



NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR
CREDIT COUNSELING

*Knowing the difference can
make all the difference.*

NFCC PRESS RELEASE

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NFCC HONORS ACHIEVEMENTS IN FINANCIAL LITERACY

Making the Difference Award to be Bestowed on National Leaders

Silver Spring, MD – Making a difference is the definition of a life well-lived. The National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) is proud to recognize three people who have done exactly that. The NFCC's Making the Difference Award honors individuals who have made a significant contribution to assisting consumers with financial literacy, awareness and education.

At its upcoming Annual Leaders Conference to be held in Washington, DC from September 14-16, the NFCC will honor the following distinguished and deserving leaders with their 2009 Making the Difference Awards:

- **Jean Chatzky**, award-winning journalist and best-selling author, is the financial editor for NBC's *Today*, a contributing editor for *More Magazine*, a columnist for *The New York Daily News*, and a contributor to *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Chatzky's tireless commitment to financially educating struggling consumers across the country everyday through her newspaper and magazine columns, TV and radio programs, and books is a testament to her advocacy for millions of hard working Americans who are faced with unprecedented financial challenges. Her genuine concern for the financial well-being of consumers made her an obvious choice for this award.
- **Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)** has championed legislation on a variety of topics related to improving the financial literacy of Americans. The Congresswoman has been a part of introducing or amending legislation requiring financial education for those receiving federal assistance through the Affordable Housing Fund; allowing banking institutions to receive Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) credit for offering financial literacy programs in the communities they serve; establishing incentives for small businesses and corporations to offer their employees free financial education; and expanding the availability of the Internal Revenue Service's Taxpayer Assistance Centers. Johnson has a deep understanding of the problems facing her constituents and all Americans, and effectively uses her position to advance financial literacy through legislation.

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- **Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan** shares the NFCC's vision to create a national culture of financial responsibility and has made consumer protection and financial literacy a top priority. Under Madigan's stewardship, the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's office has established a national reputation for aggressively safeguarding consumers from fraud and unsafe products. Most recently, Madigan has clamped down on unscrupulous debt settlement companies in her state which were misleading unsuspecting consumers. She steadfastly stands between consumers and those out to harm them, including those who intend to inflict financial harm.

“It is our privilege to recognize these professionals for their outstanding accomplishments,” said Susan C. Keating, president and CEO of the NFCC. “They have each advanced financial literacy and consumer protection through their professional channels. We, individually and as a country, benefit from their passion and dedication to improving lives through financial education.”

Members of the media interested in attending the conference should contact Gail Cunningham at (940) 691-6322 (direct), or (240) 672-2700 (cell), or via email at gcunningham@nfcc.org to obtain credentials and a conference program. *Note: Some sessions are for NFCC Members only.*

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The National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC), founded in 1951, is the nation's largest and longest serving national nonprofit credit counseling organization. The NFCC's mission is to promote the national agenda for financially responsible behavior and build capacity for its members to deliver the highest quality financial education and counseling services. NFCC Members annually help more than three million consumers through close to 850 community-based offices nationwide. For free and affordable confidential advice through a reputable NFCC Member, call (800) 388-2227, (en Español (800) 682-9832) or visit www.nfcc.org.