Creating an Inclusive Work Environment and Recruiting Diverse Talent are Priorities for Surety & Fidelity Industry

MAY 6, 2015, WASHINGTON, D.C.—As part of its Annual Meeting, The Surety & Fidelity Association of America held its second Diversity & Inclusion Summit to build on the industry’s successes and focus on the development of an Industry Resource Group to attract and engage young professionals to the surety and fidelity industry. This group will be the first of its kind.

“Leaders in the surety and fidelity industry recognize that many young professionals are not aware of the career opportunities and benefits in our industry,” says SFAA President Lynn Schubert. “We recognize that we can change this if we work together, and SFAA and our member companies are committed to the success of the Industry Resource Group.”

When SFAA and its member companies embarked on the journey of addressing diversity and inclusion many years ago, one of the many goals was to build a network of diverse surety professionals to promote recruiting efforts for diverse candidates.

The Summit’s afternoon workshop, “In Pursuit of Inclusion,” focused on the positive impact of diversity and inclusion on team performance and was led by diversity and inclusion professional, author, and advisor Joe Gerstandt, who currently serves on the board of directors for the Global Diversity and Inclusion Foundation, a nonprofit that focuses on developing business leaders who create value for their communities. During the workshop, he said, “Inclusion is activist. If you do not intentionally include, you will unintentionally exclude.”

“Given the overwhelming support for diversity efforts from SFAA member companies, the consensus is evident - embracing diversity initiatives is imperative for the long term success of our respective companies and industry as a whole,” said Ed Hubbard, Account Executive Officer, Travelers Bond & Specialty Insurance.

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The Surety & Fidelity Association of America (SFAA) is a trade association of more than 450 insurance companies that write the vast majority of surety and fidelity bonds in the U.S., is a licensed rating or advisory organization in all states, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and is designated by state insurance departments as a statistical agent for the reporting of surety and fidelity insurance.