

person; and (d) if the other person is an investment company, any investment adviser of that company.

2. Rule 17a-8 under the Act generally exempts from the prohibitions of section 17(a) mergers, consolidations, or purchases or sales of substantially all of the assets of registered investment companies that are affiliated persons, or affiliated persons of an affiliated person, solely by reason of having a common investment adviser, common directors, and/or common officers, provided that certain conditions set forth in the rule are satisfied. Applicants believe that they may not be able to rely on rule 17a-8 in connection with the Reorganization because the Funds may be deemed to be affiliated by reasons other than those set forth in the rule. Applicants state that the Balanced Portfolio of Pathway owns more than 5% of the outstanding voting securities of each of the Funds and did not use mirror or pass-through voting when it voted its Corporate Bond shares in favor of the Reorganization.

3. Section 17(b) of the Act provides, in relevant part, that the Commission may exempt a transaction from the provisions of section 17(a) if the evidence establishes that the terms of the proposed transaction, including the consideration to be paid or received, are reasonable and fair and do not involve overreaching on the part of any person concerned, and that the proposed transaction is consistent with the policy of each registered investment company concerned and with the general purposes of the Act.

4. Applicants request an order under section 17(b) of the Act exempting them from section 17(a) to the extent necessary to consummate the Reorganization. Applicants submit that the Reorganization satisfies the standards of section 17(b) of the Act. Applicants also state that the Board, including the Independent Trustees, determined that the participation of each Fund in the Reorganization is in the best interests of each Fund and its shareholders and that such participation will not dilute the interests of shareholders of each Fund. Applicants further state that the terms of the Reorganization are fair and reasonable and do not involve overreaching. In addition, applicants state that the Reorganization will be based on the Funds' relative net asset values.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-26034 Filed 10-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Announcement of SBA Export Express—a New Pilot Loan Guaranty Program for Exporters

Department of Commerce statistics indicate that small businesses with fewer than 20 employees represent approximately 65 percent of all exporters in the U.S. The SBA recognizes that many of these exporters have financing needs that are too small to be met profitably by traditional lending sources. SBA is mandated under the Small Business Act to increase the access of small businesses to capital for the purpose of fostering international trade. To that end, the Agency has developed a pilot loan guaranty program called SBA Export Express. This pilot will streamline the processing of small export loans by allowing a lender to use its own documents based on its use of established and proven credit review and analysis procedures for loans of similar size and type. SBA Export Express is a sub-program of SBAExpress, conforming to its already established policies and procedures. Its difference from SBAExpress lies in its exclusive focus on existing and potential small business exporters.

To be eligible for this pilot loan guaranty program, an applicant must demonstrate that loan proceeds will enable their company to enter a new export market or expand an existing export market. To fulfill this requirement, a business plan must be submitted to the lender with information provided to establish a reasonable likelihood of expanded export sales. In addition, applicants must have been in operation, though not necessarily in exporting, for at least 12 months.

SBA Export Express proceeds are to be used by small businesses to develop or expand their export markets. SBA Export Express proceeds may be used to finance: standby letters of credit that are used as bid or performance bonds; revolving lines of credit for export purposes; term loans; and other financing to enable small business concerns, including small business export trading companies and export management companies, to develop

foreign markets. Proceeds may also be used for the acquisition, construction, renovation, modernization, improvement or expansion of productive facilities or equipment to be used in the United States in the production of goods or services involved in international trade.

To encourage participating lenders to address more aggressively the needs of small business exporters, SBA's percent of loan guaranty under SBAExpress will be the same as that for the regular 7(a) loans, or currently 75 percent (80 percent if the loan amount is \$100,000 or less). The maximum loan amount eligible for SBA Export Express will be \$150,000.

Recognizing that technical assistance can be crucial to the success of small business exporters, the SBA Export Express program requires a technical assistance component, delivered through the SBA personnel at U.S. Export Assistance Centers (USEACs). This assistance may include training offered by: the Export Trade Assistance Partnership (ETAP) Program; International Trade Centers (located at Small Business Development Centers); Service Corps of Retired Executives; District Export Councils; or the Export Legal Assistance Network (E-LAN).

Participation in the SBA Export Express program will be granted to any lender that has been approved for participation in SBAExpress. SBA Export Express will adopt the abbreviated SBAExpress loan application, which will be submitted to the Agency's centralized processing center in Sacramento. The processing center will determine the borrower's eligibility and issue a SBA loan number.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Kirwin of SBA at 202-205-7261.

Dated: July 17, 2000.

Jeanne Sclater,

Associate Deputy Administrator for Capital Access.

[FR Doc. 00-25992 Filed 10-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request and Comment Request

In compliance with Public Law 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, SSA is providing notice of its information collections that require submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for

the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

I. The information collection listed below will be submitted to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. Therefore, comments and recommendations regarding the information collection would be most useful if received by the Agency within 60 days from the date of this publication. Comments should be directed to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the address listed at the end of this publication. You can obtain a copy of the collection instrument by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965-4145, or by writing to him.

1. Request for Replacement SSA-1099/SSA-1042S Social Security Benefits Statement—0960-0583. The information requested by the Social Security Administration (SSA) via the Internet will be used to verify identity and to provide replacement copies of Form SSA-1099/SSA-1042, which are needed to prepare Federal tax returns. This Internet option to request a replacement SSA-1099/SSA-1042 will eliminate the need for a phone call to a teleservice center or a visit to a field office. The respondents are beneficiaries who request a replacement SSA-1099/1042 via the Internet.

Number of Respondents: 7,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Average Burden: 583 hours.

II. The information collections listed below have been submitted to OMB for clearance. Written comments and recommendations on the information collections would be most useful if received within 30 days from the date of this publication. Comments should be directed to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer and the OMB Desk Officer at the addresses listed at the end of this publication. You can obtain a copy of the OMB clearance packages by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965-4145, or by writing to him.

1. Application of Circuit Court Law—0960-0581. SSA regulations at 20 CFR 404.985 and 416.1485 inform claimants of their right to request that a published Acquiescence Ruling (AR) be applied to a prior determination when we make a determination or decision on a claim between the date of the Circuit Court decision and the date we publish the

AR. The regulations also specify that claimants can request that the AR be applied to a prior determination or decision by submitting a statement that demonstrates how the AR could change the prior determination or decision. SSA will use the information provided in the statement to readjudicate the claim, if the claimant demonstrates the Ruling could change the prior determination. Claimants may use Form SSA-795, Statement of Claimant or Other Person (OMB No. 0960-0045), to request and support application of a published AR to the prior determination or decision. The respondents are claimants whose determinations or decisions on their claims may be affected by an AR.

Number of Respondents: 100,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 17 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 28,333 hours.

2. Statement for Determining Continuing Eligibility, Supplemental Security Income Payment-0960-0145. SSA uses Form SSA-8202-F6 to conduct low- and middle-error-profile (LEP-MEP) telephone or face-to-face interviews with Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients and representative payees. The information collected during the interview is used to determine whether SSI recipients have met and continue to meet all statutory and regulatory requirements for SSI eligibility and whether they have been and are still receiving the correct payment amount. The respondents are recipients of SSI benefits or their representative payees.

Number of Respondents: 920,000

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 17 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 260,667 hours.

(SSA Address)

Social Security Administration,
DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W.
Brickenkamp 1-A-21 Operations
Bldg., 6401 Security Blvd.,
Baltimore, MD 21235

(OMB Address)

Office of Management and Budget,
OIRA, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA,
New Executive Office Building,
Room 10230, 725 17th St.,
NW., Washington, DC 20503

Dated: October 4, 2000.

Frederick W. Brickenkamp,

Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 00-25982 Filed 10-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3440]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Dangerous Curves: The Art of the Guitar"

AGENCY: United States Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 [79 Stat. 985, 22 U.S.C. 2459], the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 [112 Stat. 2681 *et seq.*], Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999 [64 FR 56014], and Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999 [64 FR 57920], as amended by Delegation of Authority No. 236-3 of August 28, 2000 [65 FR 53795], I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibit, "Dangerous Curves: The Art of the Guitar," imported from abroad for the temporary exhibition without profit within the United States, are of cultural significance. These objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with foreign lenders. I also determine that the temporary exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts from on or about November 5, 2000, to on or about February 24, 2001, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of exhibit objects, contact Paul W. Manning, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, 202/619-5997, and the address is Room 700, United States Department of State, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: September 29, 2000.

Helena Kane Finn,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, United States Department of State.

[FR Doc. 00-26090 Filed 10-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-08-P