



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 2, 2011

Contact: Kiara Pesante (202) 697-1000  
kiara.pesante@impact-dc.com

## **Winners of the 2011 Nation's Best Advocates Awards Honored at NBA Gala**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Hundreds of people filled the Maryland Ballroom of the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel on Sunday, July 31, 2011 as IMPACT and the National Bar Association (NBA) honored the 2011 "Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40." The event was hosted by actor and comedian **Anthony Anderson**, and kicked off the NBA's 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

From the 40 nominees the winners of five special awards were announced during the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual gala, which is the only of its kind. Congressman André Carson (IN-07), Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy Quince and Willie Gary were among the attendees.

Nation's Best Advocates recognizes talented individuals (age 40 and under) within the African American legal community who have achieved prominence and distinction, professionally and philanthropically. The 2011 class represents a cross-section of legal professionals: solo practitioners, government lawyers, judges, academicians, corporate counsels, young elected officials, and other lawyers using their degree in innovative ways. Winners were chosen based on their achievement, innovation, vision, leadership, and legal community involvement.

### **2011 Nation's Best Advocates Award Winners**

Excellence in Activism – Christopher J. Tyson - Assistant Professor of Law, Louisiana State University  
Excellence in Innovation – Adia Zuri May - CEO/Founder, Zuri Entertainment, LLC  
Excellence in Leadership – Ronda F. Williams - Senior Corporate Counsel, Savvis, Inc.  
Excellence in Service – Christiane A. Roussell – Associate, Hunton & Williams LLP  
Nation's Best Advocate of the Year - Andrea H. Evans - Attorney, The Law Firm of Andrea Hence Evans, LLC

**The National Bar Association**, founded in 1925, is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominantly African American attorneys and judges. It represents approximately 44,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students and has over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world. For additional information about the National Bar Association, visit [www.nationalbar.org](http://www.nationalbar.org).

**IMPACT** is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage and build a network of young professionals of color to foster civic engagement, increase knowledge of the political and legislative processes, and enhance economic empowerment opportunities. For additional information about IMPACT, visit [www.IMPACT-dc.com](http://www.IMPACT-dc.com).

###