

Community Associations and the Corporate Transparency Act



Ben Currin Vantaca



Jonathan B. Wilson FinCEN Report



Agenda

Introduction to FinCEN Report

Recent News: NSBU v. Yellen

Corporate Transparency Act Overview

What Does the CTA Require?

How Does the CTA Apply to Associations?

What Do Management Companies Need to Do?

Vantaca's Solution

How to Get Started



FinCEN Report

- Developed by an attorney and author of the Corporate Transparency Act Compliance guide.
- Streamlined system created for busy business owners, and the professionals that manage their compliance.
- Easy single and multiple-company filing systems.
- Robust data privacy and security features.
- Affordable filing options for all company types.



Jonathan B. Wilson

- Jonathan is a co-founder of FinCEN Report Company, LLC. He is an attorney and corporate partner at Taylor English Duma LLP with 33 years of experience in corporate, M&A and securities matters.
- He is the author of The Corporate Transparency Act Compliance Guide (Lexis Nexis, 2023) and the Lexis Practical Guidance Practice Note on the Corporate Transparency Act.
- He is a former member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia and has been recognized by The Best Lawyers in America® 2017-2022, Georgia Super Lawyers, 2021-2024, and other notable organizations



Recent News: NSBU v. Yellen

NSBU v. Yellen

On March 1, 2024, in *National Small Business United v. Yellen*, No. 5:22-cv-01448 (N.D. Ala.), a federal district court in the Northern District of Alabama, entered a final declaratory judgment, concluding that the Corporate Transparency Act exceeds the Constitution's limits on Congress's power and enjoining the Department of the Treasury and FinCEN from enforcing the Corporate Transparency Act against the plaintiffs.

What Does this Mean For You?

We must continue to follow the law. This ruling will be appealed, and the outcome may take months or years.

FinCEN Will Continue to Enforce the Law



Notice Regarding National Small Business United v. Yellen, No. 5:22-cv-01448 (N.D. Ala.)

Immediate Release: March 04, 2024

On March 1, 2024, in the case of National Small Business United v. Yellen, No. 5:22-cv-01448 (N.D. Ala.), a federal district court in the Northern District of Alabama, Northeastern Division, entered a final declaratory judgment, concluding that the Corporate Transparency Act exceeds the Constitution's limits on Congress's power and enjoining the Department of the Treasury and FinCEN from enforcing the Corporate Transparency Act against the plaintiffs. FinCEN will comply with the court's order for as long as it remains in effect. As a result, the government is not currently enforcing the Corporate Transparency Act against the plaintiffs in that action: Isaac Winkles, reporting companies for which Isaac Winkles is the beneficial owner or applicant, the National Small Business Association, and members of the National Business Association (as of March 1, 2024). Those individuals and entities are not required to report beneficial ownership information to FinCEN at this time.



Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) Overview

Adopted by Congress in December 2020

- Final Rule on Beneficial Ownership Reports issued September 29, 2022; 31 CFR 1010.380, took effect January 1, 2024
- Eliminates corporate anonymity in the U.S. by requiring non-exempt reporting companies to file a Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) Report with FinCEN The U.S. Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

Most Associations will need to file

- Management companies can add value by guiding Associations through this process
- Managing beneficial ownership will cement relationships on a long-term basis



How the CTA Works

Every **reporting company** that is not **exempt** must file a **BOI Report** that discloses five specific items of PII for each of its **Beneficial Owners.**

- Failing to file on time may result in a \$500 per day fine; a willful failure to file (or filing false information) may be a felony.
- There is no annual renewal, but the reporting company must *amend* its BOI Report within *30 days after any change in PII* for any of its Beneficial Owners.
- Almost all Associations will be non-exempt reporting companies and will need to file
- Special rules relate to entities formed on/after January 1, 2024.



What is a Reporting Company

The CTA defines "reporting company" as:

A corporation, limited liability company, or other entity that is (i) created by the filing of a document with a secretary of state or any similar office under the law of a State or Indian Tribe; or (ii) formed under the law of a foreign country and registered to do business in any State or tribal jurisdiction by the filing of a document with a secretary of state or any similar office under the laws of a State or Indian Tribe.

- An Association that is a corporation or LLC is a reporting company
- An unincorporated Association **might** not be a reporting company (these are rare)
- It doesn't matter if the corporation is formed as a not-for-profit corporation; it is still a corporation.



Exempt Reporting Companies:

- Securities reporting issuer
- Governmental authority
- Bank
- Credit union
- Depository institution holding company
- Money services business
- Broker or dealer in securities
- Securities exchange or clearing agency
- Other Exchange Act registered entity
- Investment company or investment adviser
- Venture capital fund adviser
- Insurance company

- State-licensed insurance producer
- Commodity Exchange Act registered entity
- Accounting firm
- Public utility
- Financial market utility
- Pooled investment vehicle
- Tax-exempt entity
- Entity assisting a tax-exempt entity
- Large operating company
- Subsidiary of certain exempt entities
- Inactive entity



Most Associations Will Not Be Exempt

The CTA exempts certain non-profit entities under IRC 501(c) (and some others) but not other IRC sections.

Most Associations are exempt from income tax under IRC 528, which is NOT covered by the CTA exemption. Unless an Association is covered by one of the exemptions listed in the Reporting Rule, it will not be exempt and will need to file a BOI report.

Almost all Associations will need to file and they will need your help.



What is a Beneficial Owner?

A beneficial owner is an *individual* that meets either test:

- An individual is a beneficial owner if the individual exercises substantial control over the reporting company.
- An individual is a beneficial owner if the individual owns or controls 25 percent or more of the ownership interests of such reporting company.
- An incorporated Community Association's beneficial owners will include:
 - o (A) Each member of the Board of Directors; and
 - (B) Each senior officer.

This approach might be over-inclusive in some cases, but with the CTA there is no harm to being over-inclusive.

Non-profit Associations will not have any "owners," so their beneficial owners will consist of those individuals who have "substantial control"



The BOI Must Contain

For the reporting company:

- Legal name
- Any trade names or "DBAs"
- Current street address for principal place of business
- Jurisdiction of formation
- Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN)

For each beneficial owner:

- Legal name
- Date of birth
- Residential Address
- Unique identifying number
- Image of the document that supplies the unique identifying number

Management Company challenges:

- How can you <u>collect</u> this data, keep it <u>confidential</u> and <u>secure</u>, and compile it into a BOI report that you can <u>electronically file</u> with FinCEN?
- How can you <u>track changes in BOI data</u> so that you can file an amendment within 30 days as required?



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COMING SOON (Q3): Leverage existing board member data stored in Vantaca for CTA compliance.

Management company approval to share their information with FinCEN is necessary, and Vantaca will facilitate this process.



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Liability for Non-Compliance

• \$500 per day fine for late filing

- Willful failure to file or willful filing of false information is a felony (up to 2 years imprisonment)
- Responsibility rests with (a) each senior officer of the reporting company, and (b) any person who provides information (or fails to provide accurate information) required to make the BOI Report true

Bottom line: The senior officers of each Association are responsible for accurate and timely reporting.



What's next?

All: Prepare to comply

- Vantaca Customers:
 - Join us for another session on June 12th for step-by-step instructions on how to file *(details to follow)*
 - o Join our <u>CTA community</u> for up-to-date information (nested under "industry trends")

Follow FinCEN Report and Vantaca for more CTA-related content and resources:



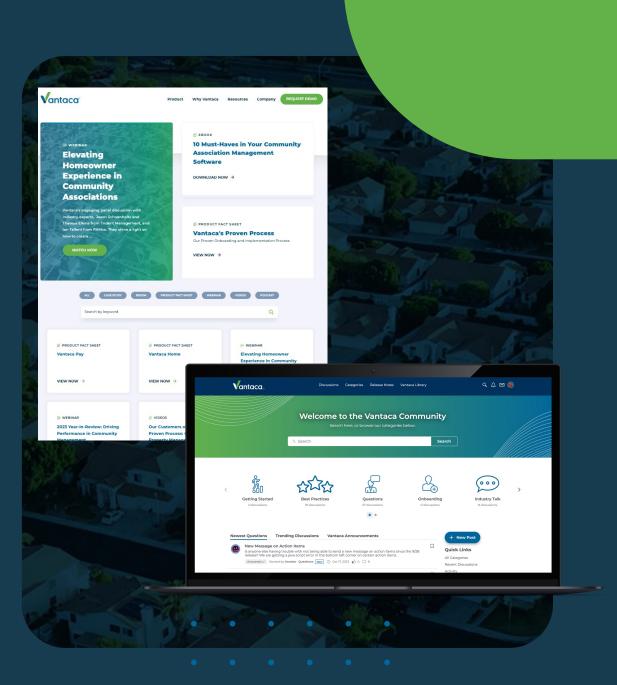
Fincenreport.com



Vantaca.com

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Vantaca Corporate Transparency Act Blog Post (vantaca.com/blog)
- <u>Vantaca CTA Resource Center</u> **COMING SOON** (vantaca.com/resources)
- <u>Vantaca Community</u> (community.vantaca.com)



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