

Thomas Beckett's Candidate Statement:

It is a great honor to be considered as a candidate for the NCBA CLUSA Board of Directors, but also a greater personal challenge. My path through life has made me a true believer in the cooperative way. As an attorney working with people trying to improve their economic circumstances by starting their own businesses, through the study of business and finance and from my internal sense of justice, it became apparent to me that the incumbent economic structures are failing the vast majority of people in the world.

The cooperative movement in the United States stands at an important juncture in the history of our country. There is greater desire now, and greater need, for cooperative approaches to economic failures. Our movement has a tremendous opportunity to permeate the nation's economy and to benefit more communities than ever before.

Cooperative economics is not easy, and not a panacea. But cooperative economics occur at the human level. Cooperation permits people to retain a greater share of the value created by their own efforts. Cooperation requires us to use the better aspects of human nature. Cooperation can truly be achieved, at home and abroad. More importantly, our association must actively seek engagement with communities of color, and bring the perspective of the great variety of culture, color, gender and social class into everything we do. This I pledge to pursue.