

## **Understanding the LIBOR Transition**







## Speakers

**Peggy Arrivas**, Associate Vice President/Systemwide Controller, University of California, Office of the President

**Emily Brock**, Director, Federal Liaison Center, Government Finance Officers Association

**Readie Callahan**, LIBOR Transition Office, Head of Communications Strategy, Wells Fargo & Company



## SPEAKER PRESENTATION

YESTERDAY, TOMORROW AND FINANCE 2020 CSMFD ANNUAL CONFERENCE JANUARY 28-31, 2020 DISNEYLAND CA

## Agenda

**GFOA DC Update** 

**Overview of LIBOR Transition** 

Perspectives from an Issuer

Hot Topic: Contract Language

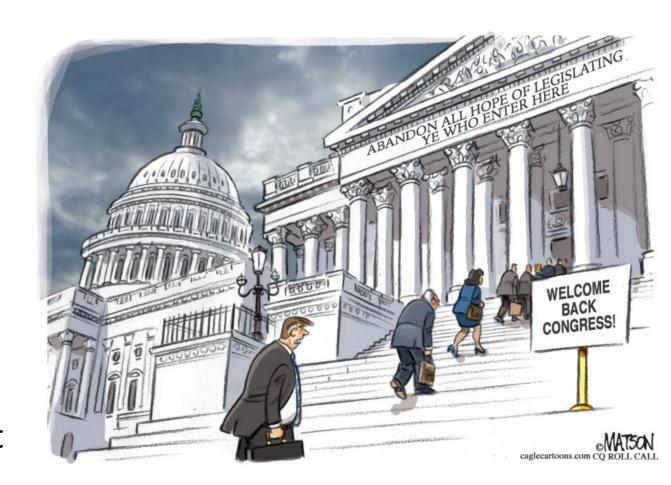
Q&A



GFOA Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy in Washington, D.C.

## YOUR Advocate in Washington D.C.

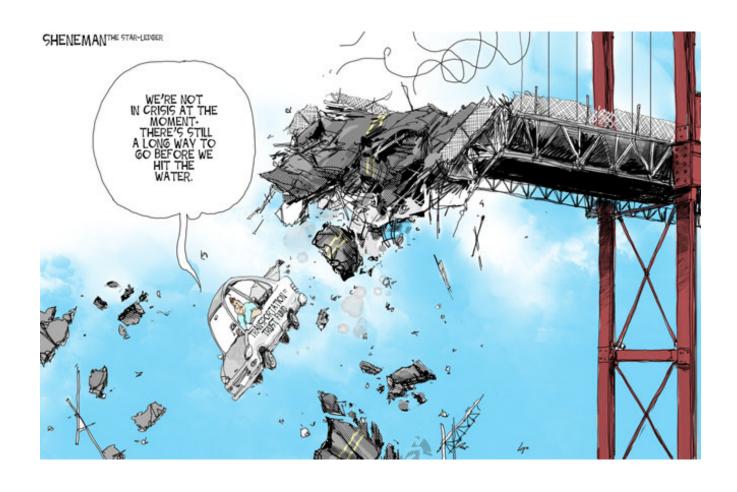
- Congressional Advocacy
  - Tax exempt municipal bonds
  - Infrastructure
  - Deductibility of state & local taxes
  - Remote sales tax
  - Pensions & benefits
- Executive Advocacy
  - SEC
  - MSRB
- Amicus Briefs to the Supreme Court



## Tax Reform 2017 and Effects

- >SALT Rollback Restoring Tax Fairness for States and Localities Act HR5377
  - ➤ Reps. Thompson (CA-5), Chu (CA-27), Panetta (CA-20), Sanchez (CA-38), Cisneros (CA-39), Correa (CA-46), Eshoo (CA-18), Levin (CA-49), Porter (CA-45), Harder (CA-10), Huffman (CA-2), Gomez (CA-34), Lieu (CA-33), Davis (CA-53) and Speier (CA-14)
- ► Advance Refunding Tax-Exempt Bonds Investing in Our Communities Act HR2772
  - Reps. Garamendi (CA-3) and Brownley (CA-26)
- **▶** Bank Qualified Legislation Municipal Bond Market Support Act HR3967
  - ➤ Rep. Brownley (CA-26)
- ➤ Remainder of 2020 <u>Infrastructure? Taxes?</u>

## Infrastructure Legislation



 Early 2019, tentative deal struck between President and Democratic Leaders

- No specifics but \$2T in funding:
  - Build America Bonds (BABs)
  - Public-Private Partnerships
- But what is happening?
  - Green New Deal
  - Energy
  - Focus on Distressed Communities

## Municipal Bond Disclosure and the SEC

- 15c2-12 Amendments and Revised Best Practices
  - GFOA Best Practice, Debt Management Policy
  - GFOA Best Practice, <u>Understanding Your Continuing</u>
     Disclosure Responsibilities
  - GFOA Best Practice, <u>Post Issuance Policies and Procedures</u>
  - GFOA Best Practice, <u>Primary Market Disclosure</u>
- Strong Desire to Address Timing of Financial Disclosures
  - Submission Calculator on EMMA Proposal







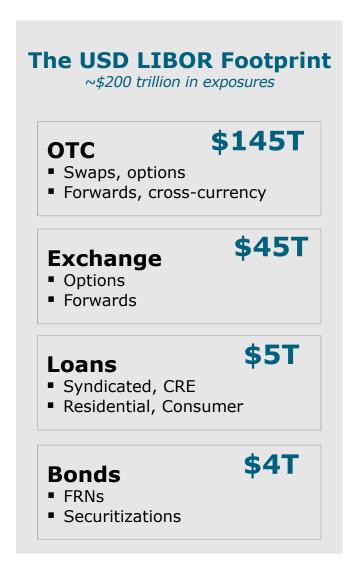
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## Overview of LIBOR Transition

## LIBOR is huge...and it's going away

 LIBOR underpins more than \$400 trillion of financial products including retail mortgages, private student loans, corporate loans, derivatives and other financial products

 However, <u>LIBOR is no longer derived from a widely</u> <u>traded market</u> and panel banks are reluctant to submit estimates of activity in which they do not engage



## The ARRC Mandate

In 2014, the Federal Reserve Board convened the Alternative Reference Rates Committee to explore alternatives for replacing USD LIBOR

### The ARRC was convened to address the following:

### **Objectives**

- 1 Identify best practices for alternative reference rates
- 2 Identify best practices for contract robustness to ensure contracts are resilient to the possible cessation of USD LIBOR
- Develop an adoption plan that identifies factors that would either facilitate or impede the adoption of alternative reference rates
- Create an implementation plan with metrics of success and a timeline

### In March 2018, the ARRC was reconstituted to: 1



Include a **broader** representation of the financial market and establish **working groups** to address regulatory, legal, tax and accounting issues



Ensure successful implementation of the paced transition plan



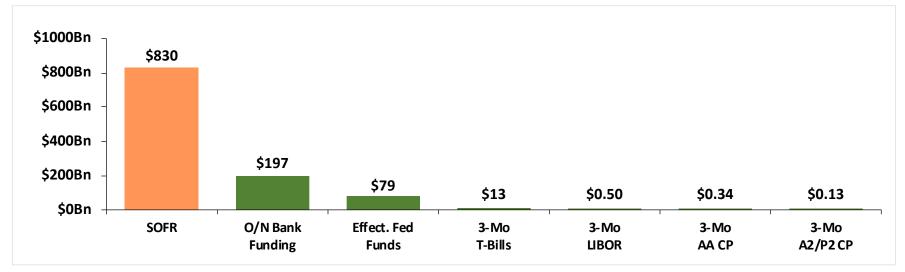
Coordinate planning across cash/derivatives products

ARRC Members		Ex Officio Members	
Banks/Dealers Exchanges Industry Associations	10 3 9	CFPB FDIC FRB New York	CFTC SEC FHFA
GSE/SSA Asset Managers/Insurance Official Sector (ex officio)	4 5 11	U.S. Treasury Fed Reserve HUD	OCC OFR

## Goodbye LIBOR, Hello SOFR

- The ARRC identified the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) as its preferred alternative for USD LIBOR
  - **Secured**: Based on trades in the triparty, cleared bilateral, and certain other U.S. Treasury repo markets
  - Overnight: The repo rates used are overnight and reflect borrowing for one business day
  - Financing Rate: Represents secured funding costs for financial institutions pledging U.S. Treasuries

### Average Daily Volumes in U.S. Money Markets (\$bn)<sup>1</sup>

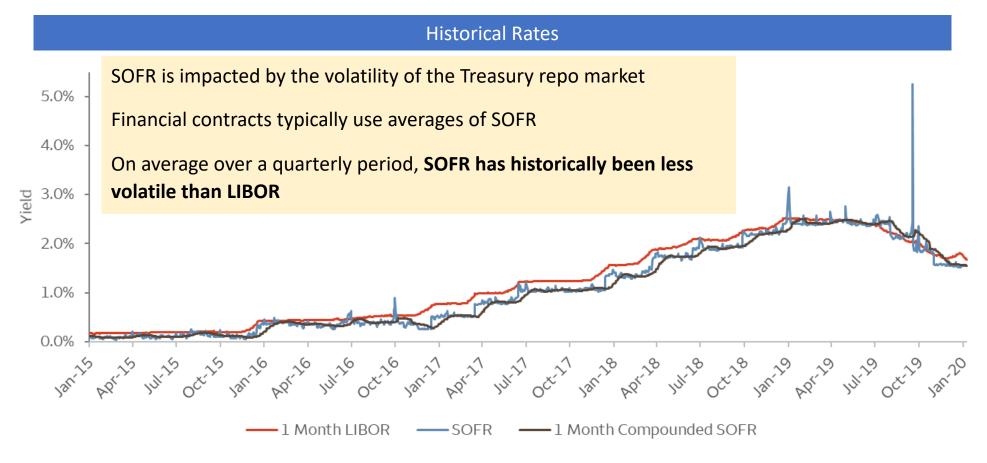


<sup>1)</sup> Average volumes over 2017H1, with the exception of 3-month T-bills, which are preliminary estimates from available FINRA Trade Reporting and Compliance Engine (TRACE) data over August and September 2017. 3-month volumes are based on all transactions with remaining maturities between 80 and 100 calendar days or 41-80 business days. SOFR average from inception to 2/1/19.

## USD LIBOR vs. SOFR

	USD LIBOR	SOFR	
Definition	<b>Unsecured</b> wholesale interbank lending rate	Secured overnight repo rate	
Maturity/Term	Various tenors, all forward-looking	ing Currently only overnight (in arrears)	
Bank Credit Premium	Yes	No	
Methodology	<b>Subjective</b> trimmed mean of panel bank submission rates based on Waterfall Methodology	<b>Objective</b> volume-weighted median for various US Treasury repo datasets	
Administrator	ICE Benchmark Administration	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	
Underlying Daily Transaction Volume	~\$500 million	More than \$1 Trillion	

## **SOFR Rate History**



<sup>1)</sup> CME Group.

Sources: Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority; DTCC Solutions LLC, an affiliate of the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation; and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

## SOFR Market Adoption

- The Federal Reserve Bank of New York began publishing SOFR April 3, 2018
- SOFR futures and swap markets were launched in 2018
  - SOFR futures volumes have exceeded expectations; in aggregate, more than \$1.9 trillion outstanding
  - SOFR swaps have also experienced dramatic growth with \$458 billion notional outstanding
  - Options on SOFR futures began trading January 6, 2020
- Over \$330B in SOFR-linked Floating Rate Notes have been issued from 49 issuers
- Since the inception of SOFR in April 2018, total notional has reached more than \$15 trillion in the market





## Perspectives from an Issuer

## University of California LIBOR Swaps (FYE 2018)

Hedge	Notional (\$ millions)	Effective Date	Maturity	Fixed Rate	Floating Rate
GRB 2013 Series L	\$400	2013	2023	1.892%	70% of 1-Month LIBOR
GRB 2013 Series L	\$100	2013	2023	1.9057%	70% of 1-Month LIBOR
GRB 2013 Series L	\$100	2013	2023	1.898%	70% of 1-Month LIBOR

## Approaches to LIBOR Transition

### Follow ISDA Protocol

 ISDA previously outlined a plan to introduce a protocol, which can be widely adopted by the market, to provide better fallback language within swap documents

### **Wait and See**

- SOFR swaps are beginning to trade, but predominantly with terms of 18 months or less
- Once the SOFR swap market grows in liquidity and robustness, it is expected that a SOFR/LIBOR basis swap market will commence allowing clients to begin to convert LIBOR exposures to SOFR
- To the extent there are two-way flows in this market, issuers may see reasonable pricing

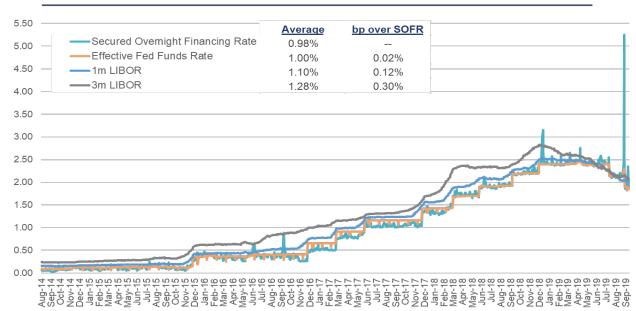
### **Proactive Restructuring**

- Take a more proactive approach to LIBOR overhaul with an immediate restructuring of LIBOR exposure to the Federal Funds Rate
- Protect from potential permanent negative basis exposure if SOFR is replaced without an appropriate adjustment from LIBOR to SOFR
- Economics of proactive restructuring would allow the swap to be converted without an
  economic impact to the University

## Federal Funds vs. SOFR

- Fed Funds and SOFR typically track one another very closely as both are secured short-term rates
- The SOFR swap market is still in the early stages of development, and the most active SOFR swaps trading are for tenors of four years or less
- Fed Funds and 3m LIBOR have been highly correlated with 67% 3m LIBOR generally resetting 19 basis points higher than 67% Fed Funds based on historical averages

## Historical SOFR, Fed Funds, 1m LIBOR and 3m LIBOR (August 2014 to Present)



## Case Study: Series L Swap Conversion

In March 2019, UC converted the GRB 2013 Series AL swaps from LIBOR to Fed Funds as a risk-reduction measure and to gain certainty on the swap index and economics beyond the LIBOR sunset date.

#### 2013 Series L Swap Details<sup>1</sup> **Restructured Swap Cash Flow Diagram** Notional: \$100 million 1.898% University **Wells Fargo** Effective Date October 1, 2013 Final Maturity<sup>2</sup> October 1, 2023 70% Federal Funds-H.15 + 0.0975% **Bond Rate** Fixed Rate 1.898% 70% LIBOR (SIFMA) Floating Rate 70% of Federal Funds Rate + 0.0975% Series 2013 Series L Fair Value<sup>3</sup> (\$3.0 million) **Bondholders**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>In total, UC converted three swaps with a total notional amount of \$600 million

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Simultaneous with the swap conversion, the University entered into forward starting swaps with a final maturity of 2048 <sup>3</sup>as of FYE 2019

## Additional Considerations

- Accounting Treatment
  - GASB published an Exposure Draft on the Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates in September 2019. Comments were due in November\*
- Tax Event
  - Execution of a hedge identification certificate was required for the 2013 GRB Series L Bonds to continue to be integrated with the swaps for yield purposes





# Hot Topic: Contract Language (aka Fallbacks)

## Increasing Contractual Robustness

What is LIBOR Fallback Language?

- The contractual language that specifies the rate that will be used if LIBOR is unavailable
- Fallback language was originally intended to address the temporary unavailability of LIBOR instead of a permanent cessation
- As a result, fallback language in many contracts may not produce a commercially reasonable result

Development of More Robust Fallback Language

- ISDA is planning to publish new fallback language for derivatives in Q1 2020
- In 2019, the ARRC published model LIBOR fallback language for:
  - Floating Rate Notes, Syndicated Loans, Bilateral Business Loans, Securitizations and residential Adjustable Rate Mortgages
- The intention of the fallback language is to:
  - Ensure contracts continue to function as closely as possible to what was initially intended by the parties
  - Minimize any potential transfer of value between the parties when the fallback takes effect

## Components of Fallback Language

### Fallback language contains three primary components:



### Trigger events

**Define the circumstances** under which references to LIBOR in a contract will be replaced with an alternative reference rate



### Replacement benchmark

**Identify the rate**, or waterfall of rates, that would replace LIBOR following a trigger event



### Spread adjustment

An adjustment added to the replacement rate to address differences between LIBOR and SOFR



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