# **Risks Associated with Fiduciary Activities**

- Operational
  - Gathering
  - o Processing
  - o Reporting
- Compliance
  - Investment law
  - Securities law
  - o Tax law
  - o Contract law
  - o Environmental law
  - o Consumer protection law
- Strategic
  - Activities
  - Resources
- Reputation
  - o Expectations vs. delivery
  - Combination of other categories

### Review of fiduciary accounts

- Pre-acceptance review (12 CFR § 9.6(a)): Before accepting a fiduciary account, a national bank shall review the prospective account to determine whether it can properly administer the account.
- Documentation of accounts (12 CFR § 9.8(a)): A national bank shall adequately document the establishment and termination of each fiduciary account and shall maintain adequate records for all fiduciary accounts

# Life Cycle of an Opportunity

- Identify Opportunity
  - o How did we identify this opportunity?
    - Client/COI referral?
  - O Who is the client?
    - Possible reputation risk?
    - If entity, who will make decisions?
  - O What is our role?
    - Does role match client expectations?
    - If successor appointment, why change provider?
  - O What are the assets?
    - Cash?
    - Special assets?
      - If yes, do we have resources and information to properly administer?
      - If we don't have resources, how will that affect fees?

- o Where are we doing business?
  - Foreign or domestic client?
  - Ownership?
  - Situs?
  - Do we have authority to act?
- O What information do we have?
  - Governing documents?
  - Statements?
  - Other supporting documents?
- What are the proposed fees?
  - Does revenue match risk?
- O What stage of the sales process are we in?
  - Do we have enough time to review opportunity?
  - Can we make a decision based on the available information?
  - Have we made commitments?
- Consultation with Opportunity Team
  - O Why would team want to discuss?
    - Determine if opportunity warrants further discussion
    - Seeking confirmation that we can serve in role
    - Determine if enough information has been provided to make decision
  - o Provide guidance to team for current and future opportunities
  - Position as resource to team
  - Strengthen partnership among colleagues
- Submission of Opportunity for Review
  - o Opportunity team provides summary of opportunity
  - o Relationship team and office identified
  - o Pertinent documentation submitted
  - o Intake team reviews submission, may ask preliminary questions based on information
- Review of Opportunity
  - Review based on proposed role
    - Investment opportunity
      - Individual
        - o Who makes investment decisions?
        - o Titling for joint ownership?
        - o Concentrated positions?
        - o Tax cost basis information?
        - o Transactions?
        - o Fees?
      - Trusts
        - O Who makes investment decisions?

- O Does information confirm authority to hire?
- o If no supporting information, what does governing law state?
- Private entity (e.g., Partnership, LLC)
  - O Who has authority to make decisions?
  - Document authorizing hiring of agent/advisor?
  - o If multiple authorized parties, number required to act?
- Other responsibilities?
  - Responsibilities identified?
  - o Enough information to meet expectations?
- Trust opportunity
  - Copy of all documents?
    - o Original agreement/will?
    - o Amendments/codicils?
    - Tax information?
  - Review of instrument
    - O Able to follow trust terms?
    - o Terms present any challenges/risks?
    - o Provisions requiring further legal review?
    - o Who has investment powers?
      - If not us, are roles clearly defined?
      - Supporting documents note roles?
    - o If successor, does document protect successor from liability?
    - o Identify income, estate tax liability?
    - o Can we meet duties?
      - Duty of loyalty?
      - Duty of impartiality?
      - Duty to inform?
      - Duty to account?
    - Any "particular" terms?
      - Particular person?
      - Particular asset?
      - Particular decision?

- Enhanced Review
  - Identification of significant risk/issues
  - Additional due diligence due to client/assets
  - Escalation to senior management

- Clients of a significant relationship present an opportunity for a successor trusteeship
- Trust size: Approximately \$15 million
- Would serve as co-trustee with two individuals
- Trust provisions
  - o Discretionary income and principal to grantor's issue and descendants
    - Income currently distributed quarterly to grantor's three children
  - o Shared investment authority; written direction from majority of trustees required
  - o Compensation clause for named trustee
- Assets
  - Real property
    - 80% of portfolio
    - Property owned directly by trust
    - Extraction of natural resources from property
      - Approximately \$1 million in sales
    - Endangered species resides on portion of property
  - o 50% ownership interest in LLC
    - Manager of business operations on property
    - Negotiates contracts with wholesalers
    - Owns equipment used for business and buildings/houses on property
    - Income, expenses related to business directly goes to or comes from trust
  - Mineral rights
    - Listed on trust account statement
    - According to family advisor, rights deeded to separate mineral interest trust
  - o Investment portfolio managed and custodied at another financial institution
- Liabilities
  - Loan payable to current corporate trustee
    - Used to purchase additional real property
  - Line of credit
    - About 20% of line used
    - Used to provide liquidity and avoid liquidation of investment portfolio

- A center of influence presents a successor trusteeship opportunity
- Trust size: \$50 million
- Testator created a trust under will for the benefit of their spouse
- Would serve with two individual trustees
- Estate administration has lasted 15 years
- Litigation resulted in removal of executors/trustees named in will
- Provisions of trust revised pursuant to a settlement agreement
  - o Spouse to receive greater of net income or \$250,000 annually
  - Annual principal distribution of \$500,000
  - Distributions at spouse's request to pay all costs associated with house, car, healthcare
  - One time distribution of \$1 million if spouse demonstrates extreme financial hardship
  - Corporate trustee has discretion to distribute principal for spouse's health, education, maintenance and support
- Trust included in spouse's estate
- Trust maintains a concentrated position in real estate
  - Several positions directly owned by trust
  - o Trust has interest in partnership that maintains real estate portfolio
  - o Testator associated with issues/lawsuits associated with real estate
- Current corporate trustee unwilling to exercise discretion to distribute trust assets in order to create liquidity in portfolio

- A client refers a friend for an investment management opportunity
- Size of opportunity: \$10 million
- Prospect renounced U.S. citizenship
- Prospect presents passport and driver's license, each issued by different countries
- Account will be funded with cash
- Prospect provides statement from international bank confirming ownership of funds
- Prospect works in industry that requires licensing in countries where prospect conducts business

- Advisor for current client presents trusteeship opportunity
  - o Currently serve as investment manager for client
- Opportunity size: \$60 million
- Would serve as co-trustee with individual(s) for client's trust and trust created by client's spouse for client's benefit
  - Client is current trustee
  - o Client is 80 but maintains independence
  - o Spouse passed away three years ago; trust for client's benefit not yet funded
- Investment portfolios owned by client and spouse held at four different institutions
  - Advisor noted client's strong desire to continue to use one of the institutions to manage investments
  - o Trust documents provide individual trustees with right to relieve corporate trustee of all investment authority and responsibility with respect to any or all of trust assets
- About one-third of opportunity consists of several real estate properties owned by client and spouse
  - Largest property has been listed and taken off the market several times over the last three years
- Trust of client's spouse owns voting and nonvoting shares of domestic investment holding company
  - Trust owns 50% of voting shares; other 50% of voting shares owned by trust created by business partner of client's spouse
  - o Company owns 98% of voting shares in offshore investment holding company
  - o Client's spouse and former business partner of client's spouse each own 1% of shares
  - Assets of company consist of cash and investible securities
  - o Advisor notes that company expected to wind down in next year

- A center of influence presents a successor trusteeship opportunity
- Trusts created by the grandmother of the center of influence
  - One trust for the benefit of the grandmother's son and descendants
  - One trust for the benefit of the grandmother's daughter and her descendants
  - o Son and daughter are each in their 80s
- Trustee has discretion to distribute income or principal to class of beneficiaries, which consists of family members
  - o In the past, funds have only been distributed to son and daughter
  - o Family members vary in age and levels of income
- Family members except son and daughter unaware of trusts' existence until recently
  - o Trusts created 50 years ago
- Suit filed by family against corporate trustee
  - Proceeds from lawsuit will increase trusts' values from a combined \$2 million to a combined \$20 million
- Family working with attorney to divide and modify trusts
  - o Trusts would be divided to create separate trusts for each grandchild
  - Details of modifications not provided
- Trust portfolios are primarily invested in fixed income
- Trusts also own a number of interests in mineral rights
  - No values provided
- No language in trust document allowing removal of trustee
- Family requesting information to evaluate qualifications and skill in managing trusts and investments
  - o Response requested in two weeks