

For Immediate Release

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**Kabateck and Kellner Honored with Champions of Justice in Civil Rights Award
at NAACP's Annual Convention**

LOS ANGELES – The National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) awarded Brian S. Kabateck and Richard L. Kellner of Kabateck Brown Kellner with its 'Champions of Justice in Civil Rights' for their groundbreaking work in combating predatory lending practices against African-Americans. NAACP General Counsel Judge Laura D. Blackburne presented the award at the NAACP's National Convention in Kansas City yesterday, July 12th, during the Clarence M. Mitchell Memorial Lecture Luncheon.

The NAACP stated that Kabateck and Kellner were honored for "the tremendous service they have provided in the predatory lending litigation."

Kabateck and Kellner, founders and partners of the Los Angeles-based consumer rights firm, sued numerous banks between 2007 and 2009 on behalf of the NAACP for discriminatory lending practices that targeted minorities. The lawsuit, which did not seek monetary damages but rather sought to change these practices, targeted banks which assigned high-cost, subprime mortgages to black borrowers even while similarly situated white borrowers got better deals.

In April 2010, the team secured a remarkable settlement with several major lenders including Wells Fargo & Co. to change their banking practices and abide by the NAACP's Banking Principles on Fairness & Lending. The banks agreed to open their books for regular audits and will provide for the funding of Financial Freedom Centers throughout the country. The Centers will facilitate financial literacy and other programs to underserved communities through community mobilization, education workshops, and access to intensive technical assistance regarding mortgage crisis prevention and small business capacity building, through the NAACP. The evolving partnership between the banks and the NAACP will enhance communication to proactively address potential discriminatory conduct prior to litigation.

"We are very honored to have received this award on behalf of our work for the NAACP, particularly for a case which will positively affect so many borrowers," Kabateck and Kellner said in a joint statement. "We believe our partnership with the NAACP truly reflects our practice as a whole, which is focused on fighting for the rights of all consumers."

The litigation and the April settlements were widely reported in the press, including by the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Reuters, the Associated Press, and numerous legal publications and business journals around the country.

For more information about this award or the predatory lending litigation, please contact Erik Cummins at (415) 217-9341.

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