U.S. Small Business Administration
SBA
Your Small Business Resource

Melanie R. Sabelhaus

Deputy Administrator

U.S. Small Business Administration

Melanie R. Sabelhaus was sworn in April 12, 2002, as Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration. President George W. Bush nominated her for the post, and she was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate.

As SBA Deputy Administrator, Sabelhaus serves as second in command to Administrator Hector V. Barreto in managing an agency with more than 80 offices across the country. She is responsible for overseeing policy development and program supervision for the SBA.

Created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to assist small business, the SBA is Your Small Business Resource, providing financial assistance, business education, training, counseling and procurement assistance programs to the nation's entrepreneurs. With a total loan portfolio of business and disaster recovery loans of about $50 billion, the SBA is America's largest single financial backer of small businesses.

Sabelhaus brings more than 25 years of successful business and corporate experience to her role at the SBA. She founded and served as chief executive officer of Exclusive Interim Properties (EIP) from 1986 to 1997, when the company merged with four other companies. The company went public as Bridgestreet Accommodations in 1997. Sabelhaus became vice president of global sales and served on the board of directors of the publicly held company until 1998. At its peak, EIP had offices in Baltimore, Md., and Washington, D.C., and employed 75 people. The company generated $10 million annually with its 650 furnished units. For 15 years prior to forming her own business, she served in a variety of management positions with the IBM Corporation.

Before joining the SBA, Sabelhaus devoted three years to community fund raising and women's business issues. She has served on numerous boards of directors including the United Way, the Alzheimer's Association of Central Maryland, the Nantucket Historical Society, Women's Leadership Board, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and as a member of the Executive Advisory Board for Ohio University's College of Business. Sabelhaus twice co-chaired the National Summit on Women in Philanthropy and she is a founding national chair of the United Way Women's Initiative. She is a recipient of the 2002 Outstanding Volunteer Fund-raiser Award presented by the Association of Fund-raising Professionals, the College of Notre Dame of Maryland's Pro Urbe Award for her contributions to the community and as a successful small business entrepreneur, and the Ohio University's School of Business award for Achievement in Business, where she is a Foundation board member.

Sabelhaus is married and resides in Owings Mills, Md., with her husband, Bob Sabelhaus. He is an executive with the financial investment firm of Legg Mason. They are the parents of two adult children. Sabelhaus attended Ohio University and earned a B.S. in journalism.

July 2004