

U.S. Small Business Administration



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SBA Congratulates its Presidential Rank Award Winners

WASHINGTON – The Administration of President George W. Bush announced this week that two senior U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) staff members, Jennifer Main and Delorice Price Ford, received the prestigious Presidential Rank Award for 2008.

Each year, an elite group of career members of the Senior Executive Service, Senior-Level and Scientific and Professional corps are selected by the President for their exceptional leadership, accomplishments, and service over an extended period of time. Recipients are nominated by their agency heads, evaluated by boards of private citizens, and approved by the President.

“Jennifer Main and Delorice Price Ford are exemplary public servants and leaders in their fields,” said SBA Acting Administrator Sandy K. Baruah. “Thanks in part to their dedication and skill, SBA has significantly improved its service to America’s small businesses. The agency is honored to have them on our team and congratulates them on this impressive honor.”

Main, who received the Distinguished Executive Award, has led a turnaround of SBA’s Office of the Chief Financial Officer since joining SBA in 2002. Main oversaw the office's resolution of more than 200 Inspector General audit findings and recommendations going back to 2003. As a result, in 2007 the agency received its first unqualified positive audit opinion showing no material weaknesses, the first such review since 2000. In her second role, as Associate Administrator for Performance Management since 2007, Main has developed and implemented a transparent system for performance improvement and accountability across the agency.

Ford, who received the Meritorious Award, is Assistant Administrator for the Office of Hearing and Appeals (OHA) and was also the Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights Compliance (EEO & CRC). During FY 2005 and FY 2007, Ford provided leadership and successful management of both offices which focus on two very different and specialized areas of law. In 2007, OHA's performance goals were to issue 90 percent of their decisions within 120 days from close of record, and reversal of not more than three cases per year. Under Ford's leadership, OHA exceeded both goals—100 percent of OHA's decisions were issued within 89 days or fewer and without a single OHA decision being reversed by the federal courts. She has also been instrumental in streamlining the EEO complaint process, resulting in improved quality, efficiency and enhanced customer service.

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The Presidential Rank Award of Distinguished Executive and Distinguished Senior Professional may be awarded to no more than one percent of career members of the SES and SL/ST corps and includes a cash award of 35 percent of basic pay. Meritorious Executive and Meritorious Senior Professional awards may be bestowed to no more than five percent of the career SES and SL/ST corps and includes a cash award of 20 percent of basic pay. Each winner is also presented with a signed certificate from the President and a distinctive lapel pin.

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