



A Successful 28th Annual Washington Visitation!

By David Schroeder, CBAI Vice President of Federal Governmental Relations

Nearly 40 community bankers from across Illinois participated in CBAI's 28th Annual Washington Visitation on April 25-8, 2010. The delegation arrived in Washington the week the Senate was poised to begin debate on financial reform which will fundamentally alter the business of banking. The Visitation was perfectly timed for community banks to impact this important legislation.



David Schroeder, CBAI, Gerry Johnson, Grand Ridge, Rep. Peter Roskam (R-Wheaton), James Morrissey, Vedder Price, Chicago



David Schroeder, CBAI, Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Chicago), Bob Wingert, CBAI, Kraig Lounsberry, CBAI

The Visitation coincided with the Independent Community Bankers of America's Spring Policy Summit which included nearly 400 community bankers from throughout the United States. CBAI members participated in ICBA's schedule of events. CBAI's traditional opening event was held at Sam & Harry's Restaurant and provided a great opportunity to renew old friendships and establish new ones. Arthur Wilmarth, a strong friend of CBAI and law professor at George Washington

University Law School, presented his perspectives on financial reform and how to address systemic risk and end too-big-to-fail.

Senior congressmen and regulators spoke at two ICBA breakfast meetings, including the Ranking Member of the Senate Banking Committee, Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL); Assistant Treasury Secretary for Financial Institutions, Michael Barr; and Senate Banking Committee members Jack Reed (D-RI) and Jon Tester (D-MT). As always, ICBA President Cam Fine provided additional energy to charge Capitol Hill and make the voices of community bankers heard.





James Morrissey, Vedder Price, Chicago, Rep.
Bill Foster (D-Batavia), David Schroeder, CBAI

CBAI members also attended meetings at the Federal Reserve Bank, the Office of Comptroller of the Currency, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. These regulators heard the many concerns of community bankers including the gross inequity of saving the too-big-to-fail banks while failing to provide community

banks with needed life-lines to survive the financial and economic crisis. Although we were not encouraged by the regulators’ responses or their willingness to assist community banks, CBAI members voiced their concerns and made sure federal regulators know the impact of their actions or inactions on community banks, the community banking profession, and local communities.

Again this year CBAI bankers visited every office of the 21-member Illinois congressional delegation. Bankers delivered CBAI’s Federal Policy Priorities which include ending too-big-to-fail, reforming FDIC insurance assessments, addressing overzealous regulatory examinations, preserving the dual banking system and charter choice, opposing the Consumer Financial Protection Agency/Bureau, supporting the \$30B Small Business Lending Fund for community banks, and opposing the Farm Credit System’s “Rural Community Investment” proposal. Please visit www.cbai.com for a complete list of CBAI’s Federal Policy Priorities for 2010.

Several important meetings were held, including with House Financial Institutions Subcommittee Chairman Luis Gutierrez on proposed legislation to amortize commercial real estate losses over 10 years, and another with Dori Alexandre of Senator Roland Burris’ staff regarding the Tester Amendment. The Tester Amendment favorably



James Morrissey, Vedder Price, Chicago; David Feldhaus, FHLB Chicago; Mark Field, Liberty; Bob Wingert, CBAI; Congressman Luis Gutierrez (D-Chicago); Kraig Lounsberry, CBAI; Francis Smith, Manteno; Bill Wubben, Apple River; James Smith, Manteno; David Schroeder, CBAI

changes the FDIC assessment method from

total domestic deposits to total assets minus tier one capital and mirrors the bi-partisan House amendment sponsored by Illinois’ Luis Gutierrez (D-II) and Donald Manzullo (R-II)



which is included in the House financial reform legislation (H.R. 4173). As a result of our meeting, Senator Burris signed on as a co-sponsor of this important Tester Amendment. CBAI thanks him for his support for community banks.

The Visitation concluded with a Governmental Relations Reception at the Russell Caucus Room in the Russell Senate Office Building. [See List of CBAI Attendees.](#)

Participation in CBAI's lobbying events in Springfield and Washington, D.C. and other grass-roots lobbying activities are vital to maintaining the survival of a vibrant community banking profession and the franchise value of your individual banks. If you have not participated in these events in the past, now is the time to get involved and make a difference.

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David Schroeder, CBAI, Megan Michaud, Staff Member of Rep. Jan Schakowski (D-Evanston)



At this year's Group Meetings, David Schroeder of the Government Relations Division of the CBAI will present *CBAI Federal Grassroots Advocacy: Get Involved and Make a Difference*. Please plan to attend your Group Meetings.