

## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

WASHINGTON, DC (March 26, 2008) - The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN®) today announced that Katherine McCary of SunTrust Banks, Inc. will be appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the National Council on Disability (NCD). McCary has served as the USBLN Board Chair since 2004.

McCary, who has been employed for 18 years at SunTrust, reports to the Chairman & CEO of SunTrust Banks, Mid-Atlantic. She is responsible for SunTrust's corporate disability leadership and manages their internal disability resource center. She also serves as President of the Virginia BLN.

"Katherine's appointment to the National Council on Disability places - at the federal public policy table - a respected corporate leader of American businesses who are committed to the inclusion of Americans with disabilities in their employment and as their customers," stated John D. Kemp, Executive Director & General Counsel of the USBLN. "Her years of outstanding service as Manager of SunTrust's Accessing Community Talent, Disability Resource Center, combined with her dedication to the USBLN by serving as its Board Chair, have prepared her well for this position. NCD will surely benefit from her experience, insight and leadership."

The President intends to nominate the following individuals to be Members of the National Council on Disability:

John R. Vaughn, of Florida, and upon appointment re-designate Chairperson, for the remainder of a three-year term expiring 09/17/10; Victoria Ray Carlson, of Iowa, for the remainder of a three-year term expiring 09/17/10; Chad Colley, of Florida, for the remainder of a three-year term expiring 09/17/10; Kristen Cox, of Utah, for the remainder of a three-year term expiring 09/17/09; Marvin G. Fifield, of Utah, for the remainder of a three-year term expiring 09/17/08 and an additional three-year term expiring 09/17/11; John H. Hager, of Virginia, for the remainder of a three-year term expiring 09/17/09; Lisa Mattheiss, of Tennessee, for the remainder of a three-year term expiring 09/17/10; Katherine O. McCary, of Virginia, for the remainder of a three-year term expiring 09/17/09; Ann Rader, of Virginia, for the remainder of a three-year term expiring 09/17/10; Renee L. Tyree, of Arizona, for the remainder of a three-year term expiring 09/17/09; Tony J. Williams, of Washington, for the remainder of a three-year term expiring 09/17/09.

NCD is an independent federal agency making recommendations to the President and Congress to enhance the quality of life for all Americans with disabilities and their families. NCD is composed of 15 members appointed by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. NCD's overall purpose is to promote policies, programs, practices, and procedures that guarantee equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability; and to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.

"Today is a great day for the USBLN, NCD and everyone in corporate America who works on a daily basis to create employment opportunities for persons with disabilities," summarized Beth Butler, Wachovia Corporation's VP of Employment Compliance and USBLN Board Member: "We're confident that Katherine will bring to NCD the same level of commitment and dedication that has characterized her service to the USBLN and its board of directors."

The USBLN® is the national organization that supports development and expansion of its BLN chapters across the country, serving as their collective voice. It is the only national disability organization led by business for business. The USBLN® recognizes and promotes best practices in hiring, retaining, and marketing to people with disabilities. There are 44 Business Leadership Network chapters in 32 states, including the District of Columbia, representing more than 5,000 employers across the US. The BLN uses a business to business? approach to educate, promoting the business imperative of including people with disabilities in the workforce. Learn more at [www.usbln.org](http://www.usbln.org).

BLN Chapters are business organizations headed by a Lead Business who exemplifies these practices and shares experiences with other members-employers-within the state or region. These activities include career fairs, disability mentoring and internship programs, and training programs including disability business etiquette, accommodation, and other disability issues deemed significant to employers. Businesses join BLN chapters to learn how to expand their diversity recruiting efforts to include individuals with disabilities - not as a social model but as a business case to recruit talent and better serve their customers. BLN successes serve the workplace, the marketplace, the community and the economy. The USBLN® Vision is that every employer recognizes and benefits from the best practice of including people with disabilities in their workforce and marketplace.