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CONTACT:
Marcela Salazar: (202) 587-2861
msalazar@rabengroup.com

David Chu: (202) 739-5906
davidchu@mcca.com

**Minority Corporate Counsel Association Announces Winners of
George B. Vashon Innovator Awards**

Recipients are Leaders in Areas of Pipeline Initiative, Recruitment & Retention, and Mentoring

Washington, D.C. – The Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA) has announced the recipients of its 2015 George B. Vashon Innovator Awards. This year’s awardees are the Exelon Corporation in the category of Pipeline Initiatives; Huntington Ingalls Industries, Inc. in the category of Recruitment and Retention Initiatives; and Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton in the category of Mentoring Initiatives. The awards will be presented at the MCCA Creating Pathways to Diversity Conference Lunch Plenary on June 29, 2015 at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C.

“This year’s recipients all have one thing in common: a demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusion in the legal profession,” said Joseph K. West, MCCA’s President and CEO. “MCCA commends the Exelon Corporation, Huntington Ingalls Industries, Inc., and Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton for their extraordinary work in helping talented attorneys and law students thrive and be successful.”

The 2015 George B. Vashon Honorees:

Exelon Corporation– Pipeline Initiative: Exelon is committed to increasing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession by developing and executing strategies for partnering with law firms to increase the hiring, retention and meaningful utilization of female and diverse attorneys, to support law students, and to build a pipeline of diverse legal talent. By partnering with law firms to inform and engage students about the practice of law in the energy sector it builds the pipeline of talented attorneys that want to pursue opportunities to practice law in the industry.

Huntington Ingalls Industries, Inc. - Recruitment & Retention: Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) has an innovative approach to the recruitment and retention of diverse attorneys and limiting the effects of inconspicuous or implicit bias. HII's legal department seeks to build a culture of inclusion by fostering the initiative of each attorney therein to act in the best interests of the company. They do this by instituting (1) trusted advisor models to promote attorney empowerment; (2) a peer culture to promote respect for points of view; and (3) information sharing and transparency policies to provide all attorneys with access to knowledge.

Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton- Mentoring: The Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation's mission is to provide assistance and support to minorities interested in pursuing legal careers, mentoring programs, networking opportunities and limited financial aid. The Foundation takes responsibility for finding experienced lawyers and judges to mentor black law students and working with other voluntary bar associations to find mentors for all minority law students. The Foundation regularly promotes awareness in the legal community for the need to increase diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

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About the George B. Vashon Award

The George B. Vashon Innovator Award is given to in-house legal departments, law firms and bar associations that have led the way with innovative best practices to assist diverse attorneys. It is named for scholar, abolitionist and lawyer George B. Vashon, who was the first licensed African American attorney in New York State (1848) and one of the first admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court (1867). Vashon was twice denied admission to the bar in Pennsylvania, including once after having been admitted by the U.S. Supreme Court. His determination to overcome these obstacles helped propel his distinguished career.

About MCCA

The Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA) was founded in 1997 to advocate for the expanded hiring, retention, and promotion of minority attorneys in corporate law departments and the law firms that serve them. MCCA furthers its mission through the collection and dissemination of information about diversity in the legal profession. MCCA takes an inclusive approach to the definition of "diversity." Therefore, its research addresses issues of race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, and generational differences which impact the legal profession's workforce. For more information, go to www.mcca.com.