

ADAP Advocacy Association PO Box 15275 Washington, DC 20003

adapadvocacyassociation.org

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## ADAP Advocacy Association Seats Board Members:

"New faces include Wanda Brendle-Moss & Robert Suttle"

For Immediate Release: July 1, 2015

Media Contact: Brandon M. Macsata (305) 519-4256

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 1, 2015) – The <u>ADAP Advocacy Association</u>, also known as <u>aaa+</u>\*, today announced that it has seated its Board of Directors for 2015-2017. Newly seated HIV-positive advocates include **Wanda Brendle-Moss** of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and **Robert Suttle** of New York, New York.

"The ADAP Advocacy Association welcomes the addition of Wanda and Robert to our board of directors," stated **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. "Their unique experiences combating HIV stigma in the south will undoubtedly prove valuable to our national advocacy efforts promoting access to care."

ada+® is governed by a dedicated, diverse volunteer board of directors. The organization now benefits from the combined experience of eight HIV-positive members, three ADAP recipients (plus three former ADAP recipients), one physician, one pharmacist, nine influential community activists, and three disability/diversity rights champions. The board of directors includes:

Michelle Anderson of Dallas, Texas; William E. Arnold of Washington, DC;
Aaron Baldwin of San Francisco, California; Janine Brignola of Omaha,
Nebraska; Elmer L. Cerano of Lansing, Michigan; Eric Flowers of Oakland,
California (Ramsell Corporation corporate representative); Darryl Fore of Cincinnati,
Ohio; Philip A. Haddad, MD of Shreveport, Louisiana; Glen Pietrandoni of Deerfield, Illinois (Walgreens corporate representative); Chrys Thorsen of Los
Angeles, California; Joey Wynn of Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and Brandon M.
Macsata (ex-officio) of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Wanda Brendle-Moss, R.N. was diagnosed with HIV in July 2002. Wanda has always been open about her positivity...except in the early years because an employer threatened to fire her if she discussed her status. She was member of Consumer Leadership Corps Trainers with AIDS Alliance. She volunteered during XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington DC...where she was photographed as part of the "Graying of AIDS." She also participated in Caitlin Margaret Kelly's photo display of women living with HIV called "Please Call Me By My True Names." Wanda has actively participated in numerous advocacy efforts, including Treatment Action Group, HIV is Not A Crime, Positive Women's Network, The Well Project, "A Girl Like Me," HealthHIV Pozitively Healthy, Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS North America, AIDS Watch and the ADAP Advocacy Association. In 2014, she received the ADAP Advocacy Association's prestigious "Emerging Leader" award. Wanda is also involved with the Moral Monday Movement in North Carolina, Wanda Believes that we "Lead By Example" and "Age with Purpose!"

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Robert Suttle is Assistant Director of the Sero Project, a network of people living with HIV and allies fighting for freedom from stigma and injustice. Upon his release in January 2011, Robert has become engaged in anti-criminalization advocacy work. He was convicted under Louisiana's HIV-specific criminal statute after accepting a plea bargain and served six months in a Louisiana prison. Robert is featured in the short film HIV is Not a Crime, has traveled abroad sharing his story, currently serves as board co-chair of the North American regional affiliate of the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+NA) and member of the Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI) Steering Committee. Prior to joining Sero, Robert worked with young African American men who have sex with men as a case manager and prevention specialist at the Philadelphia Center in Shreveport, Louisiana. He has been living with HIV since 2003.

To learn more about the ADAP Advocacy Association or its Board of Directors, please contact Brandon M. Macsata at <a href="mailto:info@adapadvocacyassociation.org">info@adapadvocacyassociation.org</a>.

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