

## Financial Federal Honored For Lender Quality

Wells Fargo has honored one of the local financial institutions with which it does business.

Financial Federal has received a Lender Quality Award, the first Wells Fargo has given out in the Memphis area.

The award was based on a broad array of metrics that make up Financial Federal's lending activity, such as the quality of its loans, and was happily embraced by the bank, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

Chief information officer Madeline McDonald said, "It rewards our strong volume of business and reflects the quality of our processing, closing, and loan performance post closing."

– [Andy Meek](#)

## Thomas & Betts To Acquire PMA AG

Memphis-based [Thomas & Betts Corp.](#) has agreed to acquire PMA AG for about \$120 million.

PMA AG is a privately held European manufacturer of technologically advanced cable protection systems.

The acquisition is expected to close within 60 days. PMA reported sales of about \$45 million in 2009.

Dominic J. Pileggi, chief executive officer at Thomas & Betts, said the acquisition will allow the company to extend its reach into markets in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

– [Tom Wilemon](#)

## Immigration Court Overburdened, Cases Stalled

Memphis' immigration court has such a heavy caseload that immigrants requesting hearings now are being scheduled to appear in 2011.

The Tennessean reports the court – which handles most immigration matters in Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky and the northern half of Mississippi – had only two judges to handle about 3,500 cases in 2008, the most recent year for which data are available.

Things went from bad to worse about four weeks ago when the court lost one of those judges. Now it is forced to rely on a rotating cast of judges from around the country who hear cases by videoconference.

Republican U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker and Democratic U.S. Rep. [Jim Cooper](#) have all asked the U.S. Justice Department to create a new immigration court in Nashville to help alleviate the problem.

– *The Associated Press*

## Black Business Assn. Names Benny Award Winners

The Black Business Association has announced the recipients of the 2010 Benny Awards.

Taylor Brown Apothecary received the Business of the Year award. Total Control Logistics received the New Business of the Year award. Charles Whitsy, an accountant, was honored with the Business Professional award.

McDonald Plumbing received the Service Provider award. Pete Mitchell & Associates won the Professional Service award, and Renaissance Business Center earned the Business Facility award.

Chism-Hardy Bottling received the Woman-Owned Business award. Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division received the Business Development award.

Methodist Healthcare was honored with the Business Purchasing award, and [FedEx Corp.](#) received the Corporate Involvement award.

Olivet Baptist Church/BAMM received the Community Involvement award.

– [Tom Wilemon](#)

## Reddy Appointed Admin Of GSA Southeast Region

Shyam Reddy has been appointed regional administrator of GSA's Southeast Region by the U.S. General Services Administration, effective March 29.

Reddy will oversee all of GSA's operations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, including management of federal real estate and information technology.

Reddy most recently worked as a partner at the Atlanta law firm [Kilpatrick Stockton LLP](#) in its Corporate Group, where he led negotiations involving financial, employment, tax and structuring issues.

While at Kilpatrick, Reddy held positions on the University of Georgia College of Public Health Board of Advisers, the Common Cause of Georgia board of directors and the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

Reddy also received the 2007 Marshall Memorial Fellowship.

– [Taylor Shoptaw](#)

## Tennessee Prosecutors Target Teen Pregnancy

Schoolchildren throughout Tennessee this spring will hear about the consequences of teen pregnancy from an unlikely group: the state's prosecutors.

Posters and videos will avoid controversial issues like sex, birth control and abstinence.

Instead, the campaign will focus on pointing out hardships, such as having to pay child support as a teenager, that often come with being a teen parent.

– *The Associated Press*