

**DIRECT
WOMEN**



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DIRECTWOMEN SELECTS TOP WOMEN LAWYERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION FOR BOARD INSTITUTE

CHICAGO, Dec. 3, 2007— DirectWomen announced today the 20 members of the 2008 DirectWomen Board Institute, a workshop designed to develop and support the placement of women lawyers on corporate boards of major public companies. The Institute will be held Feb. 20-22 at the Waldorf=Astoria in New York.

The Institute and the Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award honoring women lawyers' exemplary corporate board leadership are part of the DirectWomen initiative, a collaboration between Catalyst and the American Bar Association Section of Business Law. The initiative identifies, develops, and supports accomplished women lawyers for service on U.S. corporate boards, while also promoting the independence and diversity required for optimal corporate governance.

"DirectWomen is a great program, providing an excellent overview of the responsibilities and duties of corporate directors as well as practical advice on the logistics and networks that actually lead to board opportunities," said Mary Cranston, the first DirectWomen Board Institute alumna to be appointed to a corporate board. "I'm looking forward to sharing my experiences with this new group of dynamic women in New York."

The members of the 2008 DirectWomen Board Institute are:

Priscilla Almodovar— president and chief executive officer, New York State Housing Finance Agency/State of New York Mortgage Agency, New York

Virginia L. Aronson—partner, Sidley Austin LLP, Chicago

Emily Berlin—senior managing director, Helm Holdings International, Inc., Miami

Sharon Y. Bowen—partner, Latham & Watkins, LLP, New York

Shirley Hanna Buccieri—retired former partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, Menlo Park, Calif.

Rhea Kemble Dignam—principal, Ernst & Young, New York

Lena Genello Goldberg—executive vice president, Strategic Corporate Initiatives, FMR LLC/Fidelity Investments, Boston

Carol Graebner—executive vice president and general counsel, H&R Block, Inc., Kansas City, Mo.

Alyce C. Halchak—director, Corporate Department, Gibbons P.C., Newark, N.J.

Elizabeth Holtzman—counsel, Herrick, Feinstein LLP, New York

Julie M. Jacobs—senior vice president and deputy general counsel, AOL LLC, Dulles, Va.

Sheila M. McDevitt—retired senior vice president-general counsel and chief legal officer, TECO Energy, Inc., Tampa, Fla.

Judith D. O’Neill—shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, New York

Marla S. Persky—vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary, Boehringer Ingelheim Corporation, Ridgefield, Conn.

Helen Pomerantz Pudlin—senior vice president and general counsel, The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., Pittsburgh

Jennifer J. Raab—president, Hunter College, City University of New York, New York

Karen H. Rothenberg—dean and Marjorie Cook Professor of Law, University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore

Marianne D. Short—partner, Dorsey & Whitney LLP, Minneapolis, Minn.

Christine J. Spadafor—chief executive officer, St. Jude’s Ranch for Children, Boulder City, Nev.

Alice Young—partner, Kaye Scholer LLP, New York

The DirectWomen Board Institute will culminate with an awards luncheon recognizing a distinguished list of six women lawyers currently serving as corporate directors and the companies on whose boards they serve on Feb. 22 at the Waldorf=Astoria.

For more information about DirectWomen, visit www.DirectWomen.org.

Founded in 1962, Catalyst is the leading nonprofit corporate membership research and advisory organization working globally with businesses and the professions to build inclusive environments and expand opportunities for women *and* business. With offices in New York, San Jose, Toronto, and Zug, and the support and confidence of more than 340 leading corporations, firms, business schools, and associations, Catalyst is connected to business and its changing needs and is the premier resource for information and data about women in the workplace. In addition, Catalyst honors exemplary business initiatives that promote women’s leadership with the annual Catalyst Award.

The American Bar Association Section of Business Law is one of the ABA’s largest sections, bringing together 60,000 members from 65 countries to address all aspects of corporate, financial and transactional practice. Through its continuing legal education programs, publications and leadership in the development and improvement of the law, the Section is committed to assisting its members as they serve their clients around the globe and meet the challenges of the evolving global economy.

With more than 413,000 members, the American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law.