

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau  
1700 G Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20552



March 26, 2020

## Briefing memorandum for the Director

Taskforce on Federal Consumer Financial Law Monthly Check-in

<b>DATE</b>	Thursday, March 26, 2020
<b>TIME</b>	10:30 am – 11:00 am
<b>LOCATION</b>	Conference Line: 203-607-9826 Leader code: <span>Redacted</span> Participant code: <span>Redacted</span>
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	Matt Cameron, Taskforce Staff Director Todd Zywicki, Taskforce Chair Kirsten Sutton, Chief of Staff Leonard Chanin, Acting Deputy Director
<b>STAFF CONTACT</b>	Matt Cameron, Taskforce Staff Director, x <span>Redacted</span>
<b>POLICY ASSOCIATE</b> <b>DIRECTOR APPROVAL</b>	Andrew Duke, Policy Associate Director, EA & CEE, x <span>Redacted</span>

## Objective

The primary objective of this meeting is to provide you with a status update related to the Taskforce on Federal Consumer Financial Law's (Taskforce) work.

## Background

The Taskforce will (1) examine the existing legal and regulatory environment facing consumers and financial services providers; and (2) report its recommendations for ways to improve and strengthen consumer financial laws and regulations, including recommendations for resolving

conflicting requirements or inconsistencies, reducing unwarranted regulatory burdens in light of market or technological developments, improving consumer understanding of markets and products, and identifying gaps in knowledge that should be addressed through future Bureau research.

Pursuant to the Taskforce Roles and Responsibilities document, the Staff Director and Taskforce Chair will hold a monthly check-in with the Director to provide status updates on its work. The Staff Director will utilize the attached milestone schedule in tab 1 to discuss accomplishments to date, work currently in-progress, planned work, and risks that the team is working to mitigate. The Taskforce Chair will use the attached Chapter Outline in tab 2 to discuss the evolution of the report's contents since the first monthly check-in when initial thoughts on the report's scope was shared. The Chair will also share requests for resource support as well as any support needed in addressing dissent.

This is the second monthly check-in with the Staff Director and Taskforce Chair. The last interaction with all the Taskforce Members was briefly before the March 12, 2020 Listening Session with trade and consumer advocacy organizations (notes from the Listening Session are provided in tab 3). Additionally, by the time of this check in, the Taskforce's Request for Information (RFI) should be out to the public. Below is a brief update that the Staff Director and Chair will expound upon during the monthly check-in.

### **Support Staff**

- Interviewing and onboarding staff continues to be the team's current top priority as work generated by the Taskforce is picking up exponentially.
- Since the last monthly check-in the team has:
  - onboarded one attorney-advisor;
  - hired a second attorney-advisor on a one-year term appointment;
  - extended an offer to an internal candidate for the Paralegal position; and
  - made progress with an external candidate for the Special Advisor position.

### **External Engagement**

- Jean Noonan, a member of the Taskforce took the lead on developing a Request for Information (RFI). The RFI was submitted to the Front Office on March 19, 2020 and should be open for public comment from March 24 through May 20, 2020.

- On March 12, 2020, the Taskforce worked with partners in External Affairs (EA) to host a listening session with Bureau stakeholders to seek input on their work ahead. The listening session was closed press, off the record, not for attribution in social media, and open to invitees only. Future engagements with the Advisory Committees will be open to the public and are scheduled for June 18, 2020.
- Deliberations are ongoing as to whether individual meetings with key stakeholders would add value to the report's recommendations. The group has an action item to provide you a list of stakeholders we would recommend interviewing, that list will be available next check-in.
- The Taskforce will engage with partners in External Affairs (EA) to begin conceptualizing intergovernmental engagements. The current recommendation is to arrange for meeting with National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) and Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) to discuss strategies for improving interactions between Federal and state regulators. Likewise, the Taskforce intends to develop a strategy for engaging with the other Prudential Regulators to seek input to the report, and then to provide an advance readout on the report prior to it being released publicly. The goal for these engagements is mid- to late-summer.

### **Internal Bureau Meetings**

- The Taskforce was onsite March 10-13, 2020 and had a productive set of meeting with teams around the Bureau, including Financial Education, Markets, Innovation, and Fair Lending. During the March meetings the Taskforce also finalized their request for information, adding an entire section based on the feedback provided during the March 12<sup>th</sup> Listening Session. The team also used the scope deliberations, which you reviewed during the February monthly check-in, to develop an in-depth outline of Volume I of the final report. All Taskforce members have been assigned different chapters according to their expertise.
- The Taskforce plans to complete its initial round of discovery sessions with Bureau offices when they are onsite which are scheduled April 27-29. The team is already making contingency plans if these meetings need to be postponed or moved to conference lines due to COVID-19.

## Attachments

Tab 1: Taskforce Milestone Schedule Draft.

Tab 2: Draft Taskforce Chapter Outline.

Tab 3: March 12 Listening Session Notes.

Tab 4: Taskforce Key Points Document.