



Black Economic Council

"Building Economic Bridges"

PRESS RELEASE

August 1, 2007

For Immediate Release

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Black Economic Council (BEC) to Hold Second Urban Economic Conference in Oakland Featuring an All-Female Panel of Experts

Black Economic Council, headquartered in Oakland, CA, will host "Building Economic Bridges through Strategic Partnerships, Thursday, August 9, 2007, at the City Center Marriott in Oakland

OAKLAND, CA (August 2007) -- The **Black Economic Council (BEC)**, a national platform for the advancement, advocacy, and development of economic capacity in communities of color, will host its second annual conference entitled "Building Economic Bridges through Strategic Partnerships" Thursday August 9, 2007 at City Center Marriott, 1001 Broadway, Oakland, California. The one-day conference will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will close with a networking reception beginning at 4:30 p.m.

The Urban Economic Conference introduces a powerful assembly of expert panelists covering banking, private equity, foundations, and emerging leadership. This multi-ethnic and multidisciplinary display of talent and resources is sure to educate, empower, and energize attendees with an **all-female** lineup that includes **Lisa Barrett**, President of Citibank Western Division; **Terri Ludwig**, President, Merrill Lynch Community Development Company, **Sandra Thompson**, Director of FDIC Division of Supervision and Consumer Protection Program; **Carrie Schwab-Pomerantz**, President of the Charles Schwab Foundation; **Dr. Sandra R. Hernandez**, CEO of the San Francisco Foundation and **Nancy Pfund**, Managing Director, JP Morgan Chase, Bay Area Equity Fund, **Carolyn Doelling**, Director of Philanthropic Services, East Bay Community Foundation, **Dannielle Campos**, SVP Program Officer, Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy, **Linda Cole**, SVP, Citibank Western Division, **Francine K. Broad**, Senior Vice President SBA Division, OneCalifornia Bank, **Margaret "Peggy" Bradshaw**, EVP, Comerica Bank, **Glenda Cross**, Senior Advisor, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, (OCC), **Alicia Diaz**, General Counsel, MayfieldGentry Realty Advisors, **Anita Stephen Graham**, Partner, Opportunity Capital Partners, **Thalia Gonzalez**, Senior Legal Counsel, Greenlining Institute, **Starlett Quarles**, CEO, Urban X Marketing & Communication, **Kimberly Bates**, UCLA, Graduate Student, and **Kava Tulua**, Community Organizer, One East Palo. [Click Here for Speaker/Panelist images](#)

The Black Economic Council was established to address issues directly related to business formation, job creation, access to capital, and other financial realms affecting Black Americans and people of color overall as well as low income residents. Blacks in America and other people of color consistently report the highest rates of poverty. According to the Small Business Administration, 50 percent of Black-American firms are denied small

business loans. Black-American homeownership is also at an all-time low of 48 percent.

With what many would call a dismal economic landscape for Black Americans, the BEC believes that intellectual capital is vital to the expansion of black businesses, so that more job creation and real wealth can stay within Black communities. It's time for Black Americans to leverage our most valuable assets - intellectual capital and access to information - while we utilize the nearly \$900 billion in Black consumer spending to advance our own economic agendas.

A key goal of the upcoming BEC Urban Economic Conference is to draw attention to current and emerging business opportunities in Oakland and the Bay Area and will bolster nationwide efforts fiscal strength of communities of color. Bob Gnaizda, General Counsel and Policy Director of the Greenlining Institute say, "The Black Economic Council is providing a much-needed voice for Black-owned companies in the capital markets. They are eloquently making the capital markets aware of the investment opportunities in Black communities. The BEC, working with other community-based organizations, is likely to change the economic paradigm for Black America and be an inspiration to other minority-led business groups."

To purchase tickets, make donations, and for information about becoming a sponsor of the event, contact Deanna Roberts at (510) 654-5335 or e-mail droberts@RobertsEvents.com. Registration is available online at BlackEconomicCouncil.org.

A partial list of the sponsors for this conference: AT&T, Citibank, Comerica, HSBC-North America, AAA of Northern California, Merrill Lynch, Bank of America, Union Bank of California, Wachovia Bank and CalPERS as an exhibitor, OneCalifornia Bank, U.S. Bank, Union Bank of California, JP Morgan Chase and Bank of the West.

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