



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 24, 2007

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***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, L.A. AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONOR COMPANIES POWERING L.A.'S SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMY

***Local business owners celebrated at 26th annual Small Business Awards Luncheon
sponsored by top SBA and small business lender Bank of America***

What: The 26th annual Small Business Awards Luncheon, hosted by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, will honor small business and business champions in the Los Angeles region. The event will also recognize event sponsor, Bank of America – the top SBA and small business lender in California and Los Angeles for the ninth consecutive year. This year's event will celebrate ten award recipients, who were selected among thousands of small business leaders by the SBA.

Who:

- Los Angeles City Council President Pro Tempore, **Wendy Greuel**
- President & CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, **Gary Toebben**
- District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, **Alberto Alvarado**
- Region IX Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration, **Bruce Thompson**
- West Division Executive, Bank of America, **Brad Dinsmore**
- More than 600 small business owners and civic leaders

Event honorees:

- Small Business Person of the Year - Janet Yonaty, President, Janet Yonaty, Inc
- Small Business Exporter of the Year – Anthony S. Su, Fremont Seafoods
- Family-Owned Business of the Year – Juan Ramirez, El Rinconcito Del Mar Restaurant
- Financial Services Champion of the Year – Regina Grant Peterson, Advantage Certified Development Corporation and Roberto Barragan, Valley Economic Development Center
- Home-Based Business Champion of the Year – Mark Robertson, Pacific Coast Regional Small Business Development Corporation
- Minority Small Business Champion of the Year – Marva Smith Battle-Bey, Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation
- Small Business Journalist of the Year - Earl "Skip" Cooper II, Black Business Association
- Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year – Debbie Cabreira-Johnson, L.A. County Office of Small Business & Procurement Technical Assistance Center
- Women in Business Champion of the Year – Bonnie Nijst, Zeesman Communications, Inc.

*** Honorees are available for interviews before and during the event**

When: Wednesday, May 30
Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Where: Millennium Biltmore Hotel, 506 S. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90071

Why: Los Angeles County is the small business capital of the world with more than 200,000 small businesses. The SBA and the L.A. Area Chamber are proud to recognize small business success in a county full of entrepreneurs.

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The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information, visit www.lachamber.org.