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OCC'S PUBLIC REFERENCE ROOM RELOCATES

WASHINGTON, DC -- The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) today announced that it has moved its public reference room to a new location that offers greater accessability to the general public. The new location is on the lobby level at the OCC's headquarters located at 250 E Street, S.W.

"The OCC is committed to make more information readily available to all interested parties," said Comptroller Eugene A. Ludwig. "I am greatly pleased that the reference room has moved to an area that offers greater public access thereby enhancing the OCC's commitment to good customer service."

The public reference room was created during 1996 in order to meet the growing public demand for information about the national banking system. The facility houses collections of news releases, speeches, testimonies, enforcement actions, legal interpretations, corporate decisions, Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) performance evaluations, OCC issuances, bank securities filings and other items of significant interest. Handbooks and other OCC publications are also available for sale. Normal turnaround time for telephone and fax requests is within 24 hours, and walk-in requests can usually be filled immediately. Checks, money orders, VISA and Mastercard are accepted for payment.

The public reference room also offers computer terminals with access to the OCC's homepage and the OCC's electronic databases that track Freedom of Information Act requests, CRA performance evaluations and public enforcement actions taken against bankers and national banks. The various collections of information located within the facility will be continually updated in order to provide the most current information available.

The public reference room is open to the general public from Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Requests for documents can be sent to the facsimile number (202) 874-4448, via telephone at (202) 874-5043, or via e-mail to FOIA-PA@OCC.TREAS.GOV.

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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.