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Jeffrey D. Pierson,

Associate Administrator for Investment.

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BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### Federal Assistance Grant to Fund Women's Business Center Projects to Provide Financial Counseling and Other Technical Assistance to Women

**AGENCY:** Small Business Administration.

**ACTION:** Program Announcement No. OWBO-2004-021.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) plans to issue program announcement No. OWBO-2004-021 to invite applications from eligible nonprofit organizations to conduct Women's Business Center (WBC) projects. The successful applicant will receive a grant to provide counseling, training and other technical assistance to women in nascent and existing businesses. The authorizing legislation is the Small Business Act, Section 2(h) and 29, 15 U.S.C. 631(h) and 656.

A Women's Business Center is a 5-year community-based project that is funded by the SBA through a grant that requires matching funds. The project is a planned scope of activities that provide business services targeted to women. The project must operate as a distinct unit of the recipient's organization having its own budget for facilities, equipment and resources to carry out project activities. The WBC services must include long-term training and counseling to benefit small business concerns owned and controlled by women.

SBA Headquarters must receive applications/proposals by 4 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on the closing date of May 6, 2004. SBA will select successful applicants using a competitive technical evaluation process.

Service and assistance areas must include financial, management, marketing, eCommerce, government procurement and training on the business uses of the Internet. Applicants must plan to include women who are socially and economically disadvantaged in the target group. The applicant may propose specialized services that will assist women in Empowerment Zones, agribusiness, rural or urban areas, etc. The applicant may propose to serve women who are veterans and women with home-based

businesses, women with disabilities, etc. SBA will request award recipients to provide content and support activities to the SBA Online Women's Business Center, at <http://www.onlinewbc.gov>.

The applicants' technical proposal must contain information about its current status and past performance. Also, the applicant must provide a 5-year plan for service delivery, fund-raising, training and technical assistance activities. The grant will be issued annually through a 5-year term without re-competition. The non-Federal match requirement is one non-Federal dollar for each two Federal dollars in years 1 and 2; and one non-Federal dollar for each Federal dollar in years 3, 4, and 5. Up to one-half of the non-Federal match funds may be in the form of in-kind contributions (*i.e.*, 50% of match must be in cash).

**DATES:** The opening date of the application period April 1, 2004 and the closing date is May 6, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Interested parties may access Program Announcement No. OWBO-2004-021 and application materials on the application opening date of April 1, 2004 at <http://www.onlinewbc.gov/grants.html>. If necessary, contact Sally Murrell, WBC Program Manager at (202) 205-6673.

Sally Murrell,

Director, WBC Program, SBA/Office of Women's Business Ownership.

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4679]

### Bureau of Political-Military Affairs; Statutory Debarment Under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations

**AGENCY:** Department of State.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Department of State has imposed statutory debarment pursuant to section 127.7(c) of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations ("ITAR") (22 CFR 120 to 130) on persons convicted of violating or conspiring to violate section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act ("AECA") (22 U.S.C. 2778).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Date of conviction as specified for each person.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Trimble, Director, Office of Defense Trade Controls Compliance,

Directorate of Defense Trade Controls, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, (202) 663-2700.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 38(g)(4) of the AECA, 22 U.S.C. 2778, prohibits licenses and other approvals for the export of defense articles or defense services to be issued to a persons, or any party to the export, who has been convicted of violating certain statutes, including the AECA.

In implementing this section of the AECA, the Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs is authorized by section 127.7 of the ITAR to prohibit any person who has been convicted of violating or conspiring to violate the AECA from participating directly or indirectly in the export of defense articles, including technical data or in the furnishing of defense services for which a license or approval is required. This prohibition is referred to as "statutory debarment".

Statutory debarment is based solely upon conviction in a criminal proceeding, conducted by a United States court, and as such the administrative debarment proceedings outlined in part 128 of the ITAR are not applicable.

The period for debarment will be determined by the Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs based on the underlying nature of the violations, but will generally be three years from the date of conviction. At the end of the debarment period, licensing privileges may be reinstated only at the request of the debarred person following the necessary interagency consultations, after a thorough review of the circumstances surrounding the conviction, and a finding that appropriate steps have been taken to mitigate any law enforcement concerns, as required by section 38(g)(4) of the ITAR. It should be noted, however, that unless licensing privileges are reinstated, the person/entity will remain debarred.

Department of State policy permits debarred persons to apply to the Director of Defense Trade Controls Compliance for an exception from the period of debarment beginning one year after the date of the debarment, in accordance with section 38(g)(4) of the AECA and section 127.11(b) of the ITAR. Any decision to grant an exception can be made only after the statutory requirements under section 38(g)(4) of the AECA have been satisfied. If the exception is granted, the debarment will be suspended.

Debarred persons are generally ineligible to participate in activity regulated under the ITAR (see *e.g.*,

section 120.1(c) and (d), 126.7, and 127.11(a)). The Department of State will not consider applications for licenses or requests for approvals that involve any persons who has been convicted of violating or of conspiring to violate the AECA during the period of statutory debarment. Persons who have been statutorily debarred may appeal to the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security for reconsideration of the ineligibility determination. A request for reconsideration must be submitted in writing within 30 days after a person has been informed of the adverse decision, in accordance with 22 CFR section 127.7(d) and 128.13(a).

Pursuant to section 38 of the AECA and section 127.7 of the ITAR, the following persons have been statutorily debarred by the Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs for a period of three years following the date of their AECA conviction:

(1) Mart Haller Incorporated, September 10, 2003, U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut (New Haven), Case #:3:03Cr170(EBB).

(2) Alan Haller, September 10, 2003, U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut (New Haven), Case #:3:03Cr169(EBB).

(3) Tariq Ahmed a/k/a "Tariq Amin", "Tariq Ahmad Amin", September 30, 2003, U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut (New Haven), Case #:3:02CR247(DJS).

(4) Yasmin Ahmed a/k/a "Yasmin Tariq", "Fatimah Mohammad", September 4, 2003, U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut (New Haven), Case #:3:02CR247(DJS).

(5) Jami Siraj Choudhury, November 10, 2003, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin, Case #:02-Cr-261.

As noted above, at the end of the three-year period, the above named persons/entities will remain debarred unless licensing privileges are reinstated.

This notice is provided for purposes of making the public aware that the persons listed above are prohibited from participating directly or indirectly in any brokering activities and in any export from or temporary import into the United States of defense articles, related technical data, or defense services in all situations covered by the ITAR. Specific case information may be obtained from the Office of the Clerk for the U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut (New Haven) and the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin citing the court case number where provided.

Exceptions may be made to this denial policy on a case-by-case basis at

the discretion of the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls. However, such an exception would be granted only after a full review of all circumstances, paying particular attention to the following factors: Whether an exception is warranted by overriding U.S. foreign policy or national security interest, whether an exception would further law enforcement concerns that are not inconsistent with the foreign policy or national security interests of the United States; or whether other compelling circumstances exist that are not inconsistent with the foreign policy or national security interests of the United States, and that do not conflict with law enforcement concerns.

This notice involves a foreign affairs function of the United States encompassed within the meaning of the military and foreign affairs exclusion of the Administrative Procedure Act. Because the exercise of this foreign affairs function is discretionary, it is excluded from review under the Administrative Procedure Act.

Dated: March 20, 2004.

**Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr.,**

*Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee; Renewal

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of renewal.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 14(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and in accordance with section 102-3.65, title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations, notice is hereby given that the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee has been renewed for a 2-year period beginning April 7, 2004. The primary purpose of the Committee is to provide the aviation public with a means to have its interests in aviation safety rulemaking considered in developing regulatory actions, thus enabling the agency to produce better documents. It has also been determined that renewal of the Committee would be in the public interest with regard to the performance of duties imposed on the FAA by law. The Committee will operate in accordance with the rules of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the

Department of Transportation, FAA Committee Management Order (1110.30C).

You may receive further information about this Advisory Committee from Ms. Gerri Robinson, Office of Rulemaking, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, telephone: 202-267-9678.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 26, 2004.

**Anthony F. Fazio,**

*Executive Director, Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Delegation of Authority

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of delegation of authority.

**SUMMARY:** The FAA is giving notice of a specific delegation of authority from the FAA Administrator to the Associate Chief Counsel/Director, Office of Dispute Resolution for Acquisition (hereinafter the "ODRA Director"), to supplement and expand the authority previously delegated on July 29, 1998 and supersede the delegation issued to the Associate Chief Counsel/Director of the ODRA on March 27, 2000, in order to permit the ODRA Director to issue final FAA Agency orders on behalf of the Administrator in certain bid protests and contract disputes filed with the FAA Office of Dispute Resolution for Acquisition. The delegation was set forth in a memorandum signed by the Administrator dated March 10, 2004. The FAA is publishing the text of the delegation, so that it is available to interested parties.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marie A. Collins, Staff Attorney and Dispute Resolution Officer for the Office of Dispute Resolution for Acquisition (AGC-70), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Street, SW., Room 323, Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-3290; facsimile (202) 267-3720.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-50, 109 Stat. 436 (1995) ("Appropriations Act"), Congress directed the FAA to develop an acquisition system that addresses the mission and unique needs of the Agency and at a minimum, provides for more