

requirements to aggregate one or more counterparties even if one or more factors indicating economic interdependence or control relationships are met, subject to certain conditions, including that such relief be in the public interest and consistent with the purpose of the rule.¹⁴ The SCCL rule also permits a covered company or covered foreign entity that is not in compliance with the requirements of the rule to request a special temporary credit exposure limit exemption from the Board to permit continued credit transactions with that counterparty, based upon a finding that those transactions are necessary or appropriate to preserve the safety and soundness of the covered company or U.S. financial stability.¹⁵

Legal authorization and confidentiality: Section 165(e) of the Dodd-Frank Act (12 U.S.C. 5365(e)) and section 5(c)(1) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1844(c)(1)) authorize the Board to require these BHCs, FBOs, and U.S. IHCs to file a reporting form such as the proposed FR 2590 with the Board. The proposed FR 2590 would be mandatory for U.S. BHCs with total consolidated assets that equal or exceed \$250 billion, FBOs with U.S. banking operations and total consolidated assets that equal or exceed \$250 billion, and U.S. IHCs of such FBOs with at least \$50 billion in total consolidated assets.

The data collected on this proposed form includes financial information that is not normally disclosed by the respondent organizations, the release of which would likely cause substantial harm to the competitive position of the respondent organization if made publicly available. Therefore, the data collected on this form would be kept confidential under exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act, which protects from disclosure trade secrets and commercial or financial information (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4)).

Regarding notices associated with requests for temporary relief from specific requirements of the SCCL rule, a firm that wishes information in these notices to be kept confidential in accordance with exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4)) may request confidential treatment under the Board's rules regarding confidential treatment of information at 12 CFR 261.15. The Board's Legal Division will be asked to

¹⁴ See §§ 252.76(b)(3), 252.76(c)(2), 252.176(b)(3), and 252.176(c)(2) of the SCCL rule.

¹⁵ See § 252.78(c)(2) and 252.178(c)(2) of the SCCL rule.

review the confidentiality status of such notices.

By order of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, July 24, 2018.

Yao-Chin Chao,

Assistant Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2018-16132 Filed 8-3-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisitions of Shares of a Bank or Bank Holding Company

The notificants listed below have applied under the Change in Bank Control Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)) and § 225.41 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.41) to acquire shares of a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the notices are set forth in paragraph 7 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(7)).

The notices are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notices also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing to the Reserve Bank indicated for that notice or to the offices of the Board of Governors. Comments must be received not later than August 20, 2018.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (Dennis Denney, Assistant Vice President) 1 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64198-0001:

1. *Ernest E. (Gene) Dillard, Sheila A. Dillard, and Aaron D. Dillard, all of Tulsa Oklahoma, and Sarah E. Dillard, Dallas, Texas;* to acquire voting shares of First Pryor Bancorp, Inc., Pryor, Oklahoma, and thereby be approved as members of the Dillard family group, which owns voting shares of First Pryor Bancorp, Inc. and thereby indirectly owns First Priority Bank, Pryor, Oklahoma, and Locust Grove Banshares, Inc., Locust Grove, Oklahoma, which owns Lakeside Bank of Salina, Salina, Oklahoma, and Bank of Locust Grove, Locust Grove, Oklahoma.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, July 31, 2018.

Yao-Chin Chao,

Assistant Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2018-16701 Filed 8-3-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 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 applications 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 (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 August 31, 2018.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (Robert L. Triplett III, Senior Vice President) 2200 North Pearl Street, Dallas, Texas 75201-2272:

1. *Steele Holdings, Inc., Tyler, Texas;* to merge with Joaquin Bankshares, Inc., Huntington, Texas, and thereby indirectly acquire Texas State Bank, Joaquin, Texas.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, August 1, 2018.

Yao-Chin Chao,

Assistant Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2018-16753 Filed 8-3-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Savings and Loan Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Home Owners' Loan Act

(12 U.S.C. 1461 *et seq.*) (HOLA), Regulation LL (12 CFR part 238), and Regulation MM (12 CFR part 239), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a savings and loan holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a savings association and nonbanking companies owned by the savings and loan 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 HOLA (12 U.S.C. 1467a(e)). 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 10(c)(4)(B) of the HOLA (12 U.S.C. 1467a(c)(4)(B)). 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 August 28, 2018.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Mark A. Rauzi, Vice President), 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. *MidCountry Acquisition Corp., Minneapolis, Minnesota*; to become a savings and loan holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of MidCountry Bank, Bloomington, Minnesota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, July 31, 2018.

Yao-Chin Chao,

Assistant Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2018-16702 Filed 8-3-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Hearings on Competition and Consumer Protection in the 21st Century

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice of hearings and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission seeks comment in connection with a forthcoming series of public hearings in the fall and winter

2018 to examine whether broad-based changes in the economy, evolving business practices, new technologies, or international developments might require adjustments to competition and consumer protection law, enforcement priorities, and policy. These hearings will cover a range of issues listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. The Commission seeks the views of consumers, business representatives, economists, lawyers, academics, information technology professionals, and other interested parties. Commenters are invited to address one or more of the following topics generally, or with respect to a specific industry.

DATES: The hearings will begin in September 2018 and are expected to continue through January 2019, and will consist of 15 to 20 public sessions. The sessions will be held in various locations throughout Washington, DC and in other parts of the country. For this stage of the public comment process, comments will be accepted on or before August 20, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may file a comment online or on paper, by following the instructions in the Public Comments portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. Comments should refer to “Competition and Consumer Protection in the 21st Century Hearings, Project Number P181201.” If an interested party wishes to comment on multiple topics, we encourage filing a separate comment for each topic. If an interested party wishes to make general comments about the hearings, we encourage filing a comment in response to Topic 1, using this link: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FTC-2018-0048>. For this stage of the public comment process, comments will be accepted until August 20, 2018. If you prefer to file a comment in hard copy, write “Competition and Consumer Protection in the 21st Century Hearing, Project Number P181201,” on your comment and on the envelope and mail your comment to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite CC-5610 (Annex C), Washington, DC 20580, or deliver your comment to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, Constitution Center, 400 7th Street SW, 5th Floor, Suite 5610 (Annex C), Washington, DC 20024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Derek Moore, *Office of Policy Planning*, 202-326-3367, or John Dubiansky, *Office of Policy Planning*, 202-326-2182 or email us at CCPhearings@ftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The mission of the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC” or “Commission”) is to promote competition and to protect consumers from unfair and deceptive practices. In support of pursuing a vigorous law enforcement agenda, the FTC engages in substantial research to stay informed of market developments, shape its policy agenda, and identify opportunities to develop the law consistent with its enforcement authority. Beginning in September 2018, the FTC will hold a series of multi-day, multi-part public hearings (“hearings”) to consider whether broad-based changes in the economy, evolving business practices, new technologies, or international developments might require adjustments to competition and consumer protection law, enforcement priorities, and policy. The hearings pay tribute to, and are modeled after, the FTC’s 1995 Global Competition and Innovation Hearings under the leadership of then-Chairman Robert Pitofsky. Chairman Pitofsky’s hearings “were the first major step in establishing the FTC as a key modern center for . . . ‘competition policy research and development’” and “sought to ‘articulate recommendations that would effectively ensure the competitiveness of U.S. markets without imposing unnecessary costs on private parties or governmental processes.’”¹ They “re-energized one of the FTC’s most valuable functions—to gather leaders in business, economics, law, and related disciplines to discuss tough, emerging problems and prepare public reports on the facts, issues, governing law, and the need, as appropriate, for change.”² Subsequent to the hearings, the Commission released two staff reports “*Anticipating the 21st Century*” on competition and consumer protection policy, respectively.³ This new series of hearings honors Chairman Pitofsky’s legacy, and complements and enhances the agency’s robust enforcement program.

“The progress of the Federal Trade Commission in its modern era has built

¹ Timothy J. Muris, *More Than Law Enforcement: The FTC’s Many Tools—A Conversation with Tim Muris and Bob Pitofsky*, 72 *Antitrust L.J.* 772, 773 (2005).

² *Id.* at 774.

³ Fed. Trade Comm’n Staff, *Anticipating the 21st Century: Competition Policy in the New High-Tech, Global Marketplace* (1996), https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/reports/anticipating-21st-century-competition-policy-new-high-tech-global-marketplace/gc_v1.pdf; Fed. Trade Comm’n Staff, *Anticipating the 21st Century: Consumer Protection Policy in the New High-Tech, Global Marketplace* (1996), https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/reports/anticipating-21st-century-competition-policy-new-high-tech-global-marketplace/gc_v2.pdf.