



SBCA's 29th Congressional Awards Reception and Public Affairs Day

We were fortunate to have a number of distinguished guest speakers at this year's Public Affairs Day which took place in Washington, D.C. at the historic Willard Hotel. Our guests included:

- **Dr. Winslow Sergeant**, Chief Counsel for the Office of Advocacy at the US Small Business Administration;
- Greg Dean, General Counsel for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions;
- Tiffany Smith, Tax Counsel for the Senate Committee on Finance (Majority Staff);
- Elizabeth Jurinka, Health Care Legislative Assistant to Senator Ron Wyden;
- Thomas Reeder, Senior Benefits Counsel for the Senate Committee on Finance (Majority staff); and
- Jim Lyons, Tax Counsel for the Senate Committee on Finance (Minority staff). As usual we enjoyed valuable insights and discussion from our board and advisory board members.

This year the SBCA gave out the following awards this year at our 29th Congressional Awards Reception:



Senator Kay Hagan received the Congressional Award in recognition of her understanding and commitment to small businesses. She understands the issues facing small business and the entrepreneurial spirit of small business owners, including farmers. Senator Hagan is willing to tackle the more technical difficult issues that we at the SBCA take on. [Click here](#) for the press release prepared by her office.

Congressman Tom Price received the Congressional Award both for his understanding of small business issues in the tax and employee benefits area, but also for his understanding of the problems facing small business with healthcare. Prior to coming to



Washington, Congressman Tom Price was an orthopedic surgeon and as such understands firsthand many of the issues facing our nation with respect to health care reform.



Congressman Steny Hoyer received the Congressional Award for his commitment to making small businesses more profitable and allowing them to be able to create more jobs. Congressman Hoyer has supported legislation to give tax credits to small businesses which hire new employees, restore the flow of credit to small businesses and extend the R&D tax credit. He also understands the importance of estate tax certainty in order for small business owners to be able to plan properly for the future.

Senator Rob Portman received the SBCA's Special Congressional Appreciation Award in recognition of his willingness to understand and tackle difficult, technical tax and employee benefit issues. The SBCA strongly supported the exceptional work of Congressmen Portman and Cardin when they were both on Ways and Means in shoring up the qualified retirement plan system so that it could work in the small business context. We are hopeful that Senators Portman and Cardin will once again be able to work together on vital tax and employee benefit issues in the Senate.



The Congressional Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **Senator Olympia Snowe** in recognition of her constant efforts on behalf of small business as the ranking member on the Senate Small Business Committee. In particular the SBCA acknowledged Senator Snowe's efforts to drag the Simple cafeteria plan across the finish line. We worked with her office very closely to get this legislation passed and know firsthand how hard the Senator and her staff members worked to make this plan available to all small business owners. The SBCA will not give up this fight – we are committed to leveling the playing field between small and large business with respect to important benefits like the cafeteria plan (aka 125 plan, FSAs, dependent care, premium conversion plan...). We also appreciated Senator Snowe's efforts to reach across the aisle and try to get something accomplished through that very dirty word – get ready – COMPROMISE. Yikes.

The SBCA's Humanitarian of the Year was given to our Vice President of Healthcare, **Ron Waldheger**, Cleveland, Ohio, in recognition of the time and effort he has dedicated to the Ryan Waldheger Research Memorial Foundation. This foundation was the brainchild of Ron's



son, Ryan, who put up a valiant fight against leukemia for many years before succumbing at the age of 28. The purpose of the foundation is to assist hospitals and doctors in understanding and working with the unique problems facing adolescents and young adults in fighting cancer. If you are interested in getting more information on this foundation go to www.rwrn.org. We were thrilled to be able to give Ron a check in the amount of \$6,000. Great thanks to SBCA director, **Neil Carrey**, Santa Monica, CA, who founded the Award in honor of his son, Chris. Every year Neil and his wife, through the Chris Carrey Charitable Foundation, at least match the SBCA's gift of \$1,000 and often they give more. Also thanks to all of the members who sent in contributions to bring the contribution up to the total amount. Over the years we have found that the SBCA Humanitarian of the Year Award is one of our most meaningful awards. We have also found that our Small Business Person of the Year often could have received the Humanitarian Award – this year is no exception.

We were thrilled to welcome **John Barnard** from Cleveland, Ohio back to Washington to present the SBCA award to this year's Small Business Person of the Year. It was a real treat to once again hear words of wisdom from this dynamic and very successful small business owner. John is Executive Chairman and CEO of Vitamix Corporation and last year's SBCA Small Business of the Person Year award winner. John's oldest daughter, Jodi Berg, is the current President of Vitamix. Not only does Vitamix produce the best blender machine on the market – it is also a family run business which strongly supports its employees and the community at large.



This year's Small Business Person of the Year Award was presented to **Tony Jimenez** in recognition of the remarkable success of MicroTech. He was introduced by Michael Jordan from MicroTech's Vienna, Virginia offices. We heard how Micro Tech was planned at Tony's kitchen table in 2004 and grew into a 500-person business with over 100 prime federal contracts. Tony is an active philanthropist, focusing many of his efforts on supporting his fellow veterans. In 2011, Smart CEO Magazine selected Tony as the Top CEO Philanthropist in Washington DC. He is an active member of the technology industry and an

advocate for the Veteran, Hispanic and small business communities. He has testified before Congress and the Senate on five separate occasions and was one of eight CEOs invited to the White House to meet and speak with the President and his advisors regarding the tax incentives in the economic growth package and its impact on small and medium sized businesses.

We gave our first ever SBCA Lifetime Achievement Award to **Mort Harris**, Columbus, Georgia, one of the two founders of the SBCA and the person responsible for breathing life into the SBCA during its first



critical years. It was a thrill to have Susan Rudder Hall (a prior SBCA Small Business Person of the Year award winner) come from Georgia to recognize Mort. Bo Trotter also came from Columbus, Georgia, as did many members of Mort's family. A number of people came to the mike to let Mort know how much they appreciated his efforts and to acknowledge how important his ideas were for the continuing success of the SBCA. By giving this award, the Board acknowledged Mort's incredible work ethic combined with his management skills and visionary foresight all of which have been essential to SBCA's present success.