

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 November 15, 2002.

Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
(Susan Zubradt, Assistant Vice President) 925 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64198-0001:

1. *Commerce Bancorp, Inc.*, Duncan, Oklahoma; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Bank of Commerce, Duncan, Oklahoma (in organization).

2. *Community Bankshares, Inc.*, Greenwood Village, Colorado; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Community Banks of Tracy, Tracy, California (formerly known as Tracy Federal Bank, FSB).

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, October 17, 2002.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 02-26897 Filed 10-22-02; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) 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. The notice also will 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. 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 the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than November 6, 2002.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
(Phillip Jackson, Applications Officer)
230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690-1414:

1. *Midwest Banc Holdings, Inc.*, Melrose Park, Illinois; to acquire Big Foot Financial Corporation, Long Grove, Illinois, and thereby indirectly acquire Fairfield Savings Bank, F.S.B., Long Grove, Illinois, and thereby engage in operating a savings association, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(4)(ii) of Regulation Y. Comments on this application must be received no later than November 15, 2002.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
(Randall C. Sumner, Vice President) 411 Locust Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63166-2034:

1. *Signature Bancshares, Inc.*, Springfield, Missouri; to engage *de novo* through Signature Investment Services, LLC, Springfield, Missouri, in securities brokerage activities, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(7) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, October 17, 2002.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Establishment of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society

ACTION: Notice of establishment.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has determined that the

establishment of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the duties of the Secretary, HHS, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society is established to: (1) Provide a forum for expert discussion and deliberation and the formulation of advice and recommendations on the range of complex and sensitive medical, ethical, legal and social issues raised by new technological developments in human genetics; (2) assist the Department of Health and Human Services and, at their request, other Federal agencies in exploring issues raised by the development and application of genetic technologies; and, (3) make recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services concerning how such issues should be addressed.

The function of the committee is to explore, analyze, and deliberate on the broad range of human health and societal issues raised by the development and use, as well as potential misuse, of genetic technologies and make recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary), and other entities as appropriate. The scope of the Committee's charge includes assessing how genetic technologies are being integrated into health care and public health; studying the clinical, ethical, legal and societal implications of new medical applications, such as preimplantation genetic diagnosis, and emerging technological approaches to clinical testing, identifying opportunities and gaps in research and data collection efforts; exploring the use of genetics in bioterrorism; examining current patent policy and licensing practices for their impact on access to genetic technologies; analyzing uses of genetic information in education, employment, insurance, including health, disability, long-term care, and life, and law, including family, immigration, and forensics; and serving as a public forum for discussion of emerging scientific, ethical, legal and social issues raised by genetic technologies.

The Committee shall consist of a core of 13 members, including the Chair. Members and the Chair shall be selected by the Secretary, or designee, from authorities knowledgeable about molecular biology, human genetics, health care, public health, bioterrorism, ethics, forensics, law, psychology, social sciences, education, occupational