



PRESS RELEASE

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MASSACHUSETTS WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS ANNOUNCES 2019 ABIGAIL ADAMS & GOOD GUYS HONOREES TO BE RECOGNIZED AT GALA

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus (MWPC) has long recognized outstanding leaders in our community with two signature events--the Tribute to Abigail Adams and the Good Guys Awards--in which awards are given to women who have demonstrated a firm commitment to advancing the political, economic and social rights for women; and to men who have worked in their personal, professional, and civic lives to achieve parity for women. This year those two events are being combined to form the first annual MWPC Gala which will be held on **Thursday, October 3, 2019, from 6-8pm at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston.**

The MWPC is proud to announce the 2019 honorees:

- **Natasha Lamb, MBA, Managing Partner & Co-Founder of Arjuna Capital**, will receive this year's *Abigail Adams Award* for her commitment to gender pay equity and for investing globally in women. Natasha is a leader in impact investing, where she works with high-net-worth individuals, families, and institutions to integrate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors into their investments, while engaging major corporations to improve their performance through shareholder activism. In 2016, she received the *Aiming High Award* from Legal Momentum for pioneering a shareholder campaign on gender pay equity. She was named one of the 50 most influential global business people by Bloomberg Businessweek in 2017. And in 2018, 'The Badass 50: women who are changing the world' list by InStyle magazine. Her 2014 landmark negotiation with Exxon Mobil led to the company's first public report on global warming and carbon asset risk.
- **Dr. Ioannis N. Miaoulis, President of Roger Williams University**, will receive this year's *Good Guy Award* for his commitment to advance women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Throughout his tenure as Dean of Tufts University's School of Engineering, and as President of the Museum of Science, Dr. Miaoulis has dedicated his career to advancing under-represented people and significantly increasing representation of women in higher education and leadership roles. At Roger Williams University, one of his priorities will be creating a more diverse and inclusive environment and expanding access to higher education for women and other minoritized groups. While at the Museum of Science, he raised the museum's profile to an internationally acclaimed STEM education institution prompting greater philanthropic support including a \$50 million gift from Bloomberg Philanthropies, and led the development of the museum's National Center for Technological Literacy (NCTL) which advances the knowledge of engineering and technology through K-12 curricula programs that have reached an estimated 200,000 teachers and 18 million students. As Dean of Tufts University's College of Engineering, he increased the number of female undergraduates by 30 percent, and significantly boosted the proportion of female faculty members to 25 percent. In 2018, he was named one of the 100 most influential people in Boston by *Boston Magazine*.
- **Lora M. Pellegrini, Esq., President & CEO of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans (MAHP)**, will receive the inaugural *MWPC Legacy Award* which honors a former MWPC board president, or past Abigail Adams honoree. Lora's has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing women's leadership throughout the

Commonwealth. She is a past president of the MWPC, a former Co-Chair of the MWPC PAC, and served on the board for more than 10 years. She has been a Big Sister; and, a member of the Massachusetts Women's Forum, an invitation only organization made up of top women professionals. In 2011, *Boston Magazine* named Lora one of the 50 most powerful women in Boston. And in 2017 and 2018, the *Boston Business Journal* named Lora in their Power 50, their list of the most powerful people in Boston business. Most recently, Lora was awarded the 2018 Women's Bar Association's Lelia J. Robinson Award for her commitment to advancing women in the workplace, and particularly her work with the ACCESS Coalition to pass legislation which guarantees contraceptive coverage as part of health care coverage.

- **Daniel Rivera, Mayor of Lawrence**, will receive this year's *Leadership Award* for his outstanding leadership during the tragic 2018 Columbia Gas explosions that impacted Lawrence, Andover and North Andover. He publicly stood up for those impacted in his community and vocally advocated for Columbia Gas to be held accountable stating, "The least informed and the last to act have been Columbia Gas." During heated remarks he added, "It just seems like there's no one in charge, they're in the weeds." Dan is the middle son of a single mother who emigrated from the Dominican Republic to find a better life for her family by working in area mills. His commitment to the city of Lawrence is summed up in his stance that: "No one will work harder to restore our city's reputation and unity, rebuild our public safety departments, renew our commitment to our youth and schools, refocus on bringing jobs and economic growth to the city, regain the trust of our city's residents, and rehabilitate our city's image across the state."

"The MWPC is proud to recognize each of these incredible leaders whose accomplishments span the political, private and academic sectors," said Executive Director Erin G. Bradley. "Throughout their careers, our 2019 honorees have shown consistent dedication to the advancement of women. Their approach is dynamic and multifaceted; their work is informed by an understanding of the varying challenges women face in society; and their achievements range from advancing gender pay equity, to advancing the knowledge of science and technology among school-age girls."

Since 1971, the MWPC has been an advocate for equal representation for women in all levels of society. For 31 years, the Abigail Adams Tribute honored women who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment, through their work and/or their community activism, to the realization of equal political, economic, and social rights for women. And, for 17 years, the MWPC honored men who have worked in their personal, professional, and civic lives to achieve parity for women. These awards recognize that MWPC's goal of attaining equality can only be reached through the concerted efforts of both women and men in all areas of professional and political life.

About the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus: All proceeds will benefit the MWPC Education Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprofit and a nonpartisan organization that seeks to increase the civic engagement and empowerment of women of all ages in the political process and to increase the number of women elected and appointed to public office and public policy positions in the Commonwealth.

About the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus Political Action Committee:

The Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus Political Action Committee (MWPC PAC) is a non-partisan organization that recruits, trains and elects qualified women to achieve political parity by increasing the number of pro-choice women elected and appointed to public office and public policy positions, as well as increasing the involvement of women of all ages in the political process. Please visit www.mwpc.org/ to learn more.

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