

1. *Glacier Bancorp, Inc.*, Kalispell, Montana; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Big Sky Western Bank, Big Sky, Montana.

2. *First National Bank At St. James ESOP*, St. James, Minnesota; to acquire an additional 15.67 percent, for a total of 39.85 percent, of the voting shares of First National Agency At St. James, St. James, Minnesota, and thereby indirectly acquire First National Bank At St. James, St. James, Minnesota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, October 28, 1998.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y, (12 CFR Part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notice also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than November 17, 1998.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of New York (Betsy Buttrill White, Senior Vice President) 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10045-0001:

1. *HSBC Holdings PLC*, London, England; *HSBC Finance (Netherlands) Limited*, London, England; *HSBC Holdings BV*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and *Hongkong Bank of Canada*, Vancouver, British Columbia,

Canada; to acquire Gordon Capital Corporation, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Gordon Capital Holdings Inc., and Gordon Capital, Inc., both of New York, New York, and thereby engage in agency brokerage and private placement activities, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(7) of Regulation Y. These activities will be conducted worldwide.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (W. Arthur Tribble, Vice President) 2200 North Pearl Street, Dallas, Texas 75201-2272:

1. *Central Louisiana Capital Corporation*, Vidalia, Louisiana; to acquire Community Credit Centers, Inc., Natchez, Mississippi and Monroe, Louisiana, and thereby engage in consumer finance, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(1) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, October 28, 1998.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

Nominations of Topics for Research on Therapeutics

AGENCY: Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) invites nominations of topics of study and ideas for implementation of a new program, Centers for Education and Research on Therapeutics, which will be established by AHCPR in conjunction with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The program is described in Section 409 of the Food and Drug Modernization Act, quoted below. AHCPR plans to publish during Fiscal Year 1999 a Request for Applications (RFA) for cooperative agreements to establish and operate one or more Centers. Nominated topics selected by AHCPR will be considered in developing the RFA.

Sec. 409. Centers for Education and Research on Therapeutics

Title IX of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 299 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end of part A the following new section:

Sec. 905. Demonstration Program Regarding Centers for Education and Research on Therapeutics

(a) In General.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator and in consultation with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall establish a demonstration program for the purpose of making one or more grants for the establishment and operation of one or more centers to carry out the activities specified in subsection (b).

(b) Required Activities.—The activities referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) The conduct of state-of-the-art clinical and laboratory research for the following purposes:

(A) To increase awareness of—
(i) New uses of drugs, biological products, and devices;

(ii) Ways to improve the effective use of drugs, biological products, and devices; and
(iii) Risks of new uses and risks of combinations of drugs and biological products.

(B) To provide objective clinical information to the following individuals and entities:

(i) Health care practitioners or other providers of health care goods or services;
(ii) Pharmacy benefit managers;
(iii) Health maintenance organizations or other managed health care organizations;
(iv) Health care insurers or governmental agencies; and
(v) Consumers.

(C) To improve the quality of health care while reducing the cost of health care through—

(i) The appropriate use of drugs, biological products, or devices; and

(ii) The prevention of adverse effects of drugs, biological products, and devices and the consequences of such effects, such as unnecessary hospitalizations.

(2) The conduct of research on the comparative effectiveness and safety of drugs, biological products, and devices.

(3) Such other activities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, except that the grant may not be expended to assist the Secretary in the review of new drugs.

DATES: To be considered for Fiscal Year 1999, nominations of topics and ideas for implementation for CERTS, in accordance with the criteria set out below, should be submitted by December 18, 1998. Nominations after that date will be accepted on an ongoing basis for consideration in future studies.

ADDRESSES: Nominations of topics and ideas for implementation should be sent to: Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research, AHCPR; ATTENTION: Joanne Book; 6010 Executive Boulevard; Suite 300; Rockville, Maryland 20852 or e-mail at jbook@ahcpr.gov. All responses will be available for public inspection at AHCPR's Information Resource Center (IRC) public reading room between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on regular business days at 2101 East Jefferson Street, Suite 500, Rockville, MD 20852.