



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NAMIC NAMES USTA CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, CEO, AND PRESIDENT
KATRINA M. ADAMS THE 2017
MICKEY LELAND HUMANITARIAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT**

*Diversity Organization to Honor Adams for Her Diversity and Inclusion Contributions
During the 31st Annual NAMIC Conference Sept. 27 Awards Luncheon*

NEW YORK – Sept. 14, 2017 – The **National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC)** announced today [Katrina M. Adams](#), the first African-American and youngest Chairman of the Board, CEO, and President of the United States Tennis Association (USTA), as the recipient of the **2017 Mickey Leland Humanitarian Achievement Award**. In partnership with *Multichannel News* and sponsored by *Scripps Networks Interactive* and *Univision Communications Inc.*, Adams will be honored, along with the previously announced [2017 Next Generation Leaders and Luminaries](#), at the **31st Annual NAMIC Conference** during the NAMIC Annual Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. ET at the New York Marriott Marquis.

“**Katrina M. Adams**’ personal and professional commitment to diversity and inclusion as head of the USTA and executive director of the [Harlem Junior Tennis & Education Program](#), is an inspiration to us all,” said **NAMIC President and CEO Eglon E. Simons**. “In addition, her trailblazing work advancing the concerns of people of color – in the sports and entertainment industries – makes her the quintessential Mickey Leland Humanitarian Achievement Award honoree.”

NAMIC’s Mickey Leland Humanitarian Achievement Award, among the highest honors within the communications industry, was established in 1992 to commemorate anti-poverty activist George Thomas “Mickey” Leland, an eponymous Texas Congressman and former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, for his lifelong advocacy for social justice and equality for people around the world. Adams joins an impressive slate of alumni, such as Maria Elena Salinas, Stuart Scott, Paula Madison, Marc Morial, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Anderson Cooper, Soledad O’Brien, Robert L. Johnson and others.

“It is a privilege to be the recipient of an award honoring and paying tribute to Congressman Leland’s legacy,” said Adams. “The path he set forth with his social justice advocacy work serves as a daily reminder of how truly important it is to continue my mission to engage,, support, and positively impact youth and families of diverse communities so they may succeed through the sport of tennis and ultimately in life.”

Currently in her second two-year term as the USTA’s chairman of the board, CEO and president, Adams also serves as chairman of the US Open, which this year saw four Americans - Madison Keys, Sloane Stephens, CoCo Vandeweghe and Venus Williams - in the women’s semi-finals for the first time since 1985. Stephens went on to claim her first major title as the winner of the 2017 US Open.

Under her leadership as the executive director, the Harlem Junior Tennis and Education Program has grown from 80 young participants to more than 1,000 year-round, and from a budget of \$150,000 to more than \$1,000,000. In addition to her duties with HJTEP and USTA, Adams is a contributor on CBS Sports Network's first all-female sports show, "We Need to Talk." She also serves as a television analyst for Tennis Channel and as a contributor to *Tennis Magazine* and tennis.com, providing instructional articles and videos.

An accomplished pro tennis player, Adams competed for 12 years on the WTA tour. She ranked as high as No. 67 in the world in singles and No. 8 in doubles, winning 20 career doubles titles and reaching the quarterfinals or better in doubles at all four Grand Slam events. Her best Grand Slam singles result was reaching the fourth round at Wimbledon in 1988.

ABOUT 31ST ANNUAL NAMIC CONFERENCE

As a Diversity Week anchor event, the 31st Annual NAMIC Conference, "Diversity at the Speed of Change," Sept. 26-27, at the New York Marriott Marquis is focusing on the rapidly revolutionary and evolutionary communications industry and offering attendees the opportunity to explore diversity and inclusion in this new business landscape.

Comcast NBCUniversal is the presenting sponsor for the 31st Annual NAMIC Conference. Conference sponsors include AMC Networks, ARRIS, BuzzFeed, Carlsen Resources, Cox Communications, Charter Communications, NCTA, REVOLT, Scripps Networks Interactive, Turner, TV One, Univision Communications Inc. and The Walter Kaitz Foundation.

Registration for the 31st Annual NAMIC Conference is available by visiting namic.com/events or by contacting NAMIC at 212-594-5985. Group registration discounts are also available for multiple attendees from the same company. For sponsorship inquiries contact Sandra Girado, vice president, events and partner relations at sandra.girado@namic.com.

For more information on NAMIC and the 31st Annual NAMIC Conference, please visit www.namic.com. To stay connected, join the conversation on [LinkedIn](#) and follow us @NAMICNational using #NAMICNow17 on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

ABOUT NAMIC

NAMIC (National Association for Multi-ethnicity in Communications) is the premier organization focusing on cultural diversity, equity and inclusion in the communications industry. More than 3,500 professionals belong to a network of 18 chapters nationwide. Through initiatives that target leadership development, advocacy and empowerment, NAMIC collaborates with industry partners to grow and nurture a workforce that reflects the cultural richness of the populations served. Please visit www.namic.com for more information about NAMIC and its many opportunities.

**TO APPLY FOR MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR THE 31ST ANNUAL NAMIC CONFERENCE,
PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://BIT.LY/NAMICMEDIA](http://bit.ly/namicmedia).**

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