

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



April 30, 2020

Briefing memorandum for the Director

Taskforce on Federal Consumer Financial Law Monthly Check-in

DATE	Thursday, April 30, 2020
TIME	2:00 pm – 2:30 pm
LOCATION	Dial-in
PARTICIPANTS	Matt Cameron, Taskforce Staff Director Todd Zywicki, Taskforce Chair Kirsten Sutton, Chief of Staff Leonard Chanin, Acting Deputy Director
STAFF CONTACT	Matt Cameron, Taskforce Staff Director, x [Redacted]
POLICY ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR APPROVAL	Andrew Duke, Policy Associate Director, CEEA, x [Redacted]

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.

Timing Considerations

The Taskforce governance documents state that the Director or her designee will hold monthly check-in meetings with the Taskforce Chair and the Staff Director, but there are no specific deadlines or other timing considerations to consider for this meeting.

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 and its progress. The Chair will also share requests for resource support, any support needed in addressing dissent, or scope clarification questions that may require executive input.

This is the third monthly check-in with the Staff Director and Taskforce Chair. Your last interaction with all the Taskforce Members was briefly before the March 10, 2020 Listening Session with trade and consumer advocacy organizations (which was also the last week all Bureau staff was onsite at headquarters). Below is a brief update that the Staff Director and Chair will expound upon during the monthly check-in.

Support Staff

- During the previous two check-ins, we stated that staffing up was the team's top priority. We are pleased to report significant progress in this area and that staffing is nearly complete.
- Director Financial Analyst: Alex Nongrad, began supporting the Taskforce on April 2, 2020.
- Paralegal: Jeff Magliato, an examiner in the Northeast Region, accepted a one-year detail as a paralegal with the Taskforce. His first day with the Taskforce was April 27, 2020.

- Senior Counsel: Ashlie Tarpley, an attorney formerly in the private sector has accepted a 16-month, temporary position with the Bureau. Her first day with the Taskforce will be May 11, 2020.
- Senior Advisor: Department of Transportation approved a detail for Ross Rutledge to join the Taskforce on Consumer Financial Protection. The team is hopeful to have a Memorandum of Understanding completed soon, and anticipate Ross joining the team by mid- to late-May.
- After these hiring actions, the Taskforce support team can be considered fully staffed.

Internal Bureau & External Engagements

- Jean Noonan, a member of the Taskforce, took the lead on developing a Request for Information (RFI). The Bureau issued the RFI on March 27, 2020. It has a 60-day comment period, which is scheduled to close on June 1, 2020. The Bureau has received two requests to extend the comment period: a joint request from four consumer advocacy groups, and one from an industry member. In addition, the CFPB Ombudsman noted in an email to the Staff Director that its prior report discussed the constraints stakeholders had faced in responding to the Bureau's Call for Evidence requests for information, and it stated that those constraints may be especially relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus far, we have not recommended extending the comment period, and we have advised those who requested an extension that there will be other opportunities to inform the group's work. To ensure that the Taskforce's work is informed by past public input as well, Jean has begun reviewing all summaries and comments from the Call for Evidence RFIs and Taskforce staff will begin reviewing publicly available material on stakeholder websites.
- The Taskforce was scheduled to host a public event during Consumer Financial-Wellness week, the week of June 15. The group was also going to engage with the Bureau's advisory committees that same week. We are working with Bureau staff to reschedule the Taskforce public hearing. The Taskforce listening session with the advisory committees will occur when the committees meet the first week of September 2020.
- In addition to the public hearing and listening session with the committees, the Taskforce plans to engage in a round of robust individual meetings scheduled with key individuals across the spectrum of academia, consumer advocacy groups, industry or

trade groups, and other notable stakeholders. A proposed list of candidates is still under development and will be shared with you once ready.

- Additionally, the Taskforce plans to engage with partners in the Division of Consumer Education and External Affairs (CEEAA) 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. The goal is to hold these engagements in mid- to late-summer.
- Though plans for the Taskforce to meet April 27-29 were cancelled, the team did complete its final round of discovery sessions with Bureau offices via a series of virtual meetings on April 28. At this point interactions with Bureau offices will be targeted and support the analytical research for volume one of the report.

Report Progress

- The Taskforce members will generate a two-volume report, which will be informed by the public, meeting with Bureau experts, and leveraging members' past insights and expertise.
- For the first volume of the report, members will analyze data regarding the benefits and costs of consumer financial products and services and review the existing consumer financial regulatory framework to develop a common understanding of the history and current state of federal consumer financial laws and their influence on the marketplace.
 - Volume one will have approximately twelve chapters and is on schedule to have first drafts completed by June 19, 2020.
- For the second volume of the report, members will use insights gained from the development of volume one to collaboratively author an unanimously agreed upon set of recommendations by January 31, 2021. The full report is on schedule to enter clearance on November 24, 2020. We are developing a clearance process for the report.

Attachments

Tab 1: Taskforce Milestone Schedule Draft.

Tab 2: Draft Taskforce Chapter Outline.

Tab 3: Taskforce Key Points Document.