



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AGS Announces 2016 Circle of Distinction Honorees**

**Las Vegas, NV (February 22, 2016)** – The American Gem Society (AGS) announced today that it will honor three esteemed leaders in the jewelry industry at its annual Circle of Distinction dinner on Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at the historic Plaza Hotel in New York City. Dione Kenyon, the President of the Jewelers Board of Trade (JBT), will receive the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for her significant contributions to the industry throughout her career. Stewart Wicht, CEO and President of Rolex Watch U.S.A., and Hank Siegel, President of Hamilton Jewelers, will both be awarded the distinctive AGS Triple Zero™ Award for their many accomplishments and contributions to the fine jewelry industry.

“We are proud to continue the Society’s tradition of honoring excellence and outstanding contributions to our industry,” says Scott Berg, President-Elect of the AGS Board of Directors. “These three individuals stand out as exceptional leaders in the fine jewelry industry. Dione has provided an invaluable service to the industry, and has made an impact through her work at the Jewelers Board of Trade. Stewart Wicht and Hank Siegel are exemplary professionals, each with a long list of impressive achievements. These three set the bar high for all jewelry professionals, and we gladly applaud their on-going efforts.”

Dione Kenyon has served the Jewelers Board of Trade for over fourteen years and has been on the boards of other industry organizations like the Women’s Jewelry Association (WJA) and the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). She has helped the JBT extend its mission and add greater value to its membership, by providing insights and tools that help members make good business decisions.

Stewart Wicht has extensive experience in the luxury watch industry, having served at Rolex since 1975. He has served at the helm of the company’s U.S. division since 2010 and continues his high-profile leadership and excellence to maintain the brand’s image and esteem for their loyal fan base.

Hank Siegel is the third generation to head his family business of Hamilton Jewelers. As President and CEO, he has led Hamilton Jewelers to new levels of success, while retaining its core values and its character as a family business.

The Circle of Distinction event will begin at 6:00 p.m. with cocktails, followed by a three-course dinner and the awards presentation at 7:30 p.m. To order dinner tickets or to learn about advertising opportunities in the *Circle of Distinction Tribute Book*, contact Lauren Ruggeroli at 866-805-6500 x1005 or email [lruggeroli@ags.org](mailto:lruggeroli@ags.org).

To learn more about American Gem Society or its previous Circle of Distinction honorees, please visit [www.americangemsociety.org](http://www.americangemsociety.org).

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### **About the American Gem Society**

*The American Gem Society, founded in 1934 by Robert M. Shipley, is a nonprofit trade association dedicated to proven ethics, knowledge, and consumer protection within the jewelry industry. The American Gem Society is a professional organization awarding credentials for its members, who are held to the highest ethical and professional standards in the industry and must pass annual recertification examinations to maintain their titles. Less than one in twenty jewelers in the country have chosen to meet the exacting standards necessary for membership.*

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