

noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center website at www.ffiec.gov/nic/.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than December 14, 2001.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (JoAnne F. Lewellen, Assistant Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. *United Bancor, Ltd.*, Dickenson, North Dakota; to merge with Bismarck Bancshares, Inc., Bismarck, North Dakota, and thereby indirectly acquire Bank Center First, Bismarck, Bismarck, North Dakota.

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

1. *Krum Bancshares, Inc.*, Krum, Texas, and Krum Bancshares of Delaware, Inc., Dover, Delaware; to become bank holding companies by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Krum, Krum, Texas.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, November 14, 2001.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in

writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center website at www.ffiec.gov/nic/.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than December 17, 2001.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Phillip Jackson, Applications Officer) 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690-1414:

1. *Bancshares Holding Corp.*, Downers Grove, Illinois; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of The Bank of Commerce, Downers Grove, Illinois.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco (Maria Villanueva, Consumer Regulation Group) 101 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105-1579:

1. *Siuslaw Financial Group, Inc.*, Florence, Oregon; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Siuslaw Valley Bank, Florence, Oregon.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, November 15, 2001.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 01-28997 Filed 11-19-01; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Competition and Intellectual Property Law and Policy in the Knowledge-Based Economy

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice of public hearings and opportunity for comment.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC" or "Commission") announces public hearings beginning in January 2002 on "Competition and Intellectual Property Law and Policy in the Knowledge-Based Economy." The hearings will focus primarily on the implications of antitrust and patent law and policy for innovation and other aspects of consumer welfare. Copyright and trademark issues as they arise in particular high-tech contexts also may be considered. The hearings will be held

at and administered by the FTC and co-hosted with the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice.

The knowledge-based economy has grown in economic significance over the past few decades. It is increasingly important that competition and intellectual property law and policy work in tandem to support and encourage ongoing innovation underlying that economy. Policies for both competition and intellectual property raise legal and economic questions that are substantially interlinked.

Through public hearings, we seek to gather facts about, and to enhance the understanding of, how doctrines, practices, and policies of each discipline affect both initial and sequential innovation, and related functions, in today's economy. The goal is to promote dialogue, learning, and consensus building among business, consumer, government, legal, and academic communities on these topics. In addition to officials from the FTC and the Antitrust Division, business, consumer, judicial, Congressional, and other government representatives will be invited, as will representatives from the antitrust and intellectual property bars, economists, and academics.

The hearings will be transcribed and placed on the public record. Any written comments received also will be placed on the public record. A public report that incorporates the results of the hearings, as well as other research, will be prepared after the hearings.

DATES: The hearings will begin in January 2002 and will conclude later in the spring. Specific dates and more specific topic listings will be provided in a later notice and in press releases. Any interested person may submit written comments responsive to any of the topics to be addressed; such comments should be submitted no later than the last session of the hearings.

ADDRESSES: When in session, the hearings will be held in Room 432 at the FTC headquarters, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. All interested parties are welcome to attend. Written comments should be submitted in both hard copy and electronic form. Six hard copies of each submission should be addressed to Donald S. Clark, Office of the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. Submissions should be captioned "Comments regarding Competition & Intellectual Property." Electronic submissions may be sent by electronic mail to competitionandintellectualproperty@