



LGBT Business Owners: Apply By July 22, 2009, For A Chance To Win \$5,000!

WELLS
FARGO

NGLCC/WELLS FARGO LGBT BUSINESS OWNER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Presentation

Will take place at the NGLCC National Dinner: *An Evening of Courage*, on November 6, 2009, at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

Eligibility

To apply, you must be:

- an owner of your business for at least three (3) years, and be an active principal;
- a national member of the NGLCC; and/or member of a local affiliate chamber or business organization;
- at least 18 years of age;
- a legal resident of the U.S.; and
- in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Your business must be at least 51% LGBT-owned.

Award Background And Purpose

For the fifth consecutive year, the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) and Wells Fargo are presenting the NGLCC/Wells Fargo LGBT Business Owner of the Year Award.

As one of the NGLCC's founding corporate sponsors, Wells Fargo is committed to serving the needs of the rapidly growing community of LGBT businesses. The NGLCC is the premier national not-for-profit advocacy organization specifically dedicated to expanding financial opportunities and economic growth for the LGBT business community.

The winning LGBT-owned business and two finalists will be recognized at the NGLCC National Dinner: *An Evening of Courage*, on November 6, 2009 in Washington, D.C. The dinner will honor their entrepreneurial spirit as demonstrated by business performance, innovation, growth, and the owners' personal service to the community. **The winning business will receive a cash grant of \$5,000.**

Evaluation Criteria

Please answer all of the following questions about yourself and your business. Limit your responses to three (3) pages total. Enclose your responses with a brief personal biography (limit to 1–2 paragraphs) and the application form located on the back of this page.

- 1) Describe your business and its product(s) and/or service(s). What sets your business, and its product(s) and/or service(s), apart from others?
- 2) What is your basic philosophy in conducting your business? What makes your business successful? Include your business mission statement, if available.
- 3) Why did you start your business? What do you consider your greatest accomplishments as a business owner? What obstacles (if any) did you have to overcome as an LGBT business owner?
- 4) What benefits does your business provide to your: a) customers, b) employees, c) community, (including the LGBT community and other LGBT businesses) and d) industry? Include specific examples.
- 5) Why do you think you should receive the NGLCC/Wells Fargo LGBT Business Owner of the Year Award? How will you use the funds?
- 6) Please provide two (2) letters of recommendation attesting to the quality of your business operations. Letters should demonstrate appreciation and support for you and your company, and should be from any of the following: bankers, customers, employees, and/or community organizations. Each letter of recommendation must include a signature and contact information.

Advancing
Innovation

Strengthening
Equality



NGLCC/WELLS FARGO LGBT BUSINESS OWNER OF THE YEAR AWARD

How to Apply

1. Complete and sign this application form.
2. Answer all questions within three (3) typed pages.
3. Submit a brief biography of yourself (limit to 1–2 paragraphs).
4. Submit four (4) copies of all materials.
5. Submit all application materials, postmarked by July 22, 2009, to:

NGLCC/Wells Fargo

LGBT Business Owner of the Year Award

1612 U Street, NW, Suite 408
Washington, D.C. 20009

Details

1. Applications will be reviewed by a judging committee from NGLCC and Wells Fargo.
2. The winner will be notified by September, 2009. Upon notification, the winner will be required to complete and sign a Publicity Release, an Affidavit of Eligibility, and to provide a professional-quality high resolution electronic format (e.g. jpeg at 300 dpi) color photograph for promotional purposes within five days, or prize will be forfeited and awarded to an alternative entrant. Photos will not be returned.
3. Prize is not transferrable. Federal, state, and local taxes and any expenses related to acceptance and use of the prize not specified are the responsibility of the winner.
4. The NGLCC/Wells Fargo LGBT Business Owner of the Year Award will be presented at the NGLCC Annual Dinner: *An Evening of Courage*, on November 6, 2009, at the National Building Museum, in Washington, D.C. The presence of the winner is strongly encouraged. Travel, lodging, and expenses are the sole responsibility of the winner.

Questions

Please contact NGLCC at
businessaward@nglcc.org or
(202) 234-9181

Application Form Due July 22, 2009

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Owner's Legal Name (under which tax returns are filed) _____

Percentage of LGBT Ownership (must be at least 51% to be eligible) _____

Business Name _____ Date Established (MM/YYYY) _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail Address _____

Annual Revenue (for each of the past three years) _____

Number of Employees _____ Number of Owners _____

Type of Ownership (sole proprietor/partnership/corporation/trust/other) _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NGLCC and/or Local Affiliate and Year Joined (if applicable) _____

Other Business Organizations and Year Joined (if applicable) _____

References (name/phone number/e-mail address)

#1 _____

#2 _____

How did you hear about the award? Please provide name of banker, other individual, or organization.

DISCLOSURE AND AGREEMENT

Applications become the property of NGLCC and Wells Fargo, and will not be returned. Each application will be verified for accuracy of information. The information contained in the application, in whole or in part, may be used by NGLCC or Wells Fargo for media informational purposes; however, all financial information will be held strictly confidential. The applicant authorizes NGLCC and Wells Fargo to use the awardee's pictures, likeness, name and all other information set forth in the application and personal interviews in articles, third-party publications (such as magazines, newspapers, and electronic media), and for advertising or promotional purposes. All financial information will be specifically excluded from publication.

The applicant also authorizes NGLCC and Wells Fargo through a qualified third party to conduct a background check on the applicant and his/her co-owners. Winning this award does not influence credit lending decisions in any way. All applications for credit are subject to credit approval. Failure to sign this form will disqualify your application.

By participating, entrants agree to: a.) the award rules and the decisions of the judges and of Wells Fargo, which shall be final in all respects; and b.) release, discharge, and hold harmless NGLCC, Wells Fargo & Company, their respective subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, and employees, from any liability, claims, or damages arising out of their participation in the contest and the acceptance, use, misuse, or possession of any prize.

NGLCC and Wells Fargo are not responsible for printing of typographical errors in any award-related materials; or for stolen, lost, late, misdirected, damaged, incomplete, illegible entries. NGLCC and Wells Fargo reserve the right to cancel or modify the contest if fraud or technical failures compromise the integrity of the contest as determined by NGLCC and Wells Fargo in their sole discretion.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____