



THE GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF BLACK WOMEN ATTORNEYS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GABWA Hosts Interactive Lean In (Or Out) Forum With Corporate Experts from Various Industries

ATLANTA, March 14, 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, will host an interactive "Lean In (Or Out)" forum on March 20. Inspired by Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg's book "Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead," the panel will bring together professionals from around the country to discuss how they did or did not "lean in" to every leadership and career opportunity to achieve success.

"This is a conversation that is taking place across America," Tracee Benzo, GABWA President, stated. "Notwithstanding the gender biases that still operate in the workplace, to achieve success do women need to change their approach and 'lean in' to the established workplace structure or chart our own course by creating opportunities for ourselves? GABWA will give its members, and professionals from every industry, the opportunity to have this candid discussion."

The panelists will be:

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- Kate Cole - President of Cinnabon, Inc.
- Patrise Perkins-Hooker - Vice President and General Counsel of Atlanta Beltline, Inc./President-Elect of the State Bar of Georgia
- Bizunesh Scott – Partner, Steptoe (formerly Special Advisor to President Obama, Chief General Counsel to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) at the Department of Transportation, and Interim General Counsel and Secretary of Golfsmith International Holdings, Inc.)
- The Honorable Linda T. Walker - Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court of Northern Georgia
- Christopher Allison - Director of Adolescent Education of the NBA Players Association
- Kevin Finke - Vice President of Global Brand Management at NCR Corporation and Co-Founder and Chief Storyteller at Experience Willow

Brianna Williams, Founder and CEO at Mélange and Of Counsel at Stokes Wagner, will moderate the discussion.

“The forum will explore whether the methodologies in the book work in the real world from the perspective of both men and women who have excelled in their careers,” Benzo added. “It’s rare when such an impressive group of personalities are willing to share their perspectives freely in an intimate forum such as this, so this will be an invaluable experience for all attendees.”

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The event will take place at the office of Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, LLP from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. It is located at 999 Peachtree Street NE in Atlanta. Please RSVP by sending an email to RSVP@gabwa.org.

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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