



# Los Angeles County Commission for Women

B-50 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-1455 ofc./ (213) 633-5102 fax / [laccw@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:laccw@bos.lacounty.gov) e-mail



## NOMINATION APPLICATION 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

The nomination application is to include a biography of the nominee. Copies of this form can be downloaded from the Commission's website at <http://laccw.lacounty.gov>

### NOMINEE INFORMATION:

NAME: Susan Black EMPLOYER: Harbor-UCLA Medical Center  
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 5255 JOB TITLE: Chief, Kaizen Promotions Officer  
CITY: Whittier STATE: CA ZIP: 90277 WORK ADDRESS: 1000 W. Carson Street  
HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: Torrance STATE: CA ZIP: 90509  
CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: 310 222-2047  
E-MAIL: sblack@dhs.lacounty.gov FAX: 310 222-5498

### CRITERIA

Nominees must have worked on behalf of women's issues; made significant contributions to women's equality issues, and served as a role model for women. Previous members of the Commission may be nominated for their current professions and other activities relating to advocacy for women. Previous recipients are not eligible for this award. (See list at: <http://laccw.lacounty.gov> )

Applications for nominations within these categories may be received from the community and Commissioners. If applying in more than one category, a separate application is required.

NOMINATION CATEGORY (to be considered, choose only one appropriate choice)

Education _____	Health <u>X</u>	The Arts / Media _____	Business / Labor _____	Law / Public Safety _____
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NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY: **DECEMBER 20, 2013**

NOMINATOR: Delvecchio Finley DATE: December 17, 2013  
ORGANIZATION: Harbor-UCLA Medical Center PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
JOB TITLE: Chief Executive Officer WORK PHONE: 310 222-2101  
ADDRESS: 1000 W. Carson Street, Box 400 CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: Torrance STATE: CA ZIP: 90509 FAX: 310 320-9624  
E-MAIL: dfinley@dhs.lacounty.gov

# Women of the Year Awards Scholarship Luncheon

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## PROCESS OF SELECTION

The Women of the Year Awards recognizes up to ten (10) women who are outstanding role models for over **4 million** women in the County of Los Angeles. District Awardees are selected by each Los Angeles County Supervisor and Community At-Large Awardees are selected by the Commission for Women in the following five categories: **Education, Health, Media/Arts, Business/Labor, Law/Public Safety**. All nominees will be rated on a scale of 1-4 for each of the following areas below. The highest overall score will receive the award nomination.

NOMINEE Susan Black, RN,MSN CATEGORY Health

***Please describe your Nominees participation in the following areas in relation to the category chosen:***

1. *My nominee has worked on behalf of women's issues by:*

See Attachment

2. *My nominee has made significant contributions to women's equality issues by:*

See Attachment

3. *My nominee has served as a role model for women by:*

See Attachment

4. *How has your nominee demonstrated an attitude of empowerment, positively influenced and helped women to forge ahead:*

See Attachment

***Reason(s) for Nomination, additional comments or more specifics:***

Completed forms may be submitted to the Commission for Women at [laccw@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:laccw@bos.lacounty.gov) or

Mailed to:

**Los Angeles County Commission for Women  
500 West Temple Street  
Room B-50  
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

## **Women of the Year Awards Luncheon**

**NOMINEE:** Susan Black, RN, MSN

**CATEGORY:** Health

**Please describe your Nominees participation in the following areas in relation to the category chosen:**

**1. My nominee has worked on behalf of women's issues by:**

In 2003 Susan Black, RN, MSN, a single mother and a new empty nester (she had just sent her son off to college), sold her home and purchased a large 120 year old house in Whittier to open a shelter for women. In addition to her ongoing duties as the Director of Quality Management and Utilization Review for Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, she decided to create a women's shelter as her new home. She had never been involved with operating a shelter, applying for grants, or setting up a non-profit organization, but she did all of these in just four years. In February of 2007, she opened the women's shelter, "Dwelling in the Secret Place...Home for Women" after the Psalms 91:1 verse ["He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."] The shelter is a faith based non-profit organization that offers room and board and supportive services to women ages 18-30 in need (unstable housing, homeless, abused, addiction, etc.). The residents take advantage of six to eighteen months of transitional/sober living with 24/7 on-site supervision, and become part of a larger family community at the Shelter. Susan helps them develop positive ways to deal with issues in their past, enrolls them in GED or job skills preparation classes, and helps them develop the will and wherewithal to beat substance addiction. Grateful graduates are celebrated upon completion of the program, and many of them continue to be active in counseling newer residents.

**2. My nominee has made significant contributions to women's equality issues by:**

Susan Black's hard work and inspired leadership have allowed her to develop a very courageous and successful program for women with substance and physical abuse issues. She strives to reintegrate the female residents into the community, and to form productive, independent, thoughtful, giving, optimistic members of society. She helps her residents "level the playing field" as they are taught positive life coping mechanisms for anger and stress, as well as employment skills that allow them to go forward and pursue important careers. All of these attributes facilitate their journey towards providing for themselves, re-establishing family ties, growing relationships, and restoring balance. This fantastic program empowers the women to construct positive personal and professional lives.

**3. My nominee has served as a role model for women by:**

Susan Black has given an enormous amount of her time, effort, personal finances, and faith to provide a positive environment for less fortunate women. Her hard work, collaborative personality, and leadership have all combined to help others, and she puts forward an ideal role model for today's society. She is altruistic, caring, and more importantly motivated to make a difference in today's complicated world. She is one of those amazing people who don't simply talk about social justice and change; she lives it everyday in her own home/shelter.

**4. How has your nominee demonstrated an attitude of empowerment, positively influenced and help women to forge ahead:**

Susan Black has demonstrated all of these characteristics since she became employed at Harbor-UCLA in 1990. She is an outstanding role model for men and women who want to make a difference in the world. She is caring and concerned about her fellow human beings, and demonstrates this in all of her interactions with others. Her positive attitude, leadership, compassion, and “can do” approach to all of life’s challenges makes her worthy of emulation for all of us who work with her. Her work at Dwelling in the Secret Place... Home for Women, begun in 2003, is both a culmination of her social consciousness, and a project that continues to inspire women to improve their own lives and those of others.

**Reason(s) for Nomination, additional comments or more specifics:**

Susan Black has done fantastic work with creating her Women’s Shelter as noted above. She has always put forward the most positive of attitudes, and has long term goals that always involve helping others. What more could the world ask for?

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