

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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In the Matter of	)	
	)	
	)	CONSENT ORDER
SIGNATURE BANK OF ARKANSAS	)	
FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS	)	FDIC-10-602b
	)	
	)	
(Insured State Nonmember Bank)	)	
_____	)	

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) is the appropriate Federal banking agency for Signature Bank of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas (“Bank”), under 12 U.S.C. § 1813(q).

The Bank, by and through its duly elected and acting board of directors (“Board”), has executed a “STIPULATION TO THE ISSUANCE OF A CONSENT ORDER” (“STIPULATION”), dated November 4, 2010, that is accepted by the FDIC. With the Stipulation, the Bank has consented, without admitting or denying any charges of unsafe or unsound banking practices relating to operating with insufficient capital, liquidity, and earnings, with an excessive volume of low quality assets, and with inadequate policies and procedures, to the issuance of this CONSENT ORDER (“ORDER”) by the FDIC.

Having determined that the requirements for issuance of an order under 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b) have been satisfied, the FDIC hereby orders that:

MANAGEMENT

1. (a) The Bank shall have and retain qualified management. Each member of management shall possess qualifications and experience commensurate with his or her duties and responsibilities at the Bank. The qualifications of management personnel shall be evaluated on their ability to:

- (1) Comply with the requirements of the ORDER;
- (2) Operate the Bank in a safe and sound manner;
- (3) Comply with applicable laws and regulations; and
- (4) Restore all aspects of the Bank to a safe and sound condition, including improving the Bank's asset quality, capital adequacy, earnings, management effectiveness, liquidity, and its sensitivity to market risk.

(b) While this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall notify the Regional Director of the FDIC's Dallas Regional Office ("Regional Director") and the Commissioner of the Arkansas State Bank Department ("Commissioner") in writing of any changes in management. The notification must include the name(s) and background(s) of any replacement personnel and must be provided 60 days prior to the individual(s) assuming the new position(s).

CAPITAL INCREASE AND MAINTENANCE

2. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank, after establishing an Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses ("ALLL"), shall achieve and thereafter maintain its Tier 1 Leverage Capital ratio equal to or greater than 9 percent of the Bank's Average Total Assets; shall achieve and thereafter maintain its Tier 1 Risk-Based Capital ratio

equal to or greater than 11 percent of the Bank's Total Risk-Weighted Assets; and shall achieve and thereafter maintain its Total Risk-Based Capital ratio equal to or greater than 13 percent of the Bank's Total Risk Weighted Assets. Any increase in the Bank's Tier 1 Capital necessary to meet the capital ratios required by this ORDER may be accomplished by:

- (1) The sale of securities in the form of common stock; or
- (2) The direct contribution of cash subsequent to May 3, 2010, by the directors and shareholders of the Bank by the Bank's holding company; or
- (3) Receipt of an income tax refund or the capitalization subsequent to May 3, 2010, of a bona fide tax refund certified as being accurate by a certified public accounting firm; or
- (4) Any other method approved by the Regional Director and the Commissioner.

(b) If any such capital ratios are less than the percentages required by this ORDER, as determined as of the date of any Report of Condition and Income or at an examination by the FDIC or the Arkansas State Bank Department ("State"), the Bank shall, within 30 days after receipt of a written notice of the capital deficiency from the Regional Director and the Commissioner, present to the Regional Director and the Commissioner a plan to increase the Bank's Tier 1 Capital or to take other measures to bring all the capital ratios to the percentages required by this ORDER. After the Regional Director and the Commissioner respond to the plan, the Bank's Board shall adopt the plan, including any modifications or amendments requested by the Regional Director and the Commissioner. Such capital plan shall

detail the steps that the Bank shall take to achieve and maintain the capital requirements set forth in paragraph 2 (a) above. In developing the capital plan, the Bank must take into consideration:

- (1) The volume of the Bank's adversely classified assets;
- (2) The nature and level of the Bank's asset concentrations;
- (3) The adequacy of the Bank's ALLL;
- (4) The anticipated level of retained earnings;
- (5) Anticipated and contingent liquidity needs; and
- (6) The source and timing of additional funds to fulfill future capital needs.

In addition, the capital plan must include a contingency plan in the event that the Bank has (1) failed to maintain the minimum capital ratios required by subparagraph 2(a); (2) failed to submit an acceptable capital plan as required by this subparagraph; or (3) failed to implement or adhere to a capital plan to which the Regional Director and the Commissioner have taken no written objection pursuant to this subparagraph. Said contingency plan shall include a plan to sell or merge the Bank. The Bank shall implement the contingency plan upon written notice from the Regional Director and the Commissioner.

(c) Thereafter, the Bank shall immediately initiate measures detailed in the plan, to the extent such measures have not previously been initiated, to increase the Bank's Tier 1 Capital by an amount sufficient to bring all the capital ratios to the percentages required by this ORDER within 60 days after the Regional Director and the Commissioner respond to the plan.

(d) If all or part of the increase in Tier 1 Capital required by this ORDER is to be accomplished by the sale of new securities, the Bank's Board shall adopt and implement a plan for the sale of such additional securities, including soliciting proxies and the voting of any shares or proxies owned or controlled by them in favor of the plan. Should the implementation

of the plan involve a public distribution of the Bank's securities (including a distribution limited only to the Bank's existing shareholders), the Bank shall prepare offering materials fully describing the securities being offered, including an accurate description of the financial condition of the Bank and the circumstances giving rise to the offering, and any other material disclosures necessary to comply with Federal securities laws. Prior to the implementation of the plan, and in any event, not less than 20 days prior to the dissemination of such materials, the plan and any materials used in the sale of the securities shall be submitted to the FDIC, Accounting and Securities Disclosure Section, Washington, D.C. 20429, for review. Any changes requested to be made in the plan or the materials by the FDIC shall be made prior to their dissemination. If the increase in Tier 1 Capital is to be provided by the sale of non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock, then all terms and conditions of the issue shall be presented to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for prior approval.

(e) In complying with the provisions of this ORDER and until such time as any such public offering is terminated, the Bank shall provide to any subscriber and/or purchaser of the Bank's securities written notice of any planned or existing development or other change which is materially different from the information reflected in any offering materials used in connection with the sale of the Bank's securities. The written notice required by this paragraph shall be furnished within 10 days after the date such material development or change was planned or occurred, whichever is earlier, and shall be furnished to every purchaser and/or subscriber who received or was tendered the information contained in the Bank's original offering materials.

(f) In addition, the Bank shall comply with the FDIC's Statement of Policy on Risk-Based Capital found in Appendix A to Part 325 of the FDIC's Rules and Regulations, 12 C.F.R. Part 325, App. A.

(g) For purposes of this ORDER, all terms relating to capital shall be calculated according to the methodology set forth in Part 325 of the FDIC's Rules and Regulations, 12 C.F.R. Part 325.

DIVIDEND RESTRICTION

3. As of the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall not declare or pay any cash dividend without the prior written consent of the Regional Director and the Commissioner.

CLASSIFIED ASSETS - CHARGE-OFF AND PLAN FOR REDUCTION

4. (a) Within 10 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall, to the extent that it has not previously done so, eliminate from its books, by charge-off or collection, all assets or portions of assets classified Loss by the FDIC or the State as a result of its examination of the Bank as of May 3, 2010, with the exception of that portion of the loans classified Loss that the FDIC and the State have agreed may remain on the books, as noted in the letter which transmitted the examination of the Bank as of May 3, 2010. Elimination or reduction of these assets through proceeds of loans made by the Bank shall not be considered "collection" for the purpose of this paragraph.

(b) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall submit a written plan to the Regional Director and the Commissioner to reduce the remaining

assets classified Substandard as of May 3, 2010. The plan shall address each asset so classified with a balance of \$500,000 or greater and provide the following:

- (1) The name under which the asset is carried on the books of the Bank;
- (2) Type of asset;
- (3) Actions to be taken in order to reduce the classified asset; and
- (4) Time frames for accomplishing the proposed actions.

The plan shall also include, at a minimum:

- (1) Review the financial position of each such borrower, including the source of repayment, repayment ability, and alternate repayment sources; and
- (2) Evaluate the available collateral for each such credit, including possible actions to improve the Bank's collateral position.

In addition, the Bank's plan shall contain a schedule detailing the projected reduction of total classified assets on a quarterly basis. Further, the plan shall contain a provision requiring the submission of monthly progress reports to the Bank's Board and a provision mandating a review by the Bank's Board.

(c) The Bank shall present the plan to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review. Within 30 days after the Regional Director's and the Commissioner's response, the plan, including any requested modifications or amendments shall be adopted by the Bank's Board, which approval shall be recorded in the meeting minutes of the Bank's Board. The Bank shall then immediately initiate measures detailed in the plan to the extent such measures have not been initiated.

(d) For purposes of the plan, the reduction of adversely classified assets as of May 3, 2010 shall be detailed using quarterly targets expressed as a percentage of the Bank's Tier 1 Capital plus the Bank's ALLL and may be accomplished by:

- (1) Charge-off;
- (2) Collection;
- (3) Sufficient improvement in the quality of adversely classified assets so as to warrant removing any adverse classification, as determined by the FDIC or the State; or
- (4) Increase in the Bank's Tier 1 Capital.

(e) While this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall eliminate from its books, by charge-off or collection, all assets or portions of assets classified Loss as determined at any future examination conducted by the FDIC or the State.

RESTRICTION ON ADVANCES TO CLASSIFIED BORROWERS

5. (a) While this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall not extend, directly or indirectly, any additional credit to or for the benefit of any borrower whose existing credit has been classified Loss by the FDIC or the State as the result of its examination of the Bank, either in whole or in part, and is uncollected, or to any borrower who is already obligated in any manner to the Bank on any extension of credit, including any portion thereof, that has been charged off the books of the Bank and remains uncollected. The requirements of this paragraph shall not prohibit the Bank from renewing credit already extended to a borrower after full collection, in cash, of interest due from the borrower.

(b) While this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall not extend, directly or indirectly, any additional credit to or for the benefit of any borrower whose extension of credit is classified Doubtful and/or Substandard by the FDIC or the State as the result of its examination of the Bank, either in whole or in part, and is uncollected, unless the Bank's Board has signed a detailed written statement giving reasons why failure to extend such credit would be detrimental to the best interests of the Bank. The statement shall be placed in the appropriate loan file and included in the minutes of the applicable Bank Board meeting. The requirements of this paragraph shall not prohibit the Bank from renewing credit already extended to a borrower after full collection, in cash, of interest due from the borrower.

ALLOWANCE FOR LOAN AND LEASE LOSSES

6. (a) While this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall maintain a reasonable ALLL. Prior to the end of each calendar quarter, the Bank's Board shall review the adequacy of the Bank's ALLL. Such reviews shall include, at a minimum, the Bank's loan loss experience, an estimate of potential loss exposure in the portfolio, trends of delinquent and non-accrual loans and prevailing and prospective economic conditions. The minutes of the Bank's Board meetings at which such reviews are undertaken shall include complete details of the reviews and the resulting recommended increases in the ALLL.

(b) Within 30 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank must use Financial Accounting Standards Board Statements Numbers 5 and 114 for determining the Bank's ALLL reserve adequacy. Provisions for loan losses must be based on the inherent risk in the Bank's loan portfolio. The directorate must document with written reasons any decision not to require provisions for loan losses in the Board minutes.

CONCENTRATIONS – PLAN FOR REDUCTION

7. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall formulate and submit to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment a written plan to reduce its loan concentration of credit in land acquisition, construction and development, to comply with the joint guidance contained in FIL 104-2006, Guidance on Concentrations in Commercial Real Estate Lending, issued on December 12, 2006. Such plan shall prohibit any additional advances that would increase the concentrations or create new concentrations and shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Dollar levels to which the Bank shall reduce each concentration;
and
- (2) Provisions for the submission of monthly written progress reports to the Bank's Board for review and notation in the meeting minutes of the Bank's Board.

(b) For purposes of the plan, "reduce" means to:

- (1) Charge-off;
- (2) Collect; or
- (3) Increase Tier 1 Capital.

(c) After the Regional Director and the Commissioner have responded to the plan, the Bank's Board shall adopt the plan as amended or modified by the Regional Director and the Commissioner. The plan shall be implemented immediately to the extent that the provisions of the plan are not already in effect at the Bank.

LOAN POLICY

8. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, and annually thereafter, the Bank's Board shall review the Bank's loan policy and procedures for effectiveness and, based upon this review, shall make all necessary revisions to the policy in order to strengthen the Bank's lending procedures and abate additional loan deterioration. The initial revisions to the Bank's loan policy required by this paragraph, at a minimum, shall include provisions:

- (1) Prohibiting the capitalization of interest or loan-related expenses unless the Bank's loan committee formally approves such extensions of credit as being in the best interest of the Bank and provides detailed written support of its position in the Bank's committee minutes;
- (2) Establishing standards for extending unsecured credit and limitations for total unsecured credit as a percentage of Tier 1 capital;
- (3) Prohibiting the extension of a maturity date, advancement of additional credit or renewal of a loan to a borrower whose obligations to the Bank were classified "Substandard," "Doubtful," or "Loss," whether in whole or in part, as of May 3, 2010, or by the FDIC or State in a subsequent Report of Examination, without the full collection in cash of accrued and unpaid interest, unless the loans are well secured and/or are supported by current and complete financial information, and the renewal or extension has

first been approved in writing by a majority of the Bank's Board;
and

- (4) Providing enhanced guidelines and monitoring procedures to minimize the risks associated with unsecured lending.

(b) The policy will be implemented immediately to the extent that they are not already in effect at the Bank.

BUDGET AND PROFIT PLAN

9. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall formulate and submit to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment a written profit plan and a realistic, comprehensive budget for all categories of income and expense for calendar year 2011. The plan required by this paragraph shall contain formal goals and strategies, be consistent with sound banking practices, reduce discretionary expenses, improve the Bank's overall earnings and net interest income, and shall contain a description of the operating assumptions that form the basis for major projected income and expense components.

(b) The written profit plan shall address, at a minimum:

- (1) An analysis of the Bank's pricing structure; and
- (2) A recommendation for reducing the Bank's cost of funds.

(c) Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter following completion of the profit plan and budget required by this paragraph, the Bank's Board shall evaluate the Bank's actual performance in relation to the written profit plan and budget, record

the results of the evaluation, and note any actions taken by the Bank in the minutes of the Bank's Board meeting when such evaluation is undertaken.

(d) A written profit plan and budget shall be prepared for each calendar year for which this ORDER is in effect and shall be submitted to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment within 30 days after the end of each year. Within 30 days after receipt of all such comments from the Regional Director and the Commissioner and after adoption of any recommended changes, the Bank shall approve the written profit plan and budget, which approval shall be recorded in the minutes of a Board meeting. Thereafter, the Bank shall implement and follow the plan.

STRATEGIC PLAN

10. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall revise, adopt, and implement its comprehensive strategic plan. The strategic plan required by this paragraph shall contain an assessment of the Bank's current financial condition and market area, and a description of the operating assumptions that form the basis for major projected income and expense components.

(b) The written strategic plan shall address, at a minimum:

- (1) Strategies for pricing policies and asset/liability management;
- (2) Plans for sustaining adequate liquidity, including back-up lines of credit to meet any unanticipated deposit withdrawals;
- (3) Goals for reducing problem loans;
- (4) Plans for attracting and retaining qualified individuals to fill vacancies in the lending and accounting functions;

(5) Financial goals, including pro forma statements for asset growth, capital adequacy, and earnings; and

(6) Formulation of a mission statement and the development of a strategy to carry out that mission.

(c) Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter following the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank's Board shall evaluate the Bank's performance in relation to the strategic plan required by this paragraph and record the results of the evaluation, and any actions taken by the Bank, in the minutes of the Bank's Board meeting at which such evaluation is undertaken.

LIQUIDITY/ASSET/LIABILITY MANAGEMENT

11. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall develop and submit to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment a written plan addressing liquidity and asset/liability management. Annually thereafter, while this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall review this plan for adequacy and, based upon such review, shall make necessary revisions to the plan to maintain adequate provisions to meet the Bank's liquidity needs. The initial plan shall include, at a minimum, provisions:

- (1) Establishing a reasonable range for its net non-core funding ratio as computed in the Uniform Bank Performance Report;
- (2) Identifying the source and use of borrowed and/or volatile funds;
- (3) Establishing a minimum liquidity ratio and defining how the ratio is to be calculated;

- (4) Establishing contingency plans by identifying alternative courses of action designed to meet the Bank's liquidity needs; and
- (5) Addressing the use of borrowings and providing for reasonable maturities commensurate with the use of the borrowed funds; addressing concentration of funding sources; and addressing pricing and collateral requirements with specific allowable funding channels (i.e., brokered deposits, internet deposits, Fed funds purchased and other correspondent borrowings).

(b) Within 45 days after the receipt of all such comments from the Regional Director and the Commissioner, and after revising the plan as necessary, the Bank shall adopt the plan, which adoption shall be recorded in the minutes of a Board meeting. Thereafter, the Bank shall implement the plan.

COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

12. Within 10 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank's Board shall establish a committee of the board of directors charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the Bank complies with the provisions of this ORDER. The committee shall report monthly to the entire Bank's Board, and a copy of the report and any discussion related to the report or the ORDER shall be included in the meeting minutes of the Bank's Board. Nothing contained herein shall diminish the responsibility of the entire Bank's Board to ensure compliance with the provisions of this ORDER.

SELF-EXAMINATION

13. While this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall participate in the State Bank Department's monthly Self-Examination Program. The information contained in any reports used in connection with such program shall be correct.

SHAREHOLDER NOTIFICATION

14. After the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall send a copy of this ORDER, or otherwise furnish a description of this ORDER, to its shareholders (1) in conjunction with the Bank's next shareholder communication, and also (2) in conjunction with its notice or proxy statement preceding the Bank's next shareholder meeting. The description shall fully describe the ORDER in all material respects. The description and any accompanying communication, statement, or notice shall be sent to the FDIC Accounting and Securities Disclosure Section, Washington, D.C. 20429, for review at least 20 days prior to dissemination to shareholders. Any changes requested by the FDIC shall be made prior to dissemination of the description, communication, notice, or statement.

PROGRESS REPORTS

15. Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter following the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall furnish to the Regional Director and the Commissioner written progress reports signed by each member of the Bank's Board, detailing the actions taken to secure compliance with the ORDER and the results thereof. Such reports may be discontinued when the corrections required by this ORDER have been accomplished and the Regional Director and the Commissioner have released, in writing, the Bank from making further reports.

The provisions of this ORDER shall not bar, stop, or otherwise prevent the FDIC or any other federal or state agency or department from taking any other action against the Bank or any of the Bank's current or former institution-affiliated parties.

This ORDER shall be effective on the date of issuance.

The provisions of this ORDER shall be binding upon the Bank, its institution-affiliated parties, and any successors and assigns thereof.

The provisions of this ORDER shall remain effective and enforceable except to the extent that and until such time as any provision has been modified, terminated, suspended, or set aside by the FDIC and the State.

Issued pursuant to delegated authority this 4th day of November 2010.

/s/ _____
Kristie K. Elmquist
Acting Regional Director
Dallas Region
Division of Supervision and Consumer Protection
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation