



# *MEDIA ADVISORY*

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## Public Forum Set for Small Business Owners to Comment on Federal Regulatory Enforcement

<b>WHO:</b>	<b>SBA National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens</b> , members of the Region IX Regulatory Fairness Board (serving California, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, and Guam) and representatives of Federal regulatory agencies will hear concerns, comments and complaints about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance. <b>Small business owners, representatives of community organizations and trade associations, and business leaders are invited to testify about compliance and enforcement of regulations by any Federal agency.</b>
<b>WHAT:</b>	To create a more cooperative regulatory environment among federal agencies and small businesses, Congress has directed the SBA National Ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness Hearings across the United States. Concerns and complaints aired at this hearing will be directed to the appropriate Federal regulatory agency for a high-level review. If any small business, non-profit organization, or small government entity believe they have experienced unfair Federal regulatory enforcement or compliance actions they may submit their comments to our office and at hearing. The National Ombudsman requests the particular Federal agency to conduct a high-level review of the specific issues and respond to our office within a specified time period. In many instances the Federal agency has reduced or waived particular penalties and/or compliance actions. At a minimum, the agencies conduct a review of the enforcement action to ensure fairness.
<b>WHEN:</b>	Tuesday, February 5, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
<b>WHERE:</b>	San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Board Room 235 Montgomery St., 12th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104
<b>MEDIA</b>	National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens will be available on February 5 <sup>th</sup> at noon for media interviews.

**Anyone desiring confidentiality may request that his or her name not be released and may submit written testimony in lieu of a public appearance at the hearing.**

Any small business concerned about excessive enforcement of federal regulations can contact their local SBA district office or the National Ombudsman at 888-REG-FAIR (888-734-3247) or go to the National Ombudsman Web site at [www.sba.gov/ombudsman](http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman). For more information on the February 5 Regulatory Fairness Hearing, contact Gary Marshall SBA's San Francisco District Office at (415) 744 6771.

*For more information on SBA programs and services, visit the SBA's extensive website at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*