

★ ★ ★ **LOOKING** ★ ★ ★
FORWARD
TO **JUNE!**

★ ★ ★ **STRONGER** ★ ★ ★
Together

NDBA/SDBA ANNUAL CONVENTION

JUNE 15-17, 2026

★
BISMARCK, ND



Dakota School of Banking

MAY 31-JUNE 5, 2026

◆
**UNIVERSITY OF JAMESTOWN
JAMESTOWN, ND**

Q1 2026 State Bank Performance Report Available to NDBA Members



Bank Performance Report

Q1 results are in – is your bank on track for a strong year?

Find out with the Q1 2026 Bank Performance Report (BPR). BPR offers benchmarking data and performance insights for every bank in your state – so you can quickly assess where you stand and where to focus next.

Subscribe today to evaluate your bank's early-year performance, identify emerging trends, and uncover opportunities to strengthen your position in the months ahead.

For more information, including a sample report (PDF & Excel) and to see our Top 10 Banks by state, visit www.BPR.services.

Please contact BPR directly with any questions.

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Upcoming NDBA Events

MAY 2026						
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JUNE 2026						
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June 2026

- May 31- **Dakota School of Banking** - University of Jamestown, Jamestown ND
- Jun 5 **University of Jamestown, Jamestown ND**
- 15-17 **NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention** - Bismarck ND

July 2026

- 19-31 **Graduate School of Banking at Colorado**
- 26-Aug 6 **Graduate School of Banking** - Madison WI

August 2026

- 18-20 **Virtual Fraud Academy**

AUGUST 2026						
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September 2026

- 14-17 **Regional Member Meetings** - 4 Locations!
- 21-25 **GSB Financial Managers School**

October 2026

- 1-2 **Ag Credit Conference** - Hilton Garden Inn, Fargo
- 6-7 **Security Seminar** - Bismarck & Fargo
- 12-16 **GSB Bank Cybersecurity School**
- 13 **Fraud Forum** - Bismarck
- 14 **Peer Group Consortium** - Bismarck
- 26-27 **IRA Seminar** - Courtyard by Marriott, Bismarck
- 28-29 **IRA Seminar** - Holiday Inn, Fargo
- 30 **HSA Workshop** - Holiday Inn, Fargo

NOVEMBER 2026						
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JANUARY 2027						
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Mission Statement

Extraordinary Leadership for North Dakota Banks



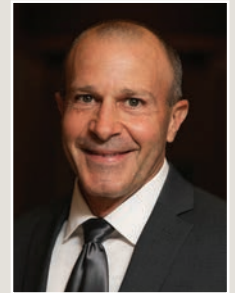
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BANKING ARTICLES



Senate Banking Committee Advances Clarity Act

The Senate Banking Committee voted 15-9 to advance a market structure bill for digital assets, with two committee Democrats joining Republicans to pass the bill.

The Clarity Act would create a regulatory framework for cryptocurrencies and other digital assets. While the bill has drawn bipartisan support, several committee Democrats objected to a decision by Chairman Tim Scott (R-N.C.) to declare several proposed amendments not in order. Also, bankers have urged senators to use the Clarity Act to close a loophole that allows digital asset service providers like exchanges to bypass the Genius Act's ban on paying interest or yield on payment stablecoins.

In his opening remarks, Scott said the bill was the product of several months of good-faith negotiations between Republicans, Democrats and various stakeholders.

"This legislation does not take sides between traditional finance and new technology, or Republicans and Democrats," he said. "It takes the side of everyday Americans. It brings digital assets out of the shadows and into a system that is safer, fairer and more transparent."

Sens. Angela Alsobrooks (D-Ma.) and Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) broke with their Democratic colleagues to vote to advance the bill. Alsobrooks also led a bipartisan effort along with Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) to craft compromise language for the legislation that included several significant improvements over an earlier version of the Act regarding closing the stablecoin interest loophole.

OCC Finalizes Rules of State Interest-On-Escrow Laws

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency has finalized two rules to clarify that national banks are exempt from state laws regulating real estate escrow accounts. Both rules were first proposed late last year.

The first rule codifies longstanding powers of national banks and federal savings associations to establish or maintain real estate lending escrow accounts and to exercise flexibility in making business

judgments as to the terms and conditions of such accounts, including whether to offer any compensation paid to customers or to assess any related fees.

The second states that federal law preempts state laws that eliminate national banks' and federal savings associations' flexibility to decide whether and to what extent to pay interest or other compensation on funds placed in real estate escrow accounts or assess fees in connection with such accounts.

New York, California and at least 12 other states and territories have enacted interest-on-escrow laws in recent years. In a statement, the OCC said its actions "emphasize federal preemption as a critical tool for reducing unnecessary burden, enabling local and national prosperity, and unleashing economic growth."

The finalized rules come roughly a week after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit concluded for a second time that New York's law was preempted by federal law. The U.S. Supreme Court previously vacated the appeals court's first decision on the matter and sent it back, directing the justices to conduct a "nuanced comparative analysis."

To view the 1st rule, visit: <https://www.occ.gov/news-issuances/bulletins/2026/bulletin-2026-20.html>

To view the 2nd rule, visit: <https://www.occ.gov/news-issuances/bulletins/2026/bulletin-2026-21.html>

FDIC Updates Signage Rules Q&A to Reflect Recent Changes

The FDIC has updated the Q&As for its signage and advertising requirements to reflect recent revisions to the regulation.

The FDIC in 2024 adopted new signage requirements that were originally scheduled to take effect in March of this year. Last year, the agency's new leadership proposed further amendments and pushed back the compliance date to Jan. 1, 2027. The updates were finalized in January, and the compliance date was pushed back again, to April 1, 2027.

The Q&As provide answers to a collection of questions from stakeholders, including insured depository institutions, trade associations, technology companies, vendors and other entities, and are intended to promote transparency and support implementation efforts, the FDIC said.

Read More: <https://www.fdic.gov/deposit-insurance/questions-and-answers-related-fdics-part-328-final-rule>

House Passes Farm Bill

The House voted 224-200 in favor of its version of the Farm Bill, sending the legislation to the Senate.

The last Farm Bill was passed in 2018, with Congress twice extending the legislation past its five-year duration. The law sets national agriculture, nutrition, conservation and forestry policy, and serves as an important safety net for farmers and ranchers.

The Senate will seek numerous changes to the bill, kicking off possibly months of negotiations between the two chambers. The ABA has created a Q&A regarding Farm Bill negotiations.

Read More: <https://bankingjournal.aba.com/2026/03/upcoming-farm-bill-negotiations-what-should-ag-lenders-expect/>

FDIC Releases Study of the 2023 Bank Failures

The FDIC has released a detailed analysis of the 2023 spring bank failures, finding that depositors with “substantial” uninsured funds were far more likely to run during the stress than insured retail depositors.

The analysis of the Silicon Valley Bank, Signature Bank and First Republic Bank failures provides “a day-by-day look at depositor behavior” around the time of each closure, according to the FDIC. Uninsured deposits comprised nearly three-quarters of deposits at SB and FRB, and 94% of deposits at SVB. Also, all three banks had large concentrations of deposits among a relatively small number of depositors.

The report found that fully insured retail deposits, which were held by the vast majority of depositors at each bank, were far less likely to run. It also found that the largest depositors at all three banks were significantly more likely to leave during the stress compared to other uninsured depositors.

In a statement, FDIC Chairman Travis Hill said that he has long held that regulators need a more sophisticated understanding of deposit behavior.

“This study provides a highly detailed account of deposit flows during the fastest bank runs in U.S. history and deepens our understanding of run dynamics in today’s banking environment,” he said.

Read More: <https://bankingjournal.aba.com/2026/05/fdic-releases-study-of-2023-bank-failures/>

FHLB Mission Programs Generated \$47B In Economic Impact

Federal Home Loan Bank mission programs generated an estimated \$47.1 billion in economic impact between 2015 and 2024, although that figure could be as high as \$94.8 billion, according to a new report by the Urban Institute.

Researchers at the nonprofit organization studied FHLB targeted mission activities that support affordable housing and community development – the Affordable Housing Program, the Community Investment Program, the Community Investment Cash Advance program, the Acquired Member Asset program, and voluntary initiatives. In recent years, FHLB contributions to these programs have increased as a percentage of the FHLB’s net earnings, they said.

The researchers estimated that targeted mission activities generated an economic impact ranging from \$16.5 billion to \$94.8 billion under conservative and high-end scenarios. They settled on an estimated \$47.1 billion in economic impact using base-case assumptions.

“Although these FHLBank contributions cannot single-handedly solve the affordable housing shortage, they represent a meaningful contribution to the broader affordable housing finance ecosystem,” they said.

Read More: https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/Final_The_Value_of_the_FHLBank_Systems_Housing_and_Community_Mission-Oriented_Programs_0.pdf

Senate Confirms Warsh as Fed Chairman

The Senate voted 54-45 to confirm Kevin Warsh as the next chairman of the Federal Reserve. The Senate had earlier confirmed his appointment to the Fed board.

Warsh was nominated by President Trump earlier this year to succeed Jerome Powell as Fed chairman. Powell’s term as chairman ended May 15th.

Earlier in his career, Warsh worked in the mergers and acquisitions department at Morgan Stanley before joining the administration of President George W. Bush, where he was special assistant to the president for economic policy and executive secretary at the National Economic Council. Bush nominated Warsh to serve on the Fed board in 2006. During his term, he served as the Fed’s representative to the G20 and as an emissary to the emerging and advanced economies in Asia.

FS-ISAC Releases Advisory on Hardening Cybersecurity From AI

The Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center has published a sector risk advisory with recommendations on managing cybersecurity and resilience risks stemming from bad actors using artificial intelligence to find vulnerabilities in an organization’s cyber defenses.

The advisory comes amid worries that new AI models will be able to rapidly detect and exploit cybersecurity vulnerabilities that had

previously gone unnoticed. “Traditional assumptions and approaches for vulnerability management no longer hold,” according to the advisory.

The advisory has nine recommendations for organizations, including “aggressively” remedying known risks and taking steps to start hardening their cybersecurity perimeters.

Read More: <https://www.fsisac.com/knowledge/sector-risk-advisory-preparing-the-enterprise-for-ai-enabled-vulnerability-discovery>

House Passes Bills to Streamline Community Bank Reg Burden

The House has two bills focused on streamlining community bank regulation. Both passed by voice votes.

The TRUST Act (H.R. 4478), introduced by Reps. Tim Moore (R-N.C.) and Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.), would raise the asset threshold from \$3 billion to \$6 billion for well-capitalized and well-managed depository institutions to receive less frequent federal banking exams. The SMART Act (H.R. 4437), introduced by Reps. William Timmons (R-S.C.) and Bill Foster (D-Ill.), would tailor regulatory burdens on well-capitalized and well-managed depository institutions with less than \$6 billion in assets through alternating limited scope exams and combining exams as appropriate.

FinCEN Updates CDD Rule FAQs to Account for Beneficial Ownership Reporting Changes

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network has updated and reissued its FAQs regarding bank customer due diligence requirements to account for a recent order that eased beneficial ownership reporting requirements. The revised FAQs also consolidate three sets of previously issued FAQs into one document.

FinCEN in February issued an exemptive relief order that narrowed the circumstances under which covered financial institutions must collect beneficial ownership information. The order is meant to support a more efficient, risk-based approach to customer due diligence and to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden, according to the agency.

Read More: <https://www.fincen.gov/resources/statutes-and-regulations/cdd-rule-faqs>

Public Trust in Banks Vs. Crypto Remains High

Consumer trust in banks remains significantly higher than in cryptocurrencies, according to the results of a recent survey commissioned by CoinDesk.

When asked if they trusted banks or crypto more when it came to financial inclusion, 65% of respondents said banks, while only 5% said crypto. A little more than half (52%) agreed that cryptocurrency

is more than a passing fad, while 60% think crypto will have mostly a negative effect on the economy, according to the survey.

The survey polled 1,000 randomly selected U.S. voters and, according to CoinDesk, was “meant to get a snapshot of public sentiment as crypto and artificial intelligence issues wind their way through Congress, federal regulators and the political campaigns” prior to this year’s midterm elections.

About one in four people said they have invested in crypto (27%), with most of them entering the market at least a few years ago. Only 2% say they have more than \$10,000 in digital assets.

The survey reported that more than half (53%) of respondents had a less favorable impression of the industry based on recent news coverage. Those who like it focused on the sector’s opportunity for profitability, while those who distrust it were focused on crypto-related fraud and scams.

About 46% of said they don’t have anything to do with crypto and don’t want to, and 27% haven’t yet invested but said they might be open to it, according to the survey. The negative views were most likely to be held by people older than 45, with a sharp rise as respondents got older. Males, Republicans and minority groups share the most consistent approval of crypto, according to CoinDesk.

Read More: <https://www.coindesk.com/policy/2026/05/03/americans-still-prefer-banks-over-crypto-for-financial-access-coindesk-s-survey-shows>

Farm Banks Continue Deep Rural Roots, Strong Role in Ag Financing

Farm banks accounted for more than one-third of all farm lending nationwide while maintaining solid capital, profitability and employment levels in 2025, according to the 2025 Farm Bank Performance Report from the ABA.

Banks held nearly \$212 billion in farm loans at the end of 2025, representing 35.7% of total agricultural credit outstanding in the United States, according to the report. The nation’s 1,372 farm banks – defined by ABA as banks whose ratio of domestic farm loans to total domestic loans is equal to or greater than the industry average – accounted for \$122 billion of that total (57% of all bank farm loans) and remained a major source of credit for small and micro farms. The median farm bank was 115 years old in 2025.

Banks held more than 1 million small farm loans totaling \$71 billion, including over 630,000 micro farm loans worth more than \$14 billion. Tier 1 capital at farm banks increased 7.9%, or \$4.4 billion, reaching \$59.7 billion in 2025. According to the report, 98.2% of farm banks were profitable in 2025, with 73.1% reporting higher earnings than the prior year.

Credit quality weakened modestly in 2025 after several years of historically low delinquency rates, though noncurrent agricultural loans remained low by historical standards, study results showed.

Farm banks added 2,037 jobs in 2025 and employed more than 76,000 rural America, marking a 23.6% increase in employment since 2015.

Read More: <https://www.aba.com/news-research/analysis-guides/2025-farm-bank-performance-report>

CFPB Finalizes Streamlined Small-Business Lending Data Rule

The CFPB has finalized revisions to its small-business lending data rule to scale back the scope of data collection, according to a notice in the Federal Register.

The CFPB released a final rule in 2023 to implement Section 1071 of the Dodd-Frank Act, which requires financial institutions to report data on small-business lending. Several lawsuits followed, including one brought by the Texas Bankers Association and ABA, which resulted in a stay of the mandatory compliance dates for members of the associations pending the outcome of the case.

Last year, the CFPB proposed a new streamlined rule in response to legal challenges. The finalized rule to be published on May 8, 2026, adopts “a narrower scope to ensure its quality and to limit, as much as possible, any disturbance of the provision and availability of credit to small businesses,” according to the notice. “The statutory purposes of the rule are not well served by an expansive rule that could create disruptions in small business lending markets.”

Among the changes, the final rule:

- Raises the origination threshold for which institutions are covered from 100 to 1,000 credit transactions for each of two consecutive years.
- Removes the following discretionary data points added by the 2023 final rule: Application recipient and method, denial reasons, pricing information and number of workers.
- Excludes merchant cash advances, agricultural lending and small-dollar loans from the definition of covered credit transaction.
- Excludes Farm Credit System lenders from coverage.
- Decreases the gross annual revenue threshold in the rule’s definition of a small business from \$5 million or less to \$1 million or less.
- Extends the rule’s compliance date provisions to Jan. 1, 2028, for all covered financial institutions.

Read More: <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2026-08494.pdf>

FCC Proposes Overhaul of Voice Service Provider Regulations to Fight Illegal Calls

The Federal Communications Commission has unanimously voted to move forward with proposed rulemaking to impose stronger “know your customer” requirements on voice service providers that originate calls. In addition, the FCC plans to soon take up a related proposal to remove voice service providers from U.S. networks when they enable illegal robocalls.

The ABA has called on the FCC to require voice service providers to take specific actions to verify the identity of callers in order to shore up the existing call authentication framework – commonly known as the ‘STIR/SHAKEN’ framework – to better protect consumers against fraud. The proposed rule seeks comment on requiring providers to obtain certain information from their customers (i.e., callers) before the customer is allowed to make calls on the provider’s network. In addition, the FCC proposed to assess penalties for violations of the KYC rule on a per-call basis to best correlate penalties to the volume of illegal calls made.

The FCC also plans to vote on a related proposal at its May meeting to improve its “know your upstream provider” and STIR/SHAKEN requirements by requiring all providers in the call’s pathway to take steps to prevent illegal calls from transiting the network. Citing data ABA provided demonstrating criminals are able to obtain “A-level” or “B-level” attestation – the highest levels of attestation available – for a fraudulent call, the FCC proposes steps to ensure attestations are only provided to legal calls. It would also close STIR/SHAKEN implementation loopholes.

Read More: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-420711A1.pdf>

OCC Issues Two Interim Final Actions Related to Illinois Interchange Legislation

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency has announced an interim final rule and interim final order related to preemption of the Illinois Interchange Fee Prohibition Act.

The interim final rule confirms the longstanding powers under federal law for national banks to charge certain fees, regardless of whether those fees are set by the bank or a third party. The preexisting powers under federal law have recently come into question relative to the IFPA, which will become effective on July 1.

The IFPA bans banks, payment networks and other entities from charging or receiving interchange fees in Illinois on the portion of a debit or credit card transaction attributable to tax or gratuity. The American Bankers Association and other groups have challenged the IFPA in federal court. However, earlier this year, a district court judge upheld most of the law, striking down only the portion pertaining to data sharing.

According to the OCC, IFPA would create “a complex, potentially unworkable and destabilizing standard for national banks, federal savings associations, and the nation’s payment card systems,” adding that the “effects could be exacerbated to the extent other states impose similarly unworkable or conflicting standards.”

The OCC’s interim final order confirms that federal law preempts the IFPA, expressly providing that national banks and federal thrifts are neither subject to nor required to comply with this state law. The agency said its actions will help prevent “the imminent negative effects” of the Illinois law’s application to OCC-regulated banks.



“They do not affect and are not in conflict with the applicability of any other federal laws that do or may in the future apply to banks regarding payment card activities,” the agency said. “Indeed, by appropriately applying preemption to the IFPA, it affirms the ability of the federal government, including Congress, to set consistent standards governing payment card activities of national banks and federal savings associations, including as to interchange fees.”

To view the orders, visit:

<https://www.occ.gov/news-issuances/bulletins/2026/bulletin-2026-18.html>

<https://www.occ.gov/news-issuances/bulletins/2026/bulletin-2026-17.html>

Social Security Asks Banks to Encourage Clients to Open Online Accounts

The Social Security Administration has released a new resource to help banks inform their customers about online “my Social Security” accounts.

The online portal was created more than a decade ago to provide self-service options to recipients. The accounts allow individuals to review their earnings history and report missing or incorrect earnings to Social Security, and access spousal and survivor benefit estimates, according to the SSA. Account creation also supports fraud prevention and identity protection.

The new resource urges financial institutions to encourage customers to create accounts, to include account reminders in client interactions, and to share Social Security materials with customers and advisors.

Read More: <https://www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/assets/materials/enhancing-financial-wellness.pdf>

Agencies Finalize Changes to Community Bank Leverage Ratio

Federal banking agencies have finalized interagency rulemaking to expand the eligibility criteria for the community bank leverage ratio, adopting changes first proposed last year without further revisions.

The finalized rule lowers the CBLR requirement from 9% to 8%, which will expand the number of community banks that can opt into the framework, according to the agencies. It also expands the time banks can remain in the CBLR framework without meeting the qualifying criteria, from two quarters to four quarters.

The FDIC, Federal Reserve and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency proposed revising the CBLR framework last year to encourage more community banks to use it. The changes will take effect on July 1.

Read More: <https://www.fdic.gov/news/press-releases/2026/agencies-finalize-changes-community-bank-leverage-ratio>

FHLBs Propose Allowing Letters of Credit for Discount Window Advances

Federal Home Loan Bank members should be allowed to use short-term FHLB letters of credit to secure advances through the Federal Reserve’s discount window, the Council of FHLBs suggested in a recent letter to Federal Housing Finance Agency Director Bill Pulte.

The April 10 letter offered several suggestions for fulfilling President Trump’s executive order on promoting access to mortgage credit. Among them was using FHLB letters of credit to reduce the time and “operational frictions” arising from a financial institution needing to shift its primary source of secured funding from an FHLB to a Fed bank.

“Under this structure, the FHLBank letter of credit would be fully secured by collateral already pledged by the member to the FHLBank, but the Federal Reserve Bank would obtain an irrevocable repayment obligation from the issuing FHLBank, enabling the member to borrow promptly at the discount window while the underlying collateral transfer processes are being prepared, if necessary,” the council said.

“This tool is designed to serve as a bridge mechanism during periods of stress, including weekends and off-hours, when timing and valuation challenges are most acute,” it explained.

Read More: <https://fhlbanks.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/CFHLB-Letter-to-Pulte-re-March-2026-EO-20260410.pdf>

CFPB Finalizes Rule to Revise Fair Lending Enforcement

The CFPB is issuing a final rule to remove disparate impact from enforcement of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, clarify the prohibition on discouraging prospective applicants, and establish new limits on special-purpose credit programs offered by lenders.

The ECOA prohibits creditors from discriminating against applicants on the basis of race, sex and other factors. President Trump last year issued an executive order directing federal agencies to “deprioritize enforcement” of statutes and regulations that include disparate-impact liability. The CFPB proposed a new rule to do that and make other changes to ECOA enforcement, with the final rule unchanged from the proposal, according to a notice in the Federal Register.

The final rule revises the prohibition on discouragement cases where the lender knows or should know that its statements would discourage a prospective applicant. It also clarifies that encouraging statements in marketing made to one group are not discouraging to other groups who were not included in the marketing effort.

As for special-purpose credit programs, the bureau will prohibit for-profit lenders from using race, sex or national origin as criteria for qualification. It will also place several new restrictions on the use of any common characteristics for determining eligibility.

“Among these new restrictions are additional requirements that a



for-profit organization establish the fact that applicants with common characteristics that would otherwise be a prohibited basis would not receive credit under the organization's current standards due to the common characteristic and that providing credit of the type and amount sought could not be accomplished through a program that does not use an otherwise prohibited basis as eligibility criteria," according to the rule.

Read More: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/04/22/2026-07804/equal-credit-opportunity-act-regulation-b>

Appeals Court Rules New York Interest-On-Escrow Law Preempted by Federal Law

A federal appeals court has ruled that New York State's interest-on-escrow law is preempted by the National Bank Act, with the decision coming after the U.S. Supreme Court directed the lower court to reconsider an earlier decision on the case.

New York, California and at least 10 other states have enacted interest-on-escrow laws in recent years. In *Cantero v. Bank of America*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit previously concluded that New York's law was preempted by federal law. However, the Supreme Court vacated the decision and directed the lower court to conduct a "nuanced comparative analysis."

In a 2-1 decision, the appellate court said it did just that and again determined that the New York law was preempted. First, New York's interest-on-escrow requirement affects a national banking power: the power to offer mortgages, the majority concluded. Second, it targets banks and limits their broad power to set the terms of mortgage-escrow accounts, so it is similar in nature to other preempted laws. Finally, its degree of interference on banks' ability to make real-estate loans efficiently is similarly severe to the interference created by a separate law on advertising that the courts have previously determined was preempted.

Federal regulators may soon weigh in on the issue. Late last year, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency issued a proposed rule to reassert preemption of federal law over state escrow law in the case of national banks and federal savings associations. The OCC also released a second, related proposal to codify the longstanding powers of national banks and federal savings associations to establish or maintain the terms and conditions for real estate lending escrow accounts.

SEC Proposes Changes to Reporting Frequency by Public Companies

The Securities and Exchange Commission has proposed rule and form amendments that would give public companies the option of filing semiannual reports instead of quarterly reports to meet their interim

reporting obligations under federal securities laws.

Public companies, subject to Exchange Act Section 13(a) or 15(d), are currently required to file quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. The proposal, if adopted, companies could elect to file semiannual reports on new Form 10-S instead of quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. Firms that elect to file semiannual reports would file one semiannual report and one annual report for each fiscal year rather than three quarterly reports and one annual report.

According to the SEC, the proposed amendments would provide "flexibility" and "enable public companies to choose the interim reporting frequency that would best serve the company and its investors."

Under the proposal, the filing deadline for semiannual reports on Form 10-S would be 40 or 45 days, depending on the company's filer status, after the end of the first semiannual period of the fiscal year. The proposal also would amend Regulation S-X, which governs the financial statement requirements for periodic reports, registration statements, and proxy statements, to reflect the new semiannual reporting option and simplify the existing financial statement requirements.

The proposal will be published on SEC.gov and in the Federal Register, and a public comment period will remain open until 60 days after publication.

Read More: <https://www.sec.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2026-42-sec-proposes-amendments-permit-optional-semiannual-reporting-public-companies>

Bankers Remain Uncertain About Offering BNPL Products

Most bankers either do not have a strong opinion on offering buy now, pay later products or don't see their value, although most banks that already offer BNPL see it as a revenue generator, according to a new survey by American Banker.

The survey found that only about a third of bankers (32%) agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "BNPL is good for banks as a whole." Nearly half (46%) didn't have an opinion on the subject, while the remainder either disagreed or strongly disagreed. Respondents from national banks or midsize/regional banks were more likely to view BNPL in a favorable light than respondents from community banks and credit unions.

Institutions that offer BNPL products cited "generates revenue" and "helps us stay competitive" as the top benefits, according to American Banker. Other top-cited benefits include using BNPL to enable cross-sell of other products and services, helping to build relationships with merchants, and facilitating embedded finance with partnership ecosystems. Roughly two in three bankers (66%) said BNPL was delivering value to their institutions.

Treasury Begins Review of CDFIs for Alleged Violations

The Treasury Department has announced it has begun a review of certified community development financial institutions to identify potential legal violations or violations of CDFI requirements.

Trump administration officials have accused Treasury's CDFI Fund of pursuing a "woke" agenda by supporting race-based lending and "immigration, gender and climate radicalism." The White House has called for slashing funding for the program and redirecting the remaining funds to rural communities, but the CDFI Fund has bipartisan support in Congress. This announcement is to ensure CDFIs that receive federal assistance "act as proper stewards of taxpayer funds," according to a Treasury statement.

"CDFIs that engage in predatory practices and take advantage of the very communities they are intended to serve will be reviewed and, where appropriate, held accountable," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said. "We remain committed to enforcing the law and protecting taxpayer resources while supporting the mission of responsible CDFIs."

Treasury Hosts Community Bank Leaders for Financial Literacy Roundtable

As part of Financial Literacy Month, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent hosted 14 community bankers, including Christie Huber Obenauer, Union State Bank of Hazen, from across the country to learn more about financial education efforts in the U.S.

Held at the Treasury Department, Secretary Bessent called the roundtable a "listening session" designed to allow Treasury officials to hear firsthand about successful financial literacy initiatives at banks. He said the discussion will help inform Treasury's ongoing work to update the National Strategy on Financial Literacy. Participants also highlighted the ABA Foundation's long-standing leadership in financial education, including programs such as Teach Children to Save, Get Smart About Credit, and Safe Banking for Seniors, which together have reached millions of consumers through banker-led lessons nationwide.



"In my own life experiences, as an economic historian, and now as the 79th Treasury secretary it is my firm belief financial literacy is what fuels the American Dream," Bessent said to kick off Financial Literacy Month in early April. Understanding how to make informed financial decisions unlocks opportunity for every American and their families." In the discussion, Bessent underscored the critical role community bankers play as the lifeblood of their communities, noting that their close relationships and on-the-ground experience with their customers and communities make them indispensable partners in expanding financial capability across the country.

"We deeply appreciate Secretary Bessent and the Treasury Department's invitation to share our perspective on the critical role banks of all sizes are playing in improving financial literacy in the country," said ABA Foundation Executive Director Lindsay Torrico, a roundtable participant. "The bankers in the room provided great examples of successful financial education initiatives that will inform the Treasury's National Strategy."

"It was an important conversation. It reaffirms what banks like ours are doing every single day in the community," said Thomas Fraser, president and CEO, First Mutual Holding Co. in Lakewood, Ohio. "I took away some powerful stories, things we can go back and implement in our communities more broadly."

Agencies Ease Federal Restrictions on State-Regulated Marijuana Products

The Department of Justice and Drug Enforcement Administration have announced they have reclassified marijuana and marijuana products regulated by state medical licenses as Schedule III drugs, which will expand their availability for medical purposes.

State-licensed marijuana is reclassified from Schedule I to Schedule III of the Controlled Substances Act by the order, which also initiates a new process to consider rescheduling marijuana more broadly. Officials in 2024 previously proposed reclassifying marijuana so it is no longer a strictly controlled Schedule I drug but instead a Schedule III drug, which has fewer restrictions. Examples of Schedule III drugs are testosterone and Tylenol with codeine. President Trump last year issued an executive order directing the attorney general's office to expedite the rescheduling of marijuana.

In a statement, the DOJ said the new order "recognizes the longstanding regulation of medical marijuana by state governments and the need for a common-sense approach to this reality."

The rescheduling only applies to marijuana products regulated by states. The DOJ and DEA will hold a hearing on June 29 to consider reclassifying marijuana more broadly as a Schedule III drug.

Read More: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-places-fda-approved-marijuana-products-and-products-containing-marijuana>

Weak Fundamentals Primary Cause of Bank Failures

A recent study of more than 150 years of U.S. bank data has concluded that weak fundamentals are the primary driver of bank failures, and that strong banks usually survive runs.

The new paper by Federal Reserve and MIT economists sought to understand what factors led to bank failures. In a New York Fed Liberty Street Economics blog post, the authors said they explored previous research on the issue and examined more than 5,000 bank failures, ultimately concluding that weak fundamentals were the primary culprit.

“Failing banks consistently exhibit declining income and capitalization, rising asset losses, and growing reliance on expensive funding in the years before failure,” they said. “A common precursor

to failure is rapid asset growth, usually from aggressive lending. These patterns hold for bank failures with and without runs. They also hold across institutional regimes with and without deposit insurance or a public lender of last resort.”

Bank runs were more likely to occur at ailing institutions, but strong banks have experienced them as well, the authors said. However, strong banks can deploy several mechanisms to survive runs, such as interbank lending.

“The long-run evidence on bank failures points in one direction: Bank failures usually begin with bad assets, weak earnings and deteriorating solvency. Runs can accelerate failure and worsen the damage, but by the time depositors head for the exit, the deeper problem is usually baked into bank balance sheets,” they said.

Read More: <https://libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2026/04/bank-failures-the-roles-of-solvency-and-liquidity/>



NDBA Ag Committee Meets in Bismarck

NDBA's Agriculture Committee recently gathered at the NDBA offices to discuss the current agricultural landscape across North Dakota, key state and federal legislative issues impacting rural communities, and plans for the upcoming Agriculture Credit Conference, taking place October 1–2 in Fargo. The conversation highlighted the continued importance of strong partnerships and forward-thinking leadership in supporting North Dakota agriculture and community banking.

Pictured left to right:

Kayla Palmer, Union State Bank; Dorothy Lick, NDBA; Natasha Basol, First State Bank; Matt Evenson, BankNorth; Jim Leier, BND; Dustin Nagel, Dakota Heritage Bank; Andy Gilje, Rolette State Bank; Brian Dukart, Dacotah Bank; Jon Leadbetter, Choice Bank; Julie Byron, First United Bank; Rory Timm, Unison Bank; Victoria Ripplinger, BND; Chad Priewe, First Western Bank; Dianne Pierce, Dakota Western Bank; Josh Elder, The Union Bank; Kody Harper, Bravera Bank; Simon Anderson, Bank Forward; James Reiner, Starion Bank; and Rick Clayburgh, NDBA.



From the CORNER CHAIR

Bernie Sinner | NDBA CHAIR | BankNorth, Casselton



May is a season of milestones across North Dakota. Communities gather to celebrate graduations, homes are cleaned and prepared for family and friends, and there is a sense of anticipation in the air as the next chapter begins. For many graduates, that chapter will take them beyond the places they have always called home. While that can be both exciting and uncertain, it is also an opportunity. As we send them off, we hope they carry with them a strong sense of who they are, where they come from, and the values that shaped them. In many ways, they become ambassadors of home wherever their journey takes them.

That season of transition offers a moment of reflection for all of us as well. Many of us can think back to our own graduation day and the path that followed. For me, I think back to a few conversations with my high school principal, Mr. Drew. He had earned a reputation as the guy whose office you never wanted to be called into, but he also had a remarkable gift for catching students doing the right thing and letting them know he noticed. A compliment or word of encouragement from him carried a lot of weight. I recall one interaction when he called me aside to have a word with me. As a 16-year-old kid, I naturally assumed I was in trouble for something. Instead, he wanted to thank me for going above and beyond in helping with an upcoming school-wide event. Moments like that have a way of making you think differently about yourself and what your future might look like.

Who were the people who influenced your decisions? What experiences shaped your direction? What did you see in someone else that inspired you to pursue a career in banking? And just as importantly, what is your “why,” and is it still relevant today?

As we think about the next generation entering the workforce, it is worth considering the example we set. Community banking is a career built on relationships, purpose, and service. The more we share our stories, mentor emerging leaders, and invest in those around us, the more we strengthen the future of our industry. The next generation is watching, and the impact we make today will shape how they see the opportunities ahead.

This time of year also brings strong momentum for the Association. Several key opportunities are right around the corner:

NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention - The 2026 NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention in Bismarck is quickly approaching. Early Bird pricing ends Friday, May 22. This is always one of the most valuable opportunities of the year to connect, learn, and engage with fellow bankers across the region.

Ongoing Education - Throughout the coming months, NDBA will continue to offer a variety of programs and events designed to support bankers at every level. A few programs worth highlighting include the Kentucky Bankers Association’s Fraud Academy in August and the NDBA IRA/HSA Seminars in October. These opportunities are an important part of how we invest in our people and strengthen our industry.

As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded of the strength of this Association and the people who make it what it is. We have seen strong engagement, meaningful collaboration, and a shared commitment to supporting our customers and communities. As we look ahead, I am confident that this momentum will continue under the leadership of those stepping into new roles and responsibilities.

As we celebrate this season of transition and growth, I encourage you to take time to reflect on your own journey, invest in those coming behind you, and stay engaged in the work that continues to move our Association forward. Much like the graduates we celebrate this month, our Association continues to grow, evolve, and prepare for the opportunities ahead.

Warm regards,

Bernie Sinner

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

TODD STEINWAND

APRIL 1, 1960 - MAY 11, 2026



36 YEARS

SERVING HIS COMMUNITY
IN BANKING



SERVICE AND GENEROSITY

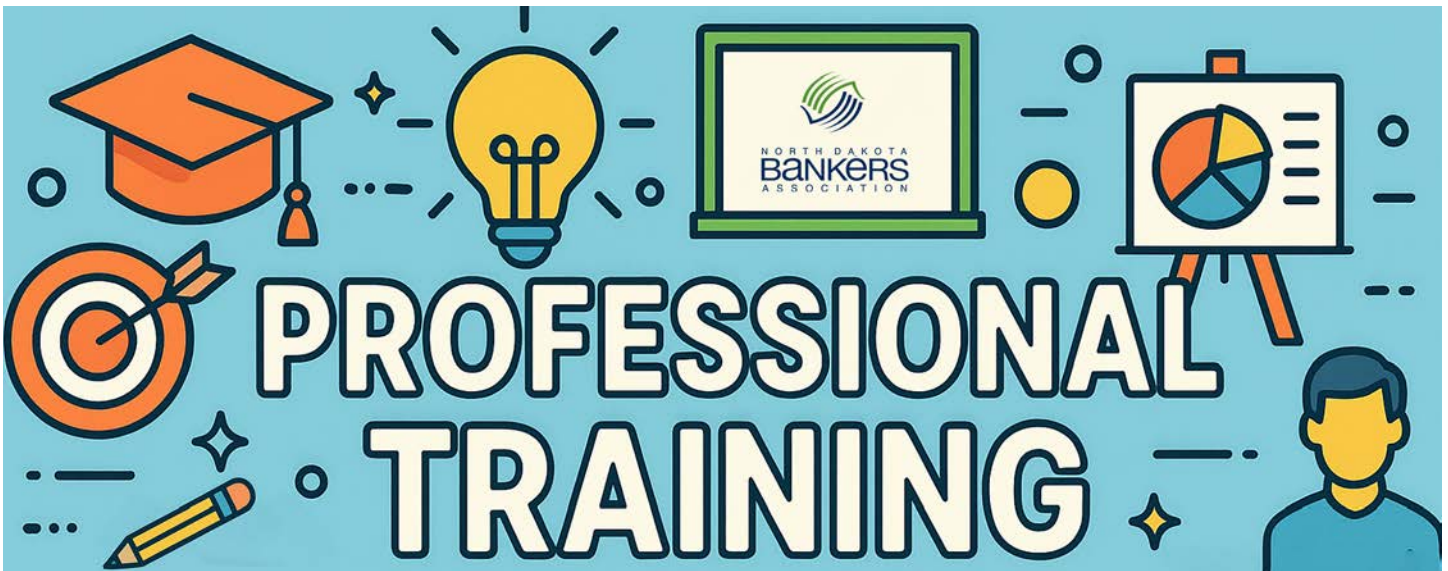
TODD LED SELFLESSLY THROUGH
VOLUNTEERING AND SERVING ON
NUMEROUS BOARDS AND
COMMITTEES



PAST CHAIR

NORTH DAKOTA BANKERS
ASSOCIATION

*Todd's leadership, dedication
and legacy will continue to inspire.*



Education Events

For more information regarding these educational opportunities, visit www.ndba.com or contact Dorothy Lick, SVP of Education, North Dakota Bankers Association, 701.223.5303.

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
Dakota School of Banking	May 31-June 5	University of Jamestown	Attendees are generally first-or mid-level managers seeking advancement in their banks and careers. However, others who would benefit from exposure to the banking industry and increased familiarity with the individual components that make up a bank are also encouraged to attend.
NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention	June 15-17	Bismarck	Presidents, CEOs, senior management staff, lenders, marketing team members and sales managers.
Regional Member Meetings	September 14-17	Grand Forks, Fargo, Washburn, Minot	All NDBA Members!
Ag Credit Conference	October 1-2	Hilton Garden Inn, Fargo	Both entry-level and experienced ag lenders will gain valuable information.
Bank Security Seminar	October 6 October 7	Holiday Inn Bismarck Holiday Inn Fargo	Security officers/ directors, operations managers, auditors, HR directors, legal staff, loan officers, disaster recovery managers, collection staff and fraud investigators.
NDBA Peer Group Consortium	October 12 October 13	Welcome Party - TBD Consortium - Bismarck	Those involved in individual peer groups are encouraged to attend.
IRA Essentials	October 26 October 28	Courtyard, Bismarck Holiday Inn, Fargo	IRA Essentials gives attendees a solid foundation of IRA knowledge. This is a beginner's session; no previous IRA knowledge is assumed.
Advanced IRAs	October 27 October 29	Courtyard, Bismarck Holiday Inn, Fargo	This is an advanced session; previous IRA knowledge is assumed.
HSA Workshop	October 30	Holiday Inn, Fargo	This is a beginner's session; no previous HSA knowledge is assumed.



OnCourse Learning Webinars

EVENT	DATE
Loan Modifications What Are the Compliance Issues	5/26/2026
Motivate Your Team from Good to Great	5/26/2026
Understanding the Role of the Notary Public	5/27/2026
Call Report for Beginners Part 4	5/27/2026
20 Types of Legal Ownership Plus CIP CDD and Beneficial Ownership	5/28/2026
Compliance for Commercial Lenders	5/28/2026
The Call Report Just Fell on Your Lap Now What	5/29/2026
Flood Insurance Compliance All Day Streaming	6/2/2026
Business Plans that Get Results	6/2/2026
Excel Explained Creating Interactive Spreadsheets	6/3/2026
Call Report for Beginners Part 5	6/3/2026
Consumer Lending Compliance 101	6/3/2026
TALKS Checks A to Z	6/4/2026
Advanced CECL Scenario Construction	6/4/2026
Call Report Common Exam Issues	6/4/2026
Opening Accounts Training Program 3 Part Series	6/5/2026

EVENT	DATE
Compliance Management Essentials	6/8/2026
Bi Monthly Compliance Briefing June	6/9/2026
The Conversational Playbook Feedback and Accountability Without the Awkwardness	6/9/2026
OFAC in Focus Elevating Your Program Beyond the Basics	6/9/2026
Understanding and Using the Medallion Signature Guarantee	6/10/2026
You've Been Served Best Practices in Processing Subpoenas	6/10/2026
Red Flags for Money Laundering and Fraud for Staff	6/11/2026
Commercial Lending Training Program Part 1	6/11/2026
Commercial Lending Training Program	6/11/2026
Coach for Results Motivate Delegate Empower and Develop People to Self Start	6/12/2026
Internal Controls over Financial Reporting Part 1	6/15/2026

NDBA offers convenient bank training and access to timely topics through a variety of webinars.

For more information, [click here](#).



2026 NDBA Peer Group Meeting Schedule

All Virtual via TEAMS (unless otherwise noted)



Audit

Facilitator: Jayson Goyne – Bravera Bank
• April 13 | 10:00 am



Chief Credit Officer (CCO)

Facilitator: Steve Larson – Gate City Bank
• March 3 | 2:00 pm
• May 12 | 2:00 pm
• August 11 | 2:00 pm
• November 18 | 2:00 pm



Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Facilitators: Shane Husar – BankNorth
• April 21 | 10:00 am
• September 29 | 10:00 am



Collateral Valuation

Facilitator: TBD
• TBD



Communications & Marketing

Facilitators: Karly Schefter – First Western Bank & Trust
Kristin Jaeger – Cornerstone Bank
• April 23 | 10:00 am



Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)

Facilitator: Kristin Kupfer – Starion Bank
• March 31 | 10:00 am
• June 23 | 10:00 am



Compliance

Facilitators: Lynne Michels – Stock Growers Bank
Lisa Steinolfson - Koda Bank
• April 23 | 10:00 am



Credit Analyst

Facilitators: Victoria Ripplinger – Bank of North Dakota
Tara Copp – United Valley Bank
• March 3 | 10:00 am
• June 10 | 10:00 am



Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)

Facilitator: Jeremy Skoglund – Western State Bank
• April 16 | 2:00 pm



Fraud

Facilitators: Kim Lazur – Alerus
Jacob Rued – First Western Bank & Trust
Heidi Schumacher – Border Bank
• February 10 | 9:30 am
• May 21 | 2:00 pm
• August 18 | 9:30 am



Front Line Operations

Facilitators: Olivia Wheeler – Bank Forward
Jenni Rime – TruCommunity Bank
Melissa Liebenow – BankNorth
• April 15 | 10:00 am
• June 24 | 10:00 am



Human Resources (HR)

Facilitators: Natalie Murch – BankNorth
Amy Otterson – Bank Forward
• April 15 | Postponed (next meeting TBD)



Information Technology (IT)

Facilitators: Allen Huber – BankNorth
Jona Ziemann – Western State Bank
• April 2 | 10:00 am



NDBA Fraud Forum

October 13 | 1:00 - 4:30 pm
Bismarck - Location TBD



2026 NDBA Peer Group Consortium

- **Welcome Reception:** October 13 | 5:30-7:30 pm
Location TBD
- **Consortium:** October 14 | 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
National Energy Center of Excellence – Bismarck



[More Information](#)

Schedule of Events

STRONGER Together

2026 ND_{BA}/SD_{BA} Annual Convention
June 15-17, 2026 ★ Radisson Hotel, Bismarck ND

★ MONDAY, JUNE 15

Welcome to Bismarck Party at ND Gateway to Science Center
6:00–8:00 p.m. | 1600 Canary Ave, Bismarck



★ TUESDAY, JUNE 16

Hosted Downtown Breakfasts
7:30–9:30 a.m. | Anima Cucina, Brick Oven Bakery and By the Batch

Enjoy a sponsor-hosted breakfast at your leisure at one of three downtown restaurants. All restaurants located within two blocks of the Radisson Hotel.

"Together We Play" BankPac Golf Tournament
11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. | Hawktree Golf Club

11:00 Shotgun Start. 18-hole, handicapped, four-person scramble. Mulligans benefiting BankPac will be sold. **Pre-registration required.**

Hawktree Golf Course

3400 Burnt Creek Loop
Bismarck ND | 701.232.2824

Transportation on your own. Please arrive by 10:45 a.m. Team assignments available at course.



"Together We Throw" Cornhole Tournament

11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. | Send-It! - 1700 E Main St, Mandan ND

Enjoy an afternoon of friendly competition at Send-It in Mandan. Whether you're a seasoned player or simply along for the fun, attendees can expect great conversation, lighthearted rivalry, and plenty of laughs. Lunch is included and prizes will be awarded.

Transportation on your own. Pre-registration required.



"Together We Grow" Planter Pot Workshop

11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. | Plant Perfect - 4615 Ottawa St, Bismarck

Discover the art of creating eye-catching outdoor planters during this hands-on workshop at Plant Perfect in north Bismarck. Attendees will learn how to combine thrillers, fillers, and spillers to design beautiful container arrangements full of color, texture, and dimension.

Transportation on your own. Pre-registration required.



Red, White and Blue Bash in the Exhibit Hall

6:00–8:30 p.m. | Radisson Hotel Ballroom

*It's time to celebrate! Wear your favorite casual **red, white, and blue** threads and join us for a lively evening with more than 50 business partners showcasing innovative products and services. Enjoy great food, fresh ideas, and a celebratory atmosphere – with some fun accessories to help you show your patriotic pride.*



2026 NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention

June 15-17, 2026 ★ Radisson Hotel, Bismarck ND

Schedule of Events

★ WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

All events held at the Belle Mehus Auditorium unless otherwise noted.

Association Business Breakfasts

7:30–8:45 a.m. NDBA Breakfast
Radisson Ballroom

SDBA Breakfast
Radisson New York, New York Room



Shifting Sands: Global Economic Policy Will Create Risks and Opportunities

9:00–9:50 a.m.

Thomas Landstreet

Economist | Analyst | Investment Practitioner

Economist Thomas Landstreet will explore key trends, policy shifts, and market forces shaping the economy – and what they could mean for banks in the months ahead.

Diamond Sponsor:



First **PREMIER** Bank
Member FDIC
PREMIER Bankcard

9:50–10:00 a.m. | **Break**



ABA Update

10:00–10:15 a.m.

Kenneth Kelly

ABA Chair and Chairman & CEO First Independence Bank



Understanding Digital Assets in Banking

10:15–11:00 a.m.

Ryan Miller

ABA Policy Expert | Compliance Professional

ABA's Ryan Miller will explore the evolving world of cryptocurrencies, stablecoins, blockchain technology, and related regulatory considerations.



Fraud Panel

11:10–11:55 a.m.

Moderator:

Jamie Nelson, President & CEO
TruCommunity Bank, Washburn ND

12:00–12:50 p.m. | **Luncheon Buffet at the Radisson**

Spouse and Guest Program – Charcuterie Workshop

10:15–11:45 a.m. | Social Grazer - 416 E Main Ave, Bismarck

Join Social Grazer for a hands-on charcuterie workshop where you'll learn how to style meats, cheeses, fruits, and flavorful extras into a board that's as beautiful as it is delicious. **Pre-registration required.**



Schedule of Events

STRONGER Together

2026 NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention
June 15-17, 2026 ★ Radisson Hotel, Bismarck ND

★ **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17** (continued)



Shaping a Nation:

Humanities Scholar Clay Jenkinson as U.S. President Thomas Jefferson
1:05–2:00 p.m.

Step back in time with an engaging and thought-provoking portrayal of U.S. President Thomas Jefferson as acclaimed historian and Humanities Scholar Clay Jenkinson brings one of America's founding fathers to life through storytelling, history and conversation.

Platinum Sponsor:



CORNERSTONE BANK

2:00–2:10 p.m. | **Break**



The Talent Equation: Leadership, Culture, and the Future of Your Bank

2:10–3:00 p.m.

Rebecca Udem

Author | Consultant | Speaker

Rebecca Udem will explore how leadership and workplace culture directly impact a bank's ability to attract, engage, and retain talent. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to strengthen teams, build trust, and create cultures where people choose to stay and grow.

3:00–3:10 p.m. | **Break**



State Banking Issues

3:10–3:25 p.m.

Lise Kruse

ND Dept. of Financial Institutions

Hear the latest on state banking issues, regulatory developments and industry trends impacting banks, along with insights into the challenges and opportunities shaping today's banking environment.



CAVU: Live Unlimited

3:25–4:15 p.m.

Lt. Col. Dan Rooney

Fighter Pilot, Founder & CEO Folds of Honor

Be inspired to live with purpose, resilience and impact through powerful stories of leadership, service and perseverance, while discovering how a "CAVU" mindset – Ceiling and Visibility Unlimited – can help you overcome obstacles and reach new heights personally and professionally.

Diamond Sponsor:



"The Last Scoop" Ice Cream Reception

4:15–5:00 p.m.

One last treat before we say goodbye. Join us for handcrafted ice cream from Cows & Co. Creamery.



Partners

2026 NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention

★ TOGETHER ★

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Bank of North Dakota
First PREMIER Bank

PLATINUM SPONSORS

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Brady Martz
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Edge One
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Mickelson & Company
NBID
ND Banks Benefit Trust
Network Center, Inc
NewVision Security
NFP Executive Benefits
PCBB
PNC Capital Markets
Rebecca Undem
Ritchie Bros.
SD Bankers Insurance & Services
SDN Communications
Serkland Law Firm
SHAZAM
The Title Team
UKG
United Bankers' Bank
WCRG Architecture & Construction



EXHIBITORS

Advanced Business Methods
Allied Solutions
Arctic Wolf
Bankers Equipment Services
BEK Communications Cooperative
Brady Martz
Capstone Banktech/CapitalExpress
Compliance Alliance
Convergent Technologies LLC
Data Business Equipment, Inc
Edge One
Eide Bailly LLP
Farmers National Company
Fischer Technology Solutions
Fiserv
Graduate School of Banking at Colorado
Hilltop Securities
HTG
Integris
IntraFi
Jack Henry
Lewis & Clark Development Group
Marco
MCG / Mail Services LLC
Mickelson & Company
NBID
ND Small Business Development Center
NetCenter Technology
Network Center
NewVision Security
NFP Executive Benefits
Pifer's Auction and Realty
Primax
Principal Financial Network of the Dakotas
Rochester Armored Car
SBS CyberSecurity
Scenic Sign Corporation
SEAM
SHAZAM, Inc.
SD Bankers Insurance & Services
Steffes Group
Superior IRA & HSA
Teremark CIO
The Title Team
UKG
United Bankers' Bank
Vantage Point Solutions
WCRG Architecture & Construction

NDBA and SDBA are grateful for the generous support provided by business partners. **Sponsorships are still available.** Email ndba@ndba.com, call 701.595.7757 or visit ndba.com for more information.

Women Lead Symposium

July 30, 2026 | Virtual Event

aba.com/WomenLead



CO-SPONSORED BY:



Empower your leadership journey and elevate your career at the **Women Lead Symposium**, a virtual half-day event hosted by the American Bankers Association (ABA) designed for women in banking at every stage of their career.

Whether you're an emerging leader or a seasoned professional, this event gives you the tools, perspectives, and connections to drive meaningful growth — for yourself and your bank.

2026 NDBA SERVICE AWARDS



CELEBRATING DECADES OF DEDICATION

Help us honor the professionals who have dedicated decades to North Dakota banking at these two events:

- ★ 2026 NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention June 17 | Bismarck ★
- ★ 2026 Regional Member Meetings September 14-17 | Four Locations ★

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Bank employees with 20, 30, 40, or 50 total years of service (can be with multiple banks)

HOW TO NOMINATE

Complete the application form at www.ndba.com

QUESTIONS?

Contact Jolene
jolene@ndba.com
701.223.5303 Ext. 58



Fraud Academy

AUG 18 - 20, 2026 | HYATT REGENCY, LEXINGTON KY

Consider this a **warning** to bad guys everywhere:

Fraud Academy is back,
and we're very, very angry.

REGISTER ONLINE AT FRAUDACADEMYHQ.COM

**SAVE
THE
DATE**



**REGIONAL
MEMBER
MEETINGS**

September 14-17
Grand Forks, Fargo, Washburn and Minot



SAVE THE DATE

2026 NDBA AGRICULTURE CREDIT CONFERENCE



OCTOBER 1-2, 2026



HILTON GARDEN INN
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

*Connecting bankers.
Strengthening agriculture.
Building communities.*

FEATURED SPEAKERS



DR. DAVID KOHL
*Professor Emeritus
Virginia Tech University*



ERIC SNODGRASS
Nutrien Ag Solutions

Brent Moum

State Bank of Bottineau



MAY 2026

BANKER
YOU SHOULD KNOW



NDBA's *Banker You Should Know* for May is **Brent Moum**, Loan Officer at State Bank of Bottineau.

Brent was nominated by State Bank of Bottineau President Pat Artz, who highlighted Brent's deep commitment to his community, his customers and his bank. In his nomination, Pat wrote, "To call Brent a hard worker is an understatement... He's the definition of community banker and community man!"

Pat went on to list some of Brent's involvement in the Bottineau community. Brent serves on the Dakota College Foundation and he and his wife, Anne, volunteer at Bottineau Winter Park teaching downhill ski lessons. Brent also takes the State Bank of Bottineau grill to numerous community events during the spring, summer and fall serving food for various causes. He is an active Dakota College at Bottineau Logroller Member (Athletic Booster Club) and serves on the Bottineau County NRCS Soils Committee.

What first inspired you to pursue a career in banking?

Brent: I wanted to work in agriculture as a producer while also having the ability to help others pursue their dreams.

Brent went on to say that working at State Bank of Bottineau for the past 18 years has allowed him to do both.

How have you seen the banking industry change during your career?

Brent: Technology which can be a great tool but also a detriment. At times I feel the personal interactions are lost because of technology tools such as internet banking, texting and so forth.

Brent added that this technology disconnect pushes him to maintain the personal relationships with his clients which is beneficial for all.

What's the most fulfilling part of your job?

Brent: Simply helping people by either starting them in a business, a farm/ranch, or buying a house. I just want to see people follow their dreams and being successful.

He mentioned that one accomplishment that he's especially proud of in his career is helping his clients improve their situations both financially and personally.

What's one personal accomplishment you're especially proud of?

Brent: My greatest personal accomplishment has been raising my two sons to value hard work, agriculture, and the importance of giving back through community involvement.

If you weren't a banker, what career could you see yourself in?

Brent: If I wasn't a banker I would surely be a full-time rancher.

Brent went on to say that his family still ranches with youngest son Kutter managing the family ranch. He added, "I get to play cowboy most evenings and on the weekends, so I do get my ranching fix from that."



Brent and wife Anne

“

Windshields are bigger than rearview mirrors for a reason.

– Piece of advice from Brent's dad, Daryl

”

Who has been a role model or mentor in your life or career?

Brent: By far, my Dad Daryl because of his work ethic and common sense.

Brent added, "He was a no-nonsense guy who worked hard but always took time to give back to his community. We lost him in 2009 and not a day goes by that I do not think of him and wish I could ask him questions."



Kutter Moum, who manages the family ranch, with his dad Brent

If you could go back and give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be?

Brent: BE YOU & BE KIND!

Brent said, "I have learned that if you work hard to help other people and your community it really does not matter what people think of you." As Pat said in his nomination, Brent is deeply committed to his community which is very evident by his involvement and willingness to give of himself.



Brent and Marta, one of his Bottineau Winter Park Ski Team students



Brent and Melissa Sather grilled burgers and hotdogs for the 130 employees of the St. Andrews Health Center in honor of Hospital Employee Appreciation Week.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Brent: I love to spend time outdoors.

Brent went on to say, "If I am not in the bank, I am outside. I have a real love for the mountains and enjoy hiking/backpacking in the summer and skiing in the winter."

What impact do you hope to make in your organization or community?

Brent: I want to do my best for the leadership of State Bank of Bottineau.

Brent added, "They trust in me to do what's right and I want to return that with a strong work ethic by making State Bank and the community a better place for my kids and grandkids and all future generations."

How do you define success?

Brent: I feel my greatest success is my willingness to help people with their finances and everyday lives.

Brent went on to say, "As ag bankers, especially in these times, our customers who are also our friends turn to us for guidance and advice."

Rooted in agriculture, driven by service, and guided by the values passed down from his father, Brent Moum has built a career centered on helping others succeed. Whether supporting customers through life's biggest decisions, strengthening his community through volunteerism, or helping lead State Bank of Bottineau into the future, Brent approaches every role with humility, hard work, and heart. His commitment to family, community banking, and leaving a lasting legacy for future generations truly make him a **Banker You Should Know!**



Brent with SBB crew at Bottineau Braves "Pink Out" football game

“

Brent's passion for community banking, our customers and the community of Bottineau is remarkable!

– Pat Artz
President
State Bank of Bottineau

”



Brent and group after "2 Miles on Snowshoes" outing

Brent and the State Bank of Bottineau Staff at Christmas



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May 2026

Breaking Down Mental Health Stigma

May is Mental Health Month, a national health observance dedicated to shedding light on mental health conditions and fostering understanding and support for those experiencing them. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), more than 1 in 5 adults experience mental illness each year. Despite the prevalence of illnesses and increasing recognition of mental health as a critical component of overall well-being, stigma remains a significant barrier to receiving treatment and support. The fear of judgment and discrimination often prevents individuals from seeking help.

NAMI reports that roughly half (52%) of adults with a mental illness go without treatment.

It's imperative to raise awareness and educate others about mental health to combat stigma and create a more compassionate and supportive society. Stigma grows in silence, so here are some tips for helping break the silence:

- **Educate yourself and others.** Understanding the complexity of mental illness, including substance use disorders, can help dispel misconceptions. Take the time to learn about

mental health conditions, symptoms and treatments.

- **Talk openly.** Break the silence surrounding mental health by initiating open and honest conversations with friends, family and colleagues. Sharing personal experiences or listening without judgment can help create a safe space for others.
- **Choose words carefully.** Avoid stigmatizing words and use person-first language, emphasizing the individual rather than their condition.
- **Encourage equal treatment of physical and mental health conditions.** Mental illness is a medical condition, so it should be treated like any other medical condition.
- **Speak up.** If you suspect someone is struggling, send them messages of support or help them get on the path to treatment.

By taking proactive steps to reduce mental health stigma and break down barriers, you can help create an inclusive and supportive environment where everyone feels empowered to seek help.



Spring Clean Your Routine

Spring isn't just for cleaning out your closet. It's also a great time to refresh your mind and body. It's important to check in on yourself regularly; a routine refresh can help you avoid illness, reduce stress and feel in control. Consider the following ways to freshen up your daily routine this spring:

- **Assess your current routine.** The first step in spring cleaning your routine is to take stock of your current habits and activities. Are there tasks or commitments that no longer serve you? Are there areas where you feel overwhelmed or stressed?
- **Declutter your home.** No clothing, equipment or other belongings are off-limits, so get rid of items you don't use anymore.

- **Create space for self-care.** Prioritize self-care activities or take a few moments each day to relax and recharge.
- **Reset your recipes with seasonal produce.** Spring produce includes vegetables such as asparagus, artichokes, radishes, rhubarb and peas, as well as fruits like strawberries. In-season produce is picked at the peak of its freshness and nutritional value and is packed with essential vitamins, minerals and antioxidants that boost the immune system.
- **Establish healthy habits.** For example, you could commit to a regular sleep schedule or incorporate more movement into your day.

Start spring cleaning your routine today to create one that supports your mental health and enables you to thrive in spring and beyond.

Recipe of the Month

Spring Vegetable Saute

Makes: 4 servings

Ingredients

- 1 tsp. olive oil
- ½ cup sweet onion (sliced)
- 1 garlic clove (finely chopped)
- 3 tiny new potatoes (quartered)
- ¾ cup carrot (sliced)
- ¾ cup asparagus pieces
- ¾ cup sugar snap peas or green beans
- ½ cup radishes (quartered)
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- ½ tsp. dried dill

Preparations

1. Heat the oil in a skillet. Cook the onion for two minutes, then add the garlic and cook for another minute.
2. Stir in the potatoes and carrots. Cover, turn the heat to low and cook until almost tender, about four minutes. Add a tablespoon or two of water if the vegetables start to brown.
3. Add the asparagus, peas, radishes, salt, black pepper and dill. Cook, stirring often, until just tender, about four minutes more.

Nutritional Information

(per serving)

Total calories	138
Total fat	1 g
Protein	4 g
Sodium	177 mg
Carbohydrate	29 g
Dietary fiber	5 g
Saturated fat	0 g
Total sugars	4 g

Source: MyPlate





ND

 **learntolive**

June 2026 Webinars

Embrace your emotional health with a live webinar led by Learn to Live's clinical team.

Squirrels and Shiny Objects: Addressing Problems with Focus and ADHD: Do you find it hard to pay attention, stay organized, or avoid distractions? Whether or not you have ADHD, these problems can make daily life tough. But there is good news. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) can help. Join this conversation with the Learn to Live clinical team as we explore how CBT can help those living with lack of focus and productivity challenges.

[Friday, June 12th: 11-11:30am CT/12-12:30pm ET](#)

Everyone is Having Fun in the Sun, Why Don't I?: Do you experience a pattern of low mood setting in when summertime comes rather than the fun in the sun that others seem to be enjoying? Although Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) occurs mostly in the winter, a few, instead, experience those feelings during the summer months. This is sometimes referred to as "Reverse SAD". Time spent indoors avoiding heat and humidity, disrupted sleep schedules, and late nights could lead to the struggles that those with Reverse SAD often experience. Join us for this 15-minute webinar and we'll share research-supported strategies to boost your mood.

[Tuesday, June 16th: 12-12:15pm CT/1-1:15pm ET](#)

***NEW* When We Say We're Fine, But We're Not: Tools for Mental Exhaustion:** How often do you find yourself reflexively saying, "I'm fine" while moving through your days on autopilot? Maybe you don't want to admit, or even realize, how exhausted you actually are. What if you can find a way to really mean it the next time you tell someone you're fine? In this webinar, the Clinical Team will offer practical tools to recognize mental exhaustion before you hit empty, reintroduce meaningful activities into your routine, and help you ask for support when you need it. With a few small changes, you might be able to turn off autopilot and prevent mental exhaustion to live with more intention.

[Tuesday, June 23rd: 12-12:30pm CT/1-1:30pm ET](#)

Thriving Through Transition: Simple Menopause Strategies: For many women, menopause is considered a loss... a time of uncertainty and change. Bodily sensations such as hot flashes and mood swings can be overwhelming and embarrassing. And for some women, there is a sense of sadness as their reproductive capacities come to an end. In this 15-minute webinar, we will share research-supported steps to thrive through this transition in life.

[Friday, June 26th: 10-10:15am CT/11-11:15am ET](#)

To Register:

Click the link for the webinar of your choice and use the access code **BLUEND**. Upon registering, you will receive a confirmation email from Zoom.

If you cannot attend a live session, you can still register to receive a link to the recording.



Education in Action

HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENT EDUCATION EVENTS



Dakota School of Lending Principles

April 7-10 | Pierre, SD

Held April 7–10 in Pierre, SD, the 2026 Dakota School of Lending Principles provided lenders with practical, hands-on instruction in key lending areas including consumer, real estate, small business and agricultural lending. Attendees strengthened skills through collaborative discussions and real-world scenarios.



FDIC Directors' College

May 19 | Bismarck ND

FDIC Directors' College welcomed 87 bank directors and banking professionals for a day focused on leadership, governance, and the future of community banking. Attendees explored key industry topics and engaged in meaningful conversations surrounding the evolving challenges and opportunities facing today's banking environment.



UMACHA Fraud Forum

May 19 | Fargo ND

Bankers and industry professionals gathered at Fargo's Bell Tower on May 19 for the UMACHA Fraud Forum, where attendees explored emerging fraud trends, risk mitigation strategies, and tools to help protect customers and communities. NDBA was proud to support the event, with Tara McFadden representing the association throughout the day's discussions and networking opportunities.



Education in Action

HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENT EDUCATION EVENTS



Opening New Accounts: Documentation & Compliance

April 22-23 | Fargo & Bismarck

NDBA's Opening New Accounts seminars were held April 22 in Fargo and April 23 in Bismarck. Matthew Dickinson's presentations covered new account opening procedures and compliance. Each participant received a manual customized to North Dakota law to use as a valuable resource.



2026 Tri-State Trust CONFERENCE

Bank Trust Officers from Four States Gather in Fargo

More than 125 people took part in the 2026 Tri-State Trust Conference hosted by NDBA April 27-29 in Fargo.

Trust officers from North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota, along with representatives from 33 exhibiting and 7 sponsoring companies, participated in the event at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. In addition, several trust officers participated virtually. The conference began with an exhibit hall reception, followed by dinner and a presentation, "They Might Not be Crazy: Working with People You Disagree With" by Dallin Cooper.

Tuesday morning, attendees heard from Sharon Carson on "J.P. Morgan's Retirement Planning Essentials." After a break with the exhibitors, Sam Donaldson from Georgia State University gave a 2026 Federal Tax Update. Mike Tropeano of Fi-Tek spoke after lunch about "The

Impact of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Assets on Wealth Management." MainStreet Advisors' Alex Urbani presented "Demystifying Direct Indexing" and attendees closed out the day with a presentation on CCA 202352018 by Andersen's Dan Gespass.

Kelly Hammond from T. Rowe Price kicked off Wednesday's program with his insightful session on "Global Market Environment." F. John Williams III from Fredrikson and Chantal Stenner from Eide Bailly held a discussion on irrevocable trusts. Phil Buchanan of Cannon Financial Institute closed out the conference with his presentation, "The Billion Dollar Blind Spot."

Thanks to all who participated. We hope you'll join us for the next Tri-State Trust Conference.

Special thanks to the 33 companies who exhibited and sponsored at the conference:

Ascensus
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Cheetah
Compliance Alliance
Epic Retirement Services
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T. Rowe Price
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at the University of Wisconsin – Madison



Graduate School of Banking
at the University of Wisconsin – Madison



Congratulations!

Joshua Shaw

Unison Bank, Jamestown ND

GSB was proud to host the
2026 Bank Technology Management School
in Madison, WI, welcoming banking professionals
from across the country and beyond.

Through expert-led lectures and small-group discussions, participants gained actionable insights—connecting emerging technology to bank performance, profitability, security, and compliance.

- **Joshua Shaw**, Unison Bank, Jamestown, ND





Graduate School of Banking
at the University of Wisconsin – Madison



Prochnow Educational Foundation/ North Dakota Bankers Association Scholarship

North Dakota Bankers Association has named **Chase Jacob** a recipient of the Prochnow Educational Foundation/ North Dakota Bankers Association Scholarship. Jacob, Ag Banking Officer at Bravera Bank in Mandan, will receive a \$1,500 discount from the regularly charged fees for each of the three years of the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Chase Jacob

This \$4,500 scholarship, established and funded by the Herbert V. Prochnow Educational Foundation, furthers the goal of supporting banker education. The scholarship is made available annually to a selected individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and a commitment to his or her community and to the banking industry.

“The banking industry has a bright future because of the leadership of individuals like Chase,” said Rick Clayburgh of the North Dakota Bankers Association. “This scholarship is in recognition of Chase’s leadership at Bravera Bank and the communities it serves,” Clayburgh continued.

Jacob received his bachelor’s degree in finance from North Dakota State University. He is active in the community, serving as a high school sports official and a 4-H volunteer.

The Herbert V. Prochnow Educational Foundation, a not-for-profit support organization to the Graduate School of Banking, has promoted the growth of banker education throughout the United States. The Graduate School of Banking was established in 1945 and has more than 20,000 alumni.

NDBA sponsors the Graduate School of Banking through its membership in the Central States Conference of State Bankers Associations. Rick Clayburgh of NDBA is a member of the school’s Board of Trustees.

For further information regarding the scholarship, please contact Dorothy Lick at NDBA. For additional information regarding the Graduate School of Banking, , please visit gsb.org.

Help Protect Your Commercial Customers from Wire Fraud



Introducing the MBIS Wire Fraud/ACH Protection Program

Every day, commercial customers rely on wire transfers, ACH payments, emailed invoices, and electronic vendor communications to keep business moving. Unfortunately, fraudsters are relying on those same systems to exploit businesses through increasingly sophisticated scams.

Business Email Compromise (BEC), social engineering fraud, vendor impersonation schemes, and fraudulent wire transfer requests continue to create significant financial losses for businesses of all sizes. In many cases, a single deceptive email can result in hundreds of thousands of dollars disappearing within minutes.

And when these losses occur, customers often turn to their financial institution first – regardless of where liability ultimately falls.

To help banks support their commercial customers in this growing area of risk, Midwest Bankers Insurance Services (MBIS) is introducing the **Wire Fraud/ACH Protection Program** – a specialized protection solution designed to address one of the fastest-growing threats facing businesses today: corporate deception fraud.

A Growing Risk for Businesses

Many businesses believe their existing cyber insurance policies fully protect them against wire fraud and social engineering losses. However, traditional cyber coverage often includes strict verification requirements that can create unexpected coverage gaps.

- Common policy conditions may require:
- Call-back procedures
- Voice verification standards
- In-person confirmation requirements
- Internal dual-control processes

If those exact procedures are not followed, claims may be denied – even when the customer believed the request was legitimate.

After years of searching for a stronger solution for bank customers, MBIS has identified a specialized coverage option designed specifically to help address many of these gaps, including the elimination of the traditional callback requirement that is commonly found in many policies.

Specialized Coverage Designed for Modern Fraud Threats

The Wire Fraud/ACH Protection Program is designed to help protect businesses from losses related to:

- Business Email Compromise (BEC)
- Social Engineering Fraud
- Fraudulent Wire Transfers
- Vendor Impersonation Schemes
- Executive Impersonation Requests
- Fake Invoice Fraud

This solution provides banks with an opportunity to offer an additional layer of protection to commercial clients while reinforcing their role as a trusted financial partner.

Benefits for Banks

By introducing customers to this specialized coverage option, banks can:

- Provide additional value to commercial customers
- Differentiate themselves from competitors
- Help reduce uninsured customer losses
- Strengthen customer relationships and retention
- Demonstrate proactive fraud mitigation efforts

The program is especially valuable for treasury management and commercial banking customers that regularly:

- Send ACH or wire transfers
- Work with vendors electronically
- Process invoices via email
- Handle payroll transfers
- Conduct real estate transactions
- Utilize remote accounting staff

A Simple Referral Process

MBIS works directly with banks or their commercial customers to:

- Review existing cyber insurance policies
- Identify potential coverage gaps
- Provide recommendations
- Offer specialized cyber deception coverage solutions

The referral process is designed to be simple and educational, helping banks strengthen customer relationships while assisting businesses in better understanding and managing wire fraud exposure.

MBIS can also provide customer-facing educational materials and support for treasury management and commercial banking teams.

Helping Banks Deliver Added Value

Fraud threats continue to evolve, and businesses are increasingly looking for guidance on how to better protect themselves from financial loss. The MBIS Wire Fraud/ACH Protection Program gives banks an opportunity to proactively support commercial customers with specialized protection solutions designed for today's digital fraud environment.



Learn More

**MIDWEST BANKERS
Insurance Services**

Banks interested in learning more about the **Wire Fraud/ACH Protection Program** are encouraged to contact:

Adam Dawson

Regional Sales Manager

Midwest Bankers Insurance Services

952-261-8978

adamd@mbisllc.com

**NEW
SERVICE**

Help Protect Your Commercial Customers from Wire Fraud

A VALUE-ADDED PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR BANKS

Fraudsters are targeting businesses every day.

Business Email Compromise (BEC), social engineering scams, and fraudulent wire transfer requests continue to create devastating losses. Even when a customer follows what appears to be legitimate instructions, a single fraudulent wire can result in hundreds of thousands of dollars disappearing in minutes.

**When these losses happen,
customers often look to their bank first—
regardless of liability.**



**MIDWEST BANKERS
Insurance Services**



SPECIALIZED COVERAGE FOR TODAY'S FRAUD THREATS

MBIS offers a cyber deception coverage solution designed to help protect businesses from losses related to:

- ✓ Business Email Compromise (BEC)
- ✓ Social Engineering Fraud
- ✓ Fraudulent Wire Transfers
- ✓ Vendor Impersonation Schemes
- ✓ Executive Impersonation Requests
- ✓ Fake Invoice Fraud



ADDRESSING CRITICAL COVERAGE GAPS

Many cyber policies contain strict verification requirements that can lead to denied claims—such as call-back procedures, voice verification, in-person confirmation, and dual controls.

MBIS offers access to a specialized solution that eliminates the traditional call-back requirement, helping close a significant coverage gap.

A STRONG FIT FOR TREASURY & COMMERCIAL CLIENTS



Send ACH or wire transfers



Work with vendors electronically



Process invoices via email



Handle payroll transfers



Conduct real estate transactions



Operate with remote accounting staff

BENEFITS FOR BANKS



Provide additional value to commercial customers



Differentiate your bank from competitors



Help reduce uninsured customer losses



Strengthen customer relationships and retention



Demonstrate proactive fraud mitigation

A SIMPLE REFERRAL PROCESS

MBIS works directly with you or your commercial customers to:

- ✓ Review current cyber insurance policies
- ✓ Identify potential coverage gaps
- ✓ Provide recommendations
- ✓ Offer specialized cyber deception coverage solutions

You strengthen the relationship while helping customers better understand and manage wire fraud exposure.



**LET'S PROTECT YOUR CUSTOMERS
AND YOUR RELATIONSHIPS.**

Contact MBIS to learn more about this new commercial customer protection solution.



ADAM DAWSON

Regional Sales Manager



952-261-8978



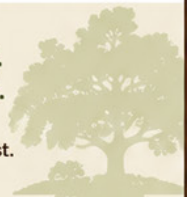
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Dakota School of Banking



Bales Awarded Dakota School of Banking Scholarship

Tom Bales, Compliance Consultant II at Choice Bank, has been awarded the Dakota School of Banking scholarship. Awarded each year to a first-year student from an NDBA or SDBA member bank, the \$450 scholarship is based on the students' future goals in banking, industry involvement, and reasons for attending the school.

"Tom possesses many leadership qualities and is eager to learn," said Pam Burnside, Choice Bank CRA Officer and Fair Lending Supervisor. "We're excited to see him take this next step in his banking career."

Bales received his bachelor's degree in leadership and management from the University of St. Thomas, an MBA from University of North Dakota, and a JD from the UND School of Law. He has three years of banking experience and works a part time job in the evenings and weekends as a tutor for K-12 students in his community. Tom enjoys spending his free time playing pickleball and golf.

Congratulations Tom!

For more information about the Dakota School of Banking, visit www.ndba.com.



Dakota School of Banking

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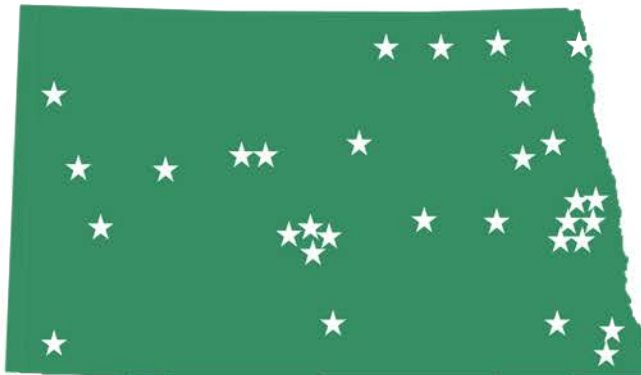
END CYBER RISK



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BUSINESS PARTNER FEATURE

Loan Yields, Prepayment Risk, and the Quiet Shift in the Balance Sheet



Luke Mikles
Senior Vice President
Financial Strategies Group
The Baker Group

Over the last few years, community financial institutions have been working through one of the more favorable repricing environments in recent memory. Loans that were put on the books during the low-rate years of the early 2020s sat well below current offering rates, sometimes referred to as reinvestment rates. As these lower yielding loans matured or repriced, they did so into a much higher rate environment. This helped push loan yields up, and with cost of funds moving off of the peak, these higher yielding loans helped support a steady recovery in net interest margin (NIM). If we take a look at year-end call report data, community bank NIM rose every quarter throughout 2025, finishing the year at 3.87%. This is the highest NIM we have seen since 2018. The increase in loan yields as well as higher yields in the investment portfolio have been large contributors to this margin expansion.

However, as we move through 2026, one of the dynamics that drove much of that margin expansion is starting to shift the other way. In September of 2024 the FOMC began their easing cycle and cut rates by 100 basis points over a 3-month span followed by another 75 basis points of cuts from September to December of 2025. After the FOMC cut rates, we started to see current offering rates trend down. The yields within our loan books have now largely caught up to those current offering rates and the prepayment risk that had been mostly dormant for the last few years is now quietly working its way back onto the balance sheet. So, what does this mean for

our balance sheets, and how should we be thinking about loan yields and prepayment risk going forward?

First, let's take a look at where we are starting from. After the Fed aggressively raised the federal funds target rate coming out of the pandemic, current offering rates on new loans moved up significantly. A loan that was put on the books in 2020 or 2021 at 3% or 4% was all of a sudden 300-400 basis points below new offering rates on those same types of loans. That large gap between book yields and new offering rates is what drove prepayment activity to historic lows. It simply did not make any economic sense for a borrower carrying a loan with a 3% or 4% handle to refinance or move into a 7%+ loan. Existing loans stayed on the books longer than originally anticipated, also known as extension risk, but as those loans eventually paid down and matured, they repriced into the higher rate environment. The slower-than-expected roll off of these COVID-era loans, coupled with new loans booked after the rate hikes, drove meaningful improvement in NIM and earnings across financial institutions.

That repricing has largely run its course. Through the first three quarters of 2025, the rise in community bank NIM was driven primarily by an increase in earning asset yields. However, in the fourth quarter, this flipped. Earning asset yields actually decreased by 3 basis points, with loans falling by 4 basis points. NIM continued to expand though, as cost of funds dropped 8 basis points. This represents a significant

balance sheet shift as the NIM expansion in Q4 2025 came from the liability side repricing down rather than the asset side repricing up as we had seen in the prior 3 quarters. We now have to think about a world with falling loan rates and accelerating prepayments.

So, what does this mean from an ALM and IRR standpoint? As the spread between loan book yields and current offering rates continues to tighten, prepayment activity will likely pick up, which leads to cash flows coming back faster than expected and a shorter effective duration of the loan portfolio. Over the last two years many financial institutions have been intentionally extending asset duration to protect earnings against falling rates. With the increased prepayment risk to the loan portfolio, this can impact the overall interest rate risk profile of the balance sheet.

The practical starting point when we apply this back to IRR is to review the Constant Prepayment Rate (CPR) assumptions in the IRR model. Overall, we had to make adjustments to those CPRs in 2023 and 2024 to model the prepayment activity that was so far below historical norms that existing assumptions were misleading. It is now time to do that again. If those assumptions have not been updated, the model is likely overstating the duration, or average life, of the loan portfolio and understating the prepayment risk associated with it. Stress testing what happens if prepayment activity moves meaningfully higher is a worthwhile exercise, and one that could give a more accurate picture of where the balance sheet actually stands. As a reminder, we always stress the importance of an annual assumption review as well as periodic stress testing of key assumptions. If the loan book is shortening on its own through faster prepayments, the total asset duration picture may look different than what was planned for. Understanding how prepayment risk could impact the duration of the balance sheet allows us to be more intentional about how we position the asset side as a whole. The investment portfolio is one place where institutions have some flexibility to address this – extending duration on the bond side can help offset what is being lost on the loan side. This is not

about making a wholesale bet on interest rates, but rather making sure the balance sheet is positioned in a deliberate and well-understood way across all asset types, not just the loan book in isolation.

It is also worth pointing out that this story does not look the same at every institution. Banks that grew aggressively during 2020 and 2021 still have a meaningful portion of their loan book at very low coupons that will continue to roll and reprice higher for some time. The repricing tailwind is not done for those institutions. On the other hand, banks that grew through the peak of the rate cycle in 2023 and 2024 have a loan book that is already at, or near, current market rates, and the prepayment risk we have been discussing is more pronounced. Two banks with similar margins today can be in very different places on this curve.

To bring this full circle, the loan book repricing story that drove much of the NIM expansion over the last two years is starting to wind down, and a prepayment risk that has been quiet is starting to come back into the picture. To be clear, we are not sounding the red alert alarm bells. Community bank NIM is at its highest level in seven years, and most institutions are entering this next phase from a strong starting point. But the dynamic that has been working in our favor is shifting. As we have discussed in the past, interest rate risk management is an ever-evolving process. What worked over the last two years may not be what works over the next two and recognizing that shift early is what puts an institution on the best path forward.

Luke Mikles is a senior vice president in the Financial Strategies Group at The Baker Group. He joined the firm in 2019, serving in the Interest Rate Risk Department. In 2023, Luke moved to the Financial Strategies Group, where he assists institutions with the risk management process and speaks at Baker's educational seminars across the country. Luke holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in energy economics from the University of Central Oklahoma.



The Baker Group

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Quarterly Conference Calls (Bank Strategies) Webinars

Review of economic conditions, Fed policy outlook, and current investment strategy recommendations. The focus is on building an investment strategy for the next quarter, highlighting the current risk/reward in various investment options, relative value comparisons, yield curve analysis, portfolio trends, and bond analysis.

- 1st Quarter - January 14 at 10:30am CT
- 2nd Quarter - April 8 at 10:30am CT
- 3rd Quarter - July 8 at 10:30am CT
- 4th Quarter - October 7 at 10:30am CT

Quarterly IRR Management Webinars

Review of the latest topics related to asset/liability management and interest rate risk. Focus is on IRR trends in the banking industry, updated regulatory guidance, modeling recommendations, and Interest Rate Risk Monitor® updates.

- 1st Quarter - March 11 at 10:30am CT
- 2nd Quarter - June 10 at 10:30am CT
- 3rd Quarter - September 9 at 10:30am CT
- 4th Quarter - December 9 at 10:30am CT

Quarterly Bank Trends Webinars

Review of the most recent balance sheet and earnings trends in the banking industry. Focus is on changes in asset and liability mixes, loan demand, deposit growth, earnings metrics, delinquencies, and cost of funds among other data.

- 4th Quarter - February 11 at 10:30am CT
- 1st Quarter - May 13 at 10:30am CT
- 2nd Quarter - August 12 at 10:30am CT
- 3rd Quarter - November 10 at 10:30am CT



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BUSINESS PARTNER FEATURE

Three Questions Banks Should Ask About Moving Deposits Off Balance Sheet

H.D. Barkett
Senior Managing Director
IntraFi



Moving Deposits Off Balance Sheet Is a Strategic Decision - Not a Reaction

Deposit networks are often described as funding tools, enabling banks to access funds and depositors to access FDIC insurance on large amounts. But they are far more than that. Deposit networks can also be balance sheet levers – mechanisms that allow banks to manage timing, risk, and optionality without sacrificing customer relationships.

One crucial benefit offered by deposit networks is **flexible liquidity management** – including the opportunity to move deposits off balance sheet by selling them to network banks in exchange for fee income while retaining the customer relationship.

There are several reasons why your bank might consider moving deposits off balance sheet:

- Liquidity surges that outpace near-term loan demand
- Timing mismatches between asset growth and deposit inflows
- Heightened scrutiny of uninsured deposits and concentration risk following banking stress events
- Regulatory attention to large depositors and funding stability

When facing these circumstances, partnering with a large-capacity, established bank network to move deposits off balance sheet can give your bank a

competitive advantage by creating flexible liquidity. By treating moving deposits off balance sheet as a strategic decision, rather than as a reactive outlet for excess balances, your bank can profitably retain control over future growth.

The question is not whether your bank should move deposits off balance sheet – but when, why, and under what constraints. That starts with three core questions:

Question #1: What Opportunities Can Be Created by Moving Deposits Off Balance Sheet?

Your bank can profitably move deposits off balance sheet for a number of reasons, including

- Managing deposit concentration limits, especially tied to large commercial or municipal accounts
- Smoothing out seasonal or event-driven liquidity surges
- Controlling where the bank stands relative to key asset, reporting, or regulatory thresholds
- Compensating for temporary mismatches between deposit inflows and loan demand

Federal banking regulators have made clear that large depositors and uninsured balances warrant prudent management.¹

Selling deposits to other banks in a deposit network allows your bank to retain the customer relationship while addressing balance-sheet, liquidity, and regulatory pressures – moving the funding, not the depositor relationship.

¹ Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, "Section 6.1: Liquidity and Funds Management," in Risk Management Manual of Examination Policies, <https://www.fdic.gov/risk-management-manual-examination-policies/section-61-liquidity-and-funds-management.pdf>; "RISK MANAGEMENT – Interagency Policy Statement on Funding and Liquidity Risk Management," <https://www.federalreserve.gov/frfs/guidance/interagency-policy-statement-on-funding-and-liquidity-risk-management.htm#ANCHOR1>.

Question #2: What Economic and Pricing Guardrails Should Be Considered?

Are you getting paid appropriately to move deposits off balance sheet?

At its core, the economics hinge on three variables:

1. The rate paid to the customer
2. The applicable deposit sell rate
3. The resulting spread and fee income

Defining these up front, alongside the amount of deposits to be sold, helps ensure profitability.

Establishing Pricing Guardrails

Effective programs define clear guardrails, including minimum acceptable spread thresholds, and establish competitive monitoring to ensure pricing and market rate changes do not undermine the relationship. Market volatility makes static assumptions dangerous. As interest rates change, economics that once worked can quietly deteriorate unless actively reviewed.

Governance and Accountability

Strong governance can position your bank to make strategic, rather than reactive, decisions to move deposits off balance sheet. A best practice is to establish clear ownership of pricing decisions – your bank’s asset-liability committee is one possible owner – and a defined approval path for exceptions to ensure that your deposits are priced intentionally, not deployed reflexively.

Question #3: Are You Operationally Ready – and Able to Pivot back?

Regulators increasingly expect deposit programs to be repeatable and auditable. To ensure you can start moving deposits off balance sheet without issue, ensure your bank has assembled and codified the following

- Customer consent and disclosures
- Documentation and reporting accuracy
- Settlement and reconciliation workflows
- Clear ownership across treasury, operations, and relationship teams

Define the Trigger to Move Deposits Off Balance Sheet – before You Need It

Before moving deposits off balance sheet, clearly define the dollar magnitude of a given sell trigger, the consequences of keeping deposits on balance sheet, and the expected duration of funds moved off

balance sheet – weeks, quarters, or a defined strategic window.

Plan Your Exit Before Entry

The most disciplined institutions define exit triggers in advance. These could include increasing loan demand, on-balance-sheet funding regaining strategic value, or other changes in liquidity or capital needs.

Moving Deposits Off Balance Sheet Is a Powerful Option

When your bank needs more liquidity, it’s much easier to redeploy deposits from existing customers than it is to source new relationship deposits. Deposit networks make that flexibility possible. Other cash management offerings for customers, such as money market mutual funds and wholesale funding, are less flexible and more expensive.

Ultimately, deposit networks (and using them to move deposits off balance sheet) are about control and timing. Banks that successfully use their deposit network as a liquidity management tool consistently ask:

1. What issue are we solving?
2. Are the economics disciplined and defensible?
3. Can we execute cleanly – and exit deliberately?

Used well, an off-balance-sheet strategy can allow your bank to win relationships and manage risk today and preserve the option to fund growth tomorrow.

That optionality is the true value of a deposit network.

H.D. Barkett is Senior Managing Director, Treasury Desk & Program Management at IntraFi. Mr. Barkett has been involved in banking and financial services for more than 30 years, working with financial institutions on issues involving asset/liability management, liquidity management, risk assessment and management, and portfolio hedging. Formerly, he served five years as Vice President of Sales and Marketing and Director of New Initiatives with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines. Prior to that, Mr. Barkett was Vice President of Institutional Fixed Income sales with both Shay Financial Services and Paine Webber. For 12 years, Mr. Barkett held various management positions at Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas in its Investments Group, Financial Strategies Group, and Sales and Marketing Department. Mr. Barkett joined IntraFi in 2002.



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BUSINESS PARTNER FEATURE

AI-Accelerated Vulnerability Discovery: What Claude Mythos Signals for Your Patch and Risk Program



Chad Knutson
CEO
SBS CyberSecurity

Anthropic recently gave a small group of organizations restricted access to Claude Mythos, its newest model, as a deliberate test of what it can do. What's emerged in the weeks since is a sharp acceleration in how AI can be used to find and exploit software vulnerabilities, with implications that reach well beyond Silicon Valley. For financial institutions and the vendors that serve them, this is a board-level conversation. The cadence of cybersecurity work, including patching, vendor oversight, and incident readiness, must change.

Below is what the technology is, why it matters for your organization, and the questions every executive team should be asking right now.

What Claude Mythos Is and Why It Matters

Claude Mythos is an advanced AI model developed by Anthropic. Unlike earlier publicly available AI tools, Mythos demonstrated unusually strong capabilities in software analysis and autonomous vulnerability discovery, identifying large numbers of previously unknown (zero-day) vulnerabilities across widely deployed operating systems, browsers, and long-standing open-source libraries.

The scale is what changed the conversation. In one widely cited example, the model surfaced 271 previously unknown vulnerabilities in a single browser within a single iteration. In another, it identified a flaw in a long-standing operating system that had persisted undetected for more than 25 years. The pattern repeated across other foundational software, including bugs that had survived decades of human review.

Anthropic limited access to a small, vetted group of defensive security organizations rather than releasing the model publicly.

That is the core of the story for financial institutions. The lesson is that long-standing vulnerabilities can persist

undetected, and AI is dramatically shortening the time required to find them.

Why Government and Regulators Paid Attention

The Mythos disclosures drew focused attention from federal agencies and regulators because they signaled a structural shift in the threat environment:

- Vulnerability discovery timelines are compressing across the software supply chain.
- The gap between discovery and weaponization can narrow significantly when AI is involved on either side.
- Existing coordinated disclosure and patching processes were built for a slower-moving landscape.

Federal briefings followed, including the Treasury, Federal Reserve, CISA, and other agencies, along with direct briefings to major financial institutions. Regulatory messaging has emphasized preparedness, governance, and coordination rather than specific technology bans.

What This Means for Financial Institutions

Discovery-to-Exploit Timelines Are Compressing

Patch cycles measured in weeks or months were designed for a world where vulnerability discovery was bound by human attention. When AI can surface exploitable flaws at scale, the practical window to inventory, prioritize, test, and deploy patches shrinks.

Vendor and Supply-Chain Oversight Gets Harder

Every financial institution depends on a software supply chain it does not directly control. AI-accelerated vulnerability discovery applies pressure to every vendor

in that chain. Institutions need clearer visibility into how critical vendors handle discovery, disclosure, and remediation, including where AI is being used on either side.

"Security Through Obscurity" Is Effectively Dead

Older, less-scrutinized software has historically enjoyed de facto protection: Attackers did not invest the effort to find flaws in lower-value targets. AI changes that calculation. Institutions running legacy systems, niche vendor platforms, or lightly maintained internal applications should assume those are now within practical reach.

What to Do About It

This development rewards maturity, not panic. The fundamentals of cyber risk management still apply. What's accelerated is the tempo at which they need to run.

Patch Closer to Real-Time

Review current patch SLAs against the assumption that exploit timelines will continue to compress. The goal for critical and high-severity patches is deployment as close to real-time as is operationally safe – the question of how to handle a bad patch belongs on the back end of that process, not the front. Confirm that patch management extends consistently to non-core systems, including fintech-integrated platforms, branch infrastructure, and vendor-managed appliances. End-of-life systems that cannot be patched should be on a documented retirement path, not deferred indefinitely.

Strengthen Vendor AI Oversight

Extend vendor risk management to cover how critical vendors use and secure AI in their own environments. One concrete question worth asking: Are you using AI in your own development and security testing? If a major browser is patching hundreds of newly discovered vulnerabilities, the velocity of a vendor's patching process and whether AI is on their side of the equation is no longer a peripheral question. The goal is to identify where third-party AI exposure is a meaningful contributor to your own risk.

Retest Incident Response for Faster Cycles

Incident response plans written for a slower threat environment should be retested under the assumption that patch windows are narrower and detection may arrive late. Tabletop exercises that specifically rehearse fast-moving vendor vulnerabilities, including simultaneous exposure across multiple institutions, surface coordination gaps that written plans tend to miss.

A useful counterweight: Speed of discovery and exploitation does not change the fundamentals of detection and response. Once an exploit lands inside an institution's environment, the discipline of detect, contain, eradicate, and recover remains the same. The existing playbook still applies. It just needs to run faster, with coordination across multiple institutions and vendors when those events occur.

Elevate AI Governance to the Board

Regulators increasingly expect boards and executive leadership to demonstrate awareness of AI-related risk, not only at the tool level but at the enterprise level. Institutions should be able to describe, on request, where AI is used internally and by critical vendors, what governance applies, and who is accountable. Documentation will matter as much as technical controls.

Building Resilience That Matches the New Tempo

Claude Mythos highlighted how quickly existing categories of cyber risk can change character when AI is applied at scale. Institutions with disciplined governance, current patch management, and rehearsed incident response are well-positioned to absorb that shift. Institutions that have deferred those fundamentals will feel the gap widen.

The picture is also broader than vulnerability discovery alone. The same AI capabilities that accelerate finding flaws are simultaneously accelerating phishing, social engineering, and other delivery mechanisms, meaning AI-found vulnerabilities and AI-crafted phishing now reinforce each other inside the threat environment.

The technology will keep advancing. What determines whether institutions stay ahead is the discipline of their governance, not the speed of AI.

This blog was originally published on sbscyber.com.

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BUSINESS PARTNER FEATURE

You Don't Know What You Got 'Till It's Gone (...And Your Customers Might Not Either):

FDIC Rescinds Guidance on Multiple Re-Presentment NSF Fees



Brett Goodnack, J.D., CAMS
Compliance Advisor
Compliance Alliance

There has been a clear pattern lately of regulatory pullbacks that banks may be tempted to welcome as a return of discretion, flexibility – heck, maybe even freedom. Less guidance, less second-guessing, less pressure on practices that had come under increasing scrutiny. But there is, of course, an important distinction to make – flexibility and certainty aren't the same thing. When an agency rescinds a meaningful consumer-protection position without replacing it with a clear framework, banks might not actually get a safer runway – in fact, they arguably get a murkier one. And in an area like repeated NSF fees, where the unfairness and deception concerns never really went away (rather, in a sense, they're just constantly being reframed and passed around like a game of hot potato), that should be less reassuring than it may first appear, especially given how easily the regulatory pendulum could swing back and recast the same conduct as unfair all along.

Which brings us to the latest example. The FDIC has now done exactly what many expected from this leadership team, and [has rescinded FIL-32-2023](#), the agency's 2023 guidance on multiple re-presentment NSF fees, effective immediately. In the rescission, the agency says the prior guidance was "overly broad in scope" and created uncertainty about when disclosures regarding re-presentments might still give rise to "unfairness" concerns under Section 5 of the FTC Act. In its place, the FDIC offers a far thinner admonition: institutions should ensure their disclosures accurately reflect their practices and comply with current law – essentially, the regulatory equivalent of removing the

highway guardrails and then posting a sign that says, "*Drive Safely.*"

Again, banks (and industry advocates) can't be blamed for seeing this as a positive, tidy deregulatory move. One less piece of guidance to worry about, less supervisory friction, more room to lean on disclosure, and less danger that a clearly described practice will still be second-guessed as unfair. It also speaks to a longstanding objection - that banks may be the ones charging the fee, but they are not necessarily the ones deciding whether and when a declined payment is run through again (fair being fair, that is often up to the merchant or payee, which we'll touch in in just a moment).

But there's also simply no denying that this is a retreat. The underlying practice here is not hard to understand - a consumer attempts a payment, the bank declines it for insufficient funds, the merchant or payee submits the same item again, and the consumer may be charged another NSF fee on the same failed transaction. The FDIC's [earlier guidance](#) had warned that this practice presented heightened risk under Section 5, including not only deception concerns tied to disclosures, but also potential unfairness concerns, even where disclosures existed. The agency has now stepped back from that position - not because repeated fee stacking has been shown to be harmless, but because the FDIC has decided the guidance itself went "too far."

Starting to see the problem? A major issue with multiple re-presentment NSF fees was never just that banks might describe them poorly. It was that consumers often have very little practical control over whether the same item gets run again and, with it, whether another fee gets triggered. [The Federal Reserve's Consumer Compliance Outlook](#) laid that logic out plainly in 2023: once a bank declines the transaction, the merchant controls the number and timing of representment, but the bank still decides whether to pay or decline the represented transaction, and whether to assess another NSF fee on it. Merchant control doesn't make the problem go away; in fact, you could argue that it helps explain why consumers often cannot reasonably avoid the harm, while the bank still retains control over whether to convert that re-presentment into yet another charge. What's worse is that the problem doesn't disappear merely because an agency decides the old guidance was too broad.

That might be what makes the rescission feel so conspicuously one-directional. Here, the FDIC isn't withdrawing a stale procedural memo or cleaning up some obscure, obsolete footnote. It is backing away from guidance aimed at a fee practice that had drawn sustained criticism precisely because of the way it can stack charges onto the same failed transaction. And it is doing so without replacing that guidance with anything remotely comparable. Instead, what remains is little more than a generic, broad reminder.

State regulators, meanwhile, are hardly all moving in the same direction. In January 2025, New York's Governor and the Department of Financial Services announced proposed regulations aimed at what they described as exploitative overdraft and NSF practices. Among the proposed restrictions was a prohibition on charging multiple NSF or overdraft fees for the same transaction, including when a merchant resubmits a declined item. Now, this author isn't naïve enough to think that New York speaks for every state – but NY's premise here was fairly universal, and that premise wasn't that the problem could be solved by polishing disclosures. It was that repeat-fee structures like these can themselves be abusive and harmful, particularly to vulnerable consumers, and that banks were expected to respond not just with clearer words, but with actual limits on fee practices and more timely notice to consumers.

So, yes – right now, the FDIC is framing this as a course correction against supervisory overbreadth and uncertainty. You could argue that this is also something else: a conscious decision to stop pressing on a fee practice that has been widely criticized as problematic precisely because disclosure alone may not cure the harm. After all, when the same failed transaction can generate fee after fee after fee, the question is not merely whether the account agreement was artfully drafted. It is whether the system is designed to keep charging for the same miss until the miss becomes profitable.

Many will treat this as a “pro-bank move,” and a deregulatory sigh of relief. But I'll caution again – like so many similar federal actions of late, those same folks may want to be careful not to mistake the removal of guidance for the removal of risk. Multiple re-presentment NSF fees still live squarely in UDAAP territory, because the core criticisms of the practice have not changed: the harm can be substantial, the consumer often cannot reasonably avoid it, and disclosure alone may not solve either problem. What has changed is that the FDIC has chosen to step back without putting anything meaningful in its place, leaving institutions with more discretion, less certainty, and a cloudier supervisory line to navigate on their own. And when the regulatory pendulum swings back – as it always does – “flexibility” might look a lot like “ambiguity deferred.”

Brett Goodnack, JD, CAMS, is Associate General Counsel for Compliance Hub. He holds a law degree from Duquesne University, where he earned the Hascall McKinney Award, and a B.S. in Crime, Law, and Justice from Penn State. Brett brings 10+ years of experience in due diligence and risk mitigation, including roles in trust administration and governance consulting. He previously served as Associate Director for a global investment bank in AML and KYC. Brett is also a featured author for Compliance Alliance.





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Bismarck

Cornerstone Bank welcomes **Christy Steffenhagen** as chief risk officer. She brings over 25 years of internal audit and risk management experience, including 13 years of leadership experience with six of those years in executive leadership. Steffenhagen holds a bachelor's degree in accounting, along with a minor in speech communication from North Dakota State University. Christy also serves on the NDBA Board of Directors.



Christy Steffenhagen

Jenni Lang has joined **Cornerstone Bank** as internal audit manager. Lang brings over 25 years in the financial industry, with many of those years in leadership roles. Lang is a certified community bank compliance officer and certified bank secrecy act and anti-money laundering professional.



Jenni Lang

Fargo

Jeff Weiler has been named chief operating officer (COO) at **Cornerstone Bank**. He assumes the role as outgoing COO Deneen Axtman transitions to executive officer ahead of her planned retirement at the end of the year. Weiler most recently served as chief risk officer and has been with Cornerstone Bank since September 2022. He has 30 years of experience and has held many leadership roles across banking. He's currently serving his third year as chair for the NDBA Services Board.



Jeff Weiler

Fargo

Starion Bank is pleased to announce that **Jason Stein** has joined its board of directors, bringing three decades of leadership experience in sales, operations, and enterprise technology to the family owned, super community bank. Stein currently serves as chief information officer (CIO) at Border States, an employee owned electrical distribution company headquartered in Fargo. He joined Border States in 1995 and advanced through a wide range of leadership roles, including product management, regional sales leadership, vice president positions, and executive vice president of sales and marketing. He was appointed CIO in 2024.



Jason Stein

Bismarck

Aparna Subramanian has accepted the position of **DCN network architect**, leading the newly formed engineering department. After earning a bachelor's degree in computer science and mathematics with a minor in leadership studies from Dickinson State University, Subramanian joined Consolidated Telcom in Dickinson for six years. During her career, she has earned multiple professional certifications including MEF Carrier Ethernet Certified Professional, Cisco Certified Network Professional, and Nokia Network Routing Specialist II. Most recently, she added a Certified Information Systems Security Professional certification, which focuses on defining the design, architecture, controls, and management of highly secure business environments. Subramanian is currently pursuing graduate studies in cyber defense through Dakota State University.



Aparna Subramanian

DCN Systems Administrator Cole Hardy recently completed two industry certifications that will help protect data, secure access, and defend the DCN network against cyber threats. Hardy earned Microsoft Certified: Identity and Access Administrator Associate and Palo Alto Networks Certified Next-Generation Firewall Engineer. The Microsoft certification is an intermediate level training that validates his expertise in implementing and managing secure identity, authentication, and access controls using Microsoft Entra to protect organizational resources. The specialist-level Palo Alto certification demonstrates Hardy's advanced skill in deploying and managing Palo Alto Networks firewalls to secure enterprise networks through threat prevention and traffic control. Hardy joined the company in August 2025 as systems administrator, supporting the technical needs of the DCN team.

Bismarck

North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) recently awarded Champion of Affordable Housing awards to fifteen outstanding loan officers, real estate agents, and lending institutions that consistently promote NDHFA's homeownership programs. The state agency provides individuals and families, primarily first-time buyers, with low-cost financing, down payment and closing cost assistance.

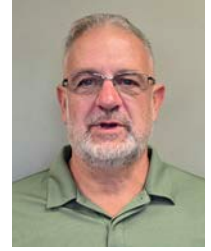
The Excellence in Homeownership Partner Award and Outstanding Homeownership Partner Recognition honor lending institutions for their strong performance in production volume, loan performance,

and program delivery. This year's recognized partners include Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, Gate City Bank, First International Bank and Trust, Town & Country Credit Union, and First Community Credit Union.

Parties interested in NDHFA's homeownership programs will find information online at ndhousing.nd.gov.

Fargo

Dakota Carrier Network (DCN) has hired **Jason Quaife** as an ethernet/IP technician I. In this role, Quaife is part of the Network Operations Center team, supporting DCN's state-of-the-art carrier Ethernet and IP networks. Quaife began his career in the U.S. Air Force. Following 22 years of service, he joined the telecommunications industry and has 25 years of experience in network monitoring, service provisioning, and troubleshooting. He completed numerous training and certifications with both the USAF and civilian companies. Quaife earned a bachelor of arts from Minnesota State University Moorhead.



Jason Quaife

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Internal Auditor
Bismarck, ND



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Are you a detail-oriented risk professional with a strong understanding of audit principles and standards? Starion Bank is seeking an **Internal Auditor** to support the effectiveness of our risk management, governance, and control environment.

This role is ideal for someone who enjoys evaluating processes, identifying risk, partnering with stakeholders, and providing objective assurance to Executive Management and the Audit Committee.

Location: On-site in Bismarck, North Dakota.

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- Complete internal audits in accordance with the approved audit schedule.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of internal controls, accuracy of financial records, and efficiency of operations.
- Make reports and recommendations for corrective actions.
- Coordinate external audits and examinations.
- Ensure compliance with laws, regulations, and procedures.

Qualifications:

- Three to five years of auditing experience preferred.
- Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, economics or a related field preferred.
- General understanding of banking laws, regulations, and processes.
- Working knowledge of audit principles and standards.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Strong proficiency with Excel, Word and data analytics.
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Chief Risk Officer Fargo, ND



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Work Hours: Full-time; Monday through Friday, 8-5pm.

Skills / Requirements / Qualifications:

- Execute a forward-looking enterprise risk management program across the company.
- Identify, assess, mitigate, and monitor potential risks across the company, including credit, market, operational, compliance, strategic, financial, information systems, and reputation.
- Lead the Risk Team, fostering a collaborative, accountable, and high-performing culture.
- Manage and support various enterprise risk programs, including Information Security, Third Party Risk Management, Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery, Compliance, Loan Review, and Model Risk Management.
- Prepares and presents written reports to management and/or Boards/Audit Committee as needed.
- Report risk exposures to management and provide recommended comprehensive solutions.
- Position requires a bachelor's degree in business, accounting, finance, or the equivalent combination of education and related work experience.
- Position requires a minimum of seven years' experience in banking, with strong proficiency of financial compliance laws, regulations, policies, and procedures regarding banking services.
- Risk or Compliance Certification is preferred but not required. Participation in a continuing education program is required to maintain competency in this position.

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Agriculture/Commercial Lender Washburn, ND



Why TruCommunity Bank?

We're a family-forward, locally owned organization that believes people come first. We invest in our employees' well-being, celebrate long-term commitment, and share our success through profit sharing. Just as importantly, we're deeply rooted in the communities we serve—supporting Main Street and the neighbors who live and work here. When you join our team, you're not just getting a job; you're becoming part of something purposeful, supportive, and local.

Key Responsibilities:

- Maintain an existing customer base and develop potential loan customers
- Assess credit worthiness and manage customer relationships
- Prepare and present credit presentations to Loan Committee
- Represent the bank through involvement and participation in community events
- Perform farm/commercial visits
- Guide the customer through the application process and verify the information provided on applications is complete to move forward to underwriting
- Collect data from customers, such as their assets, salaries, debts and employment status, and any applicable data points for Small Business Lending Data Collection requirements
- Be familiar with and abide by our Loan Policy
- Maintain a strong understanding of loan products, financial regulations, lending compliance, and the banking industry as a whole

Qualifications:

- A bachelor's degree in business administration, finance, economics, or a related field is preferred but not required
- Three to five years of lending experience preferred.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills and
- Exceptional customer service
- Proficiency with financial software and tools
- Strong in time management, prioritizing tasks, and attention to detail and organization
- Self-motivated, energetic, and driven with the ability to stay organized and multitask

What We Offer:

- Work-life balance: flexible scheduling with no weekends or holidays.
- Recognition & rewards: milestone incentives and profit sharing.
- Comprehensive insurance options: medical, dental, vision, life/AD&D, and long-term disability.
- Financial wellness benefits: preferred rates, reduced loan fees, and retirement savings with employer contributions.
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Please send resume to:

Mandie Kallhoff, Chief Engagement Officer

Email: mkallhoff@trucommunity.bank



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Contact: Bradley Cole, Managing Director, Northern Plains

Phone: 703-292-3392

bcole@intrafi.com



Arctic Wolf

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Eden Prairie MI

Contact: Logan McAlpin, Sr. Account Representative

Phone: 612-304-0875

logan.mcalpin@arcticwolf.com



Midwest Bankers Insurance Services

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Eden Prairie MN

Contact: Adam Dawson, Regional Sales Manager

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The Baker Group

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Contact: Cole Kratovil, Account Executive

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Contact: Brittney Stacey, Director of Membership Development

Phone: 833-683-0701

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jason.bain@superiorira.com



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FLOOD ZONE
DETERMINATIONS**

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*<https://www.floodsmart.gov/flood-insurance/why>