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## Laura Lestus Honored as Houston Supplier of the Year

HAA Award Given to Liberty Group Employee for Second Consecutive Year

Houston, Texas (June 30, 2014) - The annual HAA Honors recognize Houston's top multi-family properties, employees, and suppliers. At the 2014 ceremony the HAA presented Laura Lestus, The Liberty Group's Houston Branch Manager, with the coveted Supplier of the Year award. Liberty has swept this category over the past two years, with Sales Associate Dean O'Kelley winning in 2013.

Laura began her apartment career in 1998 as a part-time Leasing Agent. She joined The Liberty Group in 2008 and was promoted to Branch Manager in 2011. She was instrumental in launching the company's San Antonio branch in 2009, followed by the Austin branch in 2010.

Laura has worked closely with the Houston Apartment Association since 2005, including the following achievements:

- Earned Certified Apartment Supplier (CAS) certification and completed many CEC courses
- HAA Ambassador Club since 2005
- Resident Relations Committee since 2006
- Career and Community Development Committee where she volunteered at career fairs and presented in the Texas Scholars program to Spring Branch ISD 8<sup>th</sup> graders
- Community Relations Committee, including fundraisers for Breast Cancer Awareness, ALS Sports Challenge, School Supply drive, and holiday food drive
- Century Club member of the HAA Better Government Fund
- In 2013 authored Closing the Gap, a well-received article for the HAA's ABODE magazine

"It is hard to imagine anyone more deserving of recognition than Laura," said Kenneth J. Bohan, The Liberty Group's Founder and President. "In addition to her sterling record of service and dedication to the industry, she is also a tireless advocate for parents of teens suffering from alcohol and drug addiction. She is a valued member of our team and we are honored that the HAA voters agree."

**About The Liberty Group:** Founded in 1977, <u>The Liberty Group</u> is a leading provider of temporary, temp-to-hire, and direct hire personnel to the apartment industry. The Liberty Group works with properties in Texas, North Carolina, Florida, and Washington DC to provide experienced, professional temporary support. The company is also a leader in nationwide real estate executive search, having placed executives in 47 of 50 states, The Executive Search division serves multiple verticals including multifamily, commercial, student housing, senior housing, and construction.