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**Cheryl Wills to receive 17th Annual Ida B. Wells-Barnett Justice Award
*Author, NY1 Anchor & Reporter Honored with Award Celebrating Black History***

New York, NY - December 3, 2018 - On Monday, February 4 at 6 p.m., The New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA) and the Metropolitan Black Bar Association will present the 17th annual Ida B. Wells-Barnett Justice Award to Cheryl Wills, currently the primetime anchor for *NY1 Live at Ten* and the host of the public affairs talk show *In Focus with Cheryl Wills*. Visit nycla.org for more information on this event taking place at the NYCLA Home of Law, 14 Vesey Street in Manhattan.

“Cheryl Wills was selected to receive this year’s Ida B. Wells-Barnett Justice Award for the many accomplishments she has made as a minority woman,” said the Honorable Pam Jackman-Brown, Chair of the Ida B. Wells-Barnett Justice Award Committee. “Cheryl made history in 2011 as the first journalist to speak at the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations for the UN’s International Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Atlantic Slave Trade. Ms. Wills is also the Founding Commander of the New York Chapter of the Sons & Daughters of the United States Colored Troops - a national organization based out of Washington, D.C. NYCLA and the Metropolitan Black Bar Association are honored to present this year’s award to Ms. Wills.”

About the Honoree Cheryl Wills

Cheryl Wills joined the Spectrum News NY1 network during its launch in 1992 and this year she is celebrating her 25th anniversary with the national news team. The award-winning journalist is the author of three books about her great-great-great grandfather Sandy Wills who fought in *The Civil War: "Die Free: A Heroic Family Tale"*, an illustrated children’s book *"The Emancipation of Grandpa Sandy Wills"* and a YA book *"Emancipated: My*

Family's Fight/or Freedom." More information on our honoree can be found at her website cherylwills.org.

About the Ida B. Wells Award

Named for Ms. Wells-Barnett, one of the first African American women to run for public office in the United States, each year the award is presented to a woman of color whose life reflects her spirit and courageousness by distinguishing herself in the right for racial and gender equality.

About the Metropolitan Black Bar Association

For more than twenty-eight years, the MBBA has committed to advance equality and excellence in the pursuit of justice and to aid the progress of African-American and other attorneys of color by encouraging the personal and professional development of our members.

About the New York County Lawyers Association

The New York County Lawyers Association (www.nycla.org) was founded in 1908 as one of the first major bar association in the country that admitted members without regard to race, ethnicity, religion or gender. Since its inception, it has pioneered some of the most far-reaching and tangible reforms in American jurisprudence. For more information on NYCLA please visit nycla.org

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