OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL BANKING IN 2015

Oil and China influenced global trade finance in significant ways over the past year. Combined with mounting regulatory pressures which continue to ratchet up the cost of doing business, 2015 was another trying year for financial institutions. As banks attempt to keep pace with compliance mandates and expectations while striving to mitigate risk factors, the LC community continues to contemplate the future of traditional trade products. Is the commercial LC able to adequately adapt electronically? Is a new revision of UCP on the horizon? On the legal side, the year was marked by disputes involving alleged fraud, ambiguous characterization of guarantees, an increase in refusals due to debatable discrepancies, and misalignment of counter undertakings.