



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

SBA Number : 04-12 -0503

Release Date: Immediate

Contact: Susan Chang

714-550-7420 x 3808

e-mail: [Susan.chang@sba.gov](mailto:Susan.chang@sba.gov)

## **Ronald D. Stumpf Named**

### **SBA's Financial Services Advocate of the Year 2004**

**SANTA ANA, CALIF** - Ronald Stumpf, a partner at Elliott, Lewis, Lieber & Stumpf, Inc. (ELLS), Certified Public Accountants in Santa Ana, CA. and a resident of Cowan Heights, CA, has been named Financial Services Advocate of the Year 2004 by the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Santa Ana District Office. Mr. Stumpf was also selected as a Regional Champion for SBA's Region IX which includes California, Hawaii, Arizona, Nevada and Guam. His selection was announced by District Director Sandy Sutton. "Ron Stumpf has been a zealous supporter of small business for over 10 years, contributing to the economic growth of Southern California," said Sandy Sutton.

Jim Davis, President of Southland Economic Development Corporation (EDC), nominated Stumpf for his advocacy efforts to increase access to capital and tax benefits for small businesses and for his many years of outstanding work in the Orange County lending arena.

Stumpf has been serving on the Southland EDC Loan Committee since 1993. "His depth of knowledge about real estate lending and the commercial real estate market make him an invaluable resource to our team," stated Jim Davis. Southland EDC is a 504 lender. During Stumpf's tenure, Southland has funded more than 614 loans over \$500,000 each to small businesses with an aggregate value of over \$285 million. His careful assessment and financial acumen contribute to the success of this program. Southland EDC registers a low default rate of 1.2 % of all loans outstanding. This is attributed to the committee of which Stumpf is an active member. In 1996, Stumpf was appointed to Southland EDC Board of Directors. In addition, he served as Treasurer, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman and Chairman from 1997 through 2000.

In 1993, when the City of Santa Ana made application to be designated an Enterprise Zone, Ron was among the first private sector individuals to become involved in the application process. "It was a phenomenal opportunity and provided the groundwork for Santa Ana's growth,"

comments Ron. After Santa Ana's coveted designation, Ron developed, printed, and distributed EZ presentation folders to over 2,000 local businesses, which detailed the lucrative EZ State tax credits available to them. He worked hand-in-hand with the Santa Ana Economic Development Department to coordinate his efforts for maximum impact. Due to the success of these programs, the Santa Ana EZ is the most successful EZ in the State, with employers claiming State tax credits in the millions of dollars. In 1997 the City of Santa Ana publicly recognized Ron's efforts when he was awarded the Enterprise Zone Advocate of the Year. During the same year, Ron and his firm received the prestigious Enterprise Zone Excellence Award for the State of California from the Department of Trade and Commerce.

When Santa Ana made an application to become a Federal Empowerment Zone (FEZ) in 1998, Stumpf was again at the forefront representing the private sector, an important factor in the evaluation process. He personally contacted over 1,000 FEZ businesses to inform them of FEZ programs, and offered free advice on how businesses can take advantage of these benefits. All of his efforts have contributed to the retention of millions of dollars for Santa Ana businesses. The long-range economic impact of these efforts is immeasurable.

Stumpf is committed to his family and is especially proud of their many accomplishments. In his spare time, Stumpf enjoys black and white photography a hobby he shares with his wife, Liz. He has been recognized as an artist, receiving first place in the people category of the Orange County Fair Photography Exhibit in 1998.

Stumpf will be honored locally at the SBA Small Business Award Luncheon on May 26, 2004 at the Grove of Anaheim as part of a nationwide salute to small business. For further information on the luncheon contact Orange County Small Business Development Center at (714) 564-5200.