

Brown Shoe Company Named Company of the Year by American Apparel and Footwear Association

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Honorees | Charity Partner | Artist Ruben Toledo to Design New Award

Arlington, VA – November 20, 2014 – Juanita D. Duggan, President and CEO of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), today announced three of five industry leaders to be honored at the AAFA American Image Awards, to be held on **Monday, April 27, 2015** at **583 Park Avenue** in New York City. Recognizing outstanding achievements throughout the apparel and footwear industry, the awards will feature Person of the Year, Retailer of the Year, Company of the Year, Designer of the Year, and Fashion Maverick.

Duggan said, “I am pleased to announce three of the five honorees for AAFA’s 37th Annual American Image Awards. The AIA honorees are giants in the fashion industry, and I congratulate them for their achievements. The awardees are: Company of the Year: **Diane Sullivan, CEO, President & Chairman, Brown Shoe Company**; Retailer of the Year: **Mark Derbyshire, President, Holt Renfrew**; and Fashion Maverick: **Kelly Osbourne, Fashion Police Co-Host, Fashion Designer, and Actress.**” The remaining two award recipients will be announced shortly.

In addition, Duggan announced that **Ruben Toledo**, acclaimed artist and 2011 American Image Awards Fashion Maverick recipient, will design a new iconic design of the American Image Awards statuette. The custom design will be unveiled at the star-studded gala event on Monday, April 27. “This is an exciting collaboration between AAFA and Ruben Toledo, and we are thrilled that such a world-renowned artist will create a design that speaks to the essence and importance of the fashion industry,” said Duggan.

This year’s charity partner is **Mercy Ships**, a global organization committed to providing the world’s impoverished with basic healthcare and life-changing medical services. For more than 35 years, **Mercy Ships** has operated in more than 70 nations around the world, caring for over 2.4 million people through life-transforming surgeries and community development. Mercy Ships operates the largest non-governmental hospital ship in the world, bringing hope and healing around the globe.

“AAFA is deeply honored to partner with Mercy Ships as our charity partner for the American Image Awards,” said AAFA President & CEO, Juanita D. Duggan. “We are thrilled to be working together on such a meaningful cause, raising broad and global awareness for the healing it brings to the world’s most in need. We look forward to making this one of our most memorable, must-attend industry events.”

First awarded in 1977, the American Image Awards stands as an emblem of honor for those who have exemplified leadership, excellence, and outstanding achievement in all sectors of the apparel and footwear industry, including education, design, manufacturing, and retail.

About AAFA

The American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) is the national trade association representing apparel, footwear and other sewn products companies, and their suppliers, which compete in the global market. AAFA’s mission is to promote and enhance its members’ competitiveness, productivity and profitability in the global market by minimizing regulatory, commercial, political, and trade restraints. Learn how AAFA wears our mission at www.wewear.org.

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