

# Wiley Rein Receives George Washington University Black Law Students Association's Champion Award

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May 21, 2012

On May 18, The George Washington University Black Law Students Association (GW BLSA) presented Wiley Rein with its Champion Award at the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Patricia Roberts Harris Banquet. The dinner and awards reception was held at The Mayflower Renaissance Hotel, with proceeds going toward educational and professional development programs, college student pre-law pipeline initiatives, advocacy competitions, and domestic and international community service.

The GW BLSA presents the Champion Award annually to companies or law firms that demonstrate a commitment to diversity through their hiring and promotion practices. "Wiley Rein is honored to receive this award, which celebrates the incredible achievements of Ms. Harris," said Charles C. Lemley, chair of Wiley Rein's Diversity Committee. "We continually strive to attract and retain a diverse group of lawyers at the firm, and are grateful for this recognition of our efforts."

Ms. Patricia Roberts Harris (1924-1985) was the first African American woman appointed to the President's Cabinet, serving as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Health and Human Services for President Jimmy Carter. She was also the first African American woman to become a United States Ambassador, a United Nations delegate, and the dean of a law school.

"We hope that future students are inspired by her accomplishments and follow her example," said Dorthula H. Powell-Woodson, ex officio member of Wiley Rein's Diversity Committee. "Wiley Rein is proud of its relationship with George Washington University Law School and

## Related Professionals

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Dorthula H. Powell-Woodson  
Partner  
202.719.7150  
[dpowell-woodson@wiley.law](mailto:dpowell-woodson@wiley.law)

the Black Law Students Association and I'm confident Ms. Harris will continue to serve as a leader and role model for generations to come."