

For Immediate Release

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Mary Ann Dunham Named 2009 ATHENA Award Recipient

(Pittsburgh, PA – Monday, September 21, 2009) The 2009 Greater Pittsburgh ATHENA Award recipient is Mary Ann Dunham, Shareholder, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC. She was presented with this honor before an audience of 750 men and women at the Allegheny Conference on Community Development's 19th annual luncheon at the Westin Convention Center Hotel Pittsburgh.

Dunham, among six other finalists, was chosen for best embodying the ATHENA Award criteria: demonstrating excellence and creativity in her profession, serving the community, and assisting other women in reaching their full leadership potential. The award – named after the Greek goddess of strength and wisdom – is unique among other regional honors for women in business because of its focus on mentorship.

Previously named a *Pittsburgh Business Times* "Fast Tracker," a *Philadelphia Magazine* "Pennsylvania Rising Star" and a *Pennsylvania Super Lawyer*[®], Dunham co-chairs the Mergers & Acquisitions Practice Group for Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC; chairs the firm's Women's Business Development Committee; and founded the Women's Initiatives Best Practices Group, which promotes and assists women in senior executive positions via cross-company mentoring opportunities.

Often leveraging her legal, financial and managerial expertise in the service women-led businesses, Dunham frequently partners with the Women Presidents' Organization, Pittsburgh Chapter. She is also the current chair of the Board of Directors for the Women & Girls Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania, which works to address and raise awareness of our region's fundamental social inequalities.

Upon receiving the award, Dunham dedicated it to her extremely supportive husband and her parents as role models. She also issued a call to action: "We, as a community, have a responsibility to work for the advancement of women. While our wonderful region is a leader in so many ways ... we are behind the national standard in women's compensation and the number of women in leadership positions – statistics we simply cannot afford. So join me, and [the local organizations] that are undertaking to change that path. If not for ourselves, let's do it for our daughters and sons," she said.

"Leading up to this week's Pittsburgh (G-20) Summit, our region is receiving widespread global attention for our economic, environmental and quality-of-life transformation, as well as our reputation for innovation. All of these achievements are enabled by the unique strength, talent and passion of our people. Mary Ann Dunham and all of the 2009 ATHENA finalists exemplify the best of our regional changemakers, and I thank them for all they have done and continue to do," said Dennis Yablonsky, CEO of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

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The other distinguished 2009 finalists, chosen among 46 nominees, were:

- **Shirley Anderson**, Owner & President of Shirley's Beauty Mark, Inc.;
- **Georgia Berner**, President & CEO of Berner International;
- **Dusty Elias Kirk**, Partner from Pepper Hamilton;
- **Audrey Murrell**, Associate Professor & Director of the David Berg Center for Ethics and Leadership from the University of Pittsburgh;
- **Terri Petrick**, President & CEO of UPMC Passavant; and
- **Deborah Rice**, Executive Vice President Health Services from Highmark Inc.

“It was difficult to choose seven finalists from the high-caliber nomination pool we received, and choosing the recipient among those finalists was an even greater challenge. I am humbled by each one of these women's amazing achievements. The way Mary Ann impacts lives by helping business women to reach new professional heights, often by acting as an intermediary who connects them more effectively to each other, was something that made her stand out,” said Cynthia Baldwin, Partner with Duane Morris, chair of the ATHENA Award Selection Committee and the 2007 ATHENA Award Recipient.

The Greater Pittsburgh ATHENA Award Program Luncheon maintains its standing as one of the largest stand-alone events of its kind among some 500 presented annually across the globe in affiliation with ATHENA International (www.athenafoundation.org), based in Chicago.

The Pittsburgh ATHENA Award is presented with support from the Eden Hall Foundation, EQT Corporation, UPMC Health Plan, PNC, FedEx Ground, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, Schneider Downs & Company, Inc., Southwest Airlines, the *Pittsburgh Business Times*, WTAE-TV Pittsburgh, and WDUQ-FM 90.5.

The Allegheny Conference on Community Development and Affiliates – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance – work in collaboration with public and private sector partners to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. Learn more at www.alleghenyconference.org.

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