



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NSBA Honors Deborah Rutledge of Cleveland

Washington, D.C. — NSBA today recognized Deborah Rutledge, chief operating officer of Rutledge Group, Inc. in Cleveland, Ohio, 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.

“Not only is Deb Rutledge very involved in small-business causes, she is deeply engaged in numerous other charity efforts,” stated NSBA President and CEO Todd McCracken. “I am honored to recognize her non-stop efforts and the countless hours Deb has spent working to strengthen small business in Cleveland and beyond.”

Rutledge is active on the Boards of COSE in Cleveland and NSBA, and has participated in numerous legislative visits for both organizations. She also is active with the Independent Agents and Brokers of America where she has been an outspoken advocate on behalf of the 37,000 independent insurance agencies across the country. Rutledge is very involved in advocacy on issues ranging from cancer research to workforce development and has lobbied lawmakers in Ohio and Washington D.C. on these topics as well as small-business issues.

Underscoring her commitment to advocacy, Rutledge was selected to participate in Leadership Cleveland, a network of civic leaders and the Seidman Cancer Center Leadership Council.

In addition to honoring Rutledge, 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: Curtis Richardson, C&J Electrical Services; LLC, Michael Stanek, Hunt Imaging, LLC; and Diane Sumpter, DESA, Inc.

“Deb Rutledge exudes a quiet strength and commitment to bettering America’s small-business climate,” stated NSBA Chair Pedro Alfonso of Dynamic Concepts, Inc. in Washington, D.C. “She is that rare person who somehow finds more hours in the day to spend on important issues to small businesses, and makes us all better for it.”

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 or follow us at @NSBAAdvocate.

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