

**Media Contacts:**

Sarah Gevlin

[sgevlin@directwomen.org](mailto:sgevlin@directwomen.org)

518-929-4077

Bobbi Liebenberg

[rliebenberg@finekaplan.com](mailto:rliebenberg@finekaplan.com)

215-567-6565

**DirectWomen To Host 6th Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Awards Luncheon  
On June 5, 2015 In New York City At Waldorf Astoria Hotel**

*Organization Formed To Position Women Lawyers To Serve On Boards Of Public Companies  
Will Honor Women And Corporations That Have Advanced Board Diversity*

NEW YORK —DirectWomen, the only organization that focuses on increasing the representation of women lawyers on boards of public companies, will host its 6<sup>th</sup> Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Awards Luncheon. The Luncheon will be held June 5, 2015 in New York City at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

The Luncheon is one of the highlights of DirectWomen's programming. In addition to the Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award, the inaugural DirectWomen Board Diversity and Rising Star Awards will also be presented.

**The inaugural Board Diversity Award recipients are General Electric Company and The Procter & Gamble Company.** General Electric Company's award will be accepted by **Jeffrey R. Immelt**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GE. The Procter & Gamble Company's award will be accepted by **Dr. Susan Desmond-Hellmann**, Director of The Procter & Gamble Company and Facebook Inc. and Chief Executive Officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This award honors corporations that have served as leaders in the effort to achieve board diversity, as illustrated by the critical mass of women directors on their boards and their strong commitment to diversity in the boardroom, the C-Suite, and the company.

**The first Rising Star Award Honoree is Deborah Platt Majoras**, Director of Valero Energy Corporation and Chief Legal Officer and Secretary of The Procter & Gamble Company. Deborah was a member of DirectWomen's 2011 Board Institute Class. The Rising Star Award honors a Board Institute alumna who exemplifies the talents and accomplishments of DirectWomen's alumnae, and who has joined at least one large corporate board since completing the Institute.

**This year's Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award honorees are Pamela Thomas-Graham**, Director of The Clorox Company and Chief Marketing and Talent Officer and Head of Private Banking & Wealth Management New Markets at Credit Suisse AG; **Frances Fragos Townsend**, Director of The Western Union Company, Scientific Games Corporation, and Freeport-McMoRan Inc., and Executive Vice President, Worldwide Government, Legal and Business Affairs at MacAndrews & Forbes Incorporated; and **Ann M. Veneman**, Director of Alexion Pharmaceuticals and Nestlé S.A., Former United States Secretary of Agriculture, and Former Executive Director, UNICEF. The O'Connor Award is presented to women lawyers who have served with distinction on public company boards and who have advanced the value of diversity in the workplace.

This year's luncheon will be held on Friday, June 5, 2015, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel located at 301 Park Avenue in New York City. Tickets range from \$500 for an individual ticket to tables priced between \$5,000 and \$25,000. For further information about the event, tickets, or sponsorship, please contact Sarah Gevlin at (518) 929-4077 or [sgevlin@directwomen.org](mailto:sgevlin@directwomen.org).

Platinum sponsors of the event are Ballard Spahr LLP, Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP; Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, Exelis Inc., General Electric Company, MacAndrews & Forbes Incorporated, Norton Rose Fulbright, The Procter & Gamble Company, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, Squire Patton Boggs, Washington University School of Law, and Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.

#### QUOTES:

“It is no longer debatable that having more women in the boardroom is good for business and also results in an increased pipeline of women in corporate leadership. DirectWomen is delighted to honor leading corporations and highly accomplished women lawyer directors who have made a significant contribution to increased gender equality on corporate boards. We will continue to play a major role in accelerating board opportunities for qualified and experienced women lawyers.” – Bobbi Liebenberg, DirectWomen Chair

#### ABOUT:

The mission of DirectWomen is to increase the representation of women lawyers on corporate boards. DirectWomen identifies, develops, and supports a growing group of accomplished women attorneys who provide the experience, independence and diversity required for good corporate governance. Partners of the program include Catalyst, the leading nonprofit membership organization expanding opportunities for women and business, and the American Bar Association’s Commission on Women in the Profession.