

# THIS WEEK IN WALL STREET REFORM

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## Big Picture

### AARP, Center for Responsible Lending and AFR Poll Release

On Tuesday, AARP, the Center for Responsible Lending and Americans for Financial Reform [released a poll](#) conducted by Lake Research Partners that found by a 3 to 1 margin Americans want financial firms held accountable and financial reforms to take effect as soon as possible. And they want the CFPB—created by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010—to be up and running as planned, not diluted by industry’s current attempts to weaken its funding and structure.

[Click here](#) to view the poll memo and [click here](#) to view the PowerPoint presentation.

[Click here](#) to view Senate Banking Committee Chairman Sen. Tim Johnson’s press statement about the poll.

[Click here](#) to view Sen. Johnson’s excellent opening remarks during Tuesday’s hearing entitled “Enhanced Consumer Financial Protection After the Financial Crisis”.

#### Excerpt:

*“As we approach the one-year anniversary of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, we should all be reminded of a basic lesson we learned from the Great Recession – failing to protect consumers has consequences not only for individuals and families, but also for the health of America’s economy. ...In fact, an independent bipartisan poll released this morning shows that three-quarters of Americans are in favor of having a single agency with the single mission of protecting consumers from financial companies.”*

### Majority Of Americans Support Strong Consumer Protection Agency: Poll

James Sunshine (Huffington Post)

July 21, 2011

*“As of Thursday, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is open for business. And many Americans have already expressed their support. The poll, sponsored by the AARP, Americans for Financial Reform and the Center for Responsible Lending, found that as many as 63 percent of Americans favor more, not less, government oversight of financial companies. Only a small minority of those polled, 25 percent, want the opposite.” [Click here for more.](#)*

### Consumer Bureau Finds Support on Its First Day

Ben Protess (NYT/Dealbook)

July 21, 2011

*“The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau formally opened for business on Thursday, much to the consternation of Congressional Republicans. But as conservative lawmakers step up their attacks on the new regulator, aiming to undermine its structure and authority, champions of the bureau are pushing back. Consumer groups released a [new opinion poll](#) this week that showed broad public support for the bureau. And on Thursday, advocacy organizations issued [a report detailing](#) ‘ten reasons we need the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau now....’ ‘Congress shouldn’t forget that a lack of consumer protection led to the Wall Street-led collapse of the economy and only a consumer cop on the beat can protect consumers from it happening again,’ **Ed Mierzwinski**, the report’s author and the consumer program director of the **U.S. Public Interest Research Groups**, said in a statement. ‘This report is particularly timely because there are serious efforts to undermine the C.F.P.B. on Capitol Hill.’ ... ‘Today is an important day for consumers,’ **Lisa Donner**, executive director of **Americans for Financial Reform**, said in a statement. ‘The C.F.P.B. will level the playing field for families, making the consumer credit market work for borrowers and lenders alike and making the whole economy safer.’ ... ‘Everyday Americans know what’s good for their pocketbooks, their families, and our economy — that’s why a large, bipartisan majority is calling for financial reforms to take effect,’ **Mike Calhoun**, president of the **Center for Responsible Lending**, said in a statement about the poll. ‘Let’s hope policymakers hear them loud and clear.’” [Click here for more.](#)*

## **U.S. PIRG/AFR - 10 Reasons We Need The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Now**

U.S. PIRG and AFR

July 21, 2011

*“The idea of a federal consumer protection agency focused on credit and payment products gained broad and high-profile support because it targets one of the most significant underlying causes of the massive regulatory failures that did so much damage to families and to our economy. [...] The failure of federal banking agencies to stem sub-prime mortgage lending abuses is well documented. [...] Less well known are federal regulatory failures that have contributed to the extension of unsustainable consumer loans, such as credit card, overdraft and payday loans, which are now imposing a crushing financial burden on many families.” [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Consumers Union - New Poll Shows Strong Consumer Support for CFPB**

Consumers Union (press release)

July 20, 2011

*“As the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) prepares to open its doors for the first time Thursday, a new poll released today by Consumers Union, nonprofit publisher of Consumer Reports, found that the new financial watchdog enjoys broad support from nearly three-quarters (74%) of consumers.” [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Op-ed: A Dodd-Frank Retreat Deserves a Veto**

Timothy Geithner (WSJ op-ed - subscription require)

July 20, 2011

*“Two and a half years ago, with our country on the edge of a second Great Depression, we met with the president in the White House to discuss whether to move in those first months of his administration to legislate fundamental reform of the financial system—or wait until we had put the crisis behind us.” [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Is Geithner Warning Dodd-Frank May Fall to Debt Ceiling Deal?**

John Carney (CNBC.com)

July 20, 2011

*“The most interesting part of Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner’s op-ed in the Wall Street Journal today is not what the Treasury Secretary wrote—but that he wrote it at all. Its appearance in today’s has some in Washington wondering whether the Obama administration may be preparing to sacrifice parts of the Dodd-Frank financial reform law in order to strike a deal on the debt ceiling.” [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Treasury’s Miller: Dodd-Frank Regulations Needed**

Jamila Trindle (Fox Business)

July 13, 2011

*“Scaling back or repealing major parts of the Dodd-Frank Act or not providing regulators with the funds they need to implement the Act will leave our economy exposed to a cycle of collapses and crises,” Treasury’s Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets Mary Miller said in remarks prepared for an [industry](#) conference Wednesday in New York. [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Companies Pour on the Lobbyists to Block Financial Reform**

Christopher Maag (credit.com)

July 18, 2011

*The financial services industry spent a whopping \$117 million to lobby Congress and the federal government in the first three months of 2011, according to research by the [Center for Responsive Politics](#). A major focus of all that lobbying pressure was to delay, change or repeal various parts of the Dodd-Frank financial reform law, which Congress passed last summer. [Click here for more.](#)*

## **GOP House votes to limit new consumer protection bureau**

Pete Kasperowicz (The Hill blog)

July 21, 2011

*“The House on Thursday evening approved legislation that would make it easier to restrain the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) from issuing regulations that Republicans have warned could interfere with the safe operation of U.S. financial markets.” [Click here for more.](#)*

[Click here](#) to view AFR’s letter to members of Congress urging them to oppose H.R.1315

### **Excerpt:**

*“This legislation sharply decreases accountability and muddles decision-making at the CFPB. It would prevent the CFPB from doing anything until the Senate confirms a director, a process that could take many months. It would also vastly expand the power of disgraced banking regulators to stop strong consumer protection measures.”*

[Click here](#) to view LCCR’s letter to members of Congress.

[Click here](#) to view AFR’s press statement on the bill’s passage.

### **Excerpt:**

*“Two years ago at this time we were in the midst of a major battle about whether and to what extent Congress would stand up to Wall Street and financial industry special interests and change the failed program of deregulation that led to the financial crisis. ...Today the House has passed H.R. 1315 the ‘Consumer Financial Protection Safety and Soundness Improvement Act’ – a bill title that would make George Orwell blush. In fact, HR 1315 would cut the CFPB off at the knees, and make it impossible for it to do the job we need it to: standing up for Main Street, even when Wall Street doesn’t want it to.”*

## **Small businesses shouldn't be used as an argument for regulatory 'reform'**

Michael Krajovic, President and CEO of the Fay-Penn Economic Development Council

July 22, 2011

*“While no business wants unnecessary regulation, hundreds of thousands of small businesses support needed standards to protect people and the environment. Many of these businesses are represented by the rapidly growing American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC). These businesses follow a “Triple Bottom Line” operating philosophy where running a profitable business includes accepting social and environmental responsibility.” [Click here for more.](#)*

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## **Dodd-Frank Anniversary**

### **Dodd-Frank Law at 1: a Progress Report**

Murrey Jacobson (PBS NewHour.com)

July 21, 2011

*“...A year later, the debate continues and the efforts to shape how those rules are set remain very much an ongoing issue in Washington and New York. ...Given the ambitions of the financial reform law, we asked a variety of experts to weigh in on the first anniversary of Dodd-Frank to assess how effective it is at protecting the American economy from another crisis, what shortcomings are becoming apparent and whether banks are already trying to get around the law.” [Click here for more.](#) Note: **AFR** policy director **Marcus Stanley** contributed to this piece.*

## **Consumer Federation of America - Financial Reform is on Track, but Dark Clouds are Forming**

Consumer Federation of America (press release)

July 20, 2011

*“One year after enactment of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, regulators have made great strides implementing its sweeping reforms, according to a progress report issued today by*

the Consumer Federation of America (CFA). That progress is threatened, however, by the unrelenting efforts of industry groups and their congressional allies to weaken and delay the rules and defund the agencies primarily responsible for making those reforms a reality, CFA warns.” [Click here for more.](#)

### **Dodd-Frank Can't Be the End of the Story**

New Deal2.0 (Roosevelt Institute)

July 21, 2011

“One year after the passage of Dodd-Frank, Roosevelt Institute Fellow Mike Konczal invited experts and those on the front lines to weigh in on what’s happened so far and what’s to come on financial regulation. Konczal checked in with **Marcus Stanley**, legislative director of **Americans for Financial Reform**.” [Click here for more.](#)

### **Dodd-Frank rules slowly kick into consumers’ lives**

Dorothy Zhang (Medill News Service)

July 21, 2011

“The Dodd-Frank law is slowly kicking into U.S. consumers’ lives, one year after the most sweeping U.S. financial regulation since the Great Depression was enacted. ... The cap on swipe fees could be good news for consumers, should retail companies and small businesses take the lower swipe fee into consideration and lower the price of their goods and services to pass along the savings to consumers and try to tie them back to the stores, said **Marvin Silver**, outreach director at **Americans for Financial Reform**.” [Click here for more.](#)

### **Happy 1st birthday, Dodd-Frank, Part I**

Jennifer Taub (theParetoCommons blog)

July 20, 2011

“People are talking. And, they are not being kind. Word is, a year has passed, and Dodd-Frank is not living up to his potential. This observation is painful, but true. Yet, we should not blame the birthday boy. Here’s why. We expect him to be a doctor already, curing the bloated banking disease and immunizing consumers, yet he has not even taken his first steps. We have heaped upon this infant unreasonable expectations. Given his nature, the code itself, some goals are now and forever beyond his reach. Moreover, some folks intentionally are slowing the poor kid down and putting obstacles in his path. With such an environment, no law can do its best.” [Click here for more.](#)

### **As a Watchdog Starves, Wall Street Is Tossed a Bone**

James B. Stewart (New York Times)

July 15, 2011

“The economy is still suffering from the worst financial crisis since the Depression, and widespread anger persists that financial institutions that caused it received bailouts of billions of taxpayer dollars and haven’t been held accountable for any wrongdoing. Yet the House Appropriations Committee has responded by starving the agency responsible for bringing financial wrongdoers to justice while putting over \$200 million that could otherwise have been spent on investigations and enforcement actions back into the pockets of Wall Street.” [Click here for more.](#)

### **Dodd-Frank Under Fire a Year Later**

Edward Wyatt (New York Times)

July 18, 2011

“In the year since the passage of a sweeping overhaul of the nation’s financial regulatory system after the financial crisis, the stock market is up, banking profits have grown and institutions that invest on behalf of average Americans are praising the tougher stance in Washington.” [Click here for more.](#)

### **Financial reform quietly moving forward**

Despite headwinds, Dodd-Frank law is gaining quiet acceptance.

Sarah N. Lynch and Christopher Doering (MSNBC)

July 18, 2011

[Click here for more.](#)

## **Dodd-Frank: What's Worked in Year One**

Kevin Wack (American Banker)

July 18, 2011

*Implementing the Dodd-Frank Act was never going to be easy.*

*While lawmakers generally acted like the fighting was finished when the law was signed on July 21, everyone knew it was just the beginning. At 2,300 pages, the law left most of the heavy lifting to some 30 different federal agencies, which had to write roughly 400 rules or studies, more than half of them not due until 2012 or later. Since then, regulators have issued 121 proposals, finalized 38 of them, and missed 26 deadlines, according to estimates by the law firm Davis Polk. [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Regulators battle the odds on Dodd-Frank**

Shanny Basar (Financial News)

July 18, 2011

*On the first anniversary of its birth on Thursday dozens of the rules the project wanted to apply have yet to be written. Twelve months ago, regulators were left to cope with a rule-writing process, which could last five years. They had to carry out studies, hire staff, set up task forces or get feedback from the hundreds of parties involved. [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Institutional Investor Group Hails Dodd-Frank Anniversary**

Dave Lindorff (On Wall Street)

July 18, 2011

*That's the word from the Council of Institutional Investors, a non-profit association of pension funds, retirement funds, endowments and foundations, regarding the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act passed by Congress and signed into law a year ago this week. [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Dodd-Frank: In Need of Industry Support**

Ed Zwirn (IDG)

July 19, 2011

*Addressing a securities industry gathering at which the costs and challenges of Dodd-Frank implementation were held up to scrutiny, Mary John Miller, assistant Treasury secretary for financial markets, was describing financial regulatory reforms as "a baseline for economic growth." [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Dodd-Frank is a Year Older but Banks Still Not Clear on Rules**

Emily Knapp (Wall St. Cheat Sheet)

July 18, 2011

*While the Dodd-Frank financial reform law was passed by lawmakers over a year ago, no real details have been issued as to the level of bank regulation under the act. In the coming months, issues of the future profitability of banks will come into focus as lawmakers discuss reforms in capital and liquidity standards, the Volcker limits on proprietary trading, and whether banks will be forced to restructure in order to ease the process of breaking them up for regulators. [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Analysis: Wall St to learn if Dodd-Frank bark worse than bite**

Dave Clarke (Reuters)

July 18, 2011

*Wall Street will soon get an idea of just how far the regulatory pendulum will swing.*

*A year after passage of the Dodd-Frank financial reform law, policymakers have yet to detail many of the rules that will determine if high-flying Wall Street giants become heavily regulated and marginally profitable financial utilities, or if they'll simply get their wings clipped. [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Most influential U.S. financial watchdogs**

Reuters

July 18, 2011

*A list of the most powerful people carrying out the revamp of how financial [markets](#) and firms are regulated. [Click here for more.](#)*

## **U.S. regulators crack down on banks, markets**

Reuters

July 18, 2011

*A year after the enactment of the Dodd-Frank financial oversight law, regulatory agencies have finalized only a handful of reforms but are expected to pick up the pace during the second half of the year. [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Op-ed - Letting Bankers Walk**

Paul Krugman (New York Times)

July 16, 2011

*Ever since the current economic crisis began, it has seemed that five words sum up the central principle of United States financial policy: go easy on the bankers. This principle was on display during the final months of the Bush administration, when a huge lifeline for the banks was made available with few strings attached. It was equally on display in the early months of the Obama administration, when President Obama reneged on his campaign pledge to “change our bankruptcy laws to make it easier for families to stay in their homes.” And the principle is still operating right now, as federal officials press state attorneys general to accept a very modest settlement from banks that engaged in abusive mortgage practices.*

## **Dodd-Frank financial reform law hasn't curtailed banks' profits**

Nathaniel Popper (Los Angeles Times)

July 20, 2011

*Just a year ago, banking executives argued vehemently against the most sweeping overhaul of financial regulations since the Great Depression, saying the law enacted then would stifle innovation and erode profits. But in the last two weeks, they have been reporting billions of dollars in profits — including a record quarter for Wells Fargo & Co. — with nary a word about how the so-called Dodd-Frank financial reform law was hindering them. [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Former U.S. Bank Regulator Warns Against Excessive Regulation**

Alan Zibel (Dow Jones Newswires)

July 19, 2011

*U.S. regulators shouldn't overreact to the 2008 financial crisis by enacting overly strict regulations that harm the economy, a former regulator warned Tuesday. John Dugan, who last August ended a five-year term leading the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, said regulators risk going too far in several areas as they implement the Dodd-Frank financial-overhaul law passed a year ago this week. [Click here for more.](#)*

## **After Dodd-Frank Financial Reform, Do the Banks Still Run the Place?**

John Papagiannis (Public Campaign Action Fund)

July 20, 2011

*This Thursday marks the one-year anniversary of the passage of the “Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act,” legislation passed by Congress to rein in the banks and protect consumers from the practices that led to the economic collapse. Since its passage, Wall Street interests have continued to exert influence over Congress in efforts to weaken, repeal, or as one bank lobbyist said recently, “reform the reform.” [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Enhanced Oversight After the Financial Crisis: The Wall Street Reform Act at One Year**

[Click here](#) to view/read testimony from Thursday's Senate Banking Committee hearing:

The Honorable Neal S. Wolin, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of the Treasury; The Honorable Ben Bernanke, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; The Honorable Mary Schapiro, Chairman, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; The Honorable Gary Gensler, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission; The Honorable Martin J. Gruenberg, Acting Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and Mr. John Walsh, Acting Comptroller of the Currency, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

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## CFPB Launch

### **A Big Week for the New Consumer Agency**

Elizabeth Warren (Huffington Post)

July 18, 2011

*This is a big week for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Today, the President will announce his intent to nominate Richard Cordray to serve as the first Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. On Thursday, the CFPB makes its transition from a start-up to a real, live agency with the authority to write rules and to supervise the activities of America's largest banks.*

[Click here for more.](#)

### **Lenders Must Reveal Reasons for Rejection**

Bill Hardekopf (The Street)

July 20, 2011

*Starting tomorrow, consumers will get an explanation when they don't get the best interest rate or are turned down on a student loan, automobile loan or credit card application. This regulation from the Federal Reserve and Federal Trade Commission requires lenders to send you a free copy of the credit score used to arrive at a decision. The new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau will enforce the rules. [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Federal consumer protection agency launching amid lingering controversy**

Jim Puzzanghera (LA Times)

July 21, 2011

*"The federal government is unwrapping its most potent weapon yet in the battle to keep businesses from defrauding consumers: a powerful new agency designed to police nearly every type of transaction in hopes of avoiding another financial crisis. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, opening Thursday, is the first major agency launched in Washington in nearly a decade and the first since the early 1970s that is specifically focused on American consumers." [Click here for more.](#)*

### **CFPB Will Tackle Credit Card Issues Soon, Advocates Predict**

Martha C. White (Time)

July 21, 2011

*"Conceived in the wake of the subprime meltdown and the subsequent financial market crash, the CFPB was envisioned as a financial services version of something like the Consumer Product Safety Commission, except that instead of pulling lead-tainted toys." [Click here for more.](#)*

### **New agency arrives with broad powers to police financial products**

Connie Prater (Creditcard.com)

July 20, 2011

*"In what consumer groups are heralding as a historic moment for American families, a new federal consumer financial watchdog agency officially opened for business Thursday. It is doing so, however, amid a swirl of controversy and uncertainty about its future, its leadership and its actual powers. ... **Lisa Donner**, executive director of **Americans for Financial Reform**, said the 2008 mortgage crisis that crippled Wall Street made the need "astoundingly clear" for a new consumer financial watchdog. Under the current federal regulatory system, banks are reviewed for the safety and soundness of their banking operations by the same regulators that review whether they comply with consumer protection laws." [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Meet Holly Petraeus: US Servicemembers' Advocate at the CFPB**

Loren Berlin (DailyFinance)

July 21, 2011

*"Sometimes, catastrophes can lead to changes that better protect us -- and by 'us,' I mean the residents of Main Street -- average Americans whose voices often get lost among the lobbyists and corporate interests."*

[Click here for more.](#)

## Consumer Bureau Launches in Shark-Infested Waters

Mary Bottari (CommonDreams.org)

July 22, 2011

*“The [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#) (CFPB) throws open its doors to consumers this week, officially starting its mission to safeguard Americans from overly complex financial products and malignant banking practices. The bureau is the culmination of a national grassroots effort to hold the big banks accountable for the 2008 economic collapse caused by Wall Street’s insatiable appetite for dangerous mortgage products. Millions of Americans signed petitions to create the bureau and new polling shows that 74% of Americans think it is a terrific idea.” [Click here for more.](#)*

## Greening Institute op-ed - New consumer protection is coming — if Congress doesn’t kill it

Orson Aguilar (op-ed for The Progressive)

July 13, 2011

*“On July 21, the most important new consumer protection agency in decades opens its doors. Amazingly, some in Congress want to strangle it before it even gets started.” [Click here for more.](#)*

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## Rich Cordray Nomination

### Obama’s Pick for Consumer Agency Has Record of Fighting Banks

Carter Dougherty (Bloomberg)

July 18, 2011

*“Mark Seifert recalls being impressed when Richard Cordray, then the Ohio state treasurer, walked into the offices of his Cleveland activist group one day in August 2007. Seifert’s organization -- Empowering and Strengthening Ohio’s People, or ESOP -- was known for its confrontational tactics, such as the time it gathered at the home of a regional vice president of lender Countrywide Financial Corp. and covered his lawn and flower beds with small plastic ‘loan’ sharks to draw attention to mortgage abuses.” [Click here for more.](#)*

[Click here](#) to view AFR’s press statement on the nomination.

#### Excerpt:

*“Richard Cordray has an excellent and balanced record of service in the public interest and he will make a strong and effective head for the Consumer Bureau. Professor Warren has done a remarkable service for the American public in conceiving of the Consumer Bureau, and in bringing it to life. Her leadership made possible this major step forward for consumer protection, and she is extraordinarily well qualified to lead it. But big Wall Street banks, finance industry special interests, and their friends in Congress fought her nomination fiercely.”*

[Click here](#) to view the press statement from LCCR, [click here](#) to view the press statement the National Council of La Raza on the opening of the CFPB.

## Editorial - Consumer watchdog

Toledo Blade editorial

July 21, 2011

*“The choice of former Attorney General Richard Cordray to head the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau could add some bite to President Obama’s promise to protect consumers against unscrupulous lenders. That is, unless Senate Republicans pull the agency’s teeth as the price for confirming the President’s nominee. ... The bureau has broad public support. According to a poll by Lake Research Partners that was commissioned by **AARP, Americans for Financial Reform**, and the **Center for Responsible Lending**, a majority of Republican, Democratic, and Independent voters support the Wall Street reform law and the creation of a single agency, the sole purpose of which is to protect consumers from*

financial companies. Three out of four voters who responded to the poll want Congress to allow the law to take effect.” [Click here for more.](#)

### **In his own words: Cordray on CFPB role**

Ruth Mantell (MarketWatch)

July 18, 2011

*“Richard Cordray, named over the weekend as President Barack Obama’s choice to lead a new financial watchdog, talked to MarketWatch last year about the role he’s been picked to fill. But the context of the 2010 interview wasn’t the then–Ohio attorney general’s becoming the first director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the agency that’s set to open for business later this week.” [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Is Political Gridlock a Threat to Governance?**

Warren Olney (NPR’s To the Point)

July 20, 2011

*“Political gridlock is pushing Washington closer to financial catastrophe if the two parties can’t agree to raise the debt ceiling by August 2. Now there’s potential gridlock over implementing last year’s finance reform. Elizabeth Warren is out as head of the new Consumer Protection Bureau. Will that be enough for Republicans? Is Washington losing the ability to govern? Also, Minnesota’s Governor signs the budget, ending the government shutdown. On Reporter’s Notebook, America’s weather is not what it used to be.” [Click here for more.](#) Note: **Ed Mierzwinski**, consumer program director with **U.S. PIRG** is a guest.*

### **Republicans Take Aim at CFPB, Call Nominee 'Dead on Arrival'**

Phil Mattingly (Bloomberg)

July 19, 2011

*“U.S. Republican lawmakers are stepping up efforts to restructure the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, with a key senator declaring a nomination for the agency’s top job ‘dead on arrival.’” [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Liberals, Lay Off Richard Cordray: He’ll Be a Great Consumer Watchdog**

Nathan Pippenger (The New Republic)

July 20, 2011

*“Poor Richard Cordray. Ever since he was nominated earlier this week to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), liberals have given him a rather cold reception. The reason is simple: He is not Elizabeth Warren. Paul Krugman called Obama’s abandonment of Warren—whom Republicans had vowed to block—‘really sad,’ while National Journal reported that the selection ‘did nothing to gin up Obama’s base.’” [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Richard Cordray and the CFPB: Let the nominee speak**

Faiz Shakir (Washington Post)

July 20, 2011

*“Today, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which has been incubating at the Treasury Department for the past year, assumes its independence. In selecting Richard Cordray to head the CFPB, President Obama has chosen an articulate, dedicated professional whose well-regarded record has earned him the opportunity to serve the American people.” [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Editorial - Fine choice**

The Columbus Dispatch

July 19, 2011

*“Making the new federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau a success will require the skills of a fair-minded pragmatist who commands wide respect, and that makes former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray an excellent pick to run it.” [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Editorial: New top consumer cop is bankers' second-worst nightmare**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

July 19, 2011

*“Sen. Scott Brown, R-Mass., is the individual most likely to be unhappy that President Barack Obama decided not to nominate Elizabeth Warren as the first head of the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.” [Click here for more.](#)*

#### **Editorial - Elizabeth Warren, consumer advocate, robbed of chance to lead agency she built**

Newark Star-Ledger  
July 19, 2011

*“The nation’s star player for consumer advocacy [just got passed over](#) for a second stringer, through no fault of her own.” [Click here for more.](#)*

#### **Editorial - Confirm Cordray as Consumer Financial Protection Bureau chief**

The Plain Dealer  
July 20, 2011

*“Ohio’s Richard Cordray is an excellent choice to head the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which opens its doors today. Now all he needs is a chance to do the job.” [Click here for more.](#)*

#### **Editorial - Congress to cripple consumers?**

Philly.com  
July 20, 2011

*“WE COULD have told President Obama that backing off from nominating Elizabeth Warren to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau would not make it any easier to get the bureau off the ground. In fact, we did tell him, but it was no great feat of prognostication. Congressional Republicans made it clear that, even though they were brutally demonizing Warren - who has built the agency and was the hands-on best choice to lead it - it wasn’t about her, really. They want to cripple the bureau.” [Click here for more.](#)*

#### **Editorial - After Obama yields on Warren, new appointee deserves a vote**

Boston Globe  
July 21, 2011

*“IT’S DISAPPOINTING that President Obama decided against naming Elizabeth Warren to head the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which officially opens today. The Harvard Law School professor, the brains behind the agency’s creation, would have been an excellent choice. Still, the man Obama chose instead, former Ohio attorney general Richard Cordray, is well qualified. Now Senate Republicans must allow Cordray an up-or-down confirmation vote.” [Click here for more.](#)*

#### **Cordray choice for financial watchdog**

Jessica Wehrman and Jack Torry (The Columbus Dispatch)  
July 18, 2011

*“President Barack Obama will nominate former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray to head a powerful new consumer-protection agency. At a White House event today, Obama will announce his choice of Cordray, 52, who is currently serving as director of enforcement for the new agency, called the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. ... Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, who defeated Cordray last November, said Cordray ‘is very well-qualified for this job. He’ll do a good job. I wish him well.’” [Click here for more.](#)*

#### **No Big CFPB Changes**

Abby Phillip (Politico)  
July 17, 2011

*“A White House official, who asked not to be identified, said that Obama will continue to oppose attempts to weaken the agency. ‘From day one, there have been many who have worked hard to try to prevent the CFPB from becoming a reality. From spending millions of dollars to defeat the consumer agency to lobbying Congress to get it out of the final bill, special interests and their lobbyists have worked hard to defeat these historic new protections for consumers,’ the official said. ‘We believe Cordray deserves a hearing and vote on his merits and his sterling qualifications for the job.’” [Click here for more.](#)*

#### **Warren Never Won Over White House**

Binyamin Appelbaum (New York Times)  
July 17, 2011

"Her candidacy was passionately supported by liberal members of Congress and consumer advocacy groups. But she never won the full support of the president or his senior advisers, particularly the Treasury secretary, Timothy F. Geithner, in part because of her independent streak and her outspokenness, which at times put her at odds with the administration." [Click here for more.](#)

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## **CFPB and Consumer Issues**

### **Mortgages, credit cards in CFPB's focus now**

Ruth Mantell (MarketWatch)

July 20, 2011

*"The hotline is an early project for the CFPB, which will take over certain consumer-financial protection powers from the Federal Reserve and other agencies on Thursday. Other areas the CFPB is addressing in its early days are creating clearer mortgage ..."*

[Click here for more.](#)

### **Five facts about the fourth bureau**

Ylan Q. Mui (Washington Post)

July 16, 2011

*The Big Three credit bureaus — Experian, Equifax and TransUnion — keep records of loans for an estimated 200 million U.S. consumers. But there are lesser-known companies that track other pieces of your financial life. Collectively they are known as the fourth bureau. They can determine whether you qualify for credit and how much you pay for it. So it's important to understand how this data may be shaping your financial future. [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Consumer Watchdog Is All Ears for Ideas**

Ron Lieber (New York Times)

July 15, 2011

*"If you want to try your hand at playing regulator, now's your chance. The new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau officially opens for business on Thursday, but for several months it has been soliciting ideas from the public". [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Taking action**

Kate Berry, Alex Ulam and Sara Lepro (American Banker)

July 14, 2011

*"The social activism website Change.org has taken up the plight of the parents of an active-duty service member, who are facing foreclosure. In early June, Economic Fairness Oregon, a Portland nonprofit, submitted a petition on Change.org asking JPMorgan Chase & Co. to delay foreclosing on the Bend, Ore., home of Tim Collette, whose son Pfc. Aaron Collette is expected to return from Iraq for a two-week leave in August. So far, 79,786 signatures have been collected on the site, which enables individuals and organizations to take up a particular cause by starting an online petition. Economic Fairness Oregon's petition is asking for a delay of the foreclosure, which is scheduled for Aug. 9, so Aaron Collette 'has a home to return to,' and calls the bank's decision to foreclose 'reprehensible,' and potentially 'in violation of a U.S. law that protects military servicemen and women from facing foreclosure while on active duty.'"*

### **3 Ways the CFPB Can Help Protect Young Consumers**

Farnoosh Torabi (Credit.com News)

July 19, 2011

*"As the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) gears up to launch this Thursday, I have a few recommendations on behalf of young adults and college students in America. As we know, many in this generation lack the ..." [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Payday Loans by Banks are Expensive, Long-term Debt, New CRL Research finds**

Center for Responsible Lending  
July 21, 2011

*"The new report, Big Bank Payday Loans, shows that, on average, a bank payday loan is repaid within 10 days, eats up 44 percent of a borrower's next deposit, and often creates the need for a subsequent loan. As a result, borrowers stay in debt an average of 175 days, paying over \$900 in interest to borrow \$500 for less than 6 months." [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Huffpost Hill - Congress Still Targeting Olds**

Huffington Post  
July 20, 2011

**"OCC Still a Sick Joke Masquerading as a Federal Agency** - Remember when all those state regulators wanted to crack down on predatory lending in, like, 2004? And remember when the OCC stepped in to say, "Aw hell naw"? And remember when those horrible mortgages wrecked the global economy? Well, the OCC wants another go-round. Today, the agency finalized a new set of "preemption" rules that are pretty much just like the old ones, protecting the nation's biggest banks from state scrutiny. **Americans for Financial Reform says** the new regulations directly violate last year's Wall Street reform bill, which required the OCC to ease the preemption rules."

### **Enhanced Consumer Financial Protection After the Financial Crisis**

[Click here](#) to view/read testimony from Tuesday's Senate Banking Committee hearing:

Michael Calhoun, President, Center for Responsible Lending; Marcus Schaefer, President and CEO, Truiliant Federal Credit Union; Albert C. Kelly, Jr., Chairman and CEO, SpiritBank on behalf of the American Bankers Association; Lynn Drysdale, Managing Attorney, Consumer Law Unit, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc.; Andrew J. Pincus, on behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and Adam J. Levitin, Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center.

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## **Shadow Markets and Systemic Risk**

### **CFTC finalizes 3 more derivatives rules**

Jamila Trindle (MarketWatch)  
July 19, 2011

*"The Commodity Futures Trading Commission unanimously approved three more new derivatives rules Tuesday, bringing the number of final rules required by the Dodd-Frank law to 10, out of over 50 proposed rules." [Click here for more.](#)*

[Click here](#) to view CFTC Chairman Gary Gensler's statements of support on Four Final Rule Proposals and One Proposed Rule under the Dodd-Frank Act on Tuesday.

### **Derivatives Reform: The View from Main Street**

[Click here](#) to view/read testimony from Thursday's House Committee on Agriculture hearing:

The Honorable Gary Gensler, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, The Honorable Glenn English, Chief Executive Officer, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Mr. Randy S. Howard, Director of Power System Planning and Development, Power System Executive Office, Department of Water and Power, Los Angeles, CA, Mr. Neil M. Schloss, Vice President-Treasurer, Ford Motor Company, Ms. Denise B. Hall, Senior Vice President, Treasury Sales Manager, Webster Bank, Hartford, Connecticut, Mr. Sam Peterson, Senior Advisor, Derivatives Regulatory Advisory Services, Chatham Financial, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, and Mr. David Fraley, President, Fraley and Company, Inc., Cortez, Colorado.

### **Dodd-Frank Panel's Delays Create Financial 'Guessing Game'**

The San Francisco Chronicle

July 17, 2011

*A team of regulators charged with preventing another financial crisis is fending off criticism it's moving too slowly to identify the firms whose failure could pose a threat to the economy. [Click here for more.](#)*

### **U.S. Regulators to Assess 'Important' Clearinghouses**

Alan Zibel (WSJ)

July 18, 2011

*Top U.S. financial regulators moved Monday to more closely regulate entities that clear and settle financial trades, saying their failure could pose a risk to the economy. [Click here for more.](#)*

### **High Frequency Traders Start Lobbying**

Graham Bowley (New York Times)

July 17, 2011

*"For years they have operated in the shadows ... Now high-frequency trading firms, normally secretive, are stepping into the light to buff their image with regulators, the public and other investors. ... [T]he firms are trying to stave off the regulators who are proposing to curb their activities. To make their case, the firms have formed their first industry trade group, hired former [SEC] Securities and Exchange Commission staff members and spent nearly \$2 million in the last few years on Washington lobbying and contributions to lawmakers. Some even want to be called 'automated trading professionals' rather than high-frequency traders." [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Lawmaker aims to clean up U.S. swap rules**

Reuters

July 19, 2011

*A U.S. House committee will race to clean up new U.S. rules on swaps before they take effect, the panel's chairman said on Tuesday, warning the rules will harm small and medium-size businesses. "They believe they are going to be economically gut-shot on this ... a horrible, slow death," Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas said. [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Gensler's Struggles Mark Regulatory Challenges**

Deborah Solomon (WSJ – subscription required)

July 19, 2011

*"When the Dodd-Frank financial-regulation overhaul became law last July, Commodity Futures Trading Commission Chairman Gary Gensler raced to implement new rules assigned to the agency. But as the landmark law nears its first anniversary on Thursday, Mr. Gensler's zeal has triggered a backlash. [Click here for more.](#)*

### **A Year After Dodd-Frank, Too Big To Fail Remains Bigger Problem Than Ever**

Shahien Nasiripour (Huffington Post)

July 20, 2011

*"A year after Congress passed a landmark law intended to tame the excesses that produced the financial crisis, some experts contend that a crucial vulnerability remains: The largest financial institutions are still so enormous that their failure could again bring the financial system to the brink of disaster." [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Wetjen Nominated to CFTC at 'Crucial' Time for Swaps Regulations**

Silla Brush (Bloomberg)

July 21, 2011

*"Mark P. Wetjen, President Barack Obama's nominee to sit on the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, said it's critical that the agency "hews closely" to the Dodd-Frank Act and avoids "unnecessary" costs on commercial and manufacturing firms." [Click here for more.](#)*

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## **Commodity Speculation**

### **Wall Street Speculation Costs 83 cents a Gallon at the Pump**

The Bellingham Bulletin

*“Excessive Wall Street speculation on oil futures translates to an increase of 83 cents a gallon. A new report recently released by Americans for Financial Reform (AFR) and MASSPIRG entitled, “How Speculation is Affecting Gasoline Prices Today,” calls on regulators to stop excessive Wall Street speculation that is driving up gas prices and costing families money. The report, authored by Robert Pollin and James Heintz at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, shows that without the influence of large-scale speculating trading on oil in the commodities futures market, the average price of gas in May 2011 would have been \$3.13, rather than \$3.96. [Click here for more.](#)”*

[Click here](#) to read a summary of the release and press coverage of our report with Robert Pollin and James Heintz, “How Wall Street Speculation is Driving Up Gas Prices Today”

[Click here](#) to read prepared remarks from CFTC Commissioner Bart Chilton to the American Soybean Association Legislative Forum – the speech is entitled “**Caging the Financial Cheetahs**” and was delivered on Tuesday.

#### **Excerpt:**

*“...From 2005 to 2008, roughly \$200 billion in new speculative massive passive money came into the commodity markets in the U.S. alone. At the time, consumers were outraged about gas prices and food prices. So, should we be worried that maybe that’s what’s going on today? Is that at least part of the reason gas is historically high in the U.S.? Consumers are certainly outraged again.”*

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## **Foreclosures and Housing**

### **Obama administration not planning another big housing program**

Renaë Merle (Washington Post)

July 14, 2011

*The Obama administration has no plans to introduce another large-scale program for relieving the troubled housing market, despite [the president’s recent admission](#) that his past efforts have not solved the problem, according to a senior administration official. President Obama’s acknowledgment that the weak housing market had become one of his administration’s chief burdens set off industry speculation that there could be another large government offensive to jump-start the sector. [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Mortgage Win for Goldman**

Liz Rappaport (WSJ - subscription required)

July 22, 2011

*“Goldman Sachs Group Inc. scored a victory in one of the highest-profile lawsuits that accuses it of duping investors on mortgage securities that were sold during the buildup to the financial crisis. In a ruling that gives Goldman and other securities firms ammunition against investors who are trying to recoup losses suffered on the deals when the housing bubble burst, U.S. District Judge Barbara Jones threw out a 13-month-old suit filed against Goldman by Basis Yield Alpha Fund.” [Click here for more.](#)”*

### **What if the Right and the Left Are Both Wrong About Why the Economic Recovery Is So Slow? A New Theory**

William Galston (The New Republic)

July 13, 2011

*“Ever since it became clear that the pace of the economic recovery was falling short of expectations, two competing narratives have vied to dominate our politics. Movement conservatives argue that the weight of a government that “spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much” is suffocating the private sector and that new laws and regulations have throttled investment and job creation by creating uncertainty about*

*the costs of doing business. Keynesian liberals, meanwhile, counter that the problem is the collapse of demand and that the government's failure to offer a large enough stimulus is consigning us to a rate of growth not easy to distinguish from stagnation. What if they're both wrong? That's the claim of Amir Sufi, a finance professor at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. The data tell a compelling story, he argues: The main factor responsible for both the severity of the recession and the subsequent weakness of the economic recovery is the deplorable weakness of the U.S. household balance sheet, which is, Sufi [shows](#), 'in worse condition than at any other point in history since the Great Depression.' [Click here for more.](#)*

#### **AP Exclusive: Mortgage 'robo-signing' goes on**

Michelle Conlin and Pallavi Gogoi (AP)

July 19, 2011

*"Mortgage industry employees are still signing documents they haven't read and using fake signatures more than eight months after big banks and mortgage companies promised to stop the illegal practices that led to a nationwide halt of home foreclosures."* [Click here for more.](#)

#### **Fannie-Backwards**

Bob Kuttner (The American Prospect)

July 14, 2011

*"The following is a sneak preview from the Prospect's September issue: As the Wall Street crisis unfolded, one prominent financial writer after another weighed in with an important book. Followers of these events have eagerly awaited a book by one of the best, The New York Times's Gretchen Morgenson. After most of the major topics had been taken, Morgenson chose to focus on mortgage behemoth Fannie Mae and its role in the crisis. Reckless Endangerment, co-written with Wall Street analyst and reform advocate Joshua Rosner (whose name appears on the cover in smaller type), provides a vivid portrait of a corrupted institution, but it gets key facts egregiously wrong."* [Click here for more.](#)

#### **Why Fannie and Freddie Are Not to Blame for the Crisis**

Jeff Madrick and Frank Partnoy (New York Review of Books)

July 13, 2011

*"A debate has erupted anew in Washington over whether Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac caused the credit crisis of 2007 and 2008. Their critics claim that these two Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) deserve a lot of the blame because they encouraged mortgage lending to low-to-middle-income Americans, a goal that Congress required and Bill Clinton advocated. The debate, which faded after a brief fluorescence in 2008, has been revived by a new book, Reckless Endangerment, by the respected New York Times reporter Gretchen Morgenson and the dogged financial analyst Josh Rosner."* [Click here for more.](#)

#### **Wells Draws \$85 Million Penalty in Subprime Case**

Ruth Simon and Victoria McGrane (WSJ)

July 21, 2011

*Wells Fargo & Co. agreed to pay an \$85 million civil penalty Wednesday in response to allegations it steered thousands of potential prime-mortgage borrowers into more-costly subprime loans. A cease-and-desist order issued by the Federal Reserve Board is the first formal enforcement action taken by federal bank regulators involving allegations of steering borrowers into high-cost subprime loans. The penalty is the largest issued to date by the Fed in a consumer-protection enforcement action.* [Click here for more.](#)

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## **Executive Compensation**

#### **Dodd-Frank Section 953(b): Why CEO-to-Worker Pay Ratios Matter For Investors**

AFL-CIO

*"Section 953(b) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 introduces new reporting requirements for publicly traded companies to disclose the median of the annual total*

compensation of all employees (except the CEO) and the ratio of CEO compensation to median employee compensation. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has announced its intention to issue regulations implementing this pay ratio disclosure requirement in the fall of 2011.” [Click here for more.](#)

### **Public Citizen - Wall Street Tries to Opt Out of Dodd-Frank Pay Rule**

Public Citizen (press release)  
July 21, 2011

*“As the first anniversary of the Dodd-Frank financial reform law passes, Wall Street is pressing to excuse itself from a rule specifically designed to address one the main causes of the financial meltdown: inappropriate incentive compensation packages. A report released today by Public Citizen analyzes the comments of 24 financial services companies, trades associations and allied groups on the proposed rule pertaining to Dodd-Frank Section 956, which requires large financial institutions to report their incentive-based pay arrangements to federal agencies and prohibits pay formulas that “encourage excessive risk.”* [Click here for more.](#)

### **Bonuses for Billionaires**

Nicholas D. Kristof (New York Times)  
July 21, 2011

*The first few times I heard House Republicans talk about our budget mess, I worried that they had plunged off the deep end. But as I kept on listening, a buzzer went off in my mind, and I came to understand how much sense [the Tea Party caucus](#) makes. Why would we impose “[job-crushing taxes](#)” on wealthy Americans just to pay for luxuries like federal prisons? Why end the “carried interest” [tax loophole for financiers](#), just to pay for unemployment benefits — especially when those same selfless tycoons are buying yachts and thus creating jobs for all the rest of us? Hmm. The truth is that House Republicans don’t actually go far enough. They should follow the logic of their more visionary members with steps like these:* [Click here for more.](#)

### **SEC to Consider Final Vote Disclosure Rules on July 26**

Ted Allen (ISS blog)  
July 20, 2011

*On July 26, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission plans to consider a set of final proxy vote disclosure rules for institutions that are Form 13F filers. The long-awaited rules, which are mandated by Section 951 of the Dodd-Frank Act, will require these institutional investors to annually disclose in Form N-PX filings how they cast their ballots on “say on pay” advisory votes, as well as the separate shareholder votes on “golden parachute” arrangements and the frequency of future “say on pay” votes.* [Click here for more.](#)

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## **Interchange**

### **Shoppers to feel effects of debit-fee ruling**

Eileen Ambrose (The Baltimore Sun)  
July 17, 2011

*“You might not have paid attention to the fierce yearlong battle between merchants and banks over debit cards, but you’ll likely notice the outcome in your wallet. The dispute was over the debit card interchange fee — the payment merchants make to banks to process customer transactions. Last year’s Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act law required that the Federal Reserve ensure that the fee was ‘reasonable.’”* [Click here for more.](#)

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## **Student Lending**

## **For-Profit Colleges Sue U.S. to Block 'Gainful Employment' Regulations**

Tom Schoenberg (Bloomberg)

July 20, 2011

*"Rules designed to cut off federal aid to institutions whose students struggle the most to repay government loans were challenged by an organization representing for-profit colleges." [Click here for more.](#)*

## **Five Steps the New Consumer Bureau Can Take to Make Private Loans Safer**

Stephen Burd (HigherEdWatch - a blog from New America's Higher Education Initiative)

July 21, 2011

*"Now that the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) [has opened its doors](#), what can it do to [make private student loans safer](#) for students? In recent days, both [our colleagues at the Project on Student Debt](#) and [student aid expert Mark Kantrowitz](#) have recommended steps the CFPB can take to achieve this goal. At Higher Ed Watch, we have sifted through these proposals and chosen five that we think will do the most to help students avoid taking on unnecessary debt and keep private student loan providers honest. **[Editor's Note:** Higher Ed Watch is supported in part by a grant from the Institute for College Access and Success, which runs the Project on Student Debt.]" [Click here for more.](#)*

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## **OTHER**

### **A Grimm Proposal for Whistleblowers**

Michael Smallberg (Project on Government Oversight)

July 18, 2011

*"With the one-year anniversary of Dodd-Frank approaching this week, Rep. Michael Grimm (R-NY) has introduced legislation to gut a vital provision in the financial reform law that provided expanded incentives and protections to whistleblowers who tell regulators about corporate misconduct. Last week, Rep. Grimm was joined by Representatives Scott Garrett (R-NJ), John Campbell (R-CA), and Steve Stivers (R-OH) in introducing the "Whistleblower Improvement Act of 2011" (H.R. 2483). Despite its title, the bill could hardly be more hostile to whistleblowers." [Click here for more.](#)*

### **29 Companies Had More Cash Than The U.S. Treasury As Of July 13**

Marie Diamond (Think Progress)

July 18, 2011

*"As of July 13, 29 public companies had more cash on hand than the U.S. Treasury Department ... In the first half of July alone, Treasury cash balances were depleted from \$130 billion to just \$39 billion. That means the most powerful nation on earth currently is tied with Google for the amount of cash that it has, and is less flush than Bank of America, JP Morgan Stanley, and Goldman Sachs, among others" [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Goldman Bets Less and Takes Hit**

Liz Rappaport (WSJ – subscription required)

July 20, 2011

*"On Goldman's 53 percent plunge in trading revenue to \$1.6 billion: "The weak performance and tentative talk by what usually is Wall Street's mightiest firm showed how Goldman and rival firms are struggling to make money in the wake of the crisis. With increasing regulation, financial shakiness in Europe and fiscal uncertainty in the U.S., Wall Street's office towers are now filled with risk managers, cost accountants and capital allocators rather than the superhero-like traders of decades past." [Click here for more.](#)*

### **IFR-ABS: Bill reversing rating agency liability advances**

Adam Tempkin (Reuters)

July 20, 2011

*“The House Financial Services Committee on Wednesday voted to approve legislation introduced by Representative Steve Stivers (R-Ohio) that would repeal a provision of the Dodd-Frank legislation from last year which made credit rating agencies liable for increased lawsuit exposure.” [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Wall St. Makes Fallback Plans for Debt Crisis**

Louise Story and Julie Creswell (New York Times)  
July 20, 2011

*“Lawmakers in Washington are racing to reach a deal to save the country from defaulting on its debt, but on Wall Street, financial players are devising doomsday plans in case the clock runs out.” [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Stop Blaming Wall Street: It Isn't the Reason Our Economy is in Shambles**

John B. Judis (The New Republic)  
July 13, 2011

*“As the U.S. economy fails to recover, there is a growing fear that the United States has entered a phase of long-term decline. Conservatives blame ‘big government’ for throttling entrepreneurship; liberals tend to take aim at Wall Street. Rolling Stone writer Matt Taibbi memorably described Goldman Sachs as “a great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity, relentlessly jamming its blood funnel into anything that smells like money.” Among less inventive critics, the term in vogue is ‘financialization.’ According to author Kevin Phillips, who popularized this notion, financialization is “a process whereby financial services, broadly construed, take over the dominant economic, cultural and political role in a national economy.” [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Curse the Geniuses Who Gave Us Bank of America**

Jonathan Weil (Bloomberg column)  
July 21, 2011

*“Ask anyone what the most immediate threats to the global financial system are, and the obvious answers would be the European sovereign-debt crisis and the off chance that the U.S. won’t raise its debt ceiling in time to avoid a default. Here’s one to add to the list: the frightening plunge in [Bank of America Corp. \(BAC\)](#)’s stock price.” [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Putting a human face on the financial crisis**

Kat Aaron (Investigative Reporting Workshop)  
July 21, 2011

*The Investigative Reporting Workshop and New America Media have teamed up to portray the human face of the crisis a year after the passage of landmark financial reform legislation. A year ago, President Barack Obama signed the Dodd-Frank financial reform bill. ‘Over the past two years, we have faced the worst recession since the Great Depression,’ Obama said. “Eight million people lost their jobs. Tens of millions saw the value of their homes and retirement savings plummet. Countless businesses have been unable to get the loans they need, and many have been forced to shut their doors. And although the economy is growing again, too many people are still feeling the pain of the downturn.” [Click here for more.](#)*

### **Sunlight Foundation - Dodd-Frank Meeting Logs**

*“Every day, lobbyists and executives from Wall Street firms, big banks, insurance companies and others are meeting with financial regulators. They are pressing their case on how the federal financial agencies implement the massive Dodd-Frank financial law, which required more than 240 rulemakings. In the spirit of transparency, the major agencies have been posting records of their meetings with these outside representatives. However, until now it was necessary to visit each agency’s website to obtain this information, which is reported at different time intervals and in varying formats. With the Dodd-Frank meeting log tracker, now it is possible to find all the meetings in one place.” [Click here for more.](#)*

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## Upcoming Events

### SEC

When: Tuesday, July 26 (11 a.m.)

What: **Open Meeting**

The subject matter of the Open Meeting will be:

**Item 1:** The Commission will consider whether to adopt Rule 13h-1 and Form 13H under Section 13(h) of the Securities Exchange Act, to establish a large trader reporting system to identify market participants that conduct a substantial amount of trading activity and collect information on their trading.

**Item 2:** The Commission will consider whether to adopt amendments to rules and forms under the Securities Act of 1933 and Schedule 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, to replace references to credit ratings with alternative criteria. These amendments are in light of Section 939A of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

**Item 3:** The Commission will consider whether to re-propose rules related to shelf-eligibility for asset-backed securities and request additional comment on an outstanding proposal to require asset-level information about pool assets.

**Item 4:** The Commission will consider whether to adopt rule and form amendments under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940 to require an institutional investment manager that is subject to Section 13(f) of the Securities Exchange Act to report annually how it voted proxies relating to executive compensation matters as required by Section 14A of the Securities Exchange Act, which was added by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

See [Sunshine Act Notice](#)

Where: SEC Headquarters  
100 F Street NE, Room L-002 (Auditorium)  
Washington, DC 20549  
Contact: Office of the Secretary, (202) 551-5400

### CFTC

The staffs of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) will hold a joint public roundtable to discuss international issues related to the implementation of Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

When Monday, August 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Where: CFTC's Conference Center, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC

Topic: International Issues relating to the Implementation of Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act

Listening Information:

Call-in to a toll-free or toll-telephone line to connect to a live audio feed. Call-in participants should be prepared to provide their first name, last name and affiliation. Conference call information is listed below

Domestic Toll-Free Number: (866) 844-9416  
International Toll Numbers: (203) 369-5026  
Participant Passcode/Pin: 43160576

## **FTC**

Here is the link to the updated webpage for the next FTC auto lending roundtable:  
<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/workshops/motorvehicles/>.

The FTC's second motor vehicle roundtable will take place at St. Mary's University School of Law, One Camino Santa Maria, San Antonio, Texas on August 2 - 3, 2011. Topics for the second roundtable may include motor vehicle sales and financing issues pertaining to military consumers, fair lending, and financial literacy. Additional information for the second roundtable will be posted on this webpage, when available.

### **Complied by our friends at NFHA:**

September 9-10 - John Marshall Law School 2011 National Conference (Chicago, IL)

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## **Senate**

### **Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee**

#### **Banking Committee to Hold Nomination Hearing**

Senate Banking Committee Chairman Tim Johnson (D-SD) announced the Committee will hold a hearing on **Tuesday, July 26, at 10:00 A.M.** to consider the nominations of Martin Gruenberg to be Chairperson of the Board of the FDIC, Thomas Curry to be Comptroller of the Currency, and Roy Woodall, Jr. to be a Member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council. Votes on the nominations will be scheduled for a later date.

Hearings are webcast live at: <http://banking.senate.gov>.

Testimony and archived videos will be posted at:

<http://banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Home>

**The Honorable Martin J. Gruenberg** - to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors and a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, **The Honorable Thomas J. Curry** to be Comptroller of the Currency, **Mr. S. Roy Woodall, Jr.** to be a Member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council.

**DATE: Tuesday, July 26, 2011**

**TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**LOCATION: Room SD-538, Dirksen Senate Office Building**

### **Senate Committee on Finance**

**No pertinent markups/hearings scheduled as of 7/22/11**

### **Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry**

**No pertinent markups/hearings scheduled as of 7/22/11**

## **House**

### **House Committee on Financial Services**

[Hearing entitled "Oversight of the Credit Rating Agencies Post Dodd-Frank"](#)

Oversight and Investigations

July 27, 2011 10:00 AM in 2128 Rayburn HOB

[House Small Business Committee](#)

**No pertinent markups/hearings scheduled as of 7/22/11**

[House Committee on Agriculture](#)

**No pertinent markups/hearings scheduled as of 7/22/11**

[Committee on Oversight and Government Affairs](#)

**No pertinent markups/hearings scheduled as of 7/22/11**

**Subcommittee on TARP, Financial Services and Bailouts of Public and Private Programs**

[No markups scheduled as of 7/22/11](#)

**The New Bottom Line Campaign:**

Making Wall Street Work for the Real Economy: **How the Big Banks Can Pay their Fair Share Towards Recovery**

Thursday, July 28

9:30 – 11:30 AM

SEIU Building, 1800 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Room 2006

*Note: you must bring a photo ID to get in the building*

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Unemployment hovering at nine percent. Millions of families losing their homes. Housing values continuing to fall. State and local budgets on the brink. Medicaid and Medicare under attack. Health centers being shuttered and schools cutting back hours.

Policy experts, organizers, grassroots leaders including: Dr. Robert Pollin, Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute, Graciela Aponete, Senior Legislative Analyst, Wealth-Building Policy Project, Lisa Donner, Executive Director of Americans for Financial Reform, Damon Silvers, Policy Director for the AFL-CIO, Community and faith leaders from National People's Action, PICO National Network and Alliance for a Just Society

**National Council of La Raza:**

The White House has confirmed that President Barack Obama will speak at the 2011 NCLR (National Council of La Raza) Annual Conference, NCLR President and CEO Janet Murguía. The NCLR Annual Conference and National Latino Family Expo, the single largest national Latino event of the year, will be held in Washington, D.C., July 23–26, at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. More than 25,000 participants are expected to attend the four-day event.

Also confirmed as Conference speakers are Democratic Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II of Missouri, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus; author, columnist, and president and editor-in-chief of the Huffington Post Media Group Arianna Huffington; renowned actress and NCLR ALMA Awards® host and executive producer Eva Longoria; and Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis. Republican presidential candidates also have been invited to speak. Times and dates for all speakers, including President Obama, will be released in the coming weeks.

For additional information, please visit [www.nclr.org/events](http://www.nclr.org/events).