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5th Annual Women of Color Empowerment Conference To Host Historic Firsts, Expand to Full Weekend of Events

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (August 1, 2015) – Paulette Brown, Esq., who will be the first African-American woman to serve as president in the 136-year history of the American Bar Association, has been announced as the morning keynote speaker for the 5th Annual Women of Color Empowerment Conference (WOCEC). The WOCEC’s main day of leadership presentations and expert breakout panels takes place on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at Bahia Mar Resort & Spa in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Brown’s address on “Owning Your Worth” will be among her first public presentations following the induction of this powerhouse attorney to the presidency of the 400,000-member bar association.

In addition to Brown, more than 20 other accomplished presenters from the corporate, health, technology, wealth-building and public policy sectors will appear. Other speaker highlights include Gina Paige, founder of African Ancestry, Inc., who will present live a genealogy of two audience members; and two-time Emmy nominee Judge Glenda Hatchett, whose career includes success as an attorney, judge, author, television star, and board member for three Fortune 500 companies.

This year the WOCEC will expand its offerings to include an inaugural Jazz Benefit Concert featuring trumpeter Joey Sommerville at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, September 18, 2015. On Sunday, September 20, 2015, the WOCEC’s second annual Spirit of Sisterhood Breakfast will take place at the W Hotel on Fort Lauderdale beach, closing the leadership conference weekend on an inspirational note. Tickets for all events are available via the conference website at www.SouthFloridaWomenOfColor.com.

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"Our conference has been unique in its ability to connect women leaders of color who are at the top of their respective fields. Together, we are able to learn from one another and assist in broadening the spheres of influence of attendees," said WOCEC Founder and Chair Burnadette Norris-Weeks, Esq. "We've added the Friday and Sunday social events in response to our audience's desire to further connect with their peers around shared interests and goals. The jazz concert gives us great music and a beautiful venue to welcome men to be a part of our 'empowerment weekend,' and the Sunday breakfast will cement the bonds of friendship our attendees have forged, before returning to their individual corridors of leadership," Norris-Weeks added.

Major sponsors of the 5th Annual Women of Color Empowerment Conference include United Water, Carrie Concessions, Inc., University of Miami Women and Gender Studies Program, Law Office of Austin Pamies Norris Weeks LLC, Avenue of the Arts Executive Suites, Florida Power & Light, AXA Advisors, LLC, and Ruth's List Florida, Inc. The WOCEC is planned by a committee of community volunteers serving under the direction of the conference's three co-founding women's organizations: The Links, Incorporated (North Broward County, FL Chapter); Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated (Broward County Alumnae Chapter); and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (Zeta Rho Omega Chapter). For information about the WOCEC, visit the website at www.SouthFloridaWomenOfColor.com or call Kathy Eggleston at (954) 768-9770.

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[ED. NOTE: Photos of speakers Brown, Hatchett, Paige and others available at www.SouthFloridaWomenOfColor.com.]