

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Annual Meeting and Chairman's Inaugural Luncheon Delivers New Vision for DC's Premiere Business Organization

### *Chamber Inaugurates Matt Klein of Akridge as 2012 Board Chair*

Washington, DC—On December 15<sup>th</sup>, **Matt Klein**, President of the commercial real estate firm Akridge, will take the reins of DC's premiere business organization as the new Chairman of the Board of the DC Chamber of Commerce. The inauguration will take place at the Chamber's 2011 Annual Meeting and Chairman's Luncheon, to be held at the Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, 11:00am to 2:00pm. Passing the mantle to Klein is **Gina Adams**, Vice President of Government Affairs at FedEx, who has served as the Chair of the organization for the past year.

In addition to the election of new board members and officers, the Chamber's Annual Meeting will also feature keynote addresses by former DC Mayor **Anthony Williams** and founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET) **Robert Johnson**. These distinguished speakers will share their insights on economic challenges both local and nationwide, and their visions for government and business in meeting those challenges. Always entertaining and often provocative, we know Mr. Williams and Mr. Johnson will engage and delight us.

The **Annual Meeting and Chairman's Inaugural Luncheon** draws as many as 500 of the area's most influential decision makers, and offers the incoming Chairman an opportunity to outline their vision for 2012, as well as for the Chamber as a whole to recount successes of the past year and look forward to the challenges and opportunities presented by the year ahead.

"This meeting comes at a time of continued economic challenges facing the District of Columbia. Our 2012 Board of Directors features exactly the kind of leadership and business acumen we need to meet these challenges head-on," said **Barbara Lang**, President and CEO of the DC Chamber of Commerce. "The Annual Meeting is our opportunity to reaffirm the Chamber's commitment to our 1,700-plus members and the business community at large—to make Washington a better place to live and do business."

Rounding out the proposed 2012 Chamber board are:

- Chair Elect – **Antwayne Ford**, Co-President, Enlightened, Inc.
- 1st Vice Chair – **Chester Burrell**, President & CEO, Carefirst
- 2nd Vice Chair – **Ralph Bazilio**, President & COO, Thompson, Cobb, Bazilio & Associates
- Treasurer – **Chris Wiggan**, Partner, Mitchell & Titus
- Secretary – **Regina Knox Woods**, VP, Government Affairs for the Washington Metropolitan Area, MedStar/Georgetown Hospital, LLPHC
- Board-at-Large – **Richard Alexander**, Managing Partner, Arnold & Porter

- Board-at-Large – **Rosie Allen Herring**, National Director of Fannie Mae’s Office of Community and Charitable Giving

Committee Chairs:

- General Counsel – **Alethia Nancoo**, Partner, Hogan Lovells
- Audit – **Jim Martinko**, Co-Office Managing Partner, Reznick
- Government Affairs – **J.R. Clark**, Partner, Squire Saunders
- Government Affairs – **Neil Albert**, Holland & Knight
- Workforce Development – **Catherine Malloy**, President & CEO, Goodwill of Greater Washington
- Development – **Roderic L. Wilson**, Partner & Co-Chair, DC Practice Group, Holland & Knight

Selected Small Business Members of the Governing Board:

- **Ben Soto**, President & CEO, Premium Title & Escrow
- **Robert Bobb**, CEO, Robert Bobb Group
- **Eliot Battle**, Founder & CEO, Cultura Cosmetic Dermatology & Laser Center
- **B. Smith**, President & Chief Creative Officer, B. Smith Enterprises, LTD

Members of the press are encouraged to attend the event. Please contact Max Farrow at 202-624-0610 or [mfarrow@dcchamber.org](mailto:mfarrow@dcchamber.org) to arrange credentials.

*The DC Chamber is the largest and #1 rated Chamber in the Washington region. For over 70 years, we have been the champion of local business—large and small—providing passionate advocacy, valuable networking opportunities, and enlightening educational programs. [www.dcchamber.org](http://www.dcchamber.org)*

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