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The Subprime Effect: Keys to Minimize the Impact to Your Business

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Regulatory Hotspots

- Higher cost loans extended to borrowers who could have qualified for lower cost loans
- Teaser rates and prepayment penalties
- Loan suitability determined without including tax and insurance escrows in monthly payments



Securitization Balance Sheet

- Assets
 - Present value of pool of subprime mortgage loans
- Liabilities
 - Fully loaded cost of MBS
- Equity
 - Overcollateralization
 - Excess interest





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Response by Banking Agencies

- Interagency guidance on nontraditional mortgage product risks (Oct. 2006)
- Statement on Working with Borrowers (April 2007)
 - Encourages prudent workout arrangements with borrowers
- Statement on subprime mortgage lending (June 2007)
 - Underwrite loans to fully indexed rate
 - Require income verification except in certain circumstances
- Statement on loss mitigation strategies for servicers of residential mortgages (Sep. 2007)
 - Joint statement urging *servicers* to help at risk homeowners avoid defaults through loan modifications or restructurings



Congressional Hearings

- "Mortgage Market Turmoil: Causes and Consequences," Senate Banking Committee (March 22, 2007)
- "Subprime and Predatory Mortgage Lending: New Regulatory Guidance, Current Market Conditions and Effects on Regulated Financial Institutions," House Financial Services Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit (March 27, 2007)
- "Possible Responses to Rising Mortgage Foreclosures," House Financial Services Committee (April 17, 2007)
- "Subprime Mortgage Market Turmoil: Examining the Role of Securitization," Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance and Investment of the Senate Banking Committee (April 17, 2007)
- "The Role of the Secondary Market in Subprime Mortgage Lending," House Financial Services Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit (May 8, 2007)
- "Recent Events in the Credit and Mortgage Markets and Possible Implications for U.S. Consumers and the Global Economy," House Financial Services Committee (Sept. 5, 2007)





- H.R. 3915 "The Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act of 2007" (Rep. Frank)
- S. 1222, the "STOP FRAUD Act" (Sens. Obama and Durbin).
- S. 1299, the "Borrower's Protection Act of 2007" (Sen. Schumer)
- Bankruptcy Code changes
- Sen. Dodd's intended legislation



Subprime Exposure: Internal Reviews and Due Diligence



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- We will review the distribution chain in three main parts
 - Loan originators
 - Securitization participants
 - Purchasers: institutional investors/fund managers
- Entities often play multiple roles in this chain





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- Claims by <u>borrowers</u>:
 - Class actions:
 - Alleging inadequate disclosure of mortgage terms, including of total costs and of the effect of rate resets
 - Alleging discriminatory lending practices
 - Alleging violations of fair business practices statues









• Claims by <u>shareholders</u>:

- Securities claims based on disclosure about:
 - Underwriting standards, quality of loans, sources of loans
 - Ongoing condition of subprime portfolios, *e.g.*, deterioration of loan quality
 - Adequacy of reserves, *e.g.*, for loan repurchase obligations



Actions Against Loan Originators

- State enforcement-agency actions:
 - State Attorneys General
 - Sales practices
 - Includes discriminatory sales practices
 - Appraisal practices
 - Compensation of brokers
 - Rating-agency rankings of mortgage-backed securities
 - Settlements with:
 - Ameriquest Mortgage Company:
 - 48 states. Concealing interest rate and other loan costs. \$295 million in restitution.
 - Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.:
 - NY Attorney General. Discriminatory lending practices.



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• Examples by the <u>SEC</u>:

- Piper Capital Management (fund manager)
 - Alleged inadequate disclosure about extent of subprime holdings in portfolio and related misrepresentation of investment risks
 - Alleged resulting misstatement of fund's net asset value (NAV)



Emerging Accounting and Disclosure Hot Topics



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Emerging Accounting and Disclosure Hot Topics

- Do investors believe there is currently an accounting and disclosure crisis or is it just beginning?
 - We believe its just beginning
 - Disclosures have not kept up with the change in environment
 - The Center for Audit Quality (CAQ) Professional Practice
 Executive Committee recently published white papers
 - Other topics are emerging or ongoing
 - Adequacy of critical accounting policies, market risk disclosures
 - Complex structured finance activities
 - Adequacy of reserves (including whether companies have created "cookie jar" reserves)



Fair Value

- Severe reduced liquidity in the marketplace has created valuation challenges for accountants
 - Fair value is an essential component of many accounting principles
 - Special attention on maximizing the use of market data. Companies:
 - Should use market data
 - Should not ignore available market data
 - Disclosure of risks and uncertainties already required under GAAP. Examples include:
 - Impact fair value measurements will have on the financial statements
 - Impact of credit/liquidity crisis on use of unobservable inputs



Consolidation of Commercial Paper Conduits

- Re-evaluate the underlying assumptions requires for consolidation analysis of an ABCP conduit
 - Companies should re-evaluate:
 - Previously ascribed low probabilities of occurrence
 - Current involvement to support ABCP conduits
 - Model assumptions ensuring they reflect recent observable market data
 - Assets incorporate market data even if the sponsoring bank believes its own differing assumptions are correct
 - Updating the assumptions at a reconsideration date may change consolidation conclusion for the sponsor



Underwriting and Loan Commitments

- Companies should determine if losses should be recognized for off-market commitments:
 - If the commitment is a derivative, then changes in fair value are reflected in earnings
 - If not a derivative, then
 - For security commitments, analysis of loss recognition based on classification of the underlying security
 - Analysis of loan commitments based on classification of the underlying loan



Adequacy of MD&A

- Critical Accounting Policies, Market Risk Disclosures
 - SEC staff often challenge accounting and disclosure in financial statements based on critical accounting policies
 - Expect focus to be on valuation estimates, reserves, impairments and impact on financing activity
 - Should reflect current environment
 - Should be specific to the company's facts and circumstances
 - Is omission material to investors?
 - What market risks may affect the company and how are they managed?
 - Companies need to be explicit about their polices and the intended effects
 - Describe the company's vulnerability to large swings in risk factors
 - What changes in the environment, or in the company's credit terms, customer profile, or policies or procedures, may affect loss experience?



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Complex Structured Financial Transactions

- Interagency release provides broad set of principles for managing the risk associated with complex structured financial transactions (CSFT)
 - Released in January 2007
 - Scope: Any transaction that may create heightened legal or reputation risks
 - Beware of situations:
 - Securitize assets via an SPE in order to change the classification of the underlying security
 - Enron like SPE structures set up to off-load positions that have declined in value
 - Involve circular transfer of risk that lack economic substance or business purpose
 - Lack economic substance or business purpose
 - Involve oral or undocumented agreements
 - Have material economic terms that are inconsistent with market norms



Loan Loss Reserves

- Are the reserves adequate or have companies created "cookie jar" reserves?
 - SEC staff will not accept aggressive or overly conservative valuations.
 - No safety in numbers, SEC staff will still pursue restatement if a company did not follow GAAP.
 - Procedural discipline required by FRR 28, Accounting for Loan Losses by Registrants Engaged in Lending Activities
 - Beware of situations:
 - Failure to identify and provide adequately for probable loss
 - Unacceptable methods used to establish reserve
 - False and misleading press releases
 - Increases or reductions of the reserves that do not tie to underlying methodology or reflect general business risks
 - Poor internal accounting controls
 - Financial reporting NOT consistent with the information internally presented reports
 - Loss factors NOT adjusted on a timely basis for current conditions





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