

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women's White Collar Defense Association Announces 2025 Annual Awards Gala and Recipients

Washington, D.C. - September 9, 2025 - The Women's White Collar Defense Association (WWCDA) is proud to announce that its 2025 Annual Awards Gala will take place on **Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at the Ritz-Carlton, (Washington, D.C.)**. This year's theme, **"Honoring Excellence. Inspiring Tomorrow,"** reflects WWCDA's enduring commitment to recognizing leaders who have impacted the white collar profession while championing equality in the field.

Now in its 26th year, the WWCDA has become the leading global organization for attorneys and other professionals in the white collar defense and compliance profession, and the Awards Gala stands as a signature celebration of excellence, progress, and community. The Awards Gala brings together distinguished professionals from across the globe in law, compliance, government enforcement, and beyond, for an evening of recognition, networking, and inspiration.

The evening will be emceed by **Michele Roberts**, renowned attorney and former Executive Director of the National Basketball Players Association. Roberts made history as the first woman to hold that role and lead a major professional sports union in North America.

This year, WWCDA will honor the following outstanding individuals and company for their leadership, advocacy, and contributions:

- **WWCDA Champion Award**
Rachel Brand, Executive Vice President of Global Governance, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary, Walmart, Inc.
- **WWCDA Group Award**
Gap, Inc., accepted by Julie Gruber, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer, and Corporate Secretary, Gap, Inc.
- **Laurie A. Miller Leadership Award for the Advancement of Women in White Collar Defense**
Rita Mitchell, Partner, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Kit Addleman, Partner, Haynes and Boone, LLP

- **Catherine M. O’Neil Mentoring Award**

Jennifer Lieser, Partner, Kaplan Marino

- **Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Outstanding Law Student Award**

Annie Hong, MPA, J.D. Candidate 2026, University of California, Irvine School of Law

- **WWCDA Chapter Awards**

New York Chapter

India Chapter

“Each year, we are honored to celebrate those who contribute to elevate the white collar field,” said Karen Popp, WWCDA Co-Founder and Global Chair. “This year’s award recipients exemplify the values that define the WWCDA’s mission: excellence, leadership, and inclusiveness.”

Registration for this premier networking and celebratory event is now open to all members of the white collar defense and greater legal community, including WWCDA members, and colleagues, clients and others who support the WWCDA’s mission.

[Click to learn more about Gala sponsorships and advertisement opportunities](#)

About the WWCDA

Founded in 1999, the Women’s White Collar Defense Association (WWCDA) is a global organization of more than 4,700 attorneys and professionals across 51 chapters in 18 countries spanning North America, Europe, Latin America, and Asia Pacific. WWCDA promotes the common business and professional interests of attorneys who specialize in the representation of corporations, other organizations, and individuals facing government enforcement actions (criminal, civil, regulatory, and administrative), and in internal investigations, compliance and ethics matters.

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