



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

NEWS RELEASE

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LA AREA CHAMBER'S 116TH INAUGURAL DINNER INSTALLS CHRIS MARTIN AS NEW CHAIR OF THE BOARD

***Honors Civil Rights Leader John Mack of Los Angeles Urban League,
Sharon Allen of Deloitte & Touche and City National Bank***

February 11, 2005 (Los Angeles) -- Over 1,100 Los Angeles "movers and shakers," including elected officials, business and civic leaders, tonight celebrated the 116th year of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce at the organization's annual Inaugural Dinner at City National Plaza in Downtown Los Angeles.

At the gala event, Chris Martin, CEO of AC Martin Partners, California's oldest planning, architecture and engineering firm, was installed as the new Chair of the Board. He takes the reins from immediate past chair George Kieffer, a partner at the law firm, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips.

"As a city planner, I envision my new role with the Chamber as one of working with our civic and business leaders to ensure that Los Angeles realizes its potential for greatness," said Martin. "We are an emerging global capital, an economic powerhouse, and a vibrant community—but we must rise to overcome the challenges our rapid growth has brought about. This is no small task, but it is one that the LA Area Chamber of Commerce is ready and eager to undertake."

Rusty Hammer, President & CEO of the LA Area Chamber, made a poignant return to the stage at the event. Hammer continued to helm the Chamber during a fight with leukemia, during which public appearances were rare. He thanked outgoing chair Kieffer and the Chamber board and staff for their leadership and dedication in advancing the mission of the Chamber during that difficult time. He also acknowledged the vital role the support of the community at large played in his recovery.

"Words cannot express how happy I am to be here this evening," said Hammer. "Let's do some great things for Los Angeles this year. Since 1888, the LA Area Chamber has championed regional solutions for our growing population and business community. Southern California is at a pivotal crossroads, and the Chamber in 2005 will be doubling its efforts to promote investment in our infrastructure."

In the spirit of community-building, the Chamber annually recognizes extraordinary civic leadership at the Inaugural Dinner gala and paid special tribute to the 2005 honorees: "Civic Medal of Honor" recipient John Mack, Distinguished Business Leader Award recipient Sharon Allen, and Corporate Leadership Award recipient City National Bank.

Mack, the longtime civil rights and community economic development leader, received the Chamber's prestigious "Civic Medal of Honor" award. The award honors extraordinary civic

leadership and public service by an individual who, by their commitment, leadership and character, reflects the very best in each of us, and who sets examples in civic life and personal excellence that serve as models for future generations. The two previous recipients of this award are former U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and business leader and philanthropist Eli Broad.

“John Mack is the epitome of civic leadership,” said Hammer. “He has dedicated his life to empowering underserved communities by ensuring they have access to the tools and opportunities they need to advance economically. From providing scholarships to promising students, vocational job training, financial planning guidance and employment services, John Mack walks the walk and talks the talk. The Los Angeles business community applauds his efforts to strengthen economic development locally and regionally for all these years.”

John Mack has served as president of the Los Angeles Urban League since 1969. Under his leadership, the LAUL has become one of the most successful non-profit community organizations in Los Angeles with an annual budget of \$25 million. The LAUL serves over 100,000 individuals each year. Mack also sits on the boards of United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Cedars Sinai Medical Center and Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board and serves on the California Institute of Technology Board of Trustees, Town Hall Board of Governors, and RAND Graduate School Board of Governors.

Sharon Allen has more than 30 years of audit and consulting experience in various industries and is a frequent speaker and panelist on the topics of governance, human resources and international commerce. She is a director for The Foundation for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and a member of the Women’s Leadership Board at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. In addition, she is a board member of United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Town Hall Los Angeles, and YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles. She was recently named one of the 50 Women to Watch by *The Wall Street Journal*.

City National Bank was honored for demonstrating superior leadership assuring the growth and prosperity of the Los Angeles region, and for embodying integrity, innovative thought and a strong commitment to the community. From a single office in Beverly Hills in 1954, City National Bank has grown to become the largest bank headquartered in Southern California, with assets in excess of \$14 billion and 52 offices. Yet, for all of its remarkable growth, City National still has the core values upon which it was founded: create a client-centered, service driven financial institution that places the needs and interests of its clients and community first.

Attendees of tonight’s dinner read like a who’s who of Los Angeles political, civic and business leadership. From members of Congress to local city councilmembers, corporate executives to small business entrepreneurs, the audience was representative of the diversity of the fabric of Los Angeles, and was a testament to the ever-increasing influence and credibility of the Chamber.

“Our special thanks to Jim Thomas and Thomas Properties for hosting this gala event at the newly rededicated City National Plaza (formerly Arco Plaza), one of Thomas’ premier properties,” said Martin. The 116th Annual Inaugural Dinner was presented by Thomas Properties; the complete sponsor list is attached.

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The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, with nearly 1,400 members, represents the interests of business in LA County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information visit www.lachamber.org.