

## Securities and Exchange Commission Investor Advisory Committee September 21, 2023

#### Regulation D: Issuers, Investors and Intermediaries Craig McCann, PhD, CFA Chuan Qin, PhD Mike Yan, PhD, CFA, FRM



#### Summary

#### **Reg D Offerings**

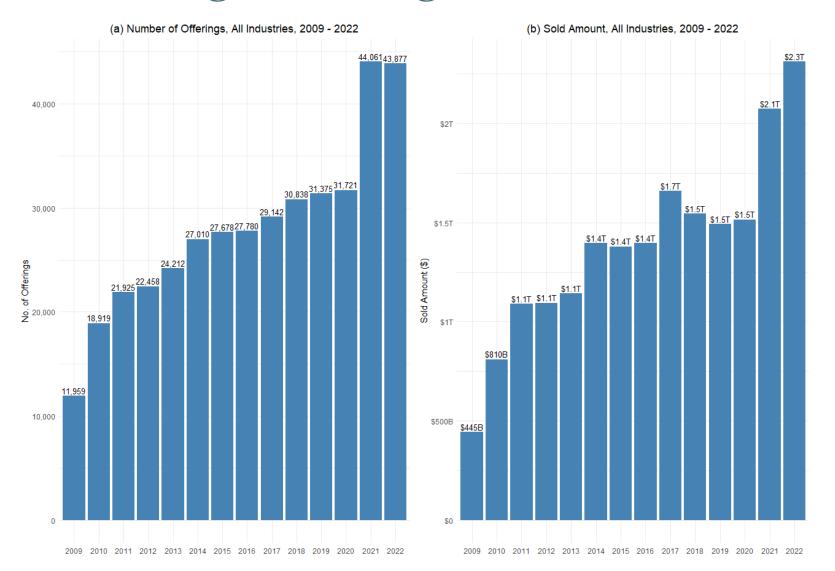
- At least \$15 trillion of Reg D securities sold from 2009 through 2020 compared to \$16.4 trillion of registered securities sold.
- At least \$4.4 trillion of Reg D securities sold in 2021 and 2022 13% more than the \$3.9 trillion proceeds from public offerings.
- In recent years, Reg D securities were sold to more investors per offering with a lower amount sold per investor, suggesting an increasing participation by retail investors.
- 75.7% of Reg D proceeds were in offerings sponsored by RIAs, 37.1% of Reg D proceeds were in broker-sold offerings.

#### **Tentative Results**

- Reg D issuers have a 13.6% (30.8%) probability of being delinquent in state registration filings within 5 (10) years of the sale of first Reg D offering.
- 13.3% of the Reg D SEC-reporting issuers were delinquent in periodic filings by 2022, whereas only 1% of the issuers of public offerings who never offered Reg D securities had been delinquent by 2022.
- Broker-dealers who sell more Reg D securities have higher complaint rates, especially complaints over illiquid investments.



## **Reg D Offerings Over Time**





## SEC's Reg D Filings

| Type of<br>Offering            | Offering Limit<br>within 12-month<br>Period | General<br>Solicitation                  | Investor Requirements  | Percentage<br>(Oct 2013 - Dec 2022) |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Rule 506(b) of<br>Regulation D | None  |  | Unlimited accredited investors<br>Up to 35 sophisticated but non-<br>accredited investors in a 90 day<br>period                  | 91.0%                               |
| Rule 506(c) of<br>Regulation D | None  |  | Unlimited accredited investors<br>Issuer must take reasonable steps<br>to verify that all purchasers are<br>accredited investors | 6.8%                                |
| Rule 504 of<br>Regulation D    | \$10 million                                | Permitted in<br>limited<br>circumstances | None   | 1.5%                                |

Time period: October 2013 to December 2022.

Source: https://www.sec.gov/education/smallbusiness/exemptofferings/exemptofferingschart



## Reg D Offerings by Industry Group

|                          | All Offerings |                      |           | Sold by Brokers     |                  |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|------------------|
| Industry                 | Offerings     | Sold Amount (\$)     | Offerings | Sold Amount (\$)    | Commissions      |
| Pooled Investment Fund   | 100,553       | \$16,789,728,677,654 | 18,950    | \$6,593,597,915,338 | \$19,957,250,219 |
| Technology               | 48,785        | \$518,908,070,206    | 1,827     | \$62,144,409,364    | \$1,121,308,075  |
| Other                    | 41,847        | \$482,475,156,179    | 3,108     | \$58,622,689,247    | \$1,266,417,392  |
| Real Estate              | 36,295        | \$465,482,732,644    | 9,284     | \$130,901,032,015   | \$3,066,407,533  |
| Health Care              | 26,164        | \$285,244,319,597    | 2,784     | \$38,649,948,352    | \$1,509,844,909  |
| Banking and Insurance    | 14,296        | \$481,505,151,837    | 2,970     | \$203,910,695,276   | \$3,518,801,571  |
| Energy                   | 9,607         | \$165,084,383,761    | 1,703     | \$46,883,897,132    | \$1,076,447,646  |
| Manufacturing            | 5,410         | \$61,451,380,924     | 517       | \$12,505,384,637    | \$275,657,583    |
| Retailing                | 3,940         | \$38,229,336,450     | 289       | \$7,845,363,430     | \$182,136,161    |
| <b>Business Services</b> | 3,003         | \$26,378,883,413     | 170       | \$3,506,237,988     | \$116,699,351    |
| Restaurants              | 2,265         | \$9,309,009,952      | 96        | \$831,233,133       | \$33,377,443     |
| Agriculture              | 1,526         | \$19,684,118,569     | 156       | \$7,800,450,487     | \$64,428,855     |
| Travel                   | 986           | \$10,900,111,219     | 48        | \$4,685,760,217     | \$89,310,210     |
| Total                    | 294,677       | \$19,354,381,332,405 | 41,902    | \$7,171,885,016,616 | \$32,278,086,949 |



## **Reg D Offerings Rank by Brokers**

2009 - 2022

| Brokerage Firm                                      | Offerings | Dollar Amount     | Rank |
|---|-----------|-------------------|------|
| MBSC Securities Corporation                         | 85        | \$992,127,844,117 | 1    |
| J.P. Morgan Securities LLC                          | 940       | \$679,065,643,165 | 2    |
| Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated  | 747       | \$468,869,474,123 | 3    |
| Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC                     | 873       | \$436,719,537,414 | 4    |
| UBS Financial Services Inc.                         | 443       | \$342,074,179,659 | 5    |
| Goldman, Sachs & Co.                                | 948       | \$310,441,959,797 | 6    |
| Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC                  | 561       | \$231,891,647,460 | 7    |
| PARK HILL Group LLC                                 | 343       | \$212,934,839,278 | 8    |
| JOHN Hancock Investment Management Distributors LLC | 8         | \$170,793,095,449 | 9    |
| Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated            | 442       | \$146,799,650,067 | 10   |
| Aon Benfield Securities, Inc.                       | 49        | \$139,444,468,376 | 11   |
| Brookfield Private Advisors LLC                     | 49        | \$137,172,004,434 | 12   |
| M Holdings Securities, Inc.                         | 465       | \$130,866,613,653 | 13   |
| Citigroup Global Markets Inc.                       | 422       | \$125,145,784,177 | 14   |
| Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.                       | 208       | \$116,567,519,495 | 15   |
| TCG Securities, LLC                                 | 96        | \$113,666,241,689 | 16   |
| Raymond James & Associates, Inc.                    | 285       | \$108,961,770,614 | 17   |
| UBS Securities LLC                                  | 166       | \$101,508,584,133 | 18   |
| Newport Group Securities, Inc.                      | 219       | \$99,710,841,786  | 19   |
| Morgan Stanley & CO. LLC                            | 164       | \$90,799,632,825  | 20   |



## Broker Sold Reg D Offerings

2009 - 2022

| Industry                 | Issuers Registered in Delaware, New Jersey,<br>Oklahoma, Arkansas, Cayman Islands or others |                     |                  | Issuers Registered in Other 46 States |                   |                  |  |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--|
|                          | Offerings   | Sold Amount (\$)    | Commissions (\$) | Offerings                             | Sold Amount (\$)  | Commissions (\$) |  |
| Pooled Investment Fund   | 16,880  | \$5,789,130,000,000 | \$17,337,938,188 | 1,090                                 | \$382,893,000,000 | \$1,057,060,208  |  |
| Real Estate              | 4,655   | \$98,474,026,615    | \$2,203,650,267  | 2027                                  | \$32,112,416,050  | \$816,826,737    |  |
| Other                    | 2,403   | \$49,701,437,630    | \$1,067,144,788  | 672                                   | \$4,155,931,317   | \$157,456,040    |  |
| Health Care              | 2,005   | \$34,491,213,775    | \$1,305,661,294  | 763                                   | \$4,076,620,668   | \$191,588,176    |  |
| Technology               | 1,365   | \$57,700,162,096    | \$992,064,361    | 442                                   | \$4,409,916,465   | \$121,751,387    |  |
| Banking and Insurance    | 1,125   | \$69,470,203,857    | \$887,871,531    | 1,829                                 | \$132,988,000,000 | \$2,564,934,371  |  |
| Energy                   | 927   | \$33,579,069,445    | \$804,761,482    | 751                                   | \$10,727,670,328  | \$222,749,051    |  |
| Manufacturing            | 257   | \$8,683,827,310     | \$199,101,941    | 253                                   | \$3,599,898,327   | \$67,248,895     |  |
| Retailing                | 144   | \$6,987,116,469     | \$144,908,506    | 146                                   | \$1,170,741,948   | \$40,769,585     |  |
| <b>Business Services</b> | 84  | \$3,064,089,914     | \$101,618,108    | 81                                    | \$363,160,573     | \$13,803,776     |  |
| Agriculture              | 78  | \$7,025,782,545     | \$45,580,304     | 76                                    | \$736,662,942     | \$17,910,203     |  |
| Restaurants              | 51  | \$693,895,611       | \$26,039,118     | 44                                    | \$137,337,522     | \$7,314,844      |  |
| Travel                   | 19  | \$4,491,554,217     | \$78,519,928     | 29                                    | \$194,206,000     | \$10,790,282     |  |
| Total                    | 29,993  | \$6,163,492,379,484 | \$25,194,859,817 | 8,203                                 | \$577,565,562,140 | \$5,290,203,554  |  |



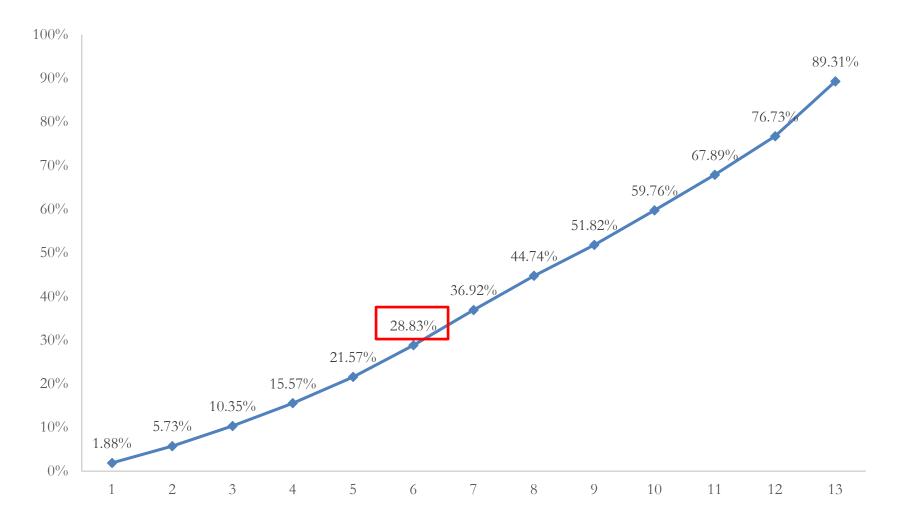
#### Broker-Sold Reg D Offering Inactive Rate

| Industry                 | Offerings | Sold Amount (\$)  | Inactive<br>Offerings | Sold Amount (\$)<br>by Inactive<br>Issuers | Percentage |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|--|------------|
| Pooled Investment Fund   | 512       | \$58,541,428,402  | 175                   | \$4,843,589,343                            | 8.27%      |
| Technology               | 459       | \$4,408,808,235   | 197                   | \$1,511,741,132                            | 34.29%     |
| Other                    | 625       | \$8,888,748,679   | 213                   | \$832,991,323                              | 9.37%      |
| Real Estate              | 2,096     | \$30,492,921,357  | 522                   | \$3,057,719,858                            | 10.03%     |
| Health Care              | 838       | \$5,784,660,890   | 272                   | \$1,871,073,321                            | 32.35%     |
| Banking and Insurance    | 1,207     | \$205,746,563,712 | 245                   | \$4,402,889,779                            | 2.14%      |
| Energy                   | 626       | \$9,981,422,602   | 239                   | \$4,257,685,049                            | 42.66%     |
| Manufacturing            | 246       | \$2,568,619,144   | 108                   | \$925,591,960                              | 36.03%     |
| Retailing                | 142       | \$1,027,565,791   | 55                    | \$153,459,644                              | 14.93%     |
| <b>Business Services</b> | 80        | \$403,424,054     | 27                    | \$43,104,227                               | 10.68%     |
| Restaurants              | 40        | \$119,997,022     | 16                    | \$17,102,837                               | 14.25%     |
| Agriculture              | 69        | \$689,075,973     | 19                    | \$51,844,555                               | 7.52%      |
| Travel                   | 27        | \$189,901,000     | 4                     | \$31,754,499                               | 16.72%     |
| Total                    | 6,967     | \$328,843,136,861 | 2,092                 | \$22,000,547,527                           | 6.69%      |

Offerings sold by brokers and those issuers registered in 46 states. Time period: 2009 - July 2022.



#### Broker-Sold Reg D Offering Inactive Rate





#### **Critical Questions of the Data for Policymakers**

- What is the tradeoff between capital formation and investor protection when evaluating Reg D proposals?
- How much productive capital is raised in Reg D offerings?
  - How much capital is raised for small businesses?
  - How much incremental capital is raised as a result of exemptions?
- How much have investors lost in Reg D securities?
  - How much fraud in exempt versus registered offerings?
- <u>None</u> of these questions can be answered because Form D data lacks basic information.
  - Analysis of this poor quality data to date has not been thorough.



## How much productive capital is raised in Reg D offerings? How much is raised for small or startup businesses?

- We have no idea.
  - Form Ds are not updated to update the sold amount and may not be filed at all.
- Form Ds contain large data errors which are missed or only partially corrected in statistical reports.
  - Parallel and feeder funds report total amounts raised across related funds.
  - Obvious erroneous entries, often off by a factor of 1,000.
  - Some Reg D securities are used to purchase other Reg D securities causing double counting.
  - Some Reg D securities are spuriously issued for benefit of financial intermediaries and divert capital from productive offerings.



## Parallel and feeder funds: \$295 billion error in top 5 examples

| Filename  | CIK     | Date      | Actual Sales     | Repeats | Total Reported    |
|---|---------|-----------|------------------|---------|-------------------|
| sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1890425/0001890425-22-000001-index.html | 1890425 | 5/10/2022 | \$20,269,771,250 | 3       | \$60,809,313,750  |
| sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1862879/0001862879-21-000004-index.html | 1862879 | 8/9/2021  | \$14,415,049,266 | 2       | \$28,830,098,532  |
| sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1821357/0001821357-21-000001-index.html | 1821357 | 9/3/2021  | \$12,111,852,001 | 4       | \$48,447,408,004  |
| sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1822652/0001822652-21-000001-index.html | 1822652 | 9/22/2021 | \$9,878,825,480  | 20      | \$197,576,509,600 |
| sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1884990/0001884990-21-000001-index.html | 1884990 | 10/7/2021 | \$7,750,000,000  | 3       | \$23,250,000,000  |
|   |         |           | \$64,425,497,997 |         | \$358,913,329,886 |

Overstatement

\$294,487,831,889



#### Other obvious data errors: \$438 billion easily spotted in top 10 filings

| Primary Entity Name                       | Date Filed Form | <b>Incremental Amount</b> | <b>Actual Sales</b> |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| National Investment & Infrastructure Fund | 1/7/2021 D      | \$159,978,732,732         | \$2,191,708,636     |
| ALEXANDER SERIES TRUST                    | 4/7/2017 D/A    | \$131,348,962,336         | \$131,348,962,336   |
| Satori Alpha, LP                          | 10/2/2014 D/A   | \$130,569,996,697         | \$32,280,082        |
| ALEXANDER SERIES OFFSHORE FUND SPO        | 2 4/7/2017 D/A  | \$105,324,632,514         | \$105,324,632,514   |
| BNY SERIES OFFSHORE FUND SPC              | 4/7/2016 D/A    | \$91,665,774,141          | \$91,665,774,141    |
| GRAHAM GLOBAL INVESTMENT FUND I SI        | P 3/26/2018 D/A | \$88,880,000,000          | \$9,851,644,137     |
| BNY SERIES TRUST                          | 4/7/2015 D/A    | \$78,754,211,824          | \$78,754,211,824    |
| BNY SERIES TRUST                          | 4/8/2014 D/A    | \$76,103,541,124          | \$76,103,541,124    |
| PRELUDE CLIMATE FUND II, LP               | 4/8/2022 D      | \$70,000,000,001          | \$70,000,001        |
| Current Asset Fund Ltd.                   | 3/14/2016 D/A   | \$57,548,254,026          | \$57,548,254,026    |
| Total, Top 10                             |                 | \$990,174,105,395         | \$552,891,008,821   |

Overstatement

\$437,283,096,574



1 Iccuar's Identity

## Reg D<sup>2</sup> Offerings Repackage Existing Reg D Offerings to the Detriment of Investors.

www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1788512/000089843219001180/xslFormDX01/primary\_doc.xml

| 1. ISSUEL S INCLULY                                      |        |  |                           |                                   |                              |            |  |
|--|--------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|--|
| CIK (Filer ID Number)<br>0001788512                      |        | e of Filing w Notice Date of First Sale 2019-09-04 | First Sale Yet to Occur   | 13. Offering and Sales Amounts    |                              |            |  |
| Name of Issuer<br>RDM Housing Strategies VI, LLC         |        | endment  |                           | Total Offering Amount             | \$100,000,000 USD or Indefi  | nite       |  |
| Jurisdiction of Incorporation/Organization<br>WASHINGTON |        | the Issuer intend this offering to last more       | e than one year? Yes X No | Total Amount Sold                 | \$72,500,000 USD             | un inter   |  |
| Year of Incorporation/Organization                       | 9. Тур | e(s) of Securities Offered (select all th          | at apply)                 | lotal Remaining to be Solo        | d \$27,500,000 USD or Indefi | nite       |  |
| X Within Last Five Years (Specify Year) 2019             | X Equ  | uity   |                           |                                   |                              |            |  |
| Issuer   |        | Signature  | Name of Signer            |                                   | Title                        | Date       |  |
| RDM Housing Strategies VI, LLC                           |        | /s/ Douglas D. Spear                               | Douglas D. Spear          | EVP & CFO of Issuer's Manager's M | anager                       | 2019-09-18 |  |

#### www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1793664/000179366419000001/xslFormDX01/primary\_doc.xml

| 1. Issuer's Identity  | 7. Type of Filing   | 13. Offering and Sales Amounts   |
|---|---|--|
| CIK (Filer ID Number)<br>0001793664<br>Name of Issuer   | X New Notice Date of First Sale 2019-11-08 First Sale Yet to Occur Amendment 8. Duration of Offering                                | Total Offering Amount\$24,575,000 USD orIndefiniteTotal Amount Sold\$4,395,000 USDTotal Remaining to be Sold \$20,180,000 USD orIndefinite |
| Sims Merrill Gardens VI, LLC<br>Jurisdiction of Incorporation/Organization<br>CONNECTICUT                                   | Does the Issuer intend this offering to last more than one year? Yes No<br>9. Type(s) of Securities Offered (select all that apply) | 15. Sales Commissions & Finder's Fees Expenses         Provide separately the amounts of sales commissions and finder                      |
| Year of Incorporation/Organization<br>Over Five Years Ago<br>Within Last Five Years (Specify Year) 2019<br>Yet to Be Formed |   | Sales Commissions \$263,700 USD Estimate<br>Finders' Fees \$0 USD Estimate   |

| Issuer                       | Signature        | Name of Signer   | Title             | Date       |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Sims Merrill Gardens VI, LLC | R. Jeffrey Sands | R. Jeffrey Sands | Managing Director | 2019-11-12 |



## Synopsis of our Reg D research paper

#### **Reg D market facts (Section II)**

- Reg D sales steadily increased from 2009 through 2020 and rose sharply in 2021 and 2022, with Reg D sales in 2021-2022 more than twice as much as that in 2011-2012.
- The Reg D market has a similar magnitude to the public offering market and is growing: \$15 trillion of Reg D securities sold from 2009 through 2020 when \$16.4 trillion of registered securities were sold.
- In 2021 and 2022, \$4.4 trillion of Reg D securities were sold, 13% more than the \$3.9 trillion in proceeds from public offerings.
- Reg D securities offered in recent years were sold to more investors per offering with a lower amount sold per investor, suggesting an increasing participation by retail investors.
- Intermediaries play a significant role: 75.7% of the proceeds raised through Reg D securities are attributable to offerings sponsored by RIAs, while offerings sold by broker-dealers account for 37.1% of the capital raised in the Reg D market.

#### **Issuer performance measures (Section III)**

- Reg D issuers incorporated in 46 U.S. states have a 13.6% (30.8%) probability of being delinquent in state business registration filings within 5 (10) years of the sale of first Reg D offering.
- 13.3% of the Reg D issuers with SEC reporting obligations had been delinquent in periodic filings by December 2022, whereas only 1% of the issuers of public offerings who never offered Reg D securities had been delinquent by 2022.

# Synopsis of our Reg D research paper (continued)

#### Role of broker-dealers and evidence of misconduct and harm to retail investors (Section IV)

- Average upfront fees as a percentage of proceeds range between 6% and 10% across non-fund issuer industries. Customer complaints against brokers involving illiquid products increased rapidly in recent years. Arbitrations filed involving illiquid products had a year-over-year increase of 74% in 2020; 58% of arbitrations filed in 2021 involved illiquid investments.
- Reg D offerings sold by broker-dealers, and especially those sold by broker-dealers with a retail clientele, have more purchasers (per offering) on average. Broker-dealers dually registered as RIAs that have a larger clientele of non-HNW individuals sell Reg D offerings to more investors and raise less capital from each investor.
- A positive relation between customer complaints and sales commissions and selling broker-dealers' specialization in private placements: Broker-dealers that receive higher commissions for placing Reg D securities and have a high percentage of representatives selling Reg D securities are more likely to receive customer complaints arising from illiquid products.

#### Conflicts of interest between RIAs sponsors to Reg D Offerings and their advisory clients (Section V)

- RIA sponsors to Reg D offerings that also advise wealthy individuals systematically allocate their HNW individual clients' assets to self-sponsored Reg D securities: Reg D offerings sponsored by RIAs with a larger clientele of HNW individuals are sold to more investors and raise less capital from each investor.
- "Regulation D Offerings: Issuers, Investors and Intermediaries" Chuan Qin, Mike Yan and Craig McCann available at <u>www.slcg.com/files/research-papers/Reg\_D\_Offering.pdf</u>.
- See also, <u>www.potomacanalytics.com/projects/form-d-visualization</u>.