



## **AGTA Members Recognized By The Women's Jewelry Association**

DALLAS, TX (July 5, 2017) – The American Gem Trade Association (AGTA) is delighted to announce that 13 of the nominees for the Women's Jewelry Association (WJA) Awards for Excellence are AGTA Members. The annual WJA Awards for Excellence honor female professionals in the jewelry and/or watch industries in the categories of design, manufacturer/dealer/supplier, retail, sales and merchandising, marketing and communications, editorial media, watches and special services who have demonstrated significant achievements throughout their careers.

The WJA Awards for Excellence nominees that are AGTA Members - *as a Member of Record or belonging to an AGTA Member company* include:

- Deirdre Featherstone, *Featherstone Designs*
- Alexis Padis, *Padis Jewelry*
- Gabriella Harvey, *Gemfields*
- Betty Sue King, *King's Ransom*
- Anna Samsonova, *Ben Bridge Jewelers*
- Donna Jolly, *American Gem Society*
- Judith Shechter, *GIA*
- Jo-Ann Sperano, *Jewelers Vigilance Committee*
- Eileen McClelland, *Instore*
- Lisa Bridge, *Ben Bridge Jewelers*

In addition to these nominees, AGTA Marketing Manager, Megan Whitmire, was nominated for the Award in Excellence in the Marketing and Communications category. Two more AGTA Members will be honored during the gala. Cecilia Gardner of the Jewelers Vigilance Committee will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award, and Michael Pollak of Hyde Park Jewelers will receive the Ben Kaiser Award.

WJA Awards for Excellence gala will take place on Monday, July 24, 2017 at Pier 60 on Chelsea Piers. To learn more about the WJA Awards for Excellence gala or to purchase tickets please visit:

[www.womensjewelryassociation.com](http://www.womensjewelryassociation.com)

### **About the WJA**

WJA's mission is to help women in the jewelry and watch industries advance and develop professionally through networking, education, leadership development, and the provision of member services.

### **About the American Gem Trade Association**

The American Gem Trade Association is a not-for-profit Association serving the natural colored gemstone and cultured pearl industry since 1981. The AGTA serves the industry as "The Authority in Color" and has it's headquarter office in Dallas, Texas.

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