



Jasper Ambers, Attorney at Law operates own law office.
Photo by Richard J. Brown

Jasper L Ambers Attorney at Law

Jasper L. Ambers is one of only a handful of African-American attorneys in private practice in Portland. Ambers has been in private practice since 1978, and his office is located at 716 North Alberta. Ambers said 65 percent of the cases he handles are criminal and 35 percent are civil cases.

Prior to going into private practice, Ambers worked three years as a Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney. Ambers said of the two professions, he prefers being in private practice the most.

"I enjoy my private practice the most. As an attorney in private practice, I can be more diverse. As a DA one is restricted only to criminal law."

Ambers said some time in the near future, he would like to start a law firm with other Black attorneys in the Portland area.

Ambers is a native of Montgomery, Alabama, and a graduate of Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He earned his law degree from Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio. He is a member of the Association of Oregon Black Lawyers.

Speaking of Small Business "Ruling" Out Small Business

If you are one of the thousands of small firms doing business with the federal government, you are about to get sandbagged by the OFPP. You've never heard of OFPP? It's the Office of Federal Procurement

Policy, a low-profile, highly influential part of the bureaucracy that sets the rules by which the government contracting game is played.

The OFPP is part of the Office of Management and Budget and it wants to repeal the "rule of two". Getting rid of government regulations normally is a sound idea. In this instance, however, it's one of the worst ideas the bureaucracy has come up with. It ranks with the "contemporaneous" recordkeeping rule IRS issued last year on the use of business vehicles.

The "rule of two" says that when there are at least two responsible small firms bidding on a contract and the government can expect to pay a reasonable price, the contract must be "set aside" for bidding by small firms only. It does not mean that bidding is limited to two small firms. It does mean that big business cannot bid.

The rule has been in use by some agencies since 1964 and by all federal agencies since 1984.

Why is it so important? It insures that a small business is going to get the contract and the taxpayers are going to pay a reasonable price. If the figures the bureaucracy gives us are correct, small business gets about \$30 billion a year in federal prime contracts. Nearly half of that, \$15.6 billion, came as the result of the "set aside" program in FY 1984.

If the rule is repealed, it could cut small business' already meager take of the general procurement dollar in half! Big business which represents only one percent of all businesses in the nation, already get 80% of the contract dollars. They stand to get even more if the "rule of two" is repealed.

The OFPP says it is complying with a provision of the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984. That section directs agencies to "increase the use of full and open competition..." by adopting policies, procedures and practices that assure the agency receives a sufficient number (emphasis supplied) of sealed bids.

The manner in which the OFPP has interpreted the Act, in effect, directs contracting officers to justify in writing, setting aside contracts for bidding by small firms only. More important, it in effect offers big business which already have complained that competition from small firms is "eroding" their sale of spare parts, a chance to have a "set aside" rejected merely by indicating they might bid.

Getting the best price has not necessarily been contracting officers' prime consideration. Remember \$400 hammers and \$640 toilet seats? Their main objective is to get the item delivered according to specifications and on time. It is not reasonable to expect them to jeopardize that objective by making detailed surveys and written determinations prescribed in the proposed rule change.

The OFPP says its proposal complies with the law. Congress says OFPP is misinterpreting the law. If all this has a familiar ring to it, it should. Congress last year directed IRS to change the rules on justifying the use of business vehicles for tax purposes. IRS did. However, what they issued hardly overcame what Congress objected to in the first place and Congress is again taking IRS to task.

It is no secret that the person originally designated to draft proposed legislation sent to Congress, often is the one who gets it back for interpretation once Congress passes the law. It's an easy way for the Executive Branch to circumvent Congressional directives it doesn't completely agree with.

Repealing the "rule of two" is a bad idea. It will rule thousands of small businesses out of the federal marketplace. It will destroy the "set aside" program that provides nearly half of all the contracting dollars small firms get from the government. It will likely impair to a serious degree the capital base of thousands of small businesses and worse, it will jeopardize even further the competitive position of small business and increase the concentration of federal contracting in big corporations.

If you are affected by and concerned with this proposal, be on the lookout for an announcement of its being published for public comment. Send your comments to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. You should also let your Senators and Congressman know how you feel.

Educational Literature On Animals Available

Educational literature dealing with issues of pet ownership, breeding control, hunting, trapping, and alternatives to animal research is available through Friends of Animals, Inc., the national non-profit animal protection organization.

Flyers, brochures and short pamphlets are sold at cost through the organization's administrative office in Neptune, New Jersey.

Friends of Animals, a twenty-nine year-old organization, provides a National Low-Cost Breeding Control Program for dogs and cats. For information on the low-cost "Spay Clinic" nearest you, or to receive a literature order form, call toll-free, 1-800-631-2212.

you write to us, we'll make certain your comments are passed on to the appropriate Congressional Committees for their action.

The "rule of two" was and continues to be a good rule for small business.

The National Small Business Association, is a bi-partisan, non-profit organization of small business owners, 1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 710, Washington, DC 20005.



Dr. Edward T. Ward, DMD Photo by Richard J. Brown

Dr. Edward T. Ward, DMD General Dentistry

Dr. Edward T. Ward, DMD, operates his dentistry business in downtown Portland at 610 S.W. Alder, Suite 1008. Dr. Ward has operated from this location for the past eight years. Prior to opening his dentistry office, Dr. Ward worked for the University of Oregon Dental School as an instructor in the public health division.


Dr. Ward said he enjoys having his own dental practice and would like to expand in the future. "By providing my clients with quality service at reasonable rates, I hope to increase the number of patients I serve."

Realizing that one must be knowledgeable of how to run a successful business, Dr. Ward has taken courses in Small Business Management. Ward said the courses have helped him tremendously in the operation of his business.

Dr. Ward is a Texas native and a graduate of the University of Oregon Dental School. He also has a degree in Medical Technology from North Texas State University.

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Sam Brooks...
Consulting director of the Small Business Incubator project at Cascade Campus, Sam recently was named to the prestigious National Advisory Board of Small Business Development Centers. As a board member, he will help advise the U.S. Small Business Administration on policies affecting the SBDC program nationwide.

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