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### **Alpha Kappa Alpha to Address Civil Rights/Voter Rights/Racism at Town Hall Former North Carolina Congresswoman Eva Clayton Among Panelists**

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will convene a Town Hall aimed at informing the public about pivotal civil rights, voter empowerment, social justice and legal issues impacting the lives of minority communities. The overarching goal is to provide a public forum to address, confront and spark a dialogue on issues disproportionately affecting the powerless and disenfranchised.

The Town Hall takes place on Sunday, July 13, 2014 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Charlotte Convention Center. It will be driven by the theme: “A Call to Action: Our Rights and Our Responsibilities.”

It is free and open to the public.

The major areas that will be addressed include:

- Allegations that America is reverting to a segregated society in the areas of education and healthcare.
- Charges that African-American males are being funneled into the schoolhouse-to-the-prison pipeline.
- Assessments of how challenges to Voting Rights Act have impacted the minority community. There will be specific emphasis on the Shelby County opinion
- The impact of Stand Your Ground Laws and other related legislation that impacts systemic racial bias.

In making the announcement, Alpha Kappa Alpha’s International President, Attorney Carolyn House Stewart, said the agenda items to be covered embrace the Sorority’s social, civil rights, human rights and legislative agenda. This parallels the Sorority’s theme: “Global Leadership Through Timeless Service.”

Alpha Kappa Alpha’s International Connection Committee is hosting the Town Hall.

The Sorority has assembled a broad cross section of leaders from the legal, civil rights and religious sectors to participate on the panel. They bring a unique perspective and worldview to these issues and are committed to raising awareness of critical issues, while arousing citizens to action.

Serving as moderator of the panel is **Nina Turner, State Senator from Ohio.**

Turner is eminently qualified to preside. She is a visionary who grasps the importance of the issues to be discussed and possesses the insight and passion to lead the panel. After devoting her life to serving as an advocate for those less fortunate, she embarked upon a career in public service. After being appointed to the vacant 25<sup>th</sup> Ohio Senate seat in 2008, she was later elected to continue serving in that position.

Senator Turner was honored as *The Nation Magazine's* 2011 Most Valuable State Senator, was named to *The Root 100* list of most influential African-Americans in 2013, and to *Cleveland Magazine's* 2014 list of Most Interesting People.

Panelists include:

**The Rev. William J. Barber, II** – Pastor – Greenleaf Christian Church – Goldsboro, N.C.

Rev. Barber is the Chairman of the Political Action Committee of the National NAACP Board. In February 2007, he convened the first Historic Thousands on Jones Street (HK on J), which was designed to deliver the Peoples' Agenda to the state General Assembly. This year, approximately 80,000 people participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> HK on J Moral March on Raleigh, N.C., which was hailed as the largest civil rights march ever in the south. He is the architect of the Moral Monday-Forward Together Movement. Rev. Barber has received numerous honors and awards and been a guest on CNN and MSNBC. He has been awarded many honors and in 2014 was named one of the 14 Faith Leaders to Watch.

**The Honorable Eva M. Clayton (Retired)**

Eva M. Clayton is a former member of Congress who represented eastern North Carolina from 1992-2003. A trailblazer, she was the first woman elected to Congress from North Carolina. She served on several committees including as Chair of the Nutrition & Operations Sub-committee of the Agriculture Committee. Passionate about agriculture, upon retirement from Congress, she accepted the position of Assistant Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) from 2003-2006 where she assisted in organizing partnerships and alliances to fight hunger in countries worldwide. She remains active with agriculture, rural development and food security issues. She is also President of Eva Clayton Associates International (ECAI), which provides consultant services nationally and internationally. She volunteers on various boards and has received numerous awards for her achievements and eight honorary doctorate degrees from various American universities for her leadership and service.

**Reverend Dr. Carolyn Maull McKinstry**

Carolyn Maull McKinstry was born in Birmingham, Alabama and was present on September 15, 1963, when white racists bombed the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. She survived a second bombing that took place at her home in 1964. McKinstry has shared these experiences and others to a global audience, including during an appearance on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She consulted with Spike Lee on his HBO Documentary "Four Little Girls" and the Hallmark television show "Sins of the Father." McKinstry is currently the president of the Board of Directors of the Sixteenth Street Foundation. She is an honorary member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

**Carroll Rhodes, Esq.**

Carroll Rhodes is a Hazlehurst, Mississippi-lawyer who is counsel for the Mississippi State Conference of the NAACP. He is also representing several African-American voters in the statewide legislative reapportionment case of Mississippi State Conference *NAACP v. Barbour*, which is currently on appeal to the United States Supreme Court. Carroll has been involved, including as lead counsel in hundreds of voting rights cases in Mississippi over the past 35 years. He has also authored landmark law journal articles on voter rights.

**Thena Robinson-Mock, Esq.**

**Project Director, Advancement Project | Ending the Schoolhouse-to-Jailhouse Track Program**

Thena Robinson-Mock is a civil rights attorney with over a decade of experience in racial and social justice advocacy. Prior to joining Advancement Project, Thena served as Executive Director of Kids Rethink New Orleans. She also worked as a staff attorney for the New Orleans office of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) where she provided direct representation for youth in juvenile court and school discipline proceedings and handled civil rights litigation. Her legal background also includes civil rights fair housing law and capital post-conviction representation. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

**Debra Saunders-White, Ed.D. - Chancellor -North Carolina Central University**

Saunders-White was named Chancellor on June 1, 2013. Her priorities for ensuring student success and academic excellence include retaining and graduating students in four years; raising critical scholarship funds and providing innovative academic instruction that prepares and trains students to work in the global marketplace. Saunders-White is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

**The Honorable Terri A. Sewell – U.S Representative –Alabama**

Congresswoman Terri Sewell is serving her second term as the U.S. Representative of Alabama’s 7th Congressional District. She is the first black woman to serve in the Alabama Congressional delegation. She sits on the House Committee on Financial Services and Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. While serving in Congress, Sewell has held several leadership positions. She was Freshman Class President in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress and was selected by Democratic leadership to serve as a Chief Deputy Whip. Sewell has implemented a results-driven approach to addressing the unemployment crisis. As a representative of Alabama, she was honored that her first piece of legislation recognized the “Four Little Girls” who tragically lost their lives during the 1963 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

In reflecting on the breadth and depth of the panel and topics, President Stewart said it promises to stimulate a “spirited dialogue” that will be thought provoking and action inspiring. For that reason, she encourages the public to attend.

The Town Hall is one of a host of events that will be held during the Sorority’s convention from July 12-18. For more information on Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, log on to [www.aka1908.com](http://www.aka1908.com)

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