



**USBLN Announces its 2010 Board of Directors;
New Board includes Representatives from AT&T, Ernst & Young,
Merck & Co. Inc. and Microtel Inns and Suites**

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Contact: Anita Howard
Phone: 866-624-3502
anita@usbln.org

WASHINGTON, DC (March 10, 2010) – Today, the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN®) announced its 2010 Board of Directors. New representation on the USBLN® Board of Directors includes **Deborah Dagit**, Chief Diversity Officer and Vice President of Merck & Co. Inc.'s Diversity, Work Environment & University Relations, **Roy E. Flora**, Group President of Microtel Inns and Suites and Baymont Inn & Suites, **Lori Golden**, Inclusiveness Consultant and Lead of Ernst & Young's firm-sponsored inclusiveness initiative AccessAbilities and **Susan Palmer Mazrui**, Director of AT&T's Public Policy.

The full USBLN® Board of Directors then elected Beth Butler, Vice-President and Disability Consultant for Wachovia Corporation – A Wells Fargo Company, as Chair and Deb Russell, Manager, Outreach and Employee Services, Walgreens Company, as Vice-Chair returning to the Board in their incumbent seats with Martha Artiles, Global Chief Diversity Officer, Manpower Inc., newly appointed to serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

“On behalf of the US Business Leadership Network, I am proud to welcome our new Directors to the Board. Each individual's experience both personally and professionally will serve to enhance and expand our organization's reach into industries including hospitality, pharmaceutical, telecommunications and finance,” shared **Beth Butler**, Chair of the USBLN® Board of Directors. “This valuable diversification of our board will help challenge companies to begin thinking innovatively about the value of disability inclusion in the workforce, marketplace and supply chain and its positive impact on our nation.”

Butler further stated, "Each of our Directors brings a strong background and overall business acumen that significantly supports the USBLN's® strategic growth. I know the experience and dedication of Debra, Lori, Roy and Susan will result in significant accomplishments for our organization but most importantly for the advancement of disability inclusion in America's workforce."

Deborah Dagit is the Chief Diversity Officer and Vice President, Diversity, Work Environment & University Relations with Merck & Co. Inc. Ms. Dagit joined Merck & Co. Inc. as the Chief Diversity Officer in June 2001. She is responsible for global equal opportunity employment compliance, diversity, inclusion, work environment, university relations and diversity outreach strategies. Under Ms. Dagit's leadership, Merck has been recognized by Diversity Inc, the US Department of Labor's New Freedom Initiative for People with Disabilities, Working Mother, G.I. Jobs and the Human Rights Campaign for its exemplary work in diversity and inclusion. Merck has undergone more than 50 different federal audits for compliance with U.S. Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity requirements for federal contractors since 1980 - each time, receiving a letter of compliance from the government. She is also the author of, "The Promise of Diversity: Reflections on the Not-So-Level Playing Field" and "An Employer's Guide to Hiring and Accommodating People with Disabilities."

Roy E. Flora serves as the Group President for Microtel Inns and Suites and Baymont Inn & Suites. Mr. Flora led Microtel Inns & Suites to dominate all new construction brands in the economy segment with 50% of the supply, recognition by J.D. Power & Associates as highest in overall guest satisfaction for the economy segment for an unprecedented eight (8) consecutive years, something no other company in any industry segment has ever achieved. He redesigned and launched the new Microtel guest room concepts. Recipient of 2008 HotelWorld Global Hospitality & Design Award for Best Guestroom Design ~ Limited Service, and Lodging Hospitality 2008 Chain Leadership award. He has also championed total product and attitude accessibility for persons with disabilities, Little People, and seniors. Mr. Flora was recently recognized with the Eagle Award from Disability Rights Advocates, 2008 Disability Matters Award, and Access to Freedom Award from the Society for Accessible Travel and Hospitality.

Lori Golden leads AccessAbilities, Ernst & Young's efforts to build an inclusive work environment for people with disabilities. AccessAbilities is a firm-sponsored inclusiveness initiative with a network made up of several hundred people from across the organization's geographies, ranks and functional groups. There is also a leader's network of Abilities Champions who advocate for disabilities inclusiveness within their respective geographies and functional groups, and networks to support the parents of children with disabilities and to support Ernst & Young professionals who act as caregivers for adults with disabilities. Ms. Golden facilitates AccessAbilities' networks and drives a variety of initiatives within the firm to enhance accessibility in Ernst & Young offices, make internal communications, meetings, trainings and technology more accessible and user-friendly and build a global accessibility strategy for the web and online applications. Ms. Golden is also charged with educating Ernst & Young people on disabilities etiquette, language and work habits, and raising awareness of disability-related issues.

Susan Palmer Mazrui is the Director, Public Policy with AT&T. Ms. Mazrui began work at Pacific Bell in 1994 where she gained experience in marketing, external and regulatory affairs. In 1998, she moved to the wireless field where she developed strategies for addressing Hearing Aid Compatibility and other state and federal compliance-related activities. Ms. Mazrui also assisted in the development of Section 255 and 508 product development strategies in SBC and Cingular Wireless. From 1996-2007, she facilitated the Wireless Access Task Force, composed of national consumer advocates and currently works on a range of disability and consumer related initiatives at AT&T. Over the last fifteen years, Ms. Mazrui presented at numerous conferences including Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. and the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators and wrote articles in consumer publications including Critical Issues in Aging and AccessWorld®.

The USBLN® Board of Directors is also comprised of existing members: **Debra Ruh**, President & Founder of TecAccess, Inc.; **Frances West**, Director, IBM's Human Ability & Accessibility Center; **Kevin Bradley**, Director, Inclusion & Diversity, McDonald's Corporation; **Kevin Foster**, Director of Motorola's Quality Master Black Belt; **Marthalee Galeota**, Program Manager of Starbuck's Accessibility; **Michelle Maybaum**, Director, Employee Relations for Qualcomm, Inc.; **Michael Takemura**, Director, Hewlett-Packard's Accessibility & Aging Program Office; and **Scott Williams**, Vice President of E-Commerce, Sam's Club.

About the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN®)

The US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®) is the national disability organization that serves as the collective voice of over 60 Business Leadership Network affiliates across North America, representing over 5,000 employers. The USBLN® promotes the business imperative of the preparation and inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace, marketplace, and supply chain while supporting the development and expansion of its BLN affiliates. The USBLN® recognizes and supports best practices in hiring and advancing employees with disabilities, marketing to consumers with disabilities, and encourages contracting with vendors with disabilities through the development and certification of disability-owned business enterprises. www.usbln.org

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