**OCC (Office of the Comptroller of the Currency)**

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) is a federal agency responsible for chartering, regulating, and supervising national banks and federal savings associations, as well as the federally licensed branches and agencies of foreign banks in the United States.

**Structure and Powers**

**Establishment:** The OCC was established in 1863 through the National Currency Act to oversee the execution of laws related to national banks.

**Jurisdiction:** The OCC regulates and supervises about 1,200 national banks, federally-licensed savings associations, and federally-licensed branches of foreign banks in the United States, accounting for more than two-thirds of the total assets of all U.S. commercial banks.

**Leadership:** The Comptroller of the Currency, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, leads the OCC.

**Powers:** The OCC has significant powers, including the authority to approve or deny applications for new charters, branches, capital, and other changes in the banking structure. It can also take supervisory actions against banks for noncompliance with laws and regulations, remove officers and directors, negotiate agreements to change a bank's practices, impose monetary penalties, and issue cease and desist orders.

**Functions and Responsibilities**

**Bank Supervision:** The OCC ensures that national banks and federal savings associations operate in a safe and sound manner, provide fair access to financial services, and comply with applicable laws and regulations.

**Examinations:** The OCC conducts on-site reviews of national banks and federal savings associations to assess their loan and investment portfolios, funds management, capital, earnings, liquidity, and sensitivity to market risk. Examiners also evaluate internal controls and compliance with regulations and laws.

**Interagency Cooperation:** The OCC participates in interagency activities to maintain the integrity of the federal banking system and interacts with other government agencies, including the Federal Reserve, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and National Credit Union Administration.

**Funding and Operations**

**Funding:** The OCC is not funded by Congress. Instead, it relies on fees paid by national banks and federal savings associations for examinations and processing of their corporate applications. The agency also generates revenue from its investment income, primarily from U.S. Treasury securities.

**Headquarters:** The OCC is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and operates through four district offices, field and satellite offices nationwide, and an examining office in London.

**History and Evolution**

**Creation:** The OCC was created by the National Currency Act of 1863 to fund the American Civil War and later transformed into a regulatory agency to instill confidence in the federal banking system.

**Evolution:** The OCC has played significant roles in major financial crises, including the financial crisis of 2007–08, and has undergone changes in its responsibilities and powers over time, such as the abolition of the Office of Thrift Supervision and the merger of its oversight functions into the OCC.

**Current Status**

**Acting Comptroller:** The acting Comptroller of the Currency is Michael J. Hsu, who took office on May 10, 2021.

**Employee Count:** As of June 30, 2023, the OCC had 3,509 employees.

**Budget:** The OCC had a budget authority of $1.194 billion for FY 2023.

**Key Statistics**

**Employee Distribution:** 63.8% of OCC employees are bank examiners, with 56.4% assigned to midsize and community bank supervision, 31.0% to large bank supervision, and 12.6% to other lines of business.

**Locations:** The OCC has offices in 51 cities nationwide.

**Budget Allocation:** 95% of the OCC's revenue comes from assessments on banks.

**Inference:**

**OCC Jurisdiction:** Regulates and supervises national banks, federally-licensed savings associations, and federally-licensed branches of foreign banks in the United States.

**Visitorial Powers:** Has the right to examine and regulate national banks, but not to enforce state laws that apply equally to banks and non-banks.

**Preemption of State Laws:** Has the authority to preempt state laws that apply to national banks, but states can still enforce their own laws.

**OCC Powers:** Approves or denies applications for new charters, branches, capital, and other changes in the banking structure.

**Interagency Cooperation:** Participates in interagency activities to maintain the integrity of the federal banking system.

**Funding and Leadership:** Not funded by Congress, relies on fees from national banks and federal savings associations, and led by the Comptroller of the Currency.