

**DIRECT
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DIRECTWOMEN ANNOUNCES 2009 SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR BOARD EXCELLENCE AWARD HONOREES

CHICAGO, Sept. 8, 2009—DirectWomen announced the five recipients of the 2009 Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award. The award honors women lawyers who have served with distinction as independent directors of public companies and have advanced the goal of diversity in the boardroom. These distinguished directors, as well as the companies on whose boards they have served, will be recognized at a luncheon on Oct. 30, 2009 at the Waldorf=Astoria in New York City.

The Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award Luncheon is the culmination of the two-day DirectWomen Board Institute, a program designed to identify and promote qualified women lawyers to serve on corporate boards of public companies.

DirectWomen is an initiative of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section and Catalyst. It supports accomplished women lawyers for service on U.S. corporate boards, while also promoting the independence and diversity required for good corporate governance.

The 2009 Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award honorees are:

Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky, Washington, D.C.—Director of American Express Company, The Estée Lauder Companies Inc., Intel Corporation and Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

Edith E. Holiday, Washington, D.C.—Director of Hess Corporation, H.J. Heinz Company, RTI International Metals, Inc., Canadian National Railway Company, White Mountains Insurance Group, Ltd., and director or trustee of various investment companies in the Franklin Templeton Group of Mutual Funds

Suzanne Nora Johnson, Santa Monica, CA—Director of American International Group, Inc., Intuit Inc., Pfizer Inc. and Visa Inc.

G.G. Michelson, New York, NY—Former director of General Electric Company, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, The Chubb Corporation, The Stanley Works, The Quaker Oats Company and Rand Capital Corporation

Deborah C. Wright, New York, NY—Director of Carver Bancorp, Inc., Kraft Foods Inc. and Time Warner Inc.

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

Founded in 1962, Catalyst is the leading nonprofit membership organization working globally with businesses and the professions to build inclusive workplaces and expand opportunities for women and business. With offices in the United States, Canada, and Europe, and more than 400 preeminent corporations as members, Catalyst is the trusted resource for research, information

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and advice about women at work. Catalyst annually honors exemplary organizational initiatives that promote women's advancement with the Catalyst Award.

With approximately 60,000 members, the ABA Section of Business Law is one of the association's largest sections. It provides business lawyers with education and analysis that furthers their development and improvement of business law while helping its members serve their clients competently, efficiently and professionally. Additionally, the section serves as the ABA forum that determines policy positions on laws and regulations that govern business and commerce with members and committees routinely engaged in activities that shape and refine the law.