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Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division  
Office of the Comptroller of the Currency  
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Washington, DC 20219

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System  
20th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20551  
Attention: Robert DeV. Frierson, Secretary,

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
550 17th Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20429  
Attention: Gary A. Kuiper, Counsel (Comments, Room NYA-5046)

**RE: Comments on Proposed Revisions to Risk-Weighted Assets Portion of  
Schedule RC-R for Call Reports – Bank-Owned Life Insurance Assets**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On June 23, 2014, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (collectively, the “agencies”) approved the publication for public comment of proposed revisions to the risk-weighted assets portion of Schedule RC–R, Regulatory Capital in the Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income (“Revised Schedule RC–R”).

Once finalized, the Revised Schedule RC–R will implement the reporting of risk-weighted assets (RWA) consistent with the Standardized Approach which will become effective and replace the existing risk-weighting (commonly referred to as “Basel I”) on January 1, 2015.

Established in 1992, MB Schoen & Associates, Inc. provides consulting and administrative services specifically related to Bank Owned Life Insurance (BOLI) programs. Our clients include community banks, large regional banks and banks that are among the largest in the world. We presently provide administrative services for more than \$18 billion of BOLI assets. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and suggestions on the Revised Schedule RC–R, specifically as it relates to the reporting of risk-weighted assets for BOLI assets.

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## Discussion of Current (Basel I) RWA Reporting for BOLI

Specific instructions are not provided for incorporating BOLI into the Risk-Weighted Assets schedule (Schedule RC-R-Part II – June 2014). However, consistent with the “Other Assets” classification, it is our understanding that banks include BOLI in the “All other assets” line of the Risk-Weighted Assets schedule (line 42 in the June 2014 form).

	(Column A) Totals (from Schedule RC)				(Column B) Items Not Subject to Risk Weighting			(Column C)			(Column D)			(Column E)			(Column F)					
											Allocation by Risk-Weight Category											
	0%			20%			50%			100%												
Dollar Amounts in Thousands	Tril	Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou			
Balance Sheet Asset Categories																						
42. All other assets¹					RCFD B639			RCFD B640			RCFD B641			RCFD B642			RCFD B643			RCFD 5339		

As shown above, this line requires the underlying asset values to be reported in specific risk-weight categories. The categories shown on the form are consistent with Basel I risk-weights.

The Revised Schedule RC–R does not provide specific instructions for incorporating BOLI into the RWA schedule. With specific exceptions that we will discuss further below, barring additional clarification, we would expect BOLI assets to continue to be reported in the “All other assets” line (line 8). Below is a screen print of line 8.<sup>2</sup>

	(Column A) Totals From Schedule RC			(Column B) Adjustments to totals reported in Column A			(Column C)			(Column D)			(Column E)			(Column F)			(Column G)			(Column H)			(Column I)			(Column J)					
							Allocation by Risk Weight Category																										
							0%			2%			4%			10%			20%			50%			100%			150%					
Dollar Amounts in Thousands	Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou			
8. All other assets <sup>4</sup>	RCXX XXXX			RCXX XXXX			RCXX XXXX												RCXX XXXX			RCXX XXXX			RCXX XXXX								

Similar to the current reporting, this line requires the underlying asset values to be reported in specific risk-weight categories. In the following subsections, we identify

<sup>1</sup> Total BOLI holdings are the sum of BOLI reported by bank holding companies in Y-9C reports and BOLI reported by standalone banks in call reports. Values are as of 3/31/2014.

<sup>2</sup> Line 8 spans two pages in the Revised Schedule RC-R; the second page includes risk-weight categories ranging from 250% to 1250%.

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specific issues with respect to utilizing this line item for separate account BOLI assets, which, as clarified in the final regulatory rules, must be treated as investment fund exposures.

### Separate Account Securitization Exposures

Certain separate account BOLI plans include investments in high-quality securitization exposures. Under the Standardized Approach, securitization exposures may be risk-weighted in three ways: the Gross Up Approach, the Simplified Supervisory Formula Approach (“SSFA”) or by assigning a risk-weight of 1250%. The computational results of the Gross Up Approach and SSFA will vary based on the input parameters at an applicable point in time. As such, it is understood that they likely will not fall into the prescribed risk-weight categories.

We note that the Revised Schedule RC–R includes a line item (Line 9.d) which the agencies may intend to be used to capture securitization exposures within separate account BOLI plans (“All other on-balance sheet securitization exposures”).

Dollar Amounts in Thousands	(Column A) Totals			(Column B) Adjustments to totals reported in Column A			(Column Q) Total risk-weighted exposure, by calculation methodology			(Column R)			(Column S)		
	Bil	Mill	Thou	Bil	Mill	Thou	1250%	SSFA	Gross-Up	Bil	Mill	Thou	Bil	Mill	Thou
9. On-balance sheet securitization exposures															
	RCXX XXXX			RCXX XXXX			RCXX XXXX	RCXX XXXX	RCXX XXXX						
a. Held-to-maturity securities															
	RCXX XXXX			RCXX XXXX			RCXX XXXX	RCXX XXXX	RCXX XXXX						
b. Available-for-sale securities															
	RCXX XXXX			RCXX XXXX			RCXX XXXX	RCXX XXXX	RCXX XXXX						
c. Trading assets that receive standardized charges															
	RCXX XXXX			RCXX XXXX			RCXX XXXX	RCXX XXXX	RCXX XXXX						
d. All other on-balance sheet securitization exposures															

### Other Exposures in Separate Account BOLI Plans

Separate account BOLI plans may have underlying exposures to investments that have risk-weight categories that are currently marked as closed in line 8 of the Revised Schedule RC–R. These may include:

- Exchange traded interest rate futures contracts that might qualify for either the 2% or 4% risk-weight;
- Publicly traded equity securities (used in connection with hedging certain deferred compensation plan liabilities) that receive a 300% risk-weight; and
- Investments that might receive a 150% risk-weight (including, as an example, a foreign sovereign following an event of default).

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Given the potential to encounter additional risk-weight categories, we think it would be helpful if the agencies clarified their intentions with respect to reporting such exposures.

## **Suggested Resolution – Add Investment Fund Line Items**

Under the Advanced Approaches reporting (FFIEC 101), there are distinct line items for “Equity Exposures to Investment Funds” (lines 12-14 of Schedule R).

	Simple Risk Weight Approach						Full Internal Models Approach						Publicly Traded Internal Models Approach														
	(Column A) Exposure			Risk Weight or Multiplier	(Column B) Risk- Weighted Assets			(Column C) Exposure			Risk Weight or Multiplier	(Column D) Risk- Weighted Assets			(Column E) Exposure			Risk Weight or Multiplier	(Column F) Risk- Weighted Assets								
	Bil	Mil	Thou		Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou		Bil	Mil	Thou	Bil	Mil	Thou		Bil	Mil	Thou						
Dollar Amounts in Thousands	Bil	Mil	Thou				Bil	Mil	Thou				Bil	Mil	Thou				Bil	Mil	Thou						
Equity Exposures to Investment Funds	AARA J063						AARB J063			AARC J063						AARD J063			AARE J063						AARF J063		
12. Full look-through approach .....																											
	AARA J064						AARB J064			AARC J064						AARD J064			AARE J064						AARF J064		
13. Simple modified look-through approach .....																											
	AARA J065						AARB J065			AARC J065						AARD J065			AARE J065						AARF J065		
14. Alternative modified look-through approach .....																											

We think it would be helpful to add similar line items in the Standardized Approach forms. Benefits include:

1. Better regulatory visibility into investment fund RWA treatment (as opposed to the funds being dispersed across a number of line items and incorporated along with fixed assets, intangibles, etc.);
2. Better alignment between Standardized Approach and Advanced Approach methodologies for banks that are subject to both approaches; and
3. Potentially more efficient administration and recordkeeping since the values would more directly align with general ledger asset accounts.

## **Conclusion**

As discussed in this letter, we recommend adding specific line items for Equity Exposures to Investment Funds in the revised risk-weighted asset schedule that was proposed for comment. If the agencies choose not to add such line items, we recommend opening up additional risk-weight categories in the “All other assets” line (line 8.) and/or providing additional guidance regarding how underlying exposures within separate account BOLI programs should be reported in the revised schedule.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on this matter and would be happy to discuss our observations and recommendations further if it would be of assistance to the agencies.

Sincerely,



Tradyn Foley  
Vice President