



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DirectWomen Announces 2017 Honorees

NEW YORK —DirectWomen, whose mission is to promote women lawyers for service on the boards of public companies, is pleased to announce its 2017 Honorees. The Honorees will be recognized at the Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award Luncheon on October 20, 2017 in New York City.

The Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award is awarded to a woman who has served with distinction on the board of a public company and has advanced the value of diversity in the workplace. The 2017 Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award will be awarded to **Patricia Diaz Dennis, Esq.**, former Senior Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, AT&T and Director of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, Entravision Communications Corporation, and United States Steel Corporation; and **Gail A. Lione, Esq.**, Senior Counsel at Dentons, former Executive Vice-President and General Counsel at Harley-Davidson, Inc. and Director, Badger Meter Inc, Sargento Foods and The F. Dohmen Co.

The **Board Diversity 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. **Visa, Inc.** will be presented with the 2017 Board Diversity Award for its demonstrated commitment to gender diverse boards.

The Distinguished Alumnae Award, first awarded in 2015, honors a DirectWomen Board Institute Alumna who exemplifies the talents and accomplishments of our Alumnae, and has joined at least one large corporate board since completing the Institute. The 2017 Distinguished Alumnae Award will be presented to Class of 2008 alumna **Alice Young, Esq.**, Founder, Alice Young Advisory LLC, Retired Partner and Chair of the Asia Pacific Practice, Kaye Scholer LLP (now Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP) and Director, AXIS Capital Holdings, Ltd. and Mizuho Trust & Banking Co. (USA).

The Mary Ann Jorgenson Board Empowerment Award will be presented to **Mary B. Cranston, Esq.**, retired Partner and Past Chair of Pillsbury and Director at Visa, Inc., Chemours, MyoKardia and CSAA Insurance Group. This newly established award honors a woman lawyer who has advanced the goal of DirectWomen to prepare women attorneys for board service and to increase the number of women on the boards of public companies.

About DirectWomen

The mission of DirectWomen is to increase the representation of women lawyers on public company 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 in business, and the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession.

www.DirectWomen.org