

matters relating to the Corporation's resolution activities.

In calling the meeting, the Board determined, on motion of Director James E. Gilleran (Director, Office of Thrift Supervision), seconded by Director John D. Hawke, Jr. (Comptroller of the Currency), concurred in by Vice Chairman John M. Reich and Chairman Donald E. Powell, that Corporation business required its consideration of the matters on less than seven days' notice to the public; that no earlier notice of the meeting was practicable; that the public interest did not require consideration of the matters in a meeting open to public observation; and that the matters could be considered in a closed meeting by authority of subsections (c)(4), (c)(6), (c)(8), (c)(9)(A)(ii), and (c)(9)(B) of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4), (c)(6), (c)(8), (c)(9)(A)(ii), and (c)(9)(B)).

The meeting was held in the Board Room of the FDIC Building located at 550—17th Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Dated: September 11, 2003.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Valerie J. Best,

Assistant Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-23666 Filed 9-12-03; 9:14 am]

BILLING CODE 6714-01-M

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Docket No. 03-10]

Puerto Rico Freight Systems, Inc. v. R & S Trading, Inc.; Notice of Filing of Complaint and Assignment

Notice is given that a complaint has been filed by Puerto Rico Freight Systems, Inc. ("Complainant"), against R & S Trading Inc. ("Respondent"). Complainant contends that Respondent violated the agreement filing provisions of section 5, the tariff publication provisions of section 8, and prohibitions against discriminatory behavior under section 10 of the Shipping Act of 1984, 46 U.S.C. app. §§ 1704, 1707, and 1709. Complainant also requests that the Commission reopen Docket No. 95-03, *Puerto Rico Freight Systems, Inc. v. R & S Trading and J.C. Trading* ("Docket No. 95-03") to determine R & S Trading's conduct and liability. Complainant seeks an order finding Respondent to have violated the sections cited above, directing Respondent to cease and desist, and awarding reparations for the unlawful conduct in an amount "in excess of \$25,000, with interest and counsel's fees."

This proceeding has been assigned to the office of Administrative Law Judges.

Hearing in this matter, if any is held, shall commence within the time limitations prescribed in 46 CFR 502.61, and only after consideration has been given by the parties and the presiding officer to the use of alternative forms of dispute resolution. The hearing shall include oral testimony and cross-examination in the discretion of the presiding officer only upon proper showing that there are genuine issues of material fact that cannot be resolved on the basis of sworn statements, affidavits, depositions, or other documents or that the nature of the matter in issue is such that an oral hearing and cross-examination are necessary for the development of an adequate record. Pursuant to the further terms of 46 CFR 502.61, the initial decision of the presiding officer in this proceeding shall be issued by September 7, 2004, and the final decision of the Commission shall be issued by January 5, 2005.

Bryant L. Van Brakle,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-23557 Filed 9-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Docket No. 03-09]

Puerto Rico Freight Systems, Inc. v. PR Logistics Corp.; Notice of Filing of Complaint and Assignment

Notice is given that a complaint has been filed by Puerto Rico Freight Systems, Inc. ("Complainant"), against PR Logistics Corp. ("Respondent"). Complainant contends that Respondent violated the agreement filing provisions of section 5, the tariff publication provisions of section 8, and prohibitions against discriminatory behavior under section 10 of the Shipping Act of 1984, 46 U.S.C. app. §§ 1704, 1707, and 1709. Complainant seeks an order finding Respondent to have violated the sections cited above, directing Respondent to cease and desist, and awarding reparations for the unlawful conduct in an amount "in excess of \$25,000, with interest and counsel's fees."

This proceeding has been assigned to the office of Administrative Law Judges. Hearing in this matter, if any is held, shall commence within the time limitations prescribed in 46 CFR 502.61, and only after consideration has been given by the parties and the presiding officer to the use of alternative forms of dispute resolution. The hearing shall include oral testimony and cross-examination in the discretion of the presiding officer only upon proper

showing that there are genuine issues of material fact that cannot be resolved on the basis of sworn statements, affidavits, depositions, or other documents or that the nature of the matter in issue is such that an oral hearing and cross-examination are necessary for the development of an adequate record. Pursuant to the further terms of 46 CFR 502.61, the initial decision of the presiding officer in this proceeding shall be issued by September 7, 2004, and the final decision of the Commission shall be issued by January 5, 2005.

Bryant L. VanBrakle,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-23558 Filed 9-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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. The application also will 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 (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center website at www.ffiec.gov/nic/.

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 October 10, 2003.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (A. Linwood Gill, III, Vice President) 701 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia 23261-4528:

1. *Fidelity & Trust Financial Corporation*, Chevy Chase, Maryland; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Fidelity & Trust Bank, Bethesda, Maryland (in organization).

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (James Hunter, Assistant Vice President) 925 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64198-0001:

1. *Country Bancshares, Inc.*, Jamesport, Missouri; to acquire up to 14.9 percent of the voting shares of Liberty First Bancshares, Inc., Liberty, Missouri, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Liberty First Bank, Liberty, Missouri.

2. *Liberty First Bancshares, Inc.*, Liberty, Missouri; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Liberty First Bank, Liberty, Missouri.

C. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (W. Arthur Tribble, Vice President) 2200 North Pearl Street, Dallas, Texas 75201-2272:

1. *Sterling Bancshares, Inc.*, Houston, Texas; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of South Texas Capital Group, Inc., San Antonio, Texas, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Plaza Bank, San Antonio, Texas.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, September 10, 2003.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 03-23575 Filed 9-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Request for Nominations for the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Xenotransplantation

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is announcing the renewal of the charter for the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Xenotransplantation (SACX) and is soliciting nominations for qualified individuals to serve on the SACX.

DATES: Nomination packages should be submitted to Dr. Mary Groesch, Office of Biotechnology Activities, Office of Science Policy, National Institutes of

Health, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 750, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7985 by October 16, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Mary Groesch, Office of Biotechnology Activities, Office of Science Policy, National Institutes of Health, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 750, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7985, telephone 301-496-0785, facsimile 301-496-9839, e-mail <groeschm@od.nih.gov>. Information about the SACX can also be accessed at <<http://www4.od.nih.gov/oba/Sacx.htm>>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In the U.S., clinical xenotransplantation is an experimental procedure that involves the transplantation, implantation, or infusion into a human recipient of either (a) live cells, tissues, or organs from a nonhuman animal source; or (b) human body fluids, cells, tissues or organs that have had ex vivo contact with live nonhuman animal cells, tissues, or organs. Interest in xenotransplantation has been renewed by the continuing, critical shortage of donated human organs and tissues and by advances in immunology and in the biology of organ and tissue rejection.

Xenotransplantation holds potential for the development of new treatments for a wide range of conditions and disorders, including diabetes, Parkinson's disease, intractable pain, and other diseases involving tissue destruction and organ failure. However, xenotransplantation also raises an important public health issue—the recognized (but unquantified) risk of transmitting infectious agents from animal tissues to human recipients of xenotransplantation products, and subsequently to their close contacts and the public at large. Public awareness and understanding of xenotransplantation is important because the infectious disease risks posed by xenotransplantation could extend beyond the individual recipients. In addition to this public health issue, xenotransplantation raises an array of complex scientific, medical, ethical, and social issues. The Secretary, DHHS, established the SACX to provide a forum for the discussion of, and public input on, these and other relevant issues. The Committee was initially chartered in 1999 and has convened for five meetings since February, 2001. An abridged charter is included in this notice to provide an overview of the Committee purpose, function, and structure.

Abridged Committee Charter

Purpose. The Department of Health and Human Services has a vital role in safeguarding public health while fostering the development of promising strategies to treat tissue destruction, organ failure and other public health needs. The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Xenotransplantation considers the full range of complex scientific, medical, social, and ethical issues and the public health concerns raised by xenotransplantation, including ongoing and proposed protocols, and makes recommendations to the Secretary on policy and procedures. The recommendations of the Committee will facilitate DHHS efforts to develop an integrated approach to addressing emerging public health issues in xenotransplantation.

Function. The SACX shall advise the Secretary, through the Assistant Secretary for Health, on all aspects of the scientific development and clinical application of xenotransplantation. The Committee's charge includes the following activities:

- Advise the Department on the current state of knowledge regarding xenotransplantation.
- Be informed about current and proposed xenotransplantation clinical trials in order to identify and discuss the medical, scientific, ethical, legal, and/or socioeconomic issues raised by these clinical trials.
- Advise the Department on the potential for transmission of infectious diseases as a consequence of xenotransplantation.
- Advise the Department on policies relevant to xenotransplantation, including the need for changes to the *PHS Guideline on Infectious Disease Issues in Xenotransplantation*.
- Discuss additional scientific, medical, public health, ethical, legal and socioeconomic issues, including international policies and developments, that are relevant to xenotransplantation.

Structure. The Committee shall consist of 18 voting members, including the Chair, appointed by the Secretary or designee. Members shall be selected by the Secretary, or designee, from authorities knowledgeable in such fields as xenotransplantation, epidemiology, virology, microbiology, infectious diseases, molecular biology, veterinary medicine, immunology, transplantation surgery, public health, applicable law, bioethics, social sciences, psychology, patient advocacy, and animal welfare. Members shall be invited to serve for overlapping four year terms; terms of more than two years are contingent