Press Releases

April 24, 1998

OTS 98-33 - OTS to Hold Conference at Citibank on Financial Urban Home Ownership

Office of Thrift Supervision

NEWS

FOR RELEASE at 3:00 p. m. EDT

Friday, April 24, 1998

OTS 98-33

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OTS to Hold Conference at Citibank on Financing Urban Home Ownership

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 24, 1998 -- Opportunities for financial institutions to participate in financing urban home ownership, its risks and rewards and successful partnering will be among the major topics of a one-day conference in New York City Wednesday, April 29, sponsored by the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) and hosted by Citibank N.A.

Featured speaker at the luncheon session will be Bill Lan Lee, acting assistant attorney general of the United States. Speaking at the morning general session will be the Rev. Floyd Flake, former U.S. Congressman, now a New York minister and community developer and activist.

OTS Director Ellen Seidman also will address the conference and chair one of the general session panels, which will focus on new home mortgage financing programs as well as currently successful ones involving smaller financial institutions and not-for-profit housing development groups in urban communities.

The conference also will feature speakers representing thrift institutions, Citibank, <u>Fannie Mae</u> and <u>Freddie Mac</u>, community groups and OTS. The first session will begin at 8:30 a.m. at Citicorp Center, 153 East 53rd Street on the 14th floor. The conference is open to the press.

This is the first of three major conferences OTS is sponsoring this year as part of its expanded community affairs program. Through its community outreach, OTS is working to help the institutions it supervises find ways, such as through consortia and partnering, to enlarge their participation in community development programs, to provide support for home ownership among low- and moderate-income families and to extend financial services to those who are currently either not served or under-served.

On August 4 and 5, the agency will cosponsor with the State of New Mexico a conference on lending on tribal lands. In mid-September, the focus will be on rural community development. That two-day conference will be in Atlanta.

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The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), a bureau of the U.S. Treasury, regulates and supervises the nation's thrift industry. OTS' mission is to ensure the safety and soundness of thrift institutions and to support their role as home mortgage lenders and providers of other community credit and financial services. For copies of news releases or other documents call PubliFax at 202/906-5660, or visit the OTS web page at www.ots.treas.gov.