



NEWS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

TRACI OTEY BLUNT RECOGNIZED AMONG “25 INFLUENTIAL BLACK WOMEN IN BUSINESS”

The Network Journal Hosts 16th Annual Women in Business Awards

BETHESDA, MD// MARCH 25, 2014// The RLJ Companies today announced that Traci Otey Blunt, Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs, has been recognized among *The Network Journal’s (TNJ)* “25 Influential Black Women in Business” award honorees for 2014.

“As the second highest ranking female executive at The RLJ Companies, Traci has the leadership skills, the work ethic and the managerial expertise to become one of the top-ranked female business leaders in this country,” says Robert L. Johnson, founder and chairman of The RLJ Companies. “I admire Traci for the creativity, talent and vision that she helps to create at The RLJ Companies and I was proud to recommend her for this prestigious award which recognizes the success and professionalism that women of color bring to the corporate community.”

TNJ Publisher and CEO Aziz Gueye Adetimirin added, “The women we are honoring this year are at the forefront of American leadership and symbolize the diversity and advancement that has occurred across industry lines.”

Honorees are featured in the March/April issue of *The Network Journal* magazine – www.tnj.com/2014/traci-otey-blunt. *The Network Journal*, founded in 1993, is an award-winning magazine published quarterly on issues that affect the growth of business and the advancement of African-American professionals in the workplace.

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About The RLJ Companies

The RLJ Companies, founded by Robert L. Johnson, is an innovative business network that provides strategic investments in a diverse portfolio of companies. Within The RLJ Companies portfolio, Johnson owns or holds interests in businesses operating in a publicly traded hotel real estate investment trust; private equity; financial services; asset management; automobile dealerships; sports and entertainment; and video lottery terminal (VLT) gaming. The RLJ Companies is headquartered in Bethesda, MD, with affiliate operations in Charlotte, NC; Little Rock, AR; Los Angeles, CA; San Juan, PR; and Monrovia, Liberia. Prior to founding The RLJ Companies, Johnson was founder and chairman of Black Entertainment Television (BET). For more information visit: www.RLJcompanies.com.

