



USBLN Announces New Appointment of Marriott International to its Board of Directors

For Immediate Release
October 22, 2014

Contact: Anita Howard
Phone: (800) 706-2710
anita@usbln.org

WASHINGTON, DC (October 22, 2014) – The US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®) is pleased to announce the appointment of **Apoorva N. Gandhi**, Vice President, Multicultural Affairs, Marriott International, Inc., to their Board of Directors.

As Vice President for Multicultural Affairs, Mr. Gandhi is responsible for creating and executing an externally-focused global strategy that builds preference and loyalty from diverse customer segments for the Marriott portfolio of brands. He helps ensure the company's marketing, sales and operations consider and reflect multi-cultural markets and alliances as Marriott continues its aggressive growth throughout the world.

"I am excited to be part of this important Board working to accomplish business goals and to help position Marriott as a global diversity leader. Diversity is the one thing that we all have in common and I am proud to show how we at Marriott celebrate it every day," **Apoorva Gandhi**, Vice President, Multicultural Affairs, Marriott International, Inc.

"I am confident that Apoorva in his new role as Board Officer will further enhance the vital business-to-business message that disability inclusion across workplaces, marketplaces, and supply chains drives economic growth and innovation," summarized **Jill Houghton**, Executive Director, USBLN. "His engagement will be instrumental in building upon the USBLN's many accomplishments. Only by employing the talents of workers both with disabilities and without disabilities, will our economy remain a viable competitor in today's global marketplace."

The USBLN Board of Directors is comprised of the following members: **Ann Andreosatos**, Board Secretary/Treasurer, VP Human Resources, New Chapter Inc. (Procter & Gamble); **Carolynn Brooks**, Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer, OfficeMax, President, OfficeMax Charitable Foundation (formerly); **Kevin Foster**, Director, Human Resources, Motorola Solutions, Inc.; **Jenny Lay-Flurrie**, Senior Director, Trusted Experience Team (TEXT), Microsoft.; **Lori Golden**, Abilities Strategy Leader, Americas People Team, EY; **Preety Kumar**, Board Vice Chair, President and CEO, Deque Systems Inc; **Susan Palmer Mazrui**, Director, Global Public Policy AT&T Services Inc.; **Colleen Fukui-Sketchley**, Corporate Center Diversity Affairs Director, Nordstrom, Inc., **Gloria Pualani**, Corporate Director, Socio-Economic Business Programs/Government Relations, Northrop Grumman Corporation; **Steve Pemberton**, Chief Diversity Officer and Divisional Vice-President, Walgreen Co.; and **Keith P. Wiedenkiller**, SPHR, Board Chair, SVP & Chief People Officer, American Multi-Cinema, Inc. (retired).

The three *Ex Officio* Board members are **Matthew Shapiro**, Chair, USBLN Student Advisory Council, Virginia Commonwealth University; **Chris Moranda, LSW, CDMS**, Manager, Disability Services OhioHealth, Associate Health and Wellness and Ohio BLN; and **Robert (Bob) J. Vetere**, Senior Workplace

Accommodation Specialist, Global Corporate Responsibility, Northrop Grumman and Chair, USBLN Corporate Advisory Board. These members provide important representation of their respective USBLN advisory groups, the Student Advisory Council, the BLN Affiliates, and the Corporate Advisory Board.

About the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN)

The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN) is a national non-profit that helps business drive performance by leveraging disability inclusion in the workplace, supply chain, and marketplace. The USBLN serves as the collective voice of nearly 50 Business Leadership Network affiliates across the United States, representing over 5,000 businesses. Additionally, the USBLN Disability Supplier Diversity Program[®] (DSDP) is the nation's leading third party certification program for disability-owned businesses, including businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. www.usbln.org

####