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MEDIA CONTACT:
Nneka Egwuatu, 678-613-2536

Advocacy for Action and GABWA Continue Community Discussion on Georgia's Judicial Diversity *Advocacy organizations partner to present Macon seminar*

Macon, Ga., Jan. XX, 2014- Advocacy for Action, an organization that educates the public on the importance of a diverse judiciary and strategies for achieving that goal, and the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA), a voluntary bar organization focused on the enrichment and empowerment of women and advocating for children's issues, have partnered to facilitate a discussion of diversity in Georgia's judiciary. The two organizations will host "Diversity on the Bench" in Macon on Feb. 22.

"The seminar is a unique opportunity for the community to find out about their elected and appointed judiciary," Suzy Ockleberry, Advocacy for Action co-convener, explained. "It is imperative in 2014 and beyond that the community knows about the judges, and understands the ways in which we can influence who sits on the court. We must become proactive in obtaining a bench with the best and brightest legal minds that is also reflective of the rich diversity of our state. This is a 'must attend' event for everyone."

The seminar will feature panel discussions on the changing judicial landscape and the plan of action for 2014 and beyond. Speakers will include Georgia Congressman Tyrone Brooks, U.S. Congressman Sanford Bishop Jr. and Macon City Councilmember Elaine Lucas. Attendees will also hear a special message from Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League, and a keynote speech from Reverend Carlton Johnson of Macedonia Baptist Church in Macon.

"It is critical that we have African-American women serve on the bench," Tracee R. Benzo, president of GABWA, added. "As practicing lawyers, we need judges who 'get it.' We need judges that understand the struggles of the average citizen. We need judges that know what discrimination feels like. We need judges that have an array of backgrounds which inherently make it easier to understand the legal issues before them. GABWA's goal is to ensure that the Georgia bench reflects the population it serves."

“Diversity on the Bench” will take place 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Feb. 22. It will be held at New Pilgrim Missionary, located at 4388 Robinson Rd. in Macon. To pre-register or for more information, please visit www.advocacyforaction.com.

About Advocacy for Action

Advocacy for Action, Inc. is primarily dedicated to educating the community about the importance of and how to achieve a diverse and representative judiciary in Georgia. Action for Action Fund was formed to raise funds for and in support of diverse candidates seeking judicial offices throughout Georgia. The goal of both of the AFA organizations is to create a more diverse and representative judiciary in the State of Georgia. For more information, visit www.advocacyforaction.com.

About GABWA

GABWA was founded in 1981 by a group of African American women who desired to form a voluntary bar organization with a focus on women and children’s issues, increasing black female representation in the judiciary and in public offices, and taking a proactive stance on political issues. Today, GABWA has an active membership of nearly 700 women and men who strive each day to fulfill the organization’s mission: to nurture, support and galvanize the power of Black women attorneys, advocate for women and children and empower our communities. In furtherance of this mission, GABWA has successfully spearheaded several signature programs that have had a profound impact in Georgia, including its *Legally Speaking* television show, *Sister to Sister* Mentoring Program and its Professional Development Academy.

For more information, visit www.gabwa.org.

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