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BALTIMORE, MD - The NAACP congratulates Kim M. Keenan, who was selected for the position of General Counsel of the Association. Keenan is the youngest attorney and second woman to hold this position in the organization's history.

Her career demonstrates her strong commitment to public service, improving the legal profession and redressing the inequities still impacting women and people of color.

"We congratulate Kim on her historic accomplishment and applaud her for having a forward looking vision for the Association," stated NAACP Chairman Roslyn M. Brock. "Her record of advocacy on behalf of African Americans makes her a natural fit for our organization."

"I am excited to work with Kim Keenan," stated NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. "Kim's experience and commitment to public service make her a valuable addition to our staff. She is a leader, a trailblazer and a clear voice for the cause of justice and equality. Her exceptional skills as a litigator will strengthen NAACP's ability to continue our historic role of using the law to advance the goals of social justice and transform our nation for the better."

Paired with her strides as a professional of color, Keenan maintains a legacy of breaking gender barriers. Keenan served as the sixty-second president of the National Bar Association (NBA), the oldest and largest bar association of lawyers of color in the world with a network of more than 50,000 lawyers, judges, and law students.

She was the first woman from the District of Columbia to be elected to this position and only the eighth woman in the organization's eighty-six year history to serve in the NBA's highest elected office. During her tenure as president, the NBA deployed thousands of lawyers throughout the nation to educate voters regarding new voting laws.

Keenan is also the immediate past president of the District of Columbia Bar, the second largest jurisdictional bar in the country. Although she was the 38th president of the organization, her service marked only the eighth time that a woman has served as president. In May 2007, the Women's Bar Association named her "Woman Lawyer of the Year" for her contributions to the profession.

Keenan has received recognition for her stellar legal skills from a wide variety of prominent organizations. She was recently honored as a Washington, D.C. Super Lawyer (2007-2010), was recognized as a Top Lawyer by the Washingtonian Magazine in 2009, and named a "Legal Rebel" by the American Bar Association (2010). In June 2011, Keenan will be given the Wiley A. Branton Award for Civil Rights Under Law from the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Prior to joining the NAACP, Keenan was the principal of the Keenan Firm in Washington, D.C., focused on complex medical malpractice litigation, mediation and arbitration, litigation consulting, and public speaking.

Keenan has received numerous awards for her community service activities, notably recognition from the Louisiana and Virginia State Conferences of the NAACP. Keenan remains committed to mentoring young professionals on the value of quality education.

She is a graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and the University of Virginia School of Law. She serves on the Senior Adjunct Faculty of George Washington University Law Center, where she co-teaches Pretrial Advocacy and Trial Advocacy. Keenan was also a regularly featured "attorney" on the first season of Fox's "Power of Attorney" television show. She has been a commentator for Fox News and has appeared on Fox's legal

program “Dayside.” She has also appeared on C-SPAN, Court TV, Fox News and numerous radio programs.