



## **Ohio Women's Bar Association to Welcome Starbucks General Counsel and NiSource Chief Legal Officer at Annual Meeting and Conference**

FOR RELEASE: January 23, 2017

Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio Women's Bar Association (OWBA) and Ohio Women's Bar Foundation (OWBF) are proud to announce that [Lucy Helm](#), Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Starbucks, and [Carrie Hightman](#), Executive Vice President & Chief Legal Officer of NiSource Inc., will serve as keynote speakers for the 2017 OWBA/OWBF Annual Conference Meeting on May 11-12, 2017.

Ms. Hightman will deliver the Conference kick-off address on May 11, "A View from the Top: Lessons in Leadership." Ms. Helm will deliver the Conference luncheon address on May 12 during the OWBA/OWBF luncheon.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to welcome two Fortune 500 General Counsels who have shattered glass ceilings. This year's conference theme, *Critical Conversations and Courageous Leadership*, will tackle some of the most significant issues facing the legal profession, including the persistent gender gap at the highest levels of leadership," said Lisa M. Kathumbi, OWBA President-Elect and Partner with the law firm of Bricker & Eckler.

In addition to Hightman and Helm, the conference will include perspectives from not only local lawyers and judges, but from business and community leaders, such as Barb Smoot, President & CEO, Women for Economic and Leadership Development ("WELD"), and Don Casey, CEO - Medical Segment, Cardinal Health. "Our goal is to share diverse ideas, develop strategies and increase collaboration," noted Kathumbi.

The OWBA/OWBF Annual Conference will span two days with CLE sessions on both days. Some of the course offerings include:

- A View from the Bench: Past, Present and Future
- The Art of Communication: Negotiating Salary and Promotion and Retaining Top Talent
- General Counsels Speak: Top Legal Priorities for 2017 and Beyond

- Reaping the Benefits of Diversity & Inclusion: The Business and Economic Return.

The OWBA will also host networking receptions on both days, including the annual Honoring Women in Government Reception.

The mission of the Ohio Women's Bar Association is to promote the leadership, advancement and interests of women attorneys through professional education, networking and the exchange of ideas between our members, local bar associations, business and the community.

Additional information about the annual meeting and conference – including how to register – can be found at the [OWBA website](#). The Conference will be held at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, Lewis Center, Ohio. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information contact OWBA at [\(866\) 932-6922](tel:8669326922) or [admin@owba.org](mailto:admin@owba.org).

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