

DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATIONS*Supporting a Fair and Secure Financial Services Marketplace for all Californians*

Jan Lynn Owen
California Corporations Commissioner

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Department of Corporations Honored For Work with Disabled Veteran Enterprises and Small Businesses

Sacramento, November 16, 2012 — The Department of Corporations received two awards at the 13th Annual State Agency Recognition Awards (SARA) ceremony. The Department won Honorable Mention for the SARA Award and Laurie Cootz won the Silver Award for *Advocate of the Year*.

The SARA Awards are sponsored by the California Department of General Services to recognize outstanding achievements in Small Business (SB) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) advocacy and for contracting success with SBs and DVBEs.

The Department was honored for the work of the Business Operations Section (BOS) staff that performs the day-day purchasing ensure the Department meets the SB and DVBE goals in each of the last eleven years. BOS staff includes Julie Solomon, Kelly Moynahan, Jennifer Wisnewski, Chad Rohrs, Hyunmee Peters, Bill Hayden, Pamela Mosby, Edna Carrasco, Laurie Cootz and Fred Topete.

Laurie Cootz was presented with the individual silver award for her sustained efforts to assist DVBE and SB businesses. For example, Ms. Cootz crafted and marketed materials to show businesses how to apply for and become certified as DVBE and SB vendors.

"We are very proud to be honored for the work that our Business Support Section does," said Corporations Commissioner Jan Lynn Owen. "The Department is committed to the goals of outreach and inclusion for Small Businesses and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises and is pleased to be recognized by our peers."

The awards were presented at a ceremony on Wednesday, November 14, at the Citrus Heights Community Center. The Department of General Services presented awards to 41 state agencies and 17 state employees for their outstanding work with California small businesses and disabled veterans' businesses.

Annually, state agencies work to meet a goal of doing at least 25 percent of purchasing and contracting with small businesses. Furthermore, California's Veterans and Military Code's goal is to purchase at least three percent of all goods and services from Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises (DVBE).

The Department of Corporations is California's investment and financing authority. Consumers should contact the Department to check on the status of the companies, investments or other services they are considering and the licensing status of individuals at the Department's toll-free Consumer Services Office at 1-866-ASK-CORP (1-866-275-2677) or at www.corp.ca.gov.

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