

CBAI E-Newsletter

Connected to Community Banking
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LATEST NEWS

The “Repair, Reform and Thrive” Plan for Congress and the Administration

The ICBA unveiled its plan for the new 119th Congress and the incoming Administration to support community banks serving their customers and communities. The plan covers a range of issues, including excessive regulatory burden, a level playing field with credit unions, Farm Credit and other nonbanks, pro-growth tax reform, and more. CBAI looks forward to working with the ICBA to achieve these worthy policy objectives that will benefit Illinois and the nation’s community banks.

[Letter to the 119th Congress »](#)

Court Issues Limited Injunction in Illinois Interchange Law Litigation

Federal Chief Judge Virginia Kendall of the Northern District of Illinois issued an injunction against Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raul from enforcing the Illinois Interchange Fee Prohibition Act against nationally chartered banks. The judge asked for additional information to be filed before deciding if the injunction should be extended to cover state and foreign chartered banks in Illinois. The judge will also consider whether to include national and state credit unions in the injunction. The current injunction does not extend to card processors like Visa, Mastercard and Shazam.

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Lame-Duck Session Recap

The 103rd Illinois General Assembly wrapped up its special lame-duck session when the House adjourned Tuesday evening at 10 p.m. The new 104th General Assembly is being sworn in today (Wednesday). During the special session, legislators took up legislation regarding an energy policy and seizing firearms from domestic abusers, among other measures. No banking or employment-specific legislation was considered during the lame-duck session. Legislators declined to consider a repeal of the Interchange Fee Prohibition Act citing pending legal action as a reason to hold off. Repeal of the misguided law remains one of CBAI’s top legislative priorities. Calls to pass legislation to “Trump-proof” state government ahead of the President’s inauguration also fizzled with no specific legislation materializing.

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**CBAI’S CAPITAL
CONFERENCE**
2025

Save the Date!
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel
More details coming soon!

Agencies Release Annual Asset-Size Thresholds Under Community Reinvestment Act Regulations

The Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation recently announced the 2025 updated Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) “small bank” and “intermediate small bank” asset-size thresholds. The CRA regulations establish the

framework and criteria by which the relevant agencies assess a financial institution's record of meeting the credit needs of its entire community, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, consistent with safe and sound operations. Financial institutions are evaluated under different CRA examination procedures based upon their asset-size classification. The asset-size thresholds are adjusted annually based on the average change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which is a measure of inflation.

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CBAI Legislative Agenda for 2025

CBAI's Legislation and Regulation Committee met in December. They held a robust discussion and recommended legislative initiatives for the coming year. The CBAI Board of Directors later approved those recommendations. CBAI's 2025 State Legislative Initiatives include repealing the Interchange Fee Prohibition Act; renegotiating the post judgement debt package; bringing regulatory relief to banks, and reintroducing our state ACRE legislation. Community bankers also directed CBAI to work to address the ongoing problem of tax exempt credit unions buying banks; working on legislation to give bankers more tools to assist customers who are victims of scams including hold times and notification to trusted family and friends; and work with IDFPR and other regulators to improve the quality of exams. CBAI will continue working on federal issues, including check fraud, which remains a key concern for community bankers.

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Rehwinkel Joins Devon Bank

Devon Bank recently announced the hiring of former Illinois Banking Director Chasse Rehwinkel as their new CFO. Rehwinkel left IDFPR in 2023 to take over as comptroller for the city of Chicago. He previously served as chief economist in the Illinois Comptroller's Office. CBAI looks forward to continuing to work with Former Director Rehwinkel in his new role as a community banker.

Latest Beneficial Ownership Information Update: Companies Not Required to File

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network announced that, in light of a recent federal court order, reporting companies are not currently required to file beneficial ownership information, or BOI. As of December 26, the injunction issued by the district court is in effect, so reporting companies are not currently required to file BOI with FinCEN, though the agency said reporting companies could continue to voluntarily submit BOI reports.

Strong Earnings, Asset Quality Put U.S. Banks on Solid Ground

Overall, U.S. banks are in good condition with solid earnings, sound asset quality and regulatory capital levels above required minimums. This assessment comes from the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in its semiannual Supervision and Regulation Report (PDF) published last month. The report covers banking system conditions in the first half of 2024, as well as regulatory and supervisory developments for the institutions under the Fed's supervisory umbrella.

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FDIC State Profiles

The Third Quarter 2024 FDIC State Profiles are now available online. The FDIC State Profiles are formatted as a quarterly data sheet summation of economic and banking conditions for all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. They are available in PDF format. The FDIC also recently released the Third Quarter 2024 Quarterly Banking Profile (QBP), which provides aggregate financial results for all FDIC-insured institutions.

[Access the FDIC State Profiles »](#)

[Access the 2024 Quarterly Banking Profile »](#)



**FHLBank
Chicago**

Serving everyone in our communities, in every way we can.

FHLBank Chicago is committed to providing products, solutions, and services that support our members' evolving business needs and help their communities thrive.

Visit fhlbc.com to learn more.

CBAI to Offer New and Improved Comp Survey in 2025!

CBAI and Risk Strategies|IZALE Financial Group have teamed up with a new firm to offer the 2025 Compensation Surveys! Featuring a new format, you'll gain even more beneficial data and valuable resources geared specifically toward your community bank to give you a competitive edge in recruiting, retaining and rewarding the best. A nationally renowned and respected firm, Blanchard Consulting Group creates two separate surveys each year so each one takes less time and the information is organized more effectively. Participants receive Illinois-only data as well as national findings! Look for the Directors' Compensation Survey in January and the Salary & Cash Compensation Survey in May.

As always, the survey is sponsored by IZALE Financial Group, a division of Risk Strategies, so results are FREE for participants! More information will be distributed soon! Email [Valerie](#) with questions.

Community Banking Week is April 6-12, 2025! Request Your Free Marketing Kit!

April 6-12, 2025, is the 35th anniversary of Community Banking Week in Illinois! This year's theme is "Community Banks – Where Community Comes First." Celebrate the independent spirit that is the hallmark of locally-run banks. For your FREE digital marketing kit, contact [Cortni](#) today! Marketing resources, exclusive for CBAI member banks, include advertisements, lobby poster, social media graphic, PSAs, news release, radio scripts, letter to the editor and more!

Last Chance to Participate in CBAI's Foundation for Community Banking Essay Contest Scholarship Program!

Time is running out! The deadline to submit essays is March 3, 2025! The CBAI Foundation for Community Banking provides \$21,000 in scholarship funds for top high school seniors statewide. One semi-finalist may be chosen from each of the CBAI groups via an essay-writing contest. A \$1,000 scholarship can be awarded to a student in 11 of CBAI's 12 groups along with \$500 to a second-place person in each group, which assures geographical uniformity of winners. The statewide winner will win \$1,000 a year for up to four years of higher education. And, as in previous years, the high school of the overall winner will receive \$500. Your bank's chance of sponsoring a winner is better than ever! It costs nothing for your bank to be involved and there are "no strings attached"! However, the banks reaping the greatest benefits are those that offer local scholarships in addition to the \$21,000 the Foundation has made available for awards statewide. For more information, please contact [Cortni](#).

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ICBA Elevated Key Issues in 2024: Romero Rainey

ICBA in 2024 made essential headway on several policy fronts heading into a new Congress and administration while providing valuable resources to its members, ICBA President and CEO Rebeca Romero Rainey wrote in a recent message to community bankers. In the year-end message, Romero Rainey outlined ICBA's achievements throughout the year, such as securing injunctions and delays of overreaching 1071 and Community Reinvestment Act rules, fighting Federal Home Loan Bank lending and liquidity restrictions, and raising the profile of credit union policy concerns.

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ICBA LIVE Discount Pricing Ends This Month

Final discount pricing for ICBA LIVE, the world's largest gathering of community bankers, ends on January 31. ICBA LIVE will take place March 11-14 at the iconic Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville. Click here to register.

[Register Here »](#)

2025 Holiday Closing Signs Now Available

The 2025 holiday closing signs are now available! You are able to download signs in English and Spanish. Both color and black and white versions are offered, as well.

[Download Signs »](#)



NEWS FROM SERVICES

New Innovation Column to Appear in CBAI's *Banknotes* Magazine

Inspired by the CBSC Innovation Committee, *Innovation Curation*, is a new regular column that will appear in each issue of *Banknotes* beginning with the March 2025 edition. As the name implies, we will sift through articles about innovation strategies, technologies and case studies to identify the most promising solutions for community banks. We hope that bankers will gain actionable insights from sharing their experiences with the innovation process.

Exclusive for CBAI Members: Unlocking The Upside of Compliance: Interactive Book Club with Author Stephanie Lyon

Dive into *The Upside of Compliance* like never before! Join Ncontracts for an exclusive, interactive online book club where you and a small group of bankers will discuss key compliance insights from the book, ask questions, and share ideas and experiences. The virtual event is scheduled for **February 28, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** You'll engage directly with the author, participate in dynamic discussions, and exchange perspectives with peers in the compliance field. **This is limited to the first 20 registrants.**

[Secure Your Spot and Receive a Free Copy of the Book "Unlocking The Upside of Compliance" »](#)

Managing Regulatory Change Remains Dominant Concern for Banks in Latest Wolters Kluwer Survey

The 2024 Indicator risk survey of U.S. banks from [CBSC Preferred Provider Wolters Kluwer](#) shows persistent levels of concern over key risk management and regulatory compliance issues, highlighted by challenges in complying with the new small business data collection rule (Section 1071), keeping pace with fair lending regulations, and implementing new Community Reinvestment Act requirements. Managing ever-evolving regulatory change is a perennial challenge, with 64% of respondents viewing it as an issue of significant concern.

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ADVANTAGE, Powered by JMFA: Managing Regulatory Shifts with a Consumer-First Overdraft Strategy

Evolving consumer expectations and regulatory scrutiny are reshaping overdraft programs. The focus is on fairness, transparency and delivering real value. Now is the time to rethink your strategy—align with shifting regulations, strengthen customer relationships, and maintain revenue stability. Discover actionable insights to create a compliant, consumer-first overdraft program that works.

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A Brave New World – Technological Advances Changing the Risk Landscape

As organizations become more conscious of the heightened risks linked to new and emerging technologies, they are also learning of the heightened risks these innovations can bring. The rapid pace of technological change makes it challenging for insurers to accurately assess and price cyber risk. Limited historical data on incidents involving new technologies adds to the uncertainty. As threats evolve quickly, insurers must continuously update their risk models and underwriting practices. This dynamic nature can lead to volatility in pricing and coverage terms. Two pieces that continue to see increased implementation across all industries are cloud technology and artificial intelligence, both posing their own unique challenges to risk managers and anyone operating in today's marketplace.

[Read More from CBIS »](#)

CBSC Preferred Providers



I DECIDED TO PARTNER WITH SHAZAM.

SHAZAM Core Services will help build your business, improve processes and gain efficiencies. We offer a flexible, end-to-end platform with configurable ancillary solutions.

MORE OF THE LATEST NEWS

Mark Your Calendar for FHLB Chicago's 2025 Member Meetings

FHLBank Chicago's complimentary 2025 Member Meetings are coming to a city near you this spring! Look for the invitation, conference details and registration website from events@fhlbc.com in early January. Attendees will have an exclusive opportunity to enhance their business competitiveness by leveraging industry-relevant insights from meetings hosted conveniently in the region they serve. Additionally, meetings offer a chance to connect with top-level management, dedicated sales directors from FHLBank Chicago, and local peers in the industry. Benefits include a first look at FHLBank Chicago products and solutions and the inside scoop of recommended product leveraging techniques; expert economic insights to help navigate the 2025 financial landscape; an opportunity to gain balance sheet best practice strategies; and the opportunity to network with industry peers from across Illinois and Wisconsin.

Seeking a New Website Hosting Provider? CBAI Can Help!

CBAI has been providing web hosting services to banks for more than 25 years. CBAI's hosting services provide banks' websites with a complete compliant web hosting package, including a customized infrastructure to fully support all security requirements of .BANK, .INSURANCE and other fTLD hosting security parameters. Hosting services include a fully-managed Virtual Private Server (VPS) with AWS and dedicated static IP that keeps your website separate with its own partitioned server area, meaning that you are running your very own operating system (Linux), storage space and RAM to keep your site performance stable and reliable. So, whether your site was created by a developing firm or a private developer, CBAI provides the tools and environment needed to ensure your site is secure and top performing.

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Help CBAI Recruit New Members and Be Entered into a Cash Drawing!

CBAI members are our best salespeople. Only a fellow banker can accurately and credibly tell a potential member about the benefits of membership. Bring a prospect to our attention, and we'll do the rest! To show our appreciation for helping to bring new members into CBAI, \$50 for a new associate member and \$100 for a new bank member will be donated to the CBAI Foundation for Community Banking in your name. The Foundation endows the scholarship programs of CBAI. You, too, receive a chance at a reward. By virtue of your assistance, you are eligible to win \$500 in cash. If you provide a lead resulting in a new member bank joining CBAI as a member, your name will go into "the hat" twice for the drawing. If you're instrumental in the recruitment of a new associate member firm, your name will be entered once. At the 2024 CBAI Annual Convention in Springfield, we'll pull out a name and that person will receive \$500! Greg Ohlendorf, First Community Bank and Trust, Beecher, was the 2023 winner. If you have a question or a lead, please contact [Valerie](#) at 800/736-2224.

50 Years in Banking Is Quite an Accomplishment — Shouldn't It Be Recognized?

Has someone in your bank or a bank director achieved 50 years in banking? You may be surprised to learn that many community bankers achieve that milestone every year! If your bank has a director or employee whose professional ties to banking span 50 years, he or she is eligible for recognition with a handsome award from CBAI. If the 50th anniversary has already passed, an award may be purchased from the association for \$200. In addition to the award, individuals celebrating a 50th anniversary receive coverage in CBAI's bi-monthly magazine Banknotes, and at the CBAI Annual Convention. But first, CBAI needs to hear about it! Contact the CBAI Department of Communications at 800/736-2224 to set up recognition or email [Valerie](#).

Share Your Community Bank Happenings with CBAI!

Did you recently hire a new employee or award a promotion? Did a longtime employee celebrate a work anniversary or retire? Does your bank have a new community service project or event? We want to know about it! Tag CBAI in your social media post or send an email [Valerie](#) with your bank's news. We want to include it on our social media pages and in the Member News section of Banknotes magazine!



CBAI EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

CBAI Announces Opening Breakfast Speaker for 51st Annual Convention & Exposition

The Community Bankers Association of Illinois is excited to announce Mike Rayburn, a TEDx presenter who teaches innovation, change and peak performance using world-class guitar skills and humor to create a transformational experience and generate exponential results, as the Opening Breakfast Speaker for our 51st Annual Convention & Exposition in Kansas City, MO. Rayburn has headlined Carnegie Hall, Las Vegas, and has performed more than 5,000 presentations in 20 countries on five continents. *The "What If...?" Experience* is Rayburn's transformational, hilarious keynote presentation that provides tools that can be used immediately and forever to access your gold mine of unrealized potential. And you'll laugh so hard it hurts! Remember to save the date for CBAI's 51st Annual Convention & Exposition scheduled for September 18 – 20, 2025, in Kansas City, MO. More information will be available soon!

CBAI's 2025 Innovation Bootcamp Slated for January 15 in Springfield

CBAI is pleased to offer our "2025 Innovation Bootcamp" scheduled for January 15, 2025, at the CBAI Headquarters in Springfield. CBAI's 2025 Innovation Bootcamp is a dynamic, hands-on program designed to equip bank leaders with the tools and insights needed to navigate the ever-evolving fintech/innovation landscape. Our objective is to guide participants through a five-phase journey: planning, selection, implementation, deployment and review, to foster innovation within their institutions. Participants engage in strategic discussions, interactive sessions and real-world scenario analysis. Participants gain firsthand insights from industry experts, fintech pioneers and experienced bank leaders who address key areas such as market competition, strategic planning and partnership evaluation. With practical sessions on third-party risk management, project ownership and deployment planning, this Bootcamp ensures that attendees leave prepared to champion innovation in their community banks immediately.

[Register Today »](#)

CBC 2nd Quarter Meeting to Be Held Via Go-To-Webinar

CBAI is pleased to offer the second quarter of the Community Bankers for Compliance Program (CBC) covering "Regulation CC – Expedited Funds Availability Act, Right to Financial Privacy, and Regulation B – 1071 Commercial Loan Data Collection and Reporting." This quarter will be held via Go-To-Webinar, January 28 and January 29, 2025, from 9 a.m. to approximately 12 p.m. *You must attend BOTH mornings to complete the full seminar.* For additional training, Young & Associates, Inc., is also offering three pre-recorded webinars that will be available online through April 2025.

[Register Today »](#)

CBAI's 2025 Ag Lenders Conference scheduled for February 5 in Springfield

CBAI is pleased to offer "2025 Ag Lenders Conference" scheduled for February 5, 2025, at Erin's Pavilion in Springfield or via on-demand recorded session. This jammed-packed live and on-demand recorded session takes a look at a variety of issues facing agricultural lenders. Attend CBAI's 2025 Ag Lenders' Conference to develop the skills and tools to better understand the issues affecting your farm and agribusiness customers and to meet their credit needs. Continuing this year, the conference will be held both live and professionally recorded and offered as an on-demand recorded session, which is priced to train all your lenders. The on-demand option of \$525 allows your bank to train your ag lenders on their own time with unlimited views from unlimited computers for up to six months.

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CBAI Educational Calendar



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