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## Letter From the CEO



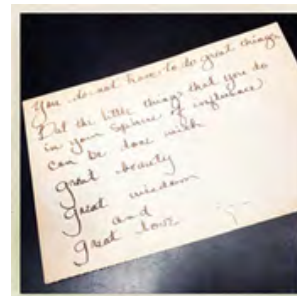
Colleagues, fellow professionals, and friends,

*“You do not have to do great things. But...”*

I have been spending weeks going through boxes of things belonging to my father, as well as my grandparents. I have gotten rid of a lot of things for lack of storage space but also a mercy to spare my kids from having to go through things belonging to great-grandparents they did not know. For me, though, it's been a grand trip down memory lane as I find things that were important to my father or grandparents – or that at least seemed important enough at the time to keep.

One such item that has been boxed up for decades was a little card with a hand-written thought.

*You do not have to do great things. But the little things that you do in your sphere of influence can be done with great beauty, great wisdom, and great love.*



There is no authorship noted on the card. The closest quote I could find to these words is attributed to Mother Theresa, *“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”*

That sentiment captures a lot about our working lives. Most of our daily work is not what the world would judge to be “great things” – but we all do little things in our sphere of influence, and we can make a great impact upon people with whom, and for whom, we work by bringing just this sort of attitude. Not only will we enrich the lives around us, but we will find our own lives enriched.

I will keep this card and, hopefully, one day when my kids are going through boxes of my things they will find it and it will bless them as it has me. Not all inheritance is financial, you know.

I hope this edition of *BankLine* has many items of interest for you.

Sincerely,

James W. Bruce, III,  
President/CEO and General Counsel  
American Bank Systems



## BREAKING COMPLIANCE NEWS!

by Elva M. Coffey-Sears, CRCM  
EVP & Chief Compliance Officer

The long-anticipated Section 1071 – Small Business Data Collection Rule was published by the CFPB on March 30, 2023!

The rule amends Regulation B to require lenders that originated at least 100 covered credit transactions in each of the preceding two calendar years to compile, maintain, and report certain data regarding covered applications from small businesses. For purposes of this rule, a business is a small business if its gross annual revenue for its preceding fiscal year is \$5 million or less.

The regulation provides for a phased-in implementation, with the initial focus on the largest lenders. Covered Lenders originating:

- At least 2,500 covered loans annually must collect data starting October 1, 2024.
- At least 500 covered loans annually must collect data starting April 1, 2025.
- At least 100 covered loans annually must collect data starting January 1, 2026.
- Less than 100 covered loans annually are exempt from reporting, but still be required to adhere to fair lending laws.

ABS associates will be enhancing CoPilot<sup>®</sup> to facilitate compliance with the new rule and expanding content in CompliancePro to provide monitoring procedures. These changes will be implemented to support the October 1, 2024 mandatory compliance date.

To access the final rule: [https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb\\_1071-final-rule.pdf](https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_1071-final-rule.pdf)

To access the Executive Summary: [https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb\\_sbl\\_executive-summary.pdf](https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_sbl_executive-summary.pdf)

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## LAST MINUTE HMDA CHANGE AND REGULATORY RELIEF

The Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) and implementing Regulation C (12 CFR 1003) require financial institutions to collect, report to the appropriate Federal agency, and disclose to the public certain data relating to applications for extensions of credit secured by a dwelling. HMDA coverage is determined by evaluating institutional and transactional coverage criteria, one of which compares the institution's volume of originations to thresholds defined in the regulation.

In 2020, the CFPB issued a final rule amending the Regulation C thresholds for reporting data about closed-end loans and open-end lines of credit. Specifically, the 2020 HMDA Rule increased the threshold for closed-end loans from 25 to 100 originations in each of the two preceding calendar years effective July 1, 2020. The threshold for open-end lines of credit was decreased from 500 to 200 originations in each of the two preceding calendar years effective January 1, 2022.

On July 30, 2020 a lawsuit was filed in district court by five nonprofit organizations and the City of Toledo, Ohio challenging the 2020 HMDA Rule. On September 23, 2022, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia concluded that the 2020 HMDA Rule's increased reporting threshold for closed-end mortgage loans was “arbitrary and capricious”; the court did not address the open-end threshold of 200 originations. The court issued an order vacating and remanding the loan-volume reporting threshold for closed-end loans under the 2020 HMDA Rule. Accordingly, on December 21, 2022, the CFPB published a technical amendment to Regulation C returning the closed-end threshold to 25 originations in each of the two preceding calendar years. The change was effective the same day it was published!

To date, all of the FFIEC agencies have published acknowledgements that institutions affected by this change may need time to implement or revise policies, procedures, systems, and operations to comply with this change and that they do not intend to initiate enforcement actions, cite violations, or assess penalties relating to closed-end mortgage reporting against institutions meeting other Regulation C requirements. These issuances are accessible here:

CFPB: <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/changes-to-hmda-closed-end-loan-reporting-threshold/>

FRB: <https://www.federalreserve.gov/supervisionreg/caletters/caltr2301.htm>

OCC: <https://occ.gov/news-issuances/bulletins/2023/bulletin-2023-5.html>

FDIC: [https://www.fdic.gov/news/financial-institution-letters/2023/fil23006.html?source=govdelivery&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.fdic.gov/news/financial-institution-letters/2023/fil23006.html?source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

NCUA: <https://ncua.gov/regulation-supervision/letters-credit-unions-other-guidance/change-hmdas-closed-end-loan-reporting-threshold>



## Your trusted digital signature partner.

Add a reassuring layer of security, trust, and value to your most important transactions. Let SIGNiX, in partnership with American Banking Systems, integrate compliant digital signatures seamlessly with your current business processes.

- **Cost-effective and efficient**
- **No price gouging or renewal spikes**
- **Simple contracts with transparent terms and fees**
- **Easy integration with existing workflows**

## Ease of Use

Power your productivity by implementing a speedy and streamlined digital signature process.

- **Critical documents signed faster**
- **Improved operational efficiency**
- **Accessible cloud-based software**
- **Lost time expenses eliminated**

## Superior Data Security

Unlike basic e-signatures, the SIGNiX digital signature is secured by public key infrastructure and meets global security standards.

- **Superior data privacy and security**
- **Mitigates regulatory and financial risks**
- **Comprehensive legal evidence embedded in PDF**
- **Independently verifiable for every signature**

## Unified User Experience

The SIGNiX platform was built to enable banks to use their own brand to offer the most trustworthy signing experience to customers.

- **Seamless transition to a digitized signature process**
- **Standalone webapp and API integrations available**
- **White-label ready: your branding throughout signing process**
- **Build trust and brand value with every signature**

**Sherry Brickell**

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**Bank of Wrightsville**  
*Wrightsville, Georgia*



**A Brief History**

On February 16, 1897, the State of Georgia granted a charter and the Bank of Wrightsville opened for business as a state bank. There were 15 original shareholders: T. J. Arline, J. M. Page, W. W. Cook, R. O. Henry, B. B. Tanner, H. E. Cook, A. F. Daley, W. O. Tompkins, Julius Maas, Thomas E. Vieners, J. W. A. Crawford, B. D. Evans, O. T. Bray, Stewart Daley, and M. G. Finn. Their investments in the 150 shares totaled \$15,000.00.

The bank operated in several downtown locations until it purchased the building at the corner of East Elm and Bradford Street. This building is now Wrightsville City Hall. On January 2, 1964, the bank moved across the street to its present location. In 1985, the bank underwent an extensive renovation, showing the commitment of the bank to remain a vital part of the downtown area.

Our bank recently celebrated our 125th anniversary. With deposits over 71 million dollars and assets in excess of 75 million dollars, the bank plays a vital role in supplying the financial needs of the communities it serves. The bank provides employment opportunities to 13 individuals.

The growth and success of the bank can partially be attributed to the leadership provided by the Stockholders, the Board of Directors, management, and the quality employees who serve our customers. However, customers are, without question, the backbone of our institution. Without them there would be no bank.

We look forward to serving our community for many years to come.

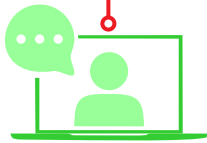


*Pictured is the Bank of Wrightsville as it appears today in its centennial year.*



*The Old Bank of Wrightsville Building.*

*This building is presently the Wrightsville City Hall. Those pictured are, from left to right, (front row) L. L. Lovett, Mr. Collier, Mary Smith, and Joe Fulghum; (back row) R. A. Lovett, Perry Edge, Rozier Stephens, Flint Flanders, W. C. Lovett, W. H. Lovett, and T. L. Lovett.*



ABS is offering free webinars on our software solutions. Please see below for our offerings.

BankManager Elite® Imaging & Tracking Systems Webinars

To Register: email Burt Samples at bsamples@abs-ok.com
\*All are Central Time

4/25/23 - 3:00pm | 5/18/23 - 3:30pm | 6/02/23 - 3:30pm

CoPilot® Loans and Deposits Systems Webinars

To Register: email Burt Samples at bsamples@abs-ok.com
\*All are Central Time

Table with 4 columns: ALABAMA BANKS, FLORIDA BANKS, GEORGIA BANKS, ILLINOIS BANKS, IOWA BANKS, KANSAS BANKS, MISSISSIPPI BANKS, MISSOURI BANKS, NEBRASKA BANKS, OKLAHOMA BANKS, TENNESSEE BANKS, TEXAS BANKS. Each cell lists dates and times for webinars.

If you are unable to attend a webinar, please contact your Territory Manager to schedule a demonstration of CoPilot®:

- Jim Pennington – Oklahoma, Texas | jpennington@abs-ok.com | 214-354-8487
Lori Ellis – Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska | lellis@abs-ok.com | 402-515-2382
Eric Johnson – Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee | ejohnson@abs-ok.com | 859-312-5212
Bryan Dempsey – Illinois, Missouri | bdempsey@abs-ok.com | 913-952-1700

Tips & Tricks

CoPilot® Selection Fields

By Jessie Nikkel, Director of Customer Experience / Trainer



(CoPilot® is a loan and deposit account origination system with a user-friendly interface putting you in control. CoPilot Loans® helps banks save money and time. Not every loan needs an expensive legal review. Copilot Loans® does it for you, providing you with documents and processes that are designed to ensure compliance. CoPilot Deposits® is a sophisticated deposit origination system which improves efficiency, accuracy, and compliance.)

Did you know there is a shortcut available when completing some, not all, Selection Fields in CoPilot®. For example, the declaration fields on a RE application can be completed by clicking on "Y" for yes or "N" for no on your keyboard. Another example: any state field can be completed by clicking on the first letter of the state on your keyboard. Click the letter until the state you need is shown. For Kansas click "K" on your keyboard once. For Oklahoma click "O" twice.

To find out more about CoPilot®, please contact our ABS Customer Care Team at 405-607-7000 or visit our website at www.americanbanksystems.com.

**Elva M. Coffey-Sears, CRCM**

*EVP & Chief Compliance Officer*



Elva has worked for American Bank Systems for 15 years. Using her 45 years of industry experience as a banker, compliance officer, regulatory examiner, and consultant she supports our CompliancePro software, our consulting activities, the CoPilot® system, and, most importantly, our clients.

Elva was born, raised, and currently resides in the Chicagoland area. She majored in Economics at Loyola University of Chicago, earning her Bachelor of Business Administration and did post-graduate work in Economics at Ohio State University. She is a Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager (CRCM). Elva currently spends most of her free time with her overly rambunctious 9-month-old puppy. She also enjoys reading, doing puzzles, video games, and gardening.

**Banking Supplies**

*As we move toward a more digital age, we will be shifting away from paper format and will instead be offering our forms in electronic format. We have also downsized many of our stock tabs. If you would like to know more about electronic forms or would like information about stock tabs still available, contact us at [orders@abs-ok.com](mailto:orders@abs-ok.com).*



**Easter Story Cookies**  
*from Seth Keeton*

**Featured Recipe**

*Here is a wonderful way to remember Christ's Resurrection. These cookies can create a neat family Easter tradition if you don't already have one.*

**INGREDIENTS**

- ▶ 1 cup shelled whole pecans
- ▶ pinch of salt
- ▶ wooden spoon
- ▶ 1 tsp vinegar
- ▶ 1 cup sugar
- ▶ tape
- ▶ 3 egg whites
- ▶ zipper bag
- ▶ Bible

Preheat oven to 300 degrees.

- 1) Place pecans in zipper bag. Let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, he was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.
- 2) Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, he was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.
- 3) Add eggs to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave his life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.
- 4) Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into a bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27. So far ingredients are not very appetizing.
- 5) Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because he loves us. He wants us to know and belong to him. Read Ps. 34:8 and John 3:16.
- 6) Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12-15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isa. 1:18 John 3:1-3.
- 7) Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matt. 27:57-60.
- 8) Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door, and turn the oven off. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the over door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matt. 27:65-66. GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven over night. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.
- 9) On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! One the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty! Read Matt. 28:1-9.

Conn, K. (2007) "Easter Story Cookies," in *Treasury of Centennial Recipes 1907-2007*. Weatherford, OK: Weatherford Press, Inc., p. 234.

*If you have a delicious recipe you would like to share in future ABS BankLine Newsletters, please forward a copy of your recipe to [greed@abs-ok.com](mailto:greed@abs-ok.com)*