

# *Current Issues in Commercial Real Estate Lending*

## **Regulatory Concerns Prior to COVID19**

- Historically Low Interest Rates and Capitalization Rates Coupled with Rising Collateral Values
- Excess Liquidity and Pressure to Grow Assets and Earnings
- Easing Underwriting Standards
  - Less Restrictive Covenants
    - Extended Maturities/Amortizations
    - Longer Interest Only Periods
    - Limited Guaranty Requirements or Non-recourse
    - Greater Number of Underwriting Exceptions
- Insufficient Monitoring of Market Conditions

## Impact of Market Disruptors and COVID on Commercial Real Estate (CRE)

- Examples
  - Amazon/Walmart
  - Apple/Samsung
  - Alphabet/Google
  - Amazon/Microsoft/Google Cloud Computing
  - Netflix/HBO/Disney/Hulu/Amazon Prime/Redbox
  - Uber/Lyft
  - DoorDash/Uber Eats
  - Airbnb
  - WeWork Shared Space Office and Apartments
  - Zoom/Webex/Microsoft Teams/GoToMeeting
  - Artificial Intelligence and Robotics
- COVID 19 Accelerated the Impact of Disruption
- Covariance and Contagion
- Impact
  - Rollover Risk
  - Gross Potential Rent
  - Vacancy e.g., Physical vs Economic Occupancy
  - Operating Expenses
  - Capitalization Rates
  - Collateral Values

- Property Types at Risk
  - Office
  - Hospitality including Hotels and Restaurants
  - Retail
  - Multifamily
  - Student Housing
  - Auto Dealerships
  - Theatres
  - Senior/Assisted Living

#### Impact of Change in Accounting Treatment of Operating Leases

- Lessee Financial Leverage and Debt Service Coverage
- Underwriting Guidelines
- Lease Terms and Rollover Risk
- Owner Occupied Real Estate
- Bank Branch Leases and Impact on Capital

## Assessing the Impact of COVID 19 on CRE Borrowers and CRE Portfolio Performance

- Borrower Stress Testing
  - Breakeven Occupancy and Rental Rate
  - Breakeven Debt Service Coverage
  - Loan to Value
  - Liquidity/Financial Leverage
  - Ability to Refinance Maturing Debt
- Portfolio Stress Testing
  - Loan Demand
  - Net Interest Margin
  - Portfolio Credit Quality Criticized/Classified
  - Earnings
  - Capital

## **Steps Your Bank Should Be Taking Now**

- Identify Portfolio Concentrations e.g., Borrower, Property Type
- Monitor Maturities Particularly Interest Only Loans
- Affirm the Asset Quality Rating Assigned to Larger Relationships Especially Those Originated in 2018 and 2019
- Review the Real Estate Portfolio Assessing the Potential for Covariance/Contagion
- Evaluate the Direct, Indirect, and Contingent Liabilities of Larger Borrowers
- ✤ Assess the Global Cash Flow, Leverage, and Liquidity of Larger Borrowers/Sponsors
- Stress Test All Larger Borrowers in the Lowest Two Pass Categories
- Meet with the Sponsors of the Largest and Lowest Pass Rated Exposures Focusing on Steps They are Taking to Change Their Value Proposition or Reposition/ Repurpose Their Properties to Deal with the Challenges Presented by the Current Market Environment
- ✤ Increase the Bank's ALLL Provision Using the Qualitative "Q" Factors as Justification