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OCC NAMES NEW COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency announced the selection of A. P. (Bud) Kanitz as Director for Community Relations, effective today.

Kanitz will advise Comptroller Eugene A. Ludwig, OCC senior policy makers and district community reinvestment and development specialists on consumer and community organization interests and activities that affect or could affect the OCC, the national banking system, or the relationships national banks have to the communities they serve.

"Bud Kanitz brings to the OCC a wealth of experience and a solid reputation with community, consumer and other public interest organizations across the country," said Ludwig. "He will greatly enhance our external relations team."

Kanitz joins the OCC from the National Neighborhood Coalition, where as executive director he was responsible for the day-to-day administration of the organization. Prior to joining the National Neighborhood Coalition in 1982, he held various positions with other community organizations including the National Council of La Raza, Industrial Council of Northwest Chicago, and the Northwest Community Organization in Chicago.

Kanitz succeeds J. Christopher Lewis, Jr., who became OCC Special Advisor for External Relations in October 1996.

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The OCC charters, regulates and supervises approximately 2,800 national banks and 66 federal branches and agencies of foreign banks in the U.S., accounting for more than half the nation's banking assets. Its mission is to ensure a safe, sound and competitive national banking system that supports the citizens, communities and economy of the United States.