

CONTACT: Denise Acquaye
Telephone: (212) 962-3791
Denise@tnj.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE NETWORK JOURNAL ANNOUNCES ITS 11th ANNUAL “25 INFLUENTIAL BLACK WOMEN IN BUSINESS”

Sandra Bookman, Weekend Anchor, Eyewitness News Is Mistress of Ceremonies at the March 12 Celebratory Awards Luncheon in New York City

NEW YORK, N.Y. (February 2009) — *The Network Journal*, an award-winning business magazine providing news and commentaries on issues that affect the growth of businesses and the advancement of professionals in the workplace for an audience of predominantly African-American professionals, corporate executives and small-business owners, announces its 2009 list of “25 Influential Black Women in Business.” The select group will be profiled in the special March issue of the magazine and will be formally honored during Women’s History Month at the “Eleventh Annual 25 Influential Black Women in Business Awards” luncheon on Thursday, March 12, 2009. The event will be held at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel, located at 1535 Broadway (between 45th & 46th streets) in New York City, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

“The women we are honoring on the eleventh year of these awards are, as usual, in the forefront of American leadership and symbolize the diversity and advancement that has occurred across industry lines,” *TNJ* Publisher and CEO Aziz Gueye Adetimirin said. “We salute them for achieving significant levels of success in their businesses and professional careers and for their myriad contributions to their community.”

This year’s extraordinary honorees are:

Abenaa Abboa-Offei, Senior Vice President, Customer & Community Connections, Affinity Health Plan
Kelly Chapman, Director, Diversity Recruiting, Microsoft Corp.
Amina Dickerson, Senior Director, Corporate Community Involvement, Kraft Foods
Joi Gordon, CEO, Dress for Success Worldwide
Brenda Grant, M.P.H., B.S.N., R.N., C.I.C., C.H.E.S., Infection Preventionist, Stamford Hospital
Ci Ci Holloway, Managing Director, Diversity & Inclusion, Americas, UBS Investment Bank
Michele Hoskins, CEO & Founder, Michele Foods, Inc.
Gayle Lanier, Vice President & General Manager, Knowledge Services, Nortel Networks
Ellin LaVar, Owner & President, LaVar Hair Designs/Ellin LaVar Textures
Sibongile Magubane, Head of Finance, Information Services, Aetna, Inc.
Marcella Maxwell, Ph.D., Director of Development, Concord Family Services
Vernã Myers, Esq., Principal, Vernã Myers Consulting Group, LLC
Irma Norris, Production Executive, Harpo Production, Inc.
Valerie Oliver-Durrah, President, Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic
N. Joyce Payne, Ph.D., Executive Director, National Alliance for Public Trust
Cheryl Pegus, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Medical Officer, SymCare Personalized Health Solutions, Inc.
Karen Rafferty, Product Marketing Director, Chevrolet Midsize & Sport Cars, General Motors Corp.
Lillian Roberts, Executive Director, District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO
Teresa Wynn Roseborough, Senior Chief Counsel – Litigation, MetLife
Sandra Scott, Vice President, Legal Affairs, Home Box Office, Inc.
Gerri Warren Merrick, President, WarrenMerrick Communications
Elizabeth Williams, President & CEO, Roxbury Technology Corp.
Karen Williams, Associate Publisher, Marketing, ESSENCE Magazine
Rebecca Williams, Senior Vice President, Executive Creative Director, UniWorld Group, Inc.
Brenda Williams-Butts, Director, Community Engagement & Audience Development, WNYC Radio

The program includes a cocktail networking reception, lunch and awards presentation with Mistress of Ceremonies Sandra Bookman, Weekend Anchor, and Eyewitness News. As a signature *TNJ* event which attracts a “Who’s Who” of business executives and decision makers from various industries, the luncheon sells out each year.

Tickets are \$225.00 if purchased before March 6th and \$250.00 thereafter. Sponsors this year are: **Amtrak, Aetna, AXA, Entergy, L’Oreal USA, Macy’s, Sovereign Bank, WNYC, and 107.5 WBLS-FM Radio.**

About The Network Journal

Founded in 1993, *The Network Journal* is an award-winning magazine published each month, except for combined issues in July/August and December/January. It provides news and commentaries on issues that affect the growth of business and the advancement of professionals in the workplace for an audience of predominantly African-American professionals, corporate executives and small-business owners. Engaging more than 86,000 readers, *The Network Journal* is distributed nationwide, with a focus on the New York tri-state area. For more information call 212-962-3791, or visit the Web site at www.tnj.com.