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***Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys Names 2014
Founders' Award Winners***

ATLANTA, June 23, 2014- The Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA), a 33-year-old voluntary bar organization focused on the enrichment and empowerment of women and advocating for children's issues, recently announced the winners of its 2014 Founders' Awards. The Founders' Awards were established in 2006 to recognize the accomplishments of women and organizations that embody the mission of GABWA and the legacy of its founders: Former Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears, Judge Bensonetta Tipton Lane and Judge Barbara A. Harris.

"This year's GABWA Founders' Award recipients are truly reflective of our mission as envisioned by our founders, Justice Leah Ward Sears, Judge Barbara Harris and Judge Bensonetta Tipton Lane," Tracee Benzo, GABWA President, explained. "At its core, GABWA is rooted in professional excellence and service to the community. This year's recipients are recognized as trailblazers and leaders in the legal, political and social justice arenas and that leadership is distinguished by a commitment to excellence in both professional and community service-related pursuits. GABWA is immensely pleased to recognize and present this year's Founders' Award recipients to the legal and professional communities in Atlanta and throughout the state of Georgia."

The 2014 award winners are as follows:

- Leah Ward Sears Award for Distinction in the Profession- Given for outstanding contribution to the advancement of black women in the legal profession.

Winner: Paula Frederick, General Counsel for the State Bar of Georgia





- Barbara A. Harris Award for Service to the Community- Given for significant impact on the social, political and economic equality of minorities and women.
Winner: Noni Ellison Southall, Assistant General Counsel for Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.
- Bensonetta Tipton Lane Award for Commitment to the Family- Given for use of professional and personal leadership to strengthen the community through family and child-related programs and initiatives.
Winner: Judge Glenda Hatchett
- Zenith Award for Distinction in the Profession (Individual)- Given for achievement of a high level of professional success and extraordinary service to black women and children through both professional and personal leadership.
Winner: Teri Plummer McClure, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for United Parcel Service, Inc.
- Zenith Award for Service to the Community (Organization)- Given for exceptional leadership in serving the community by taking a leading role in enhancing the welfare, health, education or political or financial empowerment of minority communities.
Winner: Hosea Feed the Hungry
- Zenith Political Action Award- Given for significant impact on the political landscape at the local, state or national level by advancing the political interests of groups that have been historically underserved, such as minorities, women and children.
Winner: Representative Mary Margaret Oliver, Georgia House of Representatives, District 82





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The winners will be honored on June 28, 2014 at the GABWA and GABWA Foundation's annual fundraiser, the Glitter Gala and Auction. The event will be held at the Ritz-Carlton Atlanta, located at 181 Peachtree Street, N.E., in Atlanta. Proceeds from the Glitter Gala and Auction support the GABWA Foundation's award-winning charitable projects. For more information, visit www.gabwa.org.

About GABWA and the GABWA Foundation

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, its Professional Development Academy, and its Judicial and Public Office Academy.

The GABWA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that was formed in May 1983 to facilitate GABWA's charitable and educational activities. Like GABWA, the GABWA Foundation's mission is to provide services to the community that further the interests of women and children throughout Georgia and that increase the representation of black women in the legal profession. The GABWA Foundation has a number of long-standing, award-winning programs such as the Civil Pro Bono Wills Project, a partnership between the GABWA Foundation and the Atlanta Legal Aid Society in which volunteer attorneys assist clients afflicted with cancer, HIV and AIDS with Last Will and Testaments and Advance Directives, and the Sister to Sister Mentoring Program, a program designed to assist at-risk girls, which this year will service 25 young ladies with the assistance of 13 volunteer mentors. The GABWA Foundation also awards scholarships to African

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American female law school students, who since 2003 have received more than \$200,000 in scholarships.

For more information, visit www.gabwa.org.

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