



Office of the National Ombudsman

Regulatory Fairness Forum for Small Business

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Columbia, South Carolina

Small business owners will have an opportunity to discuss issues regarding Federal regulatory compliance and enforcement during this Forum.

Have you or a small business owner you know been unfairly fined or penalized by a Federal government agency, or is a Federal agency enforcement action imminent?

WHO: **SBA National Ombudsman Esther H. Vassar** will meet with members of the area small business community to hear issues and comments about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance actions. Small business owners, representatives of trade associations and community and business leaders are invited to participate, comment about compliance actions and enforcement of regulations by federal agencies and learn more about the impact of federal regulations on small businesses.

WHAT: To create a more cooperative regulatory environment among federal agencies and small businesses, Congress has directed the SBA and the National Ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness forums for small businesses. The National Ombudsman will direct any specific issues addressed at this forum to the appropriate Federal agency for a higher-level review of fairness of the enforcement action. In many instances, the National Ombudsman's action has resulted in federal agencies reducing or waiving penalties and/or compliance actions in cases of unfair or excessive regulatory enforcement.

WHERE: **Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center**
1101 Lincoln Street
Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: **Wednesday, May 12, 2010**
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Members of the small business community, trade organizations and media are encouraged to attend. RSVPs should be made to the SBA South Carolina District Office at (803) 765-5377 or by email to anna.huntley@sba.gov before the forum. Small business owners or representatives unable to attend can contact the National Ombudsman for further assistance.

For additional information, visit the Office of the National Ombudsman's website at www.sba.gov/ombudsman.

Small Businesses: Make Your Voices Heard!