



Pamela Atkins Named Inaugural MS Leadership Class Nominee *Atlanta's Corporate Stars Learn Formula for Leadership Success*

ATLANTA (February 18, 2009) — The National Multiple Sclerosis Society Georgia Chapter announced today that **Pamela I. Atkins** is one of 77 corporate leaders nominated to Atlanta's first MS Leadership Class. **Atkins** serves as an Attorney at Atkins & Associates, Attorneys-at-Law, LLC where she advocates on behalf of disabled individuals including many persons afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis.

“The MS Leadership Class of 2009 offers exciting possibilities for rising business men and women to socialize, network and contribute to an ever changing community with what seems to be an array of social, political and healthcare needs,” said MS Leadership Class co-chairs Cindy Nofi, Senior Vice President, Private Client Advisor with U.S. Trust, and Keith Keller, Managing Director of Huron Consulting Group. “It’s not often that one finds a group of professionals so dedicated and committed to promoting success in their own career that they engage their talent and financial resources to make a difference in the welfare and well-being of others.”

“Atkins & Associates believes in supporting the National MS Society Georgia Chapter and its mission to create a world free of MS especially when volunteer leadership and funding are at a critical level and the need to provide quality service to the community continues,” said Pamela I. Atkins. “It takes the leadership and enthusiasm of professionals to become involved in this effort and to make a difference in the lives of many who benefit from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Georgia Chapter; I am proud to be a part of this effort.” said Atkins.

“The National Multiple Sclerosis Society Georgia Chapter is honored to launch the inaugural class with such an accumulation of bright, energetic men and women. The nominees have responded to the needs of our community without hesitation, and are not becoming involved in their community for the sake of recognition, but for the sake of meeting needs,” said the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Georgia Chapter President Roy A. Rangel.

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“As our community faces an economic crisis that challenges us each day, the MS Leadership Class of 2009 is in a way, an audition for heroic styles of leadership to perform in a community that relies on talent to solve its problems. This great group of leaders will build awareness of the National MS Society and its mission to create a world free of MS.”

As a principal in the law firm of Atkins & Associates, LLC in Atlanta, Georgia, **Pamela I. Atkins** devotes her time to representing clients in disability matters including insurance disputes on individual disability and group insurance policies, both ERISA and non-ERISA, in federal and state courts, as well as Social Security Disability claims, hearings and appeals. Ms. Atkins is a frequent speaker at conferences for attorneys and organizations, and has been retained by other lawyers, private industry, and the federal government for advice on disability design and regulation. She is the Past President of the National Organization of Social Security Claimant’s Representatives (NOSSCR), currently serving on its council of Past Presidents, and served on its Board of Directors for over 10 years. In addition, Atkins has past positions on the Executive Committee of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association (GTLA) and is a member of the American Associates of Justice. Atkins graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Emory University and earned the distinction of *Beta Gamma Sigma*. She received her Juris Doctorate from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. where she was an editor on the *Law Review*. Ms. Atkins is admitted to the Bar in Georgia, Maryland and District of Columbia. Atkins donates many hours to community service in support of persons with disabilities and is assisting the MS Society in honor of her many clients suffering from the disabling aspects of this disease. Atkins lives in Alpharetta, Georgia with her son.

Atkins and other class graduates will be honored with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society’s coveted ***MS Leadership Scholar Award***, an honor reserved for a stellar group of men and women across the U.S. aspiring to greater achievements in their field and making significant contributions in their community. Alana Shepherd, hospital co-founder and long-time Atlanta business leader, will serve as the Honorary Chair for the MS Leadership Class of 2009.

About the National Multiple Sclerosis Society - Georgia Chapter:

Multiple sclerosis stops people from moving. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society exists to make sure it doesn’t. The National MS Society believes that moving is not just something you can or can’t do, but rather who you are. This is why we sponsor events like Bike MS and Walk MS — to raise funding for the care and research needed to keep people with MS moving — while moving the world closer to a future free of MS.

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All funds for this work are raised privately. Along with hundreds of volunteers, the Chapter raises more than \$3 million annually from events such as the Bike MS: Cox Atlanta Ride, the Bike MS: Georgia Power Savannah Ride, and the Walk MS series throughout the state. The funds support a wide range of educational programs and direct services and national research to stop MS. Charity Navigator recently awarded the Georgia Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society with its highest rating for operational efficiency, with 85 cents of every dollar raised going directly to local programs and research to find a cure for MS. The Georgia Chapter assists clients by providing financial assistance, respite care, MS centers, self-help groups and peer counseling, community information and referrals, education, chapter publications, and recreational and social programs. On the healthcare front, the Georgia Chapter conducts in-service training for healthcare professionals to advance their knowledge of MS. Learn more by visiting www.nationalMSSociety.org/gaa or by calling 678-672-1000 or 1-800-FIGHTMS.



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