



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***CPA TOM BOWMAN OF BOWMAN & CO., CPA WINS SBA ACCOUNTANT ADVOCATE AWARD***

Baltimore, MD-- The Baltimore District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration is pleased to announce that Thomas K. Bowman, President of Bowman & Company, CPA, PC has been named Accountant Advocate of the Year 2000 in the Maryland Small Business Awards Program.

Tom knew early in life that he wanted to serve others. He combined his knack for numbers with his commitment to service and began his career in accounting. After passing the CPA exam, he took a position with a regional CPA firm in Baltimore, concentrating on assisting small business. He soon realized that he not only wanted to work with more small businesses, but also wanted to be one.

In 1987, Tom opened his own CPA firm in Columbia, MD. This enabled him to spend more time doing what he enjoyed the most, working, directly with entrepreneurs. He took the plunge into entrepreneurship with little more than a brochure and a lot of heart. He gives thanks to his wife for both her support and for timing the births of each of their three children only days after tax season.

Tom's firm has grown from a home-based business to an eight-person firm, assisting over 250 start-up and small business clients. He is active in the Howard County Chamber of Commerce and works closely with the Maryland Small Business Development Center's (SBDC) Central Region Office. He is a regular presenter at the SBDC seminar "First Steps to Starting Your Own Business." Further, Tom offers pro bono services to two area non-profits and to needy small businesses, as identified by the Howard County SBDC.

Recognizing an entrepreneur's need for a support network, Tom serves as a Group Facilitator for the Howard County Chamber's Business Dialogue Program and is active in the Howard County Business Club.

Join the U.S. Small Business Administration and members of the area's small business community in honoring this year's Maryland Small Business Award Winners at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Maryland Small Business Awards Breakfast. The event will be held on Thursday, May 4, 2000 at 7:30a.m. at Martin's West in Woodlawn, MD. For more details or ticket information, contact Rachel Howard at (410) 962-4392, Ext. 319.

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