



# *MEDIA ADVISORY*

Jackson, MS District Office, (601) 965-4378

**Release Date: IMMEDIATE**

**Advisory Number:**

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## **Mississippi Forum Offers Small Business Owners Opportunity to Address Excessive Federal Regulatory Enforcement**

<b>WHO:</b>	SBA National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens, and members of the Region IV Regulatory Fairness Board (serving the states of Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee) will hear concerns, comments and complaints about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance actions. <b>Small business owners, representatives of community organizations and trade associations, and business leaders are invited to participate in an open forum regarding regulatory compliance and enforcement actions by Federal agencies.</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 and Roundtables across the United States. In this forum, small businesses and organizations will have the opportunity to direct their questions or comments regarding federal regulatory enforcement to the National Ombudsman. 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 or at the roundtable. The National Ombudsman then 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>	<b>Monday, July 21, 2008</b> <b>2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b>
<b>WHERE:</b>	<b>Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership</b> <b>Alvis Hunt Room</b> <b>201 South President Street</b> <b>Jackson, MS 39201</b>
<b>MEDIA</b>	National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens will be available before or after the Roundtable for media interviews.

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 July 21 Regulatory Fairness Roundtable, contact Janita Stewart, District Director of SBA's Jackson District Office at (601) 965-4378.

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