



Comptroller of the Currency
Administrator of National Banks

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The Value of the National Bank Charter

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

December 2003

Comptroller _____ John D. Hawke, Jr.

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Background

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) was established in 1863 as a bureau of the Department of the Treasury. The OCC is headed by the Comptroller, who is appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for a five-year term.

The OCC regulates national banks by its power to:

- Examine the banks;
- Approve or deny applications for new charters, branches, capital, or other changes in corporate or banking structure;
- Take supervisory actions against banks that do not conform to laws and regulations or that otherwise engage in unsound banking practices, including removal of officers, negotiation of agreements to change existing banking practices, and issuance of cease and desist orders; and
- Issue rules and regulations concerning banking practices and governing bank lending and investment practices and corporate structure.

The OCC divides the United States into four geographical districts, with each headed by a deputy comptroller.

The OCC is funded through assessments on the assets of national banks, and federal branches and agencies. Under the International Banking Act of 1978, the OCC regulates federal branches and agencies of foreign banks in the United States.

The Comptroller

Comptroller John D. Hawke, Jr. has held office as the 28th Comptroller of the Currency since December 8, 1998, after being appointed by President Clinton during a congressional recess. He was confirmed subsequently by the U.S. Senate for a five-year term starting on October 13, 1999. Prior to his appointment Mr. Hawke served for 3½ years as Under Secretary of the Treasury for Domestic Finance. He oversaw development of policy and legislation on financial institutions, debt management, and capital markets; served as chairman of the Advanced Counterfeit Deterrence Steering Committee; and was a member of the board of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. Before joining Treasury, he was a senior partner at the Washington, D.C., law firm of Arnold & Porter, which he joined as an associate in 1962. In 1975 he left to serve as general counsel to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, returning in 1978. At Arnold & Porter he headed the financial institutions practice. From 1987 to 1995 he was chairman of the firm.

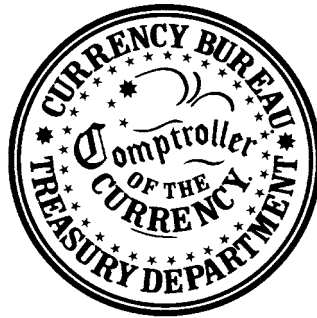


Mr. Hawke has written extensively on the regulation of financial institutions, including Commentaries on Banking Regulation, published in 1985. From 1970 to 1987 he taught courses on federal regulation of banking at Georgetown University Law Center. He has also taught courses on bank acquisitions and serves as chairman of the Board of Advisors of the Morin Center for Banking Law Studies. In 1987 Mr. Hawke served on a committee of inquiry appointed by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange to study the role of futures markets in the October 1987 stock market crash. He was a founding member of the Shadow Financial Regulatory Committee and served on it until joining Treasury.

Mr. Hawke was graduated from Yale University in 1954 with a B.A. in English. From 1955 to 1957 he served on active duty with the U.S. Air Force. After graduating in 1960 from Columbia University School of Law, where he was editor-in-chief of the Columbia Law Review, Mr. Hawke clerked for Judge E. Barrett Prettyman on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. From 1961 to 1962 he was counsel to the Select Subcommittee on Education, U.S. House of Representatives.

The *Quarterly Journal* is the journal of record for the most significant actions and policies of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. It is published four times a year. The *Quarterly Journal* includes policy statements, decisions on banking structure, selected speeches and congressional testimony, material released in the interpretive letters series, statistical data, and other information of interest to the administration of national banks. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send to Rebecca Miller, Senior Writer-Editor, by fax to (202) 874-5263 or by e-mail to quarterlyjournal@occ.treas.gov. Subscriptions to the new electronic *Quarterly Journal Library* CD-ROM are available for \$50 a year by writing to Publications—QJ, Comptroller of the Currency, Attn: Accounts Receivable, MS 4-8, 250 E St., SW, Washington, DC 20219. The *Quarterly Journal* continues to be available on the Web at <http://www.occ.treas.gov/qj/qj.htm>.

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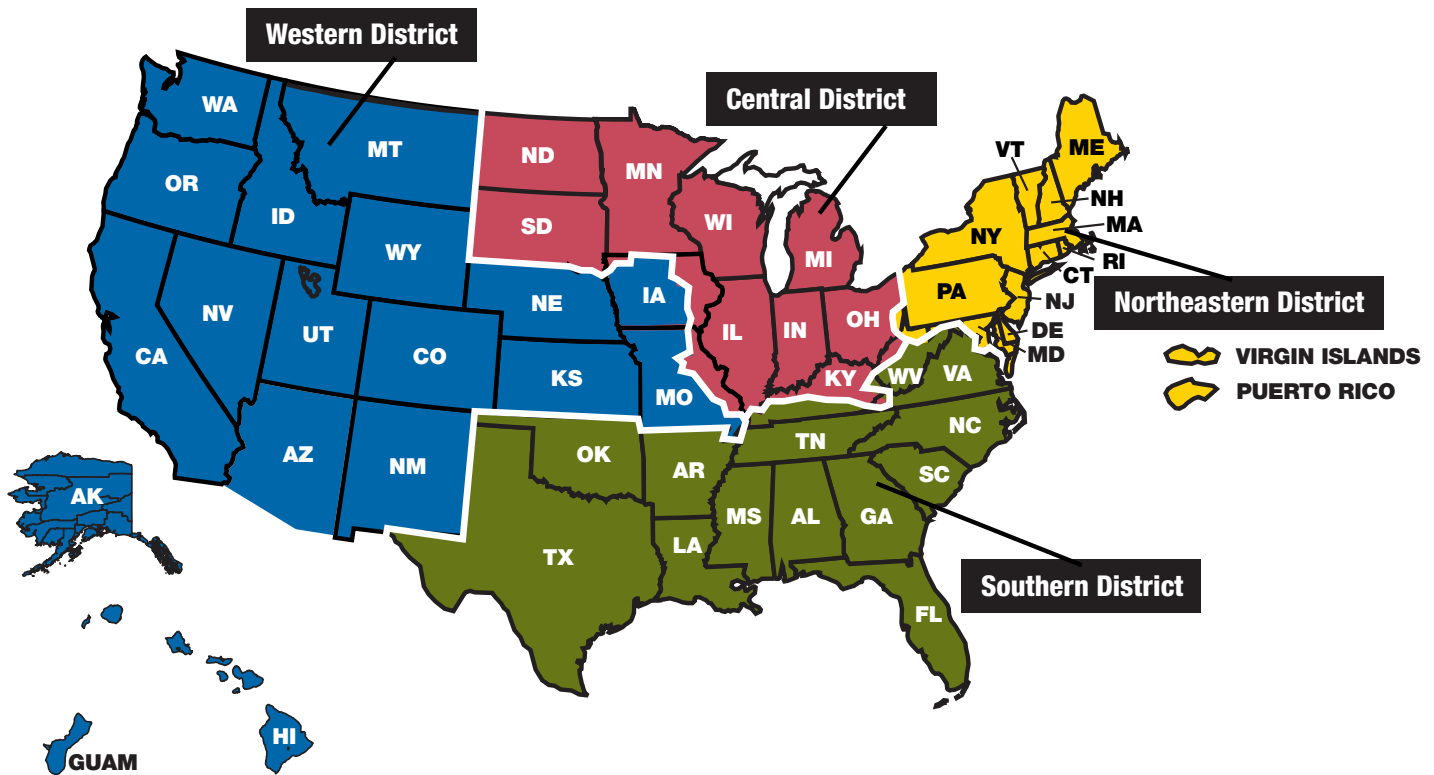
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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Condition and Performance of National Banks _____	1
Recent Licensing Decisions _____	21
Appeals Process _____	23
Speeches and Congressional Testimony _____	27
Interpretations—July 1 to September 30, 2003 _____	51
Mergers—July 1 to September 30, 2003 _____	83
Financial Performance of National Banks _____	89
Index _____	105



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INDEX

A

Affiliated mergers:

For quarter, **87**

Assets, liabilities, and capital accounts of national banks (financial table), **91**

Assets of national banks by asset size (financial table), **94**

Assets, total, of national banks by state and asset size (financial table), **103**

C

Commercial banks:

Condition and performance of, **1**

Number of commercial banks by state, **102**

Off-balance-sheet items, **97**

Past-due and nonaccrual loans and leases, **95**

Quarterly income and expenses, **98**

Quarterly net loan and lease losses, **100**

Total assets, **103**

Total assets by state, **103**

Total liabilities, **96**

Year-to-date income and expenses, **99**

Year-to-date net loan and lease losses, **101**

Condition and performance of commercial banks, **1**

Congressional testimony, speeches and, **27**

INDEX

D

Decisions, recent licensing, **21**

F

Financial performance of national banks (tables), **89**

H

Hawke, John D., Jr., Comptroller of the Currency:

Biography, **inside front cover**

Speeches and congressional testimony, **27**

I

Interpretations,

Interpretive letters:

Interpretive Letter No. 968: Exporting interest charges of a national bank throughout the United States, **53**

Interpretive Letter No. 969: Pooling individual fiduciary accounts and self-depositing them in a short-term investment fund, **56**

Interpretive Letter No. 970: Holding a noncontrolling equity interest in a limited purpose state-chartered bank, **60**

Interpretive Letter No. 971: OCC supervision of operating subsidiaries of national banks, **65**

Interpretive Letter No. 972: Possession by litigants of confidential and privileged OCC documents, **72**

Interpretive Letter No. 973: Authority of California national bank to serve as indenture trustee for municipal bonds issued in the state of Washington, **75**

Interpretive Letter No. 974: Authority of operating subsidiary to originate mortgage loans and export interest rates throughout the United States, **80**

K

Key indicators, FDIC-insured commercial banks (condition tables):

Annual 1999–2002, year-to-date through quarter, **12**

By asset size, **14**

By region, **16**

Key indicators, FDIC-insured national banks (condition tables):

Annual 1999–2002, year-to-date through quarter, **6**

By asset size, **8**

By region, **10**

L

Liabilities of national banks by asset size (financial table), **96**

Licensing decisions, recent, **21**

Loan performance, FDIC-insured commercial banks (condition tables):

Annual 1999–2002, year-to-date through quarter, **18**

By asset size, **20**

By region, **22**

Loan performance, FDIC-insured national banks (condition tables):

Annual 1999–2002, year-to-date through quarter, **7**

By asset size, **9**

By region, **11**

M

Mergers:

Affiliated, (involving affiliated operating banks), for quarter, **87**

Nonaffiliated, (involving two or more nonaffiliated operating banks), for quarter, **85**

Nonaffiliated, —thrift (involving nonaffiliated national banks and savings and loan associations), for quarter, **86**

N

Nonaffiliated mergers:

For quarter, **85**

Nonaffiliated mergers—thrift:

For quarter, **86**

Number of national banks by state and asset size (financial table), **102**

O

Off-balance-sheet items of national banks by asset size (financial table), **97**

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency:

Interpretations, **51**

Speeches and congressional testimony, **27**

P

Past-due and nonaccrual loans and leases of national banks by asset size (financial table), **95**

Q

- Quarterly income and expenses of national banks by asset size (financial table), **98**
- Quarterly income and expenses of national banks (financial table), **92**
- Quarterly net loan and lease losses of national banks by asset size (financial table), **100**

R

- Recent licensing decisions, **2**

S

- Speeches and congressional testimony:
 - Of John D. Hawke, Jr., Comptroller of the Currency:
 - On predatory lending and federalism, **29**
 - On preemption and the dual banking system, **35**
 - On abusive practices and regulation, **43**

T

- Tables, on the financial performance of national banks, **89**
- Testimony, congressional, speeches and, **27**
- Total assets of national banks by state and asset size (financial table), **103**

Y

Year-to-date income and expenses of national banks by asset size (financial table), **99**

Year-to-date income and expenses of national banks (financial table), **93**

Year-to-date net loan and lease losses of national banks by asset size (financial table), **101**

12 USC 24(7) (interpretive letters), **60**

12 USC 85 (interpretive letters), **53**

12 USC 92a (interpretive letters), **75**

12 CFR 4.31 (interpretive letter), **72**

12 CFR 9 (interpretive letter), **75**

12 CFR 9.12 (interpretive letter), **56**

12 CFR 9.18 (interpretive letter), **56**