

## Headline News

### DirectWomen Selects Andrews Kurth Partner Kathleen Wu for Board Institute

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Houston, Texas

(HOUSTON)—Andrews Kurth is pleased to announce that Kathleen Wu has been selected to the 2009 DirectWomen Board Institute, a *program* designed to identify and promote qualified women lawyers to serve on corporate boards of public companies. The Board Institute will be held October 28-30, 2009 at the Waldorf=Astoria in New York City.

DirectWomen is an initiative of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section and Catalyst. It supports accomplished women lawyers for service on U.S. corporate boards, while also promoting the independence and diversity required for good corporate governance.

"I am extremely honored to be part of such an impressive group of women," said Kathleen Wu, Partner at Andrews Kurth. "I look forward to spending several days at the Board Institute and working with DirectWomen."

The DirectWomen Board Institute will culminate on Friday, October 30 with the Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award Luncheon, recognizing a distinguished group of women lawyers who have served as corporate directors and the companies on whose boards they have served. Andrews Kurth Partner Diana Hudson will give the opening remarks at this year's DirectWomen Alumnae program, which is a central focus of the DirectWomen project.

In 2004, Andrews Kurth formed a Women's Initiative Team (WIT) with the goal of recruiting, developing and retaining the firm's women lawyers. Offering various professional development and networking opportunities as well as mentoring programs, quarterly luncheons and a flex path for lawyers of both genders, WIT continually seeks to implement programs that can provide women lawyers who make Andrews Kurth their home with the skills and opportunities to succeed.

In addition, Andrews Kurth Partner Gail Merel has been involved with the organization since its inception. Gail is a member of the Steering Committee, Co-Chair of the Development Committee, Chair of the Southwest Regional Council and liaison from DirectWomen to the Center for Women in Law at the University of Texas.

"I am extremely proud of Kathleen, Diana and Gail for their work with DirectWomen," said Bob Jewell, Managing Partner of Andrews Kurth. "This honor exemplifies the firm's commitment to our women's initiative."

#### **About DirectWomen**

Founded in 1962, Catalyst is the leading nonprofit membership organization working globally with businesses and the professions to build inclusive workplaces and expand opportunities for women and business. With offices in the United States, Canada, and Europe, and more than 400 preeminent corporations as members, Catalyst is the trusted resource for research, information and advice about women at work. Catalyst annually honors exemplary organizational initiatives that promote women's advancement with the Catalyst Award.

With approximately 60,000 members, the ABA Section of Business Law is one of the association's largest sections. It provides business lawyers with education and analysis that furthers their development and improvement of business law while helping its members serve their clients competently, efficiently and professionally. Additionally, the section serves as the ABA forum that determines policy positions on laws and regulations that govern business and commerce with members and committees routinely engaged in activities that shape and refine the law. For more information about DirectWomen, visit [DirectWomen.org](http://DirectWomen.org).

#### **About Andrews Kurth LLP**

For more than a century, Andrews Kurth has built its practice on the belief that "straight talk is good business." Real answers, clear vision and mutual respect define the firm's relationships with clients, colleagues, communities and employees. With 400 lawyers and offices in Austin, Beijing, Dallas, Houston, London, New York, The Woodlands and Washington, DC,

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