



## News Release

### **Ronald H. Brown Center at St. John's School of Law to Host Annual Scholarship Dinner, April 9 Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP and AXA Equitable to Receive Trailblazer Awards**

**Queens, NY (March 31, 2010)** – The Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development at the St. John's University School of Law will present several awards to individuals and companies that live and operate in the spirit of Ronald H. Brown at its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Dinner to be held April 9 at 6 p.m. in the D'Angelo Center.

This year's Trailblazer Award will be presented to Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP and AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company. They are the first corporations to receive the award, and both were selected for their efforts in supporting the Ronald H. Brown Summer Law School Prep Program for College Students through internship and mentoring programs beginning last summer.

The Ronald H. Brown Center presents Trailblazer Awards to recognize work and activities in business and the community that demonstrate a commitment to uplifting under-represented groups and individuals.

Others who will be honored, in this, the 40<sup>th</sup> year since Brown graduated from St. John's University, share a connection with Ronald Brown's professional life by working at his places of employment.

Those honorees include:

- Vida Benavides, Principal, Dewey Square Group, presented by the Asian Pacific Law Students Association
- Rodney E. Slater, Partner, Patton Boggs, LLP, presented by the Black Law Students Association
- William A. Ramos, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce, presented by the Latin American Law Students Association
- Anurag Varma, Of Counsel, Patton Boggs LLP, presented by the South Asian Law Students Association

#### **About the Ronald H. Brown Center**

The Ronald H. Brown Center's mission is to engage in legal studies, research and outreach focusing on issues that affect the lives of underrepresented people while simultaneously educating law school students to be leaders on issues of racial, economic and social justice. The Prep Program is housed at St. John's University School of Law. It provides a dual curriculum that targets exceptional college sophomores and juniors and includes approximately 60 students per summer. All participants are subject to a rigorous application process and academic standards, which includes a re-application component for returning juniors.

For media inquiries, please contact Elizabeth Reilly, Associate Director of Media Relations, at (718) 990-578, or via electronic mail at [ReillyE@stjohns.edu](mailto:ReillyE@stjohns.edu).

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