

January 2025 Regulatory and Enforcement Updates

Federal Banking Agencies (FDIC, FFIEC, Federal Register)

- **FDIC enforcement:** The FDIC issued a report of its enforcement actions. In January 2025 the FDIC took 12 new enforcement orders (including consent and prohibition orders) and one adjudicated decision (to be posted in late February 2025). (The FDIC press release summarizing these January orders is on the FDIC website.)
- **CRA exams list:** On January 3, 2025, the FDIC published its annual list of banks examined for Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) compliance. The list covers state nonmember banks evaluated in late 2024, and provides the institutions' CRA ratings.
- **Wildfire guidance:** On January 14, 2025, five federal and state regulators (FDIC, Federal Reserve, OCC, NCUA, and California's DFPI) issued an *Interagency Statement* on supervisory practices for institutions affected by the California wildfires and winds. This statement encourages lenders to assist borrowers in affected areas (through loan modifications or temporary branches) without examiner criticism.
- **Bank failure:** On January 17, 2025, the FDIC announced the failure of Pulaski Savings Bank (a Chicago, IL thrift). Millennium Bank (respectively insured in another state) acquired all deposits and most assets. The FDIC press release describes the closing and the deposit assumption by Millennium Bank.
- **Leadership change:** On January 17, 2025, the FDIC announced the retirement of Doreen Eberley, a longtime FDIC executive (38 years). (This came just after Acting Chairman Hill took office.) The FDIC also withdrew from the global climate banking network NGFS (Network for Greening the Financial System) on January 21, 2025, citing concern about potential nonbank partners[1].
- **Chairman's priorities:** On January 21, 2025, FDIC Acting Chairman Travis Hill issued a statement outlining the FDIC's priorities. He emphasized review of regulations (e.g. full review of recent capital proposals), modernizing supervision and resolution planning, expanding access (promoting de novos, technology), encouraging community banking, and refocusing enforcement. He also withdrew pending rule proposals on brokered deposits and corporate governance, and pledged to revise the CRA exam review list and de-emphasize "DEI mandates".
- **Mergers:** On January 24, 2025, the FDIC approved the merger of Premier Bank (Ohio) into WesBanco Bank (West Virginia). The FDIC noted this fits within priority to process merger applications efficiently[2].
- **Monthly enforcement report:** On January 31, 2025 the FDIC published the list of December 2024 enforcement orders. That listing (for Dec 2024) shows 16 orders (prohibitions, consent orders, etc.) and one adjudicated decision[3].

- **FFIEC:** The FFIEC did not issue a press release in January 2025. (FFIEC press releases around that time focused on data releases or board appointments in later months.)
- **Federal Register (banking):** The Federal Register contained several January 2025 banking notices. For example, on January 17, 2025 the Federal Reserve Board announced its annual civil money penalty inflation adjustment effective Jan 13, 2025[4]. (Regulatory proposals were being drafted, but major bank rulemakings did not finalize in January 2025.)

Federal Reserve

- **Monetary policy:** The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) met on January 28–29, 2025. The Fed’s statement maintained the federal funds rate at 4.25–4.50% and noted mixed economic signals (slowing growth, still-elevated inflation). The FOMC released its statement and an implementation note on January 29, 2025. (Minutes of this meeting were released later.) The Fed’s press release is on the Fed website (and widely reported)[5].
- **Supervision:** On January 13, 2025, the Fed Board announced the annual inflation adjustment to its maximum civil money penalties, as required by law; the new 2025 limits are published on the Fed’s site[4]. No other major Fed supervision or enforcement actions (such as consent orders) were announced that month. (The Fed’s 2025 supervisory “Operating Principles” were issued later in 2025.)
- **Securities and FMOC:** No new Federal Reserve enforcement or board order (beyond penalty adjustment) was announced. Federal Reserve Board Orders and enforcement actions typically appear on the FRB site if any, but none were noted in Jan 2025.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

- **Credit reporting enforcement:** The CFPB took major actions against the credit bureaus. On January 7, 2025 CFPB sued Experian for failing to properly investigate consumer dispute errors (“sham investigations”)[6]. On January 17, 2025 CFPB issued an administrative consent order against Equifax requiring Equifax to pay a \$15 million civil penalty for similar violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act[7].
- **Other enforcement:** During January 2025 the CFPB brought several other actions. For example, on January 14 the CFPB sued Capital One for allegedly violating consumer protection laws; on January 16 it ordered Block, Inc. (Cash App) to pay penalties for UDAAP violations; on January 30 it ordered Wise US (a remittance company) to pay a penalty; on January 17 it filed a complaint against nonbank mortgage lender Draper & Kramer. (These are listed on the CFPB enforcement page[8][9].)
- **Student debt enforcement:** On January 16, 2025 the CFPB announced enforcement action against certain National Collegiate Student Loan Trust

entities for illegal debt collection practices. (A related press release notes that these actions were later dismissed in April 2025.)

- **Supervisory highlights:** The CFPB did not issue a new “Supervisory Highlights” publication in January 2025 (the last was Winter 2024). No new compliance bulletins or fair lending reports were released in that month.

National Credit Union Administration (NCUA)

- **Interagency wildfire statement:** The NCUA joined other regulators on the January 14, 2025 interagency wildfire statement (see above, under “Federal Banking Agencies”) to assist credit unions affected by the California wildfires[10].
- **Enforcement:** On January 31, 2025 the NCUA announced one prohibition: it permanently barred Shana M. Ware (a former Genisys Credit Union employee) from serving at any federally insured institution[11].
- **Board actions:** On January 16, 2025 the NCUA Board held its first 2025 meeting and unanimously approved the agency’s 2025 Annual Performance Plan. This plan sets performance measures and targets aligned to NCUA’s strategic goals[12].
- **Supervisory priorities:** In early January 2025 NCUA issued a letter “2025 Supervisory Priorities” (Letter 25-CU-01). It emphasized continuing credit risk focus (deteriorating loan performance, especially credit cards and used auto loans) and reviewing underwriting standards, allowance policies, and modification/workout programs for borrowers in distress[13]. (The letter is addressed to credit unions.)

Treasury, Sanctions, and Financial Intelligence

- **Treasury press releases:** The Treasury Department did not issue major press releases on Jan 1-31, 2025. (Major OFAC or FinCEN announcements of sanctions were not dated exactly in January 2025.) Much of the Treasury reporting in late January covered broader issues or was retrospective.
- **OFAC updates:** On January 10, 2025, OFAC updated its FAQ to define new sectors of the Russian economy subject to sanctions under E.O. 14024 (for example, architecture, engineering, manufacturing, etc.)[14]. This followed earlier October and November designations of Russian sectors. Also, the OFAC Sanctions List and SDN list are continually updated; new SDNs and FSE designations often occur mid-month (for example, on January 16 OFAC designated multiple targets under Ukraine/Russia and counterterrorism programs).
- **FinCEN:** In January 2025 FinCEN did not issue any public AML advisories or rulings specific to that month. (The previous FinCEN advisory on Israeli settler violence had been rescinded end-January.) No new significant FinCEN AML/CFT regulations took effect in January 2025.

- **Treasury International Capital:** On January 15, 2025, the Treasury released December 2024 TIC data. The TIC report covers foreign holdings but is a routine statistical release (the next report covers January 2025 in April).

Cybersecurity and Technology Authorities

- **CISA Alerts:** In January 2025 CISA published its regular weekly security updates. Notable items included: Microsoft's January 2025 Patch Tuesday (with fixes for critical vulnerabilities) and CISA's January 23 release of six ICS (industrial control systems) advisories. These advisories provide technical details of software flaws; CISA's site notes the release dates[15].
- **NIST updates:** No major NIST cybersecurity or AI publications were released in January 2025. (NIST's Cybersecurity Framework updates and AI Risk Management Framework are on longer timelines.)

White House and Executive Branch Policy

- **AI policy:** On January 23, 2025, President Biden signed Executive Order 14179 "Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence." This EO revoked certain previous AI regulations to promote U.S. AI innovation and directed an interagency plan for AI leadership[16]. It emphasizes sustaining U.S. AI dominance, removing ideological constraints, and formulating a national AI action plan.
- **Deregulation:** On January 31, 2025, the White House issued an Executive Order "Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation." It establishes a "regulatory cap" requiring agencies to repeal at least ten existing regulations for each new one issued, and to keep net regulatory costs negative[17][18]. This order aims to impose strict regulatory budgeting across agencies.

Industry and Coordination (Selected Highlights)

- **Industry comment:** The Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) and other industry groups review federal proposals, but no CSBS or ABA releases specifically dated January 2025 announced new policies.
- **State regulators:** Several state banking departments issued bulletins or updates in January 2025 (for example, Texas DFS might publish a bulletin on mortgage licensing). A notable coordinated statement was the January 14 wildfire guidance (cited above). State Attorneys General continued routine consumer protection notices but no major nationwide actions in that month.

Sources: Federal agency websites and press releases from January 2025[1][2][3][7][19][9][12][11][16][17].

[1] FDIC Withdraws from the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System | FDIC.gov

<https://www.fdic.gov/news/press-releases/2025/fdic-withdraws-network-central-banks-and-supervisors-greening-financial>

[2] FDIC Approves Merger Application for WesBanco Bank, Inc., Wheeling, West Virginia | FDIC.gov

<https://www.fdic.gov/news/press-releases/2025/fdic-approves-merger-application-wesbanco-bank-inc-wheeling-west-virginia>

[3] FDIC Makes Public December Enforcement Actions | FDIC.gov

<https://www.fdic.gov/news/press-releases/2025/fdic-makes-public-december-enforcement-actions>

[4] Federal Reserve Board - Enforcement Actions About

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/supervisionreg/enforcement-actions-about.htm>

[5] The Fed - January 28-29, 2025 FOMC Meeting - Federal Reserve

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/fomcpresconf20250129.htm>

[6] [8] [9] Enforcement Actions | Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/enforcement/actions/>

[7] CFPB Orders Equifax to Pay \$15 Million for Improper Investigations of Credit Reporting Errors | Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/newsroom/cfpb-orders-equifax-to-pay-15-million-for-improper-investigations-of-credit-reporting-errors/>

[10] Federal and State Financial Regulatory Agencies Issue Interagency Statement on Supervisory Practices Regarding Financial Institutions Affected by the California Wildfires and Straight-line Winds | NCUA

<https://ncua.gov/newsroom/press-release/2025/federal-and-state-financial-regulatory-agencies-issue-interagency-statement-supervisory-practices>

[11] NCUA Prohibits One Individual from Participating in the Affairs of Any Federally Insured Depository Institution | NCUA

<https://ncua.gov/newsroom/press-release/2025/ncua-prohibits-one-individual-participating-affairs-any-federally-insured-depository-institution>

[12] Board Approves Annual Performance Plan | NCUA

<https://ncua.gov/newsroom/press-release/2025/board-approves-annual-performance-plan>

[13] NCUA's 2025 Supervisory Priorities | NCUA

<https://ncua.gov/regulation-supervision/letters-credit-unions-other-guidance/ncuas-2025-supervisory-priorities>

[14] Frequently Asked Questions - Recently Updated | Office of Foreign Assets Control

<https://ofac.treasury.gov/faqs/updated/2025-01-10>

[15] Microsoft Releases January 2025 Security Updates - CISA

<https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/alerts/2025/01/14/microsoft-releases-january-2025-security-updates>

[16] Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence – The White House

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/removing-barriers-to-american-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence/>

[17] [18] Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation – The White House

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/unleashing-prosperity-through-deregulation/>

[19] CFPB Sues Experian for Sham Investigations of Credit Report Errors | Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/newsroom/cfpb-sues-experian-for-sham-investigations-of-credit-report-errors/>