



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA Announces Appointment of Orlando Business Owner to Regional Regulatory Fairness Board

JACKSONVILLE – Orlando business owner William Jackson Patton has been appointed to the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Region IV Regulatory Fairness Board by SBA Administrator Karen Mills.

Regional Regulatory Fairness Board members report to National Ombudsman and Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Esther Vassar. SBA’s Office of the National Ombudsman hosts regulatory fairness hearings nationwide where small business owners may express their concerns about burdensome federal regulations. Regional Regulatory Fairness Board members participate in the planning of these events.

“It’s important that federal agencies have an understanding of the impact that regulatory steps they are taking may have on small businesses,” Vassar said. “The members of this board play a critical role in making sure the voice of small business is heard during the federal regulatory process and that at the federal level we are not creating a regulatory burden that keeps small businesses from doing what they do best – driving their local economies and creating jobs.”

Patton will serve as a local resource for small businesses and will work with small business trade groups and other entities to address regional concerns regarding federal regulatory enforcement and compliance issues. He will provide an important service by working to support small businesses as they strive to operate in an environment where federal regulations are effective and not excessive.

The 10 Regional Regulatory Fairness Boards are based in key cities across the United States. Each board is comprised of five members and serves as a resource and point of contact for small business owners who feel they have experienced excessive federal regulatory enforcement and compliance actions. The SBA Region IV includes Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Patton is an owner and vice president of DEI Services Corporation in Winter Park, Fla. He is also a member of the SBA Southeastern Region Advisory Council as well as the board of directors of the Workforce Academy in Orlando. Patton can be reached by e-mail at William.patton@deicorp.net, or by phone at 407-678-3388, extension 128.

In addition to coordinating the activities of the 10 regional boards, the National Ombudsman also rates federal agency enforcement fairness, prepares an annual report on those ratings to Congress, and provides a voice for small businesses as they manage the federal regulatory enforcement process.

Regional Regulatory Fairness Boards were created in 1996 as part of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. For more information about the Office of the National Ombudsman, visit the Web site at www.sba.gov/ombudsman.