kathleen R. Reedy or LaNise S. Giles, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-21), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-443-5455, FAX: 301-443-0699, or FDA Advisory Committee Information Hotline, 1-800-741-8138 (301-443-0572 in the Washington, DC area), Arthritis