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NOW-NYC Honors Six Outstanding Women of Power and Influence *Trailblazing Women Are Recognized for "Shattering the Glass Ceiling"*

New York, NY, June 22, 2010 – The National Organization for Women-New York City will honor top women at its annual **Women of Power & Influence Awards on Wednesday, June 23, at the Grand Hyatt at Grand Central**. The annual awards dinner is New York City's premier event for celebrating trailblazing women in law, politics, and business. This year's trailblazers include: **Sharon Bowen**, Partner, Latham & Watkins, **Angela Buonocore**, SVP and Chief Communications Officer for ITT Corporation, **Justice Betty Weinberg Ellerin**, senior counsel to Alston & Bird, and former Presiding Justice of New York State's Appellate Division's First Department, **Bridget Healy**, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, ING Insurance Americas, **Andrea Nicolás**, Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, and **Edie Weiner**, President, Weiner, Edrich, Brown, Inc.

The exceptional women the organization is honoring will join a distinguished circle of women leaders recognized as Women of Power & Influence over the past twenty years, many of whom were the first to break through the glass ceiling in their industry.

Sharon Bowen is a Partner at Latham & Watkins where she practices Corporate Law specializing in finance and securities transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, private equity, corporate restructuring and venture capital financing. Ms. Bowen is credited with helping build a movement for diversity in the legal community. She co-chairs her firm's Diversity Committee and serves on the DirectWomen Board Institute, which aims to place women attorneys on corporate boards. Appointed by the Obama administration, Ms. Bowen serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

Angela Buonocore has built a track record of success in communications at some of the world's top companies—including GE, IBM and PepsiCo. In her current post as SVP and Chief Communications Officer for ITT Corporation, she directs the company's worldwide branding, reputation, public relations and employee communications efforts. She also led the creation and launch of ITT Watermark, the company's global philanthropic program that provides clean water, sanitation and hygiene education to schools in emerging markets, enabling many girls to continue their education, improve their health, and build their self-esteem.

Justice Betty Weinberg Ellerin, senior counsel to Alston & Bird, has been one of New York State's most forceful and effective advocates for women in the court system. She served for more than 20 years in New York State's Appellate Division and as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division's First Department. Among her many other activities, she is currently chair of the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts. She was president of the National Association of Women Judges and is a founding member and board member of the New York State Women's Bar Association.

Bridget Healy is the Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer at ING Insurance Americas. Her career as an attorney and top executive spans the globe. Ms. Healy currently oversees the legal and compliance functions for ING Insurance Americas in the U.S., Mexico, and Latin America and the External Affairs function in the U.S. Previously, she was SVP and group general counsel at Becton, Dickinson and Co. and SVP at The Travelers Companies, Inc. She practiced law in the U.S. and Europe and is fluent in five languages. She credits a strong network of pioneering women lawyers as vital to her success.

Andrea Nicolás is not only a Partner of Corporate Finance at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP but also holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Microbiology. Ms. Nicolás belongs to an elite group of attorney/scientists who bring their unique skills to bear in advising biotechnology and health care companies. She represents investment banks and issuers in a variety of public and private finance transactions in the U.S. and Latin America. She counsels clients in a number of areas, including corporate governance, compliance with securities laws and general corporate matters.

Edie Weiner is President of Weiner, Edrich, Brown, Inc., a leading futurist consulting group serving clients from the U.S. Congress to many of the Fortune 500. A business leader, author, and innovator, she became the youngest outside woman ever elected to the board of a major financial institution at the age of 29. Ms. Weiner is the co-author of many books, including the global bestseller *FutureThink*, and has written for *Harvard Business Review* and *The Wall Street Journal*. Among her many contributions to women's causes, she founded and ran Esteem Teams, which linked inner-city at risk girls in New York to executive women mentors.

The National Organization for Women is the nation's largest organization working to advance women's rights and improve women's lives. The New York City Chapter of NOW, founded in 1966, is the largest chapter in the country with 5,000 members locally and 35,000 statewide. NOW-NYC works to promote women's reproductive rights, secure women's economic empowerment, and end violence and discrimination against women.

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