

# *Quarterly Journal*

ABOUT THE OCC

# About the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

## December 2004

Comptroller (Acting)..... Julie L. Williams

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### Background

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

The OCC regulates national banks by its power to:

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

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

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

### The Comptroller (Acting)

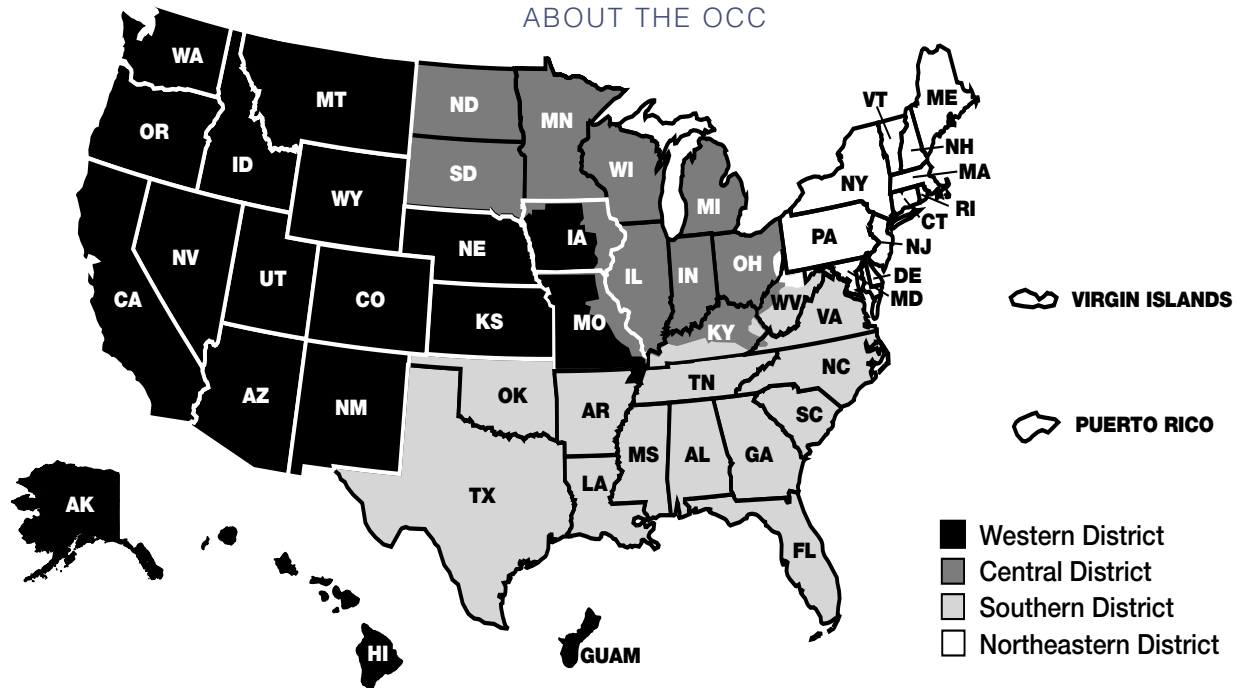
Julie L. Williams became Acting Comptroller on October 14, 2004, succeeding John D. Hawke, Jr. at the end of his term of office. Ms. Williams was initially appointed Chief Counsel of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in June 1994, with responsibility for all of the agency's legal activities, including legal advisory services to banks and examiners, enforcement and compliance activities, litigation, legislative initiatives, and regulation of securities and corporate practices of national banks. As the agency's statutory "First Deputy," she previously served as Acting Comptroller from April 6, 1998 through December 8, 1998, before Mr. Hawke was sworn in as the 28th Comptroller of the Currency. As Chief Counsel, Ms. Williams also supervised the Licensing Department and the Community Affairs Department, and served as a member of the OCC's Executive Committee. In her current position, Ms. Williams leads the Executive Committee in providing policy and strategic direction to the agency.

Ms. Williams joined the OCC in May 1993 as Deputy Chief Counsel with responsibility for special legislative and regulatory projects. Before joining the OCC, Ms. Williams served in a variety of positions at the Office of Thrift Supervision and its predecessor agency, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, culminating in a position as Senior Deputy Chief Counsel at the OTS from 1991 to 1993. Ms. Williams joined the Bank Board in 1983, after working as an attorney with the law firm of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Kampelman in Washington, D.C. from 1975 to 1983.

Ms. Williams is the author of *National Banks and the Dual Banking System* (Comptroller of the Currency, 2003) and *Savings Institutions: Mergers, Acquisitions and Conversions* (Law Journal Seminars-Press, 1988), and has published numerous articles on the regulation of depository institutions, financial services, securities and corporate law matters. She was awarded a B.A. in 1971 from Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont, and a J.D. in 1975 from Antioch School of Law, Washington, D.C., where she was first in her class.

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

## ABOUT THE OCC



### Northeastern District

New York District Office  
1114 Avenue of the Americas  
Suite 3900  
New York, NY 10036-7780  
(212) 819-9860

### Southern District

Dallas District Office  
500 North Akard Street  
Suite 1600  
Dallas, TX 75201  
(214) 720-0656

### Central District

Chicago District Office  
One Financial Place, Suite 2700  
440 South LaSalle Street  
Chicago, IL 60605-1073  
(312) 360-8800

### Western District

Denver District Office  
1225 17th Street  
Suite 300  
Denver, CO 80202  
(720) 475-7600

### Headquarters

Washington Office  
250 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20219-0001  
(202) 874-5000

### Office of the Ombudsman

1301 McKinney Street, Suite 3400  
Houston, TX 77010-9000  
(713) 336-4350

### Customer Assistance Group

1301 McKinney Street, Suite 3450  
Houston, TX 77010-9050  
(713) 336-4300  
Toll-free (800) 613-6743

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For more information on the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, contact:

OCC Public Disclosure Room, Communications Division, Washington, DC 20219  
fax: (202) 874-4448; e-mail: FOIA-PA@occ.treas.gov  
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Thank you for your interest in the *Quarterly Journal*. We welcome your comments on how to make this publication more informative for you. We are particularly interested in your comments on the usefulness of the information and its presentation. Please send your comments to Rebecca Miller, Senior Writer-Editor, OCC Publishing Services, by fax at (202) 874-5263 or by e-mail at [quarterlyjournal@occ.treas.gov](mailto:quarterlyjournal@occ.treas.gov).

(revised August 2004)

\*Note: The *Quarterly Journal Library* starts with Volume 17, not 16 as stated previously.

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