



SIFMA Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Conference

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Welcome and Opening Remarks

As prepared for delivery

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Acting President and CEO

Good Morning. I would like to welcome you all to SIFMA's 13th Annual AML and Financial Crimes Conference.

We are meeting here this year during a period where trust and confidence in the financial system are being tested. As we continue to address some of the events that have taken place over the last year, we must also redouble our focus on ensuring our financial system remains safe, secure, and vibrant.

Part of improving the safety and soundness of our system is ensuring that the many rules and regulations, including those stemming from Dodd-Frank, are written in such a manner as to effectively implement the law but not unnecessarily impede market function, efficiency, and, more broadly, the ability of the financial system to spur economic growth and job creation.

Just as any financial institution should properly hedge against risks, so too must a financial institution protect against those bad actors who seek to use our financial system for ill will. It is a risk that we must remain ever vigilant in guarding against, and one that all of you here today deal with on a daily basis.

Recently, we have witnessed a step up in anti-money laundering enforcement actions brought against financial institutions. As an industry, we must use these developments to focus on understanding the risks to our compliance functions and the financial system, and making any changes that are necessary. We must also focus on what's truly important: doing the right thing.

Your efforts include working with regulators day-in and day-out to bar those who seek to launder funds or finance criminal or terrorist activity from our financial system.

In recent remarks, FinCEN Director Shasky Calvery pinpoints this very important aspect of the work you all do every day. We need to work together to ensure that the industry just doesn't undertake compliance for compliance's sake, but that we look out for the real risks to an institution, to the financial system, and to the safety and security of Americans.



The Delta Team meeting last week was a prime example of that. Representatives from different sectors met with FinCEN and discussed what is working and what is not. It's an unparalleled collaboration between a federal regulator and key stakeholders.

This kind of collaborative effort was also made manifest by FinCEN's advanced notice of proposed rulemaking on customer due diligence last year. After issuing the ANPRM, FinCEN held multiple public hearings around the country to gather industry feedback. This was an unprecedented and welcome effort on behalf of FinCEN and we at SIFMA would like to thank Director Shasky Calvey for her agency's efforts in this regard.

We also hope that FinCEN will continue its collaboration with the industry when the agency issues its upcoming proposed rule on customer due diligence rules in the coming weeks.

Director Shasky Calvey is our keynote speaker this morning, and I'm sure she'll be elaborating on her agency's collaboration with the industry and a number of other areas that are critically important to ensuring the safety and security of our financial system.

We must continually work together to share best practices and stay ahead of the bad actors who seek to exploit our financial system. This is why we're gathered here today, and why this conference has been a must-attend for many of you.

I want to take a moment to thank Aseel Rabie and Kevin Zambrowicz on our team at SIFMA for helping put together a truly great conference that I hope you all will find substantive and informative.

I'd also like to thank Paige Baumann and Jeff Weiss, who are this year's co-chairs of the SIFMA AML & Financial Crimes Committee. But before I hand things over to Paige to introduce our keynote speaker, I know that we would all like to thank the outgoing co-chair of the committee, Renata Santos, for all of her work over the last two years.

And, I would like to thank our sponsors for helping us put on this event.

Thank you and will you please welcome, Paige Baumann.