

Wachovia's Veronica Cool Named Financial Services Champion of the Year by U.S. Small Business Administration's Baltimore District Office

Veteran banker recognized for providing outstanding service to Baltimore small businesses

[Baltimore, April 14, 2009] - Wachovia Bank, N.A., a Wells Fargo Company (NYSE: WFC) announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Baltimore District Office has named Wachovia small business banker Veronica Cool the "Financial Services Champion of the Year."

Cool, nominated for the award by Sam Lloyd, from the Dept of Business & Economic Development, was selected for her attention to detail and commitment to finding the right financial solutions for her clients.

Stephen D. Umberger, district director, SBA Baltimore District Office, stated that "Veronica is a tireless advocate for her clients. She is well versed in all of SBA's financing programs and takes the time to identify the products or services that best meet their needs."

Cool has more than 14 years of experience in the financial industry, specializing in cash management, financing structures and arrangement along with depository operational solutions. In 2006 and 2007, she was Wachovia's number one small business banker nationally, and finished second in 2008. She manages a portfolio of more than 500 clients.

"Veronica cares deeply about providing her small business customers with the best possible solutions—and she delivers world-class service. Her dedication reflects Wachovia's commitment to ensuring that credit solutions are available to our small business customers during a time when that availability is more critical than ever," said Ken Hostetter, Maryland small business leader for Wachovia. "Both Wachovia and Wells Fargo are leaders in SBA lending in Baltimore and nationwide, and we are proud to have Veronica on our team. She is a trusted advisor to countless business owners and entrepreneurs."

Cool will be honored at the 2009 Maryland Small Business Week Awards Breakfast to be held Friday, May 15, 2009 at Martin's West in Woodlawn, Md.

National Small Business Week celebrates the contributions small businesses, and the champions who support them, make to the U.S. economy. Baltimore's honorees will compete at the national level and will be recognized during National Small Business Week, beginning May 17, at events in Washington, D.C.

In Baltimore, Wachovia ranked second in SBA loans in 2008 with \$11.9 million in loans.

Together, Wells Fargo and Wachovia made nearly \$1.1 billion in SBA loans in 2008 to almost 3,500 small businesses nationwide.

A native of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Cool serves on the Board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maryland, Board of the Baltimore Chapter of NAWBO, the National Association of Women Business Owners, and Board of the Maryland Hispanic Business Chamber of Commerce.

In January 2008, she was appointed by the Governor of Maryland to the Statewide Commission for Hispanic Affairs and was recently recognized as a Hispanic Hero by the United States Youth Entrepreneur Education organization. Additionally, Dialogue in Diversity, presented her with the Distinguished Achievement Award - New Generation of Business Leaders. In 2007, she was Chairwoman of the 6th Annual MD Hispanic Business Conference, the largest Hispanic Business event in the State.

Cool recently served on Governor O'Malley's (Maryland) Transition Team, a 42-member board which oversaw city and state-wide matters. She has also been recognized as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women by the Daily Record and one of Maryland's Most Influential People by Channel Magazine, and featured in Hispanic Career World, a national publication, in April 2009.

About Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo & Company is a diversified financial services company with \$1.3 trillion in assets, providing banking, insurance, investments, mortgage and consumer finance through more than 11,000 stores, over 12,000 ATMs and the internet (wellsfargo.com) across North America and internationally.

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