## Equity-Based Insurance Guarantees Conference Nov. 6-7, 2017 Baltimore, MD

## Market Trends

## Matthew Coleman

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## Equity-Based Insurance Guarantees Market Trends

Matthew Coleman, FSA, MAAA November 6, 2017 8:40-9:30am



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## Willis Towers Watson III'I'III

**Trend Drivers:** 

- 1. Regulation
- 2. Technology
- 3. Bond & Equity Markets
- 4. Product Trends

# **Sales Regulation**

# The Department of Labor's Conflict of Interest "Fiduciary" Rule

### **Definition**

## Fiduciary fi-du-cia-ry | fə-'dü-shə-rē

#### noun (pl) -aries

• one who obligates himself or herself to act on behalf of another (as in managing money or property) and assumes a duty to act in good faith and with care, candor, and loyalty in fulfilling the obligation.

#### adjective

 of, relating to, or involving a confidence or trust in a guardian acting in his fiduciary capacity.

From Merriam-Webster.com



- Influential writings explore the mechanics of morality, markets, and capitalism in an industrialized society.
- His work <u>Wealth of Nations</u> (1776) lays the foundations of modern capitalism.
- Invisible Hand theory: The automatic market force whereby the individual self interests of the participants of a free market drive the supply and demand of goods and services to reach equilibrium.

#### The World According to Adam Smith

- "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest." – Adam Smith
- Self-interest drives supply, demand and competition.
- Competition in the marketplace affects supply, demand and ultimately sets prices at efficient levels.
- Much of the financial services industry, especially insurance, has been operating under these free market concepts.

So which is it?

## **Annuity Regulation for Example**

#### **Current Annuity Regulation categories**

- Product requirements (Nonforfeiture)
- Disclosure requirements (Prospectus, Securities Act of 1933)
- Seller requirements (Licensure, FINRA, RIA)

#### Implications

- Current rules govern the disclosure, the seller and the product, but not their interests.
- Imply that the buyer and seller are acting in their own interests.

#### **Recent Suitability Regulations**

 Suitability requirements – modern fiduciary-lite regulation that requires the seller to consider the interest of the buyer, generally.

## **But Do Self Interest Driven Markets Work?**

Hard to say, but...

#### Indexed Annuity Sales By Quarter



## **But Do Self Interest Driven Markets Work?**

Hard to say, but...



#### **Indexed Annuity Average Agent Commission**

Source: Wink Sales and Market Report

## **A Fundamental Change**

- The Conflict of Interest Rule fundamentally reorients the financial & insurance industries from capitalistic, marketoriented model to a regulation/litigation oriented model.
- The capitalistic, market-oriented model recognizes and assumes conflicts of interest are inherent in every interaction.
  - Conflicts of interest are addressed via disclosure and competition.
  - The buyer is primarily the arbiter of their own interest.
- A regulation/litigation-oriented model identifies conflicts of interest as problematic.

## How the DOL Rule Works

- All transactions involving qualified money (especially Fixed, Indexed and Variable Annuities and mutual funds) where commissions are paid, become Prohibited Transactions under the rule.
- Prohibited Transactions are subject to IRS tax of 100% of any amount received.
- Certain defined Prohibited Transaction Exemptions (PTE's) allow for commission to be received including PTE 84-24 and the new BICE PTE.
- PTE's under the new rule require either contractual or declarative statements whereby the advisor (or agent) acknowledges fiduciary duty to impartial conduct standards.
- These fiduciary standards are principles based and no safe harbor is provided under the rule.
- The Department of Labor has no enforcement arm. This rule employs increased legal jeopardy as a means of enforcement.

## **Impartial Conduct Standards**

- Effective 6/9/2017 for all qualified transactions.
- Provide investment advice that is in the "Best Interest" of the retirement investor.
  - Act with care, skill, prudence and diligence.
  - Act without regard to financial interest of advisor or financial institution.
  - Receive no more than "reasonable compensation."
  - Make no material misleading statements.
- Some believe that the updated requirements for 84-24 which require commission disclosure still apply.
- Violations of the fiduciary obligations may lead to:
  - Civil action by the DOL
  - Civil action by the investor
  - Excise taxes by the IRS
- Both the DOL and the IRS have stated that during the period prior to 1/1/2018, they will focus on compliance assistance with those who are working diligently and in good faith to comply.

#### **Executive Action**

2010: Original Conflict of Interest Rule proposed

2011: DOL rescinds rule under significant bipartisan and industry pressure

2016 (April): Strengthened Final rule promulgated

01/20/2017: Perez resigns & long-time DOL employee, Ed Hugler becomes acting Labor Secretary

02/03/2017: President Trump issues Executive Memorandum to Labor Department requesting:

- Review of impact on retiree access to retirement products
- Review of impact on increased litigation and associated costs on retirees
- Review of impact on effect on small business (advisory business)

02/16/2017: President Trump nominates Alexander Acosta as Labor Secretary

03/01/2017: Hugler proposes 60 day delay to complete Presidential Memo requirements

03/03/2017: Acosta declares he will follow the president's guidance in examining the rule

04/07/2017: 60 day delay is final

04/10/2017: Original Effective Date of Rule

04/26/2017: Secretary of Labor Acosta confirmed

06/09/2017: Delayed effective date for Fiduciary Conduct Standards

07/01/2017: Nevada shifts from a Suitability Standard to a Fiduciary Standard

08/29/2017: OMB approves delay to 07/01/2019

11/02/2017: DOL files final 18 month delay rule documents

11/??/2017: 18 month delay is published in the Federal Register and become effective

## Legal Action

4 Lawsuits have been levied against the DOL. The courts have found, in 3 of the 4 cases, that the DOL is within its authority to issue (and perhaps also to rescind) the fiduciary rule.

#### 1. NAFA vs DOL, Washington DC District Court, 11/4/2016

- Challenged the rule on numerous grounds.
- Contended the rule would be catastrophic for FIA's.
- Judge found DOL has authority to issue rule. (Nov 2016)

#### 2. Market Synergy vs DOL, Kansas Federal Court, 11/28/2016

- Challenged the DOL's inclusion of FIA's into the BICE requirements.
- Judge found that plaintiffs did not prove that DOL failed to follow procedures. (Late 2016)

#### 3. US Chamber of Commerce vs DOL, Texas District Court

- Challenged the rule on numerous grounds.
- Contended that one-time transactions should not be burdened with heavy regulation.
- Judge found DOL has authority to issue rule. (Feb 2017)
- Appealed to the 5th Circuit. (July 2017)
- May be first victory for rule opponents.
- Decision expected later this fall.

#### 4. Thrivent vs. DOL, Minnesota District Court

- Challenged the rule regarding fraternals ability to require arbitration.
- DOJ wrote to Judge: "class action provision will likely be mooted in the near future." (Aug 2017)

## **Legislative Action**

#### **Financial Choice Act of 2017**

- A revision of similar bill tabled in 2016
- Weakens elements of Dodd-Frank
- Repeals the DOL Rule
- Passed the US House of Representatives (June 2017)
- Faces possible filibuster in the Senate

#### Protecting Advice for Small Savers (PASS) Act of 2017

- Passed the US House Financial Services Committee (Oct, 2017)
- Establishes a best-interest standard for broker-dealers
- Repeals DOL Fiduciary Rule

# Regulation

## **Capital, Reserving and Reporting**

#### **Other Regulatory Market Drivers**

- Principles Based Reserving (VM-20)
  - For Life Insurance
  - Required in 2020
  - Some companies are transitioning now (in 2017)
- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS-17)
  - Applies to companies operating or with ownership outside the US, China and Northern Africa
  - Affects Reinsurers
  - Effective 1-1-2021
  - Replaces IFRS-4
  - Effects: Profit patterns/Earnings volatility, Disclosure
- VM-22:
  - Effective 1/1/2018:
  - Lower Valuation Rates for Payout Annuities (approx. 50bps lower)
  - Higher Cost for Guaranteed Payout Structures (SPIA, GLWB, GMIB, DIA, etc)
  - Other principles based guidance is being developed for deferred, non-variable annuities

#### **Other Regulatory Market Drivers**

- Annuity Reserving Working Group
  - Evaluating a PBR method for Non-Variable Annuities
  - Consistent with AG 43/VM21
  - Exclusion Test and Floor Reserve Approaches under consideration
- SVL Interest Rate Modernization Work Group
  - Updating Statutory Reserve Rates Similar to VM-22 for Deferred Annuities
  - Likely leading to lower reserve rates and higher reserves
- NAIC LATF/RBC Longevity Risk Subgroup
  - Recommendations on how to recognize longevity risk in RBC or statutory reserves
- Quantitative Impact Studes I & II
  - Refinements and Harmonization of AG43 and C3P2

# Technology



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## InsureTech

- Direct to Consumer (Internet) Marketing
  - Is insurance bought or sold?
  - InsureTech is challenging assumptions
  - New products for new distribution models
  - Effects of InsureTech on Behavioral assumptions

## InsureTech

- Mobile Sales Enablement for Agent-Based Distribution
  - Mobile Applications and straight-through processes
  - Regulatory compliance enhancement
  - Reduced NIGO and associated cost
  - Aging Agent population has uneven acceptance rates
- Mobile Experience for Policyholders
  - Enhanced customer control and engagement
  - Effect on utilization and antiselective behavior

## InsureTech

- Simplified/Accelerated Underwriting for Life Insurance
  - Instantaneous Acceptance/Rejection/Referral
  - Less direct data (from fluids)
  - New and different data sources
    - Driving record
    - Credit
    - Prescriptions
    - Genetic Testing
    - Electronic Medical Records
    - Tele Underwriting
  - New 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Tools
    - LexisNexis Risk Classifier
    - Transunion TrueRisk Life
    - Milliman Rx Score

### **Advanced Analytics**

- Predictive Analytics
  - Identifies sub-trends and sub-factors within data
  - Refinement of policy owner behavior
  - Mortality and Morbidity tables
  - Tailoring of products and pricing to specific applications
- Machine Learning
  - Ongoing data monitoring
  - Updates and recalibrates predictive analysis outcomes

# **Fixed Assets & Equities**





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# **Product Trends**



#### **FIA Crediting Methods**

**FIA Indices** 



Wink Market Reports



FIA Sales 2017



Wink Market Reports

### **Fixed Indexed Annuity Marketing**

- 45 carriers are on pace to write \$100M or more in 2017
- 24 carriers are on pace to write \$1B or more in 2017
- Significant sales growth in the bank and broker dealer channels
- Average FIA commission has dropped to 5.00% from 8.00% over the past 10 years.
- Average single premium has increased to \$110,000 from \$50,000 over the past 10 years.
- Income benefits are dominant sales drivers
  - GLWB'S with guaranteed roll-ups and guaranteed income
  - GLWB'S with stacked or other indexed roll-ups
  - Nursing home and confinement triggered income
- Rider fees are both implicit and explicit, but impact indexing caps and other adjustments
- Volatility control indices increase caps and other adjustments
- Hybrid indices are selected for illustration and presentation qualities
- Fee-based FIA'S developed in response to DOL rule 7 recent product launches





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### **Registered FIA's (RFIA's)**

- Also called Structured VA's
- AXA the first to develop in 2010
- 6 new entrants since 2013
- Fast growing market segment
- Higher caps and possibly better potential crediting
- Bringing the FIA story (downside risk mitigation) to the registered space
- Offers risk diversification relative to traditional VA products





### **Final Thoughts**

- A range of rational and less rational regulation will make the medium term future somewhat less predictable.
- Technology is searching for ways to enhance products or distribution, but direct-to-consumer sales efforts remain unproven.
- The financial markets have been remarkably tranquil.
- FIA's are succeeding in new markets and have not been hampered by new ownership.
- RFIA's are the fastest growing annuity segment.

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