



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## **National Small Business Ombudsman to Hear Concerns About Federal Regulatory Enforcement**

On Wednesday, July 11, 2007, National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens will discuss concerns about unfair or excessive enforcement of federal regulations at a Regulatory Fairness Board Roundtable at Grand Valley State University, DeVos Center, 401 W. Fulton Street, Room 201D, Grand Rapids, Michigan from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

This informal forum offers small business owners and representatives from business and trade associations a chance to discuss openly, without fear of retaliation, their concerns about federal compliance practices in Michigan.

The National Ombudsman's primary mission is to assist small business people when they experience excessive federal regulatory enforcement actions, such as repetitive audits or investigations, excessive fines, penalties, threats, retaliation or other unfair enforcement action by a federal agency.

The Office of the National Ombudsman was created by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA). The act established 10 Regulatory Fairness Boards and each board is comprised of five members who are small business owners or operators from the region who volunteer their time to help small businesses cope with regulatory problems.

Information gathered from roundtables and hearings across the country will be shared with government officials in the National Ombudsman's Annual report to Congress, and with high-level officials of federal regulatory agencies to ensure the fairness of enforcement actions.

The Michigan roundtable is open to the public. However, those wishing to participate in the discussion should contact Constance Logan, Public Information Officer, at (313) 226-6075, ext. 279, or by email at [Constance.logan@sba.gov](mailto:Constance.logan@sba.gov) prior to the meeting,

Comments and concerns about federal agency enforcement actions can be addressed directly to the Office of the National Ombudsman at 1-888-REGFAIR. For more information on the national ombudsman and this roundtable, visit the National Ombudsman's Web site at [www.sba.gov/ombudsman](http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman).

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