

## **J.G. Wentworth Working on Next Deal**

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J.G. Wentworth plans to issue its next securitization of structured legal settlements as early as midyear, despite weak demand for bonds backed by non-mainstream assets.

The Bryn Mawr, Pa., company's offering, totaling \$100 million to \$150 million, would be similar to its previous deals. They were used to fund purchases of settlements that are structured as annuities paid by 80 insurance companies.

Wentworth last tapped the market with an \$88.7 million issue on Dec. 19, as overall securitization issuance remained light. The deal's \$74.6 million of senior 10-year bonds priced within expectations at 700 bp over swaps. That was 500 bp wider than the spread on similar bonds that Wentworth sold via a \$124 million issue on May 1, about four months before the already struggling credit market took a dramatic turn for the worse.

Despite the jump in funding costs, Wentworth was okay with the pricing on its latest deal. In fact, just getting a deal done in the current market is a testament to the company's stable investor base, chief financial officer John Calamari said. The transaction clearly indicated that certain pension plans, insurance companies and other buy-and-hold investors still have an appetite for Wentworth's asset-backed paper, he added.

Wentworth is the world's foremost issuer of structured settlement securitizations, completing almost \$1.9 billion of offerings since first coming to market in 1997, according to Asset-Backed Alert's ABS Database. Deutsche Bank has run the books on its last 12 offerings, all of which were conducted under the 321 Henderson Receivables banner.