



News Release

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Jean Johnson Named to National Women's Business Council

Washington, DC – Jean Johnson has been appointed to a three-year term on the National Women's Business Council. Based in Houston, TX, Johnson is President and Chief Executive Officer of LegalWATCH, a company that specializes in risk and lawsuit avoidance.

The National Women's Business Council is a bi-partisan Federal government council created to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations. The Council is committed to:

- *Conducting* research on issues of importance to women business owners and their organizations;
- *Communicating* these findings widely;
- *Connecting* the women's business community to public policy makers; and
- Providing programs and platforms for *change* in order to expand and improve opportunities for women business owners and their enterprises.

"I am delighted to welcome Jean Johnson to the National Women's Business Council," said Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Chairman and CEO of Carlson Companies and Chair of the National Women's Business Council. "As a skilled and successful woman in business, Jean brings a wealth of valuable experience to the Council. I am confident that our work will be strengthened by her contributions."

Johnson formed LegalWATCH, a preventive law company, in 1997 after working for a Fortune 50 company, the United States Department of Justice and an international law firm. LegalWATCH's signature Preventive Law

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101 training program trains executives, managers and front-line employees on ways to reduce risk and liability associated with their actions and communications, including email. In addition to its signature training, LegalWATCH provides training and services in Corporate Governance, Ethics, Gender and Cultural Sensitivity, Diversity/EEO, Sexual Harassment, Contracts and Procurement and Dispute Resolution. She uses the knowledge acquired practicing law to help companies avoid mistakes that can force them into settlements or litigation. Johnson has conducted numerous training courses, spearheaded governmental audits, designed compliance programs and negotiated settlements with third parties and governmental regulators across the United States.

In addition to her Juris Doctorate Degree, Johnson holds a Masters Degree in Energy, Environmental and Natural Resource Law, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice. She is certified in Training and Development and is a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR). Her publications include articles on tort damages and legal liability associated with improper communications. Johnson is a Past President of the Houston Lawyers Association and Past Chair of the African American Law Section of the State Bar of Texas. She serves on the National Bar Association's Board of Governors as a Board Member-at-Large and is on the Houston Minority Business Council and Women Business Enterprise Alliance Board of Directors. She also represents Halliburton on the Women Business Enterprise National Leadership Forum.

"I look forward to serving on the National Women's Business Council," said Johnson. "One of my major goals as a Council member is to implement a national program that provides incentives for companies and governmental entities to patronize women-owned businesses. As part of this program, my goal is to nationally recognize those entities that avidly support women-owned businesses."

As the nation's advocate for the more than 9 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., the National Women's Business Council works to promote increased access to affordable health care; access to capital; access to federal contracts and international markets; and access to the information and expertise women business owners most need to succeed.

Women business owners currently represent almost 38% of all U.S. firms, with a growth rate twice that of all businesses. They employ one out of every four company workers and contribute \$3.6 trillion in annual revenues.

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owners. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations. For more information about the Council, its mission and activities, contact: National Women's Business Council, 409 3rd Street, SW, Suite 210, Washington, DC 20024; phone: 202-205-3850; fax: 202-205-6825, e-mail: nwbc@sba.gov; Web site: www.nwbc.gov.