



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NSBA Honors Curtis Richardson of Birmingham**

**Washington, D.C.** — NSBA today recognized Curtis Richardson, president of C&J Electrical Services, LLC in Birmingham, Alabama as a finalist for the 2017 Lewis Shattuck Small Business Advocate of the Year Award. The award honors small-business owners who go above and beyond in advocating for policies to improve America’s small-business community.

“Curtis Richardson has been a tireless advocate on behalf of small businesses throughout the state of Alabama,” stated NSBA President and CEO Todd McCracken. “I am honored to recognize the difference he makes through his activism in local and state business groups, various industry groups and community organizations.”

Richardson founded C&J Electrical in 2001 and has continued to grow the company since then. He is President of the Birmingham Metro Black Chamber of Commerce and was appointed by Governor Robert Bentley to serve two terms on the Alabama Small Business Commission. He has worked on key pieces of legislation to address small-business apprenticeships and the threat of copper wire theft – a major concern for his industry.

In addition to honoring Richardson, NSBA also named David Ickert of Air Tractor as the overall award winner and recognized the following small-business owners for their excellence in advocating on small-business issues: Deborah Rutledge, Rutledge Group, Inc.; Michael Stanek, Hunt Imaging, LLC; and Diane Sumpter, DESA, Inc.

Richardson has been recognized by Associated Builders and Contractors as an Emerging Contractor, and by the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City for his work to help position inner-city small businesses for growth and success.

“Running a successful business is hard work, but Curtis Richardson does that and manages to be extremely involved in his community and small-business issues throughout Alabama,” stated NSBA Chair Pedro Alfonso of Dynamic Concepts, Inc. in Washington, D.C. “I’m proud to work alongside business advocates like Curtis to ensure small-business ownership is still part of the American dream.”

Celebrating 80 years in operation, NSBA is a staunchly nonpartisan organization advocating on behalf of America’s entrepreneurs. NSBA’s 65,000 members represent every state and every industry in the U.S., and we are proud to be the nation’s first small-business advocacy organization. Please visit [www.nsba.biz](http://www.nsba.biz) or follow us at @NSBAAdvocate.

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