Economic Perspectives on the Home Mortgage Market

A Research Roundtable

Sponsored by the Bureau of Economics Federal Trade Commission October 16, 2002

The Bureau of Economics of the Federal Trade Commission is sponsoring a research roundtable to discuss consumer protection and competition issues in the home mortgage market. The roundtable will bring academic and government researchers together to discuss what we know and do not know about how well the market is working, the extent and nature of any problems in the market, and the benefits and costs of various public policy proposals. The roundtable will seek to identify the important unanswered questions related to the functioning of the market and the effect of public policies, the types of rigorous economic and financial research that could address these questions, and the availability of data and other information that would facilitate the research. The discussion will be open to a wide range of issues, including consumer access to information about mortgage terms, consumer search and shopping behavior, competition and pricing in various segments of the market (e.g., prime, subprime, lender, broker, settlement services), the performance of the prime and subprime markets, deceptive lending and other problems, and the effects of various public policies (including predatory lending laws, deceptive marketing laws, RESPA reform, HOEPA revisions, yield spread premium restrictions, and TILA disclosures) on the market and consumer welfare.

Directions and Registration

The roundtable will be held from 9:00 to 4:00 on Wednesday, October 16, 2002 at the Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20580. Registration and coffee will begin at 8:30.

Please register in advance using the form attached to this notice. There is no registration fee. A picture ID is required for admittance.

For directions or registration questions call Chrystal Meadows at 202-326-3479 or email hmm@ftc.gov.

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8:30 - 9:00 Registration and Coffee

9:00 - 9:15 **Opening Remarks**

J. Howard Beales, Director

Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission

9:15 - 10:45 Information, Search and Consumer Behavior

Thomas A. Durkin, Senior Economist Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Anthony M. Yezer, Professor

Department of Economics, George Washington University

Susan M. Wachter, Professor of Real Estate and Finance The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania

10:45 - 11:00 Break

11:00 - 12:30 Market Structure, Competition, and Pricing

Charles M. Kahn, Bailey Memorial Chair Professor of Finance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Anthony B. Sanders, John W. Galbreath Chair in Real Estate, Professor of Finance, Fisher College of Business, Ohio State University

Amy Crews Cutts, Principal Economist

Housing Economics and Financial Research Department, Freddie Mac

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12:30 - 1:45 **Lunch Break**

1:45 - 3:45 **Regulation and Public Policy**

Charles W. Calomiris, Paul M. Montrone Professor of Finance and Economics, Graduate School of Business, Columbia University

Jack M. Guttentag, Professor of Finance Emeritus, formerly Jacob Safra Professor of International Banking, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

Issued: October 15, 2002

Michael E. Staten, Director, Credit Research Center, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University

John Farris, Research and Policy Associate Coalition for Responsible Lending

3:45 - 4:00 Concluding Remarks

Pauline M. Ippolito, Associate Director for Special Projects Bureau of Economics, Federal Trade Commission

For directions or registration questions call Chrystal Meadows at 202-326-3479 or email hmm@ftc.gov. For other questions call James Lacko at 202-326-3387 or email jlacko@ftc.gov.

Federal Trade Commission 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20580