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Media Contact: Suzanne Cibotti
Phone: (312) 988-6142
E-mail: cibottis@staff.abanet.org
Online: www.abanews.org

DIRECTWOMEN ANNOUNCES 2008 SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR BOARD EXCELLENCE AWARD HONOREES

CHICAGO, Dec. 3, 2007—DirectWomen announced today the six recipients of the 2008 Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award honoring women lawyers who have served with distinction as independent directors of public companies and have worked to advance the value of diversity in board positions. These distinguished women board members, as well as the companies on whose boards they serve, will be recognized at a luncheon on Feb. 22 at the Waldorf=Astoria in New York.

The Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award luncheon will cap off the DirectWomen Board Institute, a workshop designed to develop and support the placement of women lawyers on corporate boards of major public companies.

The DirectWomen initiative is 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.

The 2008 Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award honorees are:

Betsy Z. Cohen, Philadelphia— Serving on Aetna Inc. and RAIT Financial Trust

Janiece M. Longoria, Houston—Serving on CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and Port of Houston Authority

Linda Koch Lorimer, New Haven, Conn.—Serving on The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. and Sprint Nextel Corporation

Catherine A. Rein, New York—Serving on The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation and FirstEnergy Corp.

Toni Rembe, San Francisco—Serving on AEGON N.V. and AT&T Inc.

Karen Hastie Williams, Washington, D.C.—Serving on The Chubb Corporation, Continental Airlines, Inc., Gannett Company, Inc., SunTrust Banks, Inc. and WGL Holdings, Inc.

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.

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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.

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