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## **Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta Celebrates 11 Years, Honors Volunteers and Donors at Appreciation Reception**

**ATLANTA** – March 15, 2016 – Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta, a tax-exempt organization that matches volunteer lawyers with local nonprofits in need of free legal counsel, is recognizing outstanding volunteer attorneys for their pro bono efforts at its 11th Anniversary Reception on Tues., March 15 at the office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP.

*The Coca-Cola Company* will receive the “Corporation of the Year Award” for its contributions of time and legal expertise in helping Atlanta area nonprofits. The Cola-Cola Company has been involved with PBPA since 2005 and was also the recipient of this award in 2007. Twenty-six members of the Coca-Cola legal department volunteered with PBPA in 2015.

*Morris, Manning & Martin* will receive the “Law Firm of the Year Award” for its outstanding efforts in taking legal matters referred by PBPA. Over 20 Morris, Manning & Martin attorneys assisted on 26 PBPA projects in 2015 alone.

PBPA will also honor several attorneys with an “Attorney of the Year Award.” Mike Pavento, partner at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton; Geri Williams, Senior Corporate Counsel at Home Depot; Jason Howard, senior associate at Alston & Bird; Erin Fortney, Staff Counsel at Fiserv; Rudy Gelly; and Kitty Cohen, of Counsel at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, are all receiving awards for their dedicated service to PBPA clients.

PBPA will present a special “Champion Award” to the Home Depot and the Home Depot Foundation. Home Depot volunteers assisted on over 30 pro bono projects in 2015. In addition, the Home Depot Foundation contributed \$100,000 to PBPA’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign.

Nancy Staub of Kidz2Leaders, a PBPA client, will kick off the awards presentation by sharing how the legal services provided through PBPA have aided her organization and the work it does to change the lives of prisoners’ children.

“Obviously, Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta would not exist without our volunteers and our donors. This event gives us a chance to thank them and to highlight the extraordinary efforts of some of our outstanding volunteers,” said Rachel Epps Spears, Executive Director of Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta.

Spears would also like to thank the event’s sponsors including Presenting Sponsor Thomson Reuters, Sustaining Sponsor RR Donnelly, and Supporting Sponsors, Habif Arogeti & Wynne, Axiom, and State Bank & Trust Company.

PBPA provides free legal services to community-based nonprofits that operate programs benefiting low-income or disadvantaged individuals. PBPA matches eligible organizations with volunteer attorneys from the leading corporations and law firms in Atlanta. Since it opened its doors eleven years ago, PBPA has assigned and supported over 2000 volunteer lawyers in aiding about 750 nonprofit clients. In 2015 alone, PBPA provided free legal services valued over \$3.5 million to Atlanta-area nonprofits. PBPA is funded by donations from corporations, law firms, bar sections and individuals. For more information about Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta, please visit [www.pbpatl.org](http://www.pbpatl.org).

**About Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta**

Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta, Inc. is a tax-exempt public charity whose mission is to maximize the impact of pro bono engagement by connecting a network of volunteer attorneys with nonprofits in need of free business legal services.

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