



THE GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF BLACK WOMEN ATTORNEYS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Tracee R. Benzo Named President of
Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys***

ATLANTA, Jan. 13, 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 elected attorney Tracee R. Benzo as its new president. Benzo will lead the organization through 2014 under the theme of "Honoring Our Past...Envisioning Our Future."

"I am truly humbled that I have been entrusted with the awesome task of serving as GABWA's president," Benzo stated. "This year's theme acknowledges that we must know our history in order to have a clear vision for our future. Our plans for 2014 include releasing a GABWA documentary entitled 'Her Story' that discusses the legacy of Georgia black female attorneys. And we will focus on increasing black female representation in the state's judiciary."

Benzo is a partner in the Worker's Compensation group at Hasner Law, LLC. With offices in Atlanta and Savannah, she represents injured workers across Georgia. Benzo is currently a participant in the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association's Leadership, Education & Advanced Direction (L.E.A.D.) program and serves in the New Lawyers

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division. Additionally, she has been an executive board member of the Gate City Bar Association and is a 2010 graduate of the Young Lawyers Leadership Academy. Benzo earned her bachelor's degree from Clemson University and her juris doctor from John Marshall Law School, where she was a member of the award-winning mock trial and moot court teams and Legislative Review editor for the John Marshall Law Review.

"As a first generation college student, I am ecstatic to lead this great organization," Benzo added. "Regardless of where you are in life, I want others to realize your present circumstances do not determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start. We should all commit to a life of service. "

All of the new executive board members will be installed on January 16. The installation ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. at the Blackburn Conference Center at John Marshall Law School. The school is located at 1405 Spring St NW, in Atlanta, Ga.

The 2014 GABWA executive board officers are:

President	Tracee R. Benzo	President-Elect	Adwoa Seymour
Vice-President	Janet C. Scott	Member-at-Large	Brenda Raspberry
Member-at-Large	Tori Silas	Student Member-at-Large	Mary-Anne Uzoka
Treasurer	Tammra S. Mitchell	Secretary	Cherri L. Shelton
Assistant Secretary	Liz Brown	Parliamentarian	Rita Treadwell

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Historian	Aleta McLaurin	VP of Technology White	Stacee Burton
VP of Albany	Alfreda Sheppard	VP of Augusta	Amanda Heath
VP Columbus	Katonga L. Wright	VP of Macon	Jana J. Edmondson Cooper
VP of Savannah	Denise M. Cooper		

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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