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NEWS RELEASE

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OJJ Presents 2015 Champion of Louisiana Juvenile Justice Award

Monroe, LA – The Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) today presented its 2015 Champion of Louisiana Juvenile Justice Award at the annual Celebration of Change at Swanson Center for Youth in Monroe. OJJ held the event in recognition of systemic reform and progress, including the transformation of Swanson Center for Youth into a fully therapeutic model.

Representative Katrina Jackson is the 2015 Champion of Louisiana Juvenile Justice, awarded annually by the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice to recognize those who have championed the cause of juvenile justice reform, and whose dedication and hard work have resulted in the systemic overhaul of juvenile justice in Louisiana.

This is the sixth annual presentation of the Champion of Louisiana Juvenile Justice Award. Representative Jackson joins five previous recipients: Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Kitty Kimball, Beauregard Parish District Attorney David Burton, physician Dr. Debra K. DePrato and Rapides Parish Ninth Judicial District Judge Patricia Evans Koch and Fourth Judicial District Judge Sharon Marchman as a Champion of Louisiana Juvenile Justice. OJJ recognizes these Champions for their tireless work on behalf of Louisiana's most at-risk children and their families.

“Representative Katrina Jackson is the type of leader that Louisiana’s young people need at the state capitol,” said OJJ Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary L. Livers. “She is well known for being the voice for those unable to speak for themselves including the young people and families involved with juvenile justice.”

Representative Jackson was elected to serve in the Louisiana House representing district 16 which covers part of Ouachita and Morehouse parishes in 2011. Since being elected she has emerged as a leader among leaders. She is currently the Chair of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and Secretary of the Louisiana Legislative Women’s Caucus. She serves on several influential legislative committees including agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, & rural

development, commerce, health & welfare, house executive committee, house appropriations, joint legislative committee on the budget, and house and governmental affairs.

Representative Jackson was born and raised in Monroe, LA and her commitment to her community is evident in how she interacts daily with those in her community. “Representative Jackson is known throughout the community not only for her acts of kindness and generosity but for unselfishly giving of her personal time,” according to OJJ Regional Director Carolyn Lewis.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Welton and Patricia Holman and Mr. and Mrs. Walter and Linda Jackson. She received a Bachelor’s degree in Pre-Law and Legal Studies from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and a Juris Doctor Degree in 2004, from Southern University Law Center. In 2014, she received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Southern University.

She is a member of the Riverside Missionary Baptist Church in Monroe, LA. “I have accomplished so much in my life because I have a dream, and most importantly that dream lines up with God’s plan for my life and he guides me in the process of realizing my dream,” stated Representative Jackson.

Education is a priority for Representative Jackson. She was educated in public schools and has not forgotten her roots. It is not uncommon to see her at a Friday night football game supporting the youth in her community. She recognizes the value of acknowledging educational accomplishments with students.

“Representative Jackson’s commitment to excellence in education was magnified in the eyes of several students when she surprised honor recipients with a monetary reward for their notable academic achievements while she attended an honors program, as guest speaker, at Swanson’s Southside Alternative High School. This exemplifies her persistent dedication to the community, to juvenile justice reform and to the wellbeing of mankind” according to OJJ Director of Education, Kim Mims.

Representative Jackson was active in the Louisiana political process prior to serving in the legislature, she was a legislative staffer and Executive Director to the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus. After her election, she established opened a private law firm in 2012.

Since then she has been recognized many times for her accomplishments as a legislator including the 2013 Legislator of the Year Award from the Louisiana Municipal Association Black Caucus, the Louisiana Black Mayors Award and the Network Coalition Award. In 2015, she was honored with the Legislator of the Year Award from the Louisiana State Troopers Association and was named Legislator of the Year by the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians.

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