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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS-LOS ANGELES
(NAWBO-LA) TO HOST HIGHLY ANTICIPATED 21st ANNUAL LEADERSHIP
AND LEGACY AWARDS LUNCHEON**

**Gala Event in Honor of Women Business Leaders to Take Place Friday,
March 16, 2007 at Beverly Hilton Hotel**

(LOS ANGELES) February 5, 2007 – The Los Angeles chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO-LA) and the Enterprise Institute of NAWBO-LA, announced today that this year's highly anticipated 21st Annual NAWBO-LA Leadership and Legacy Awards Luncheon will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Friday, March 16, 2007 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Presented by Union Bank of California, the annual NAWBO-LA Awards Luncheon gives tribute to top achievers among women leaders who have established a legacy of entrepreneurial excellence and contributed significantly to the community.

The National Association of Women Business Owners® (NAWBO®), the voice of America's 10.6 million women-owned businesses, is the only dues-based national organization that represents the interests of all women entrepreneurs across all industries.

Each year, the luncheon organized by the powerhouse Los Angeles chapter of NAWBO attracts more than 1,200 women business owners, community leaders, media, dignitaries and celebrities who gather to salute the achievements of leading businesswomen. NAWBO-LA plans to honor seven such highly accomplished women in 2007.

"The unique role that we play in the business community is one that we take seriously," said Helen Han, CEO of NAWBO-LA. "We are not merely organizing an event – our goal is to highlight the power and influence of women entrepreneurs. By sharing the success stories of each of our honorees, we have the unique opportunity to further our mission of propelling women into economic, social and political spheres of leadership and to create a legacy for the next generation of women."

This year's theme of *Owning the Future* speaks to the fact that entrepreneurs not only own their own businesses, they take ownership of their membership experience, and in a greater sense embrace their responsibility as stewards of a future above and beyond themselves. For women entrepreneurs, that future includes NAWBO-LA, the larger community of women business owners and society as a whole.

"It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as this year's event chair," said Laura Yamanaka, NAWBO-LA event chair/president-elect and president of teamCFO, Inc. "Each woman business owner we will honor this year has earned our respect by virtue of her own individual success. Yet a common thread uniting this year's honorees is that whether their spheres of influence lay in business, social services, the public sector, or their immediate circles of family and faith, all the women embrace a collective responsibility for the future."

The five NAWBO-LA honorees for 2007 are:

Leadership Award/WBO of the Year: **Nancy Silverton**, founder of La Brea Bakery and co-owner of Pizzeria Mozza;

Legacy Award: **Faye Washington**, CEO of the YWCA of Greater Los Angeles;

Civic Leader of the Year: **The Honorable Wendy Greuel**, 2nd District Council Member of the Los Angeles City Council;

Corporate Partner of the Year: **Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric** – represented by president and CEO, Debra L. Reed; and

Inspiration Award: **Ajaya Williams**, founder and designer of AJ KUSTOMZ.

The two inductees to the NAWBO-LA Hall of Fame are:

Maria de Lourdes Sobrino, founder and CEO of LuLu's Dessert Corp.; and

Kimberly Rakis, president of Premier Building Maintenance Services.

NAWBO-LA's annual awards luncheon is a joint fundraising event for both the chapter and the Enterprise Institute. Event sponsors include: Union Bank of California (Platinum Sponsor); PDQ Careers Group (Legacy Partner); Southern California Edison and Washington Mutual (Gold Sponsors); Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. (Silver Sponsor); and Guardian Life Insurance, Hilton Hotels Corporation, Metro, Microsoft Corporation and Wachovia Corporation (Bronze Sponsors).

Emmy Award-winning KCAL 9 News co-anchor Sylvia Lopez will serve as the mistress of ceremonies. The event is scheduled for Friday, March 16, 2007 with a networking reception to be held from 11:00 to 11:50 a.m. and the awards luncheon from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, 9876 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Valet parking will be provided for \$14 and self parking will also be available at a cost of \$9. Event tickets can be purchased online at www.nawbola.org for \$175 (NAWBO-LA members receive a \$25 discount). Attendance is limited and early registration is strongly encouraged.

About NAWBO-LA

Founded in 1979, NAWBO-LA is one of the largest and fastest-growing chapters of the National Association of Women Business Owners, an organization that strives to empower and enable women entrepreneurs into economic, political and social spheres of leadership. Representing more than 335,000 women-owned businesses in Los Angeles and Long Beach, employing more than 700,000 people, and generating more than \$113 billion in annual revenues, women entrepreneurs have become an increasingly active and powerful force shaping the economic and political landscape of Southern California. The Enterprise Institute of NAWBO-LA is a 501(c)3

tax exempt charitable organization dedicated to accelerating initiatives and research that promote the entrepreneurship of women worldwide.

Together, NAWBO-LA and the Enterprise Institute work closely to ensure that women business owners are recognized as a public policy voice to be reckoned with, as a formidable economic force, and as effective agents for change in the dynamic business environment that is Southern California.

For more information about NAWBO-LA or the Enterprise Institute, please visit www.nawbola.org or call (213) 622-3200.

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