

# Merit Award Dinner 2009



**THE WOMEN'S BOND CLUB 2009 MERIT AWARD DINNER** was held at Chelsea Piers in New York City on Tuesday, April 28. Thanks to our corporate member firms and industry supporters the dinner attracted over 500 attendees from all over Wall Street.

Dinner guests turned out to network, support diversity in the workplace, and celebrate their colleagues and Rising Stars.

The keynote address and Corporate Host, Devin Wenig, Chief Executive Officer of the Markets Division at Thomson Reuters underscored the importance of remaining committed to broadening the pool of leadership, even in tough market conditions. He acknowledged that if our industry is to continue to attract the best and the brightest then diversity and inclusion must be a priority.

The WBC also recognized 22 women as Rising Stars on Wall Street. Each year the WBC takes the opportunity to partner with its Corporate Member firms to recognize the outstanding women that represent the industry's future leaders. As we congratulated each Rising Star for her accomplishment, cheers and applause broke out from the respective Corporate Member Firms- a fabulous show of support for our future leaders. The Rising Stars and mentors were treated to a post-event, dessert-filled reception, hosted by the WBC.

The 2009 Isabel Benham Honoree, Mary Ellen Iskenderian, President and Chief Executive Officer of Women's World Banking, was recognized for her efforts in the area of "women helping women". Mary Ellen emphasized that change is possible in our lifetimes if women continue help each other. She explained that women tend to reinvest their money into great things such as their children's education, and community well being. She also told us about a few women who have inspired her in the tradition of Isabel Behman, her award's namesake. In honor of Mary Ellen's work, the WBC donated \$25,000 to Women's World Banking,

The 2009 Merit Award Winner, Nicole Arnaboldi, Chairman of DLJ Merchant Banking Partners, and Vice Chairman of Credit Suisse Alternative Investments and Co-Head Illiquid Investments, was recognized for her incredible contributions to Finance both personally and professionally. She highlighted that looking forward, and learning lessons from our past is crucial to the advancement of diversity in the workplace. She told several engaging anecdotes about her own experiences at home and in the Financial world.

These distinguished women were celebrated by a room full of successful and energetic WBC members, supportive colleagues, their clients and customers. Thank you to all for attending and supporting the mission of the WBC.