



## **OWBA Presents 2017 Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award to The Ohio Attorney General's Office at Annual Meeting and Conference**

**Columbus, OH (May 2017)** – On Friday, May 12th OWBA presented The Ohio Attorney General's Office with the Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award which is designed to recognize outstanding efforts of a law firm, company or other legal organization that has demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting diversity and promoting the full and equal participation of diverse attorneys at all levels of the legal profession.



Sherri Dahl, OWBA's Awards Committee Chair and Lisa Whittaker, a member of the Association's Diversity & Inclusion Committee presented the award to a Mary Mertz, First Assistant Attorney General, The Ohio Attorney General's Office and mentioned that this organization is "innovative in creating an inclusive work environment, promoting organizational culture change, supporting its teams of professionals and engaging the career-opportunity pipelines of the future". Over 50 individuals throughout The Ohio Attorney General's Office updated and launched a comprehensive Diversity and Inclusion Plan just last year. The plan primarily focuses on three areas including that are regularly tracked and measured; Retention, Engagement, and Recruitment.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office became one of the first State of Ohio agencies to implement Diversity and Inclusion Plan into their organization and since doing so has provided training for nearly 1,600 employees on various topics. The sessions provided by this plan have informed numerous individuals of different cultures and backgrounds and have encouraged and helped them grow; both professional relationships and personal relationships.

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## Media Contacts

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