

# THE SUBPRIME BOOMERANG: AFTER THE WRITEDOWNS COMES THE LITIGATION



## Agenda

- Introduction
- Presentation
  - Veronica Rendon, Arnold & Porter LLP
  - Richard Swanson, Arnold & Porter LLP
  - Jeff Nielsen, Navigant Consulting, Inc.
- Questions and Answers (anonymous)
- Slides now available on front page of Securities Docket
  - www.securitiesdocket.com
- Wrap-up



## Webcast Series

- Series of webcasts every other week
- Next: March 25, 2009:
  - The JDS Uniphase Verdict One Year Later: Lessons from the Largest Securities Class Action Trial in History
    - > Jordan Eth, Morrison & Foerster LLP
    - > Allan Kleidon, Cornerstone Research
- www.securitiesdocket.com/webcasts



## Panel



Veronica Rendon



Richard Swanson



**Bruce Carton** 



Jeff Nielsen







The Subprime Boomerang

After the Writedowns Comes the Litigation

JEFF NIELSEN Navigant Consulting, Inc. VERONICA RENDON, Esq. Arnold & Porter LLP RICHARD SWANSON, Esq. Arnold & Porter LLP



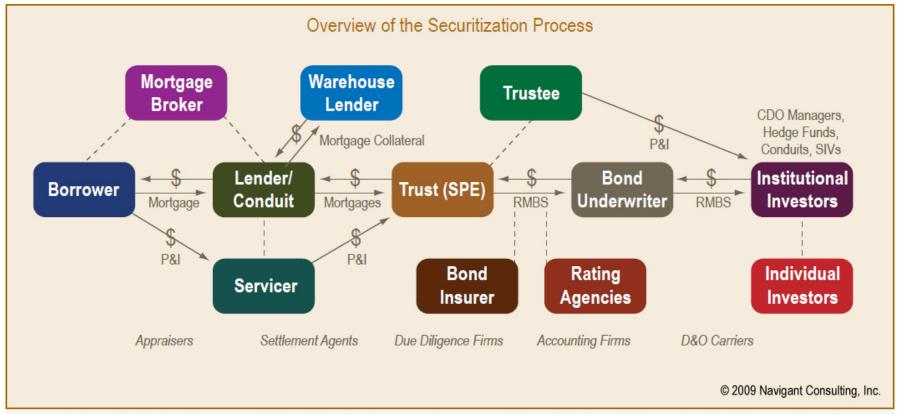
#### Heightened Litigation / Regulatory Risk

- Staggering Economic Losses +
- Intense Media Coverage +
- Strong Political Winds +

**Increase in Civil Litigation and Government Investigations** 

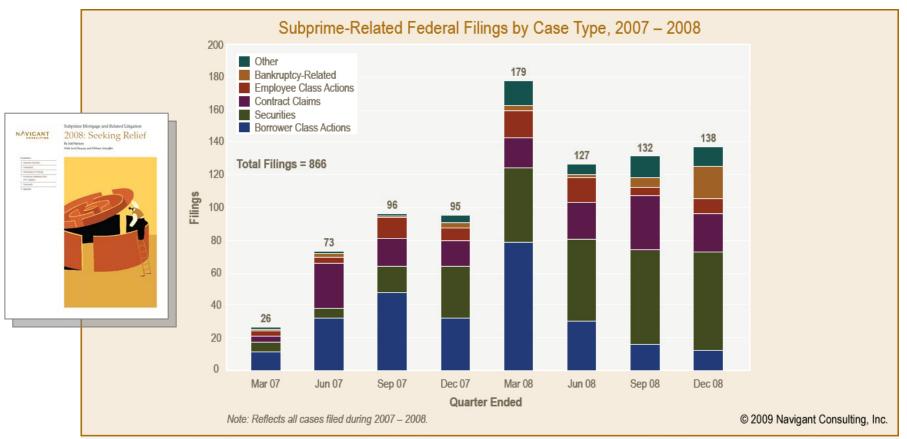


#### Origination & Securitization Process



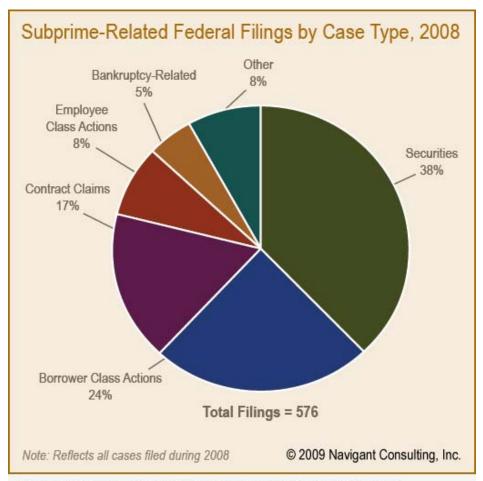


#### Subprime-Related Federal Filings, 2008



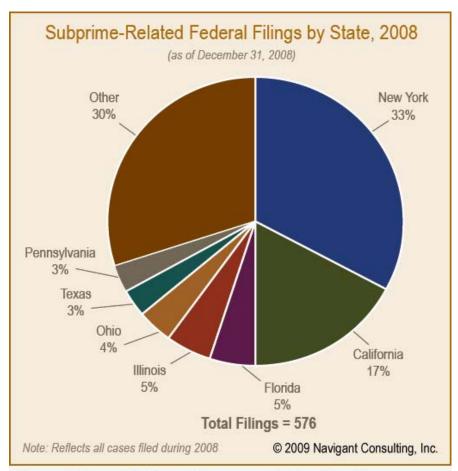


#### Subprime-Related Federal Filings by Case Type, 2008



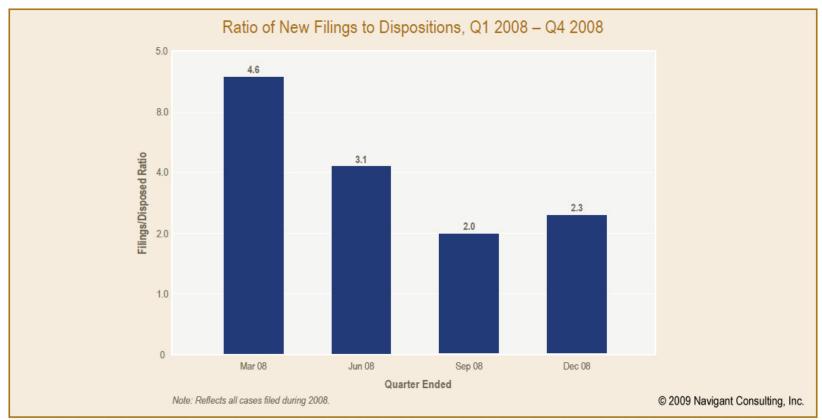


#### Subprime-Related Federal Filings by State, 2008





#### Status of Subprime-Related Federal Filings, 2008





#### Contact Information



Jeff Nielsen is a Managing Director in the Washington, DC office of Navigant Consulting, Inc. and leads the firm's Financial Services Disputes & Investigations service line. For more than 15 years, Mr. Nielsen has advised companies, boards of directors and their counsel on the financial, economic, accounting and data management aspects of commercial disputes and regulatory investigations, specifically matters involving the financial services industry and real estate. He has been retained on more than 75 banking matters and has extensive knowledge of mortgage markets and products, including residential and commercial loans, as well as mortgage banking, servicing, securitizations and capital markets. Mr. Nielsen is currently leading a number of the firm's major subprime-related engagements. He is a frequent speaker on mortgage-related issues and has been quoted, or has had his work cited, in publications such as *American Banker*, *National Mortgage News*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *National Law Journal*.



Jeff Nielsen
Managing Director, Disputes & Investigations
1801 K Street, N.W., Suite 500

Washington, DC 20006

202.973.4506 direct jenielsen@navigantconsulting.com

#### ARNOLD & PORTER LLP

## The Subprime Boomerang: After the Writedowns Comes the Litigation

March 11, 2009

Richard P. Swanson, Partner

Veronica E. Rendon, Partner

Arnold & Porter LLP 399 Park Avenue New York, NY 10022

212.715.1000

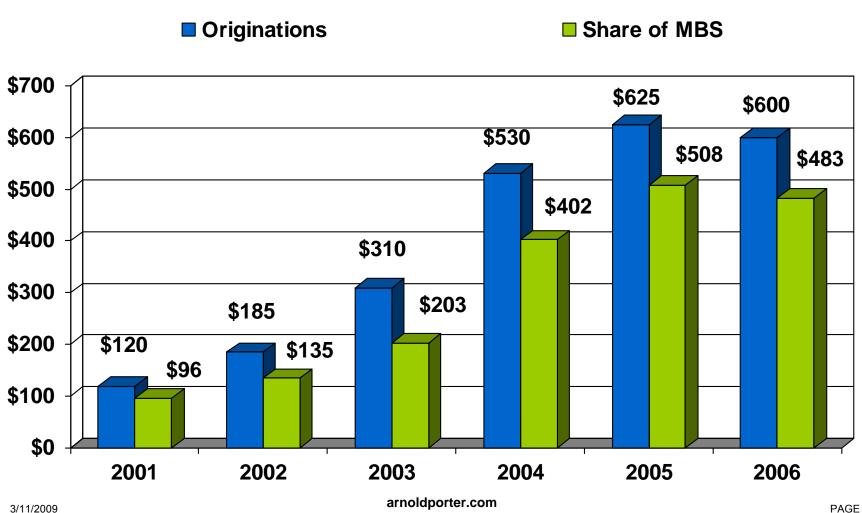
richard.swanson@aporter.com veronica.rendon@aporter.com

## What Happened and Why Are We Here?

## Why the Market was Ripe for Growth

- Issuance of "non agency" MBS grew from \$157 billion in 2000 to \$1.2 trillion in 2006
- Overall issuance of subprime non-agency MBS grew from \$96 billion in 2001 to \$483 billion in 2006
- Created surging demand for mortgage paper and increased competition
- Originations and MBS market share have more than doubled over the last few years

#### **Subprime Originations and MBS Market Share**



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## Why There Is A BIG Problem

- The Fed raised interest rates 17 times since 2004
- Home prices have stagnated (or fell) throughout the country
- Delinquency and default rates have soared
- Delinquent borrowers can not refinance or sell
- Foreclosures have spiked
- Warehouse lenders cut financing to originators and have seized collateral
- Value of subprime RMBS has fallen
- Forced sales have caused further downward pricing pressure

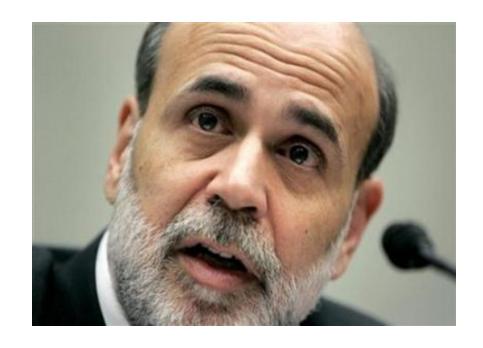
## Why There Is A BIG Problem

- 50 percent of ARM originations over past four years have been subprime
  - 80 percent of 2005 subprime originations were ARMs, most were 2/28 hybrids
  - Nearly 2 million subprime ARMs will reset by the end of 2008, with monthly payment increases of 30 percent or more
- Underwritten without consideration of layering of risk
  - No doc/low doc
  - Debt-to-income ratios based on teaser rates
  - Increasing loan-to-value ratios
  - Prepayment penalties

#### **The Subprime Meltdown**

"[T]he turbulence originated in concerns about subprime mortgages, but the resulting global financial losses have far exceeded even the most pessimistic estimates of the credit losses on these loans."

Ben Bernanke, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, September 20, 2007



## Significant Fallout Ripples Around the World

- Many lenders and banking institutions have failed
- Write-offs continue
- As noted in Navigant report, global write-offs over a trillion
- Bear Stearns goes under
- Freddie and Fannie go into conservatorship
- Lehman Brothers files Chapter 11
- Merrill is acquired by BoA
- AIG acquired by government, continues to struggle
- Goldman and Morgan Stanley convert to bank holding companies
- WaMu fails
- Leads the way to the largest bailout in history
- Jury still out whether it will work

## **Bond Insurers Are Struggling**

- Significant Subprime Exposure
  - FGIC
  - MBIA
  - Ambac
  - Radian
- Their ratings have declined
- Subject of lawsuits
- Instituting lawsuits

- Significant amount of borrower class actions
  - Alleging fraud in the borrowing process
  - Unfair and undisclosed fees
- Failure to disclose terms and consequences
- Predatory/discriminatory lending practices
- Violations of state statutes (e.g., California)
- Primary defendants: mortgage companies, commercial banks, thrifts
- Interesting downstream consequences

- 10(b)-5 Class Actions and Derivative Suits
- "Stock drop" cases
- Shareholders claiming public companies made materially false and misleading public statements
  - Failure to disclose exposure to subprime risk
- Many classes of securities
- Targets: lenders and brokers, builders, credit insurers, rating agencies, finance companies

- 10(b)-5 Class Actions and Derivative Suits
- Still early but...
- Mixed results for early motions to dismiss
- Tellabs and scienter pleading
- Divergence in securities and ERISA claims?
- Chancery Court dismissal for failure to monitor subprime risk
- Dura Pharmaceuticals and loss causation
- Class Certification: IPO, Allegiance Telecom, Enron, Williams

- Purchaser of subprime asset lawsuits
- Primary targets include originators, underwriters, placement agents
- Misrepresentations in the offering documents
- Suitability
- Potential '33 Act liability as well as '34 Act
- State law claims as well
  - Common law fraud
  - Breach of contract
  - Breach of fiduciary duty

#### **Other Securities Laws Claims**

- Auction Rate Securities
  - Alleged Misrepresentations
  - Suitability
- State AG actions
- Large investor claims falling outside of regulatory settlements

#### **Commercial Contract Disputes**

- Diverse types of cases
- Hard to track
  - Often filed in state court
- Forced buy-back cases
  - Bond insurer lawsuits
- Improper servicing claims
- A lot of activity behind closed doors
- Sophisticated parties capable of extensive due diligence

## **Credit Default Swaps and Collateral Priority**

- Many large cases involving poor documentation
- Often issuer-related credit issues drives resolution
- A lot of activity behind closed doors

#### **SEC Enforcement Activity**

"Our division of enforcement is ... actively on the lookout for possible securities fraud involving the securitized packages of these loans."

*Christopher Cox*, Chairman, SEC, Testimony to House Financial Services Committee, 6/26/07

"We will look for any potential fraud, by management, auditors, lawyers, credit-rating agencies, or others."

Walter G. Ricciardi, Deputy Director, Enforcement Division, Testimony to Committee on Financial Services, 9/20/07

#### Where are we headed...

- Madoff madness
- Stanford
- Others?

## Questions?





## Thank You

Thank you for attending this webcast.

Next webcast:

March 25, 2009, 2:00 pm EST

"The JDS Uniphase Verdict One Year Later:

Lessons from the Largest Securities Class Action Trial in History"



