



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

For Immediate Release

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Pictured (Left to right) *Bottom row*: Katie Newkumet, Willard InterContinental Washington; Steele Stevenson, Willard InterContinental; Patricia Buckley, Washington Hilton; Mei Jane Chin, Marriott Metro Center; Sholeh Kia, Hamilton Crowne Plaza; Reyna Menjivar, Sofitel Washington DC Lafayette Square; Natalie Karargyris, Sofitel Washington DC Lafayette Square; Alexandra Byrne, Sofitel Washington DC Lafayette Square; Rocio Chavez, Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants;

Top Row: Solomon Keene, HAWDC President; Jerry Agenar, Phoenix Hotel; James Ryan, Willard InterContinental Washington; Moses Holloway, Willard InterContinental Washington; Steve Blum, Willard InterContinental Washington; Skip Hartman; Pablo Lemus, Four Seasons Washington, DC; Sean Dunlevy, Four Seasons Washington, DC; Andrew Davidson, Park Hyatt Washington; Ritchie Ingram, Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants; Ryan Cimei, Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants; Thomas Penny, HAWDC Board Chairman.

HAWDC Announces Winners of the Stars of the Industry Awards

(Washington, DC) On March 20, 2014, the Hotel Association of Washington, DC (HAWDC) hosted the Stars of the Industry Awards Luncheon at the Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown Hotel. The Stars of the Industry Awards recognizes outstanding accomplishments in the lodging industry and are HAWDC's opportunity to celebrate the best and brightest stars in Washington, DC. The winners of HAWDC's city-wide competition are forwarded to the American Hotel and Lodging Association to be judged against hotels and lodging employees across the country in the national Stars of the Industry Awards competition. HAWDC is thrilled to announce this year's Stars of our Industry!

Guest Relations: The Topaz Hotel

Community Service: Washington Hilton

Good Earthkeeping: Sofitel Washington, D.C. Lafayette Square

Special Events-Ongoing: Willard InterContinental Hotel

Special Events- One Time Only: Sofitel Washington, D.C. Lafayette Square

Outstanding Lodging Employee of the Year (Small Property): Jerry Agenar- Phoenix Park Hotel

Outstanding Lodging Employee of the Year (Medium Property): Pablo Lemus- Four Seasons Washington, D.C.

Outstanding Lodging Employee of the Year (Large Property): Mei Jane Chin- Washington Marriott at Metro Center

Outstanding Manager of the Year (Medium Property): Sean Dunlevy- Four Seasons Washington, D.C.

Outstanding Manager of the Year (Large Property): Steve Blum- Willard InterContinental Hotel

Stevan Porter Emerging Hospitality Leader of the Year: Kate Newkumet- Willard InterContinental Hotel

Women In Leadership Connect Leader of the Year: Rocio Chavez- Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants of Washington DC

Outstanding General Manager of the Year (Small Property): Andrew Davidson- Park Hyatt Washington

Outstanding General Manager of the Year (Medium Property): Hector Torres- The Beacon Hotel & Corporate Quarters

Outstanding General Manager of the Year (Large Property): Sholeh Kia- Hamilton Crowne Plaza

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Established in 1906, the Hotel Association of Washington, DC (www.hawdc.com) is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of member hotels in the District of Columbia on a variety of governmental and public affairs issues.

AH&LA (www.ahla.com) is a 93-year-old federation of state lodging associations throughout the United States with some 11,000-property members worldwide, representing more than 1.5 million guest rooms. AH&LA provides its members with assistance in operations, education, and communications, and lobbies on Capitol Hill to provide a business climate in which the industry can continue to prosper. Individual state associations provide representation at the state level and offer many additional cost-saving benefits.