

Message from the Director

John M. Reich, Director, Office of Thrift Supervision



This Annual Report is the first such report from the Office of Thrift Supervision in many years, just one of several “firsts” since I came on board as OTS Director in August 2005.

I made a decision when I started this job that I would revitalize the OTS and make its renewed strength match that of the thrift industry, which has grown significantly since the agency was formed 18 years ago. In the last five years, industry assets have grown by more than 55 percent.

For the first time in many years, we have decided to issue an Annual Report to chronicle what the OTS does and describe why that work is vital to the health of the financial services

industry and the economic well-being of American consumers.

Also for the first time in many years, we are hiring at OTS, seeking talented entry-level and experienced employees to join our examination force, to fill spots left by retiring workers and to establish a springboard for agency leadership succession in the years ahead. At the end of fiscal 2007, we had a workforce more than 1,000 strong — an increase of nearly 14 percent since I started as OTS Director.

As part of my drive to strengthen and rejuvenate the OTS, we have restructured the agency’s compliance and community affairs functions, created a new Central Region, compiled a solid budget and continued to build agency reserves. These efforts have brought a renewed vigor to the agency and energized our employees.

Our agency retains its historic focus on helping to fulfill the desires of Americans to own their own homes and thereby form a foundation for stable and thriving communities across the nation. But the thrift charter is also an ideal platform for innovative business strategies to operate a wide range of modern financial services enterprises. A major goal of mine has been to highlight the distinct strengths of the thrift charter for new and existing institutions.

We are also raising the profile of the OTS by attending banking industry conferences, displaying our new OTS information booth, talking with



OTS information booth at one of the many stops in 2007.

financial service executives about the value of the thrift charter and answering questions about the role of thrift institutions in today's financial services marketplace.

I hope you like what you see in this fiscal 2007 Annual Report and in OTS as a responsive and expert regulator

that stands ready to take on the challenges that lie ahead. My personal goal is for us to make the most of every opportunity along our path toward America's financial services future ■

John M. Reich
Washington, D.C.