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## **NFMA ANNOUNCES ANNUAL AWARDS AT SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE**

*For Immediate Release*

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The National Federation of Municipal Analysts (NFMA) presented its annual industry awards during its Annual Conference dinner in San Diego last night. The NFMA has presented awards annually since 1984. Each year the Awards Committee convenes to determine which individuals or entities further the goals of the NFMA for the enhancement and betterment of the municipal bond industry. This year's Awards Committee Chairman, Greg Aikman, presided over the ceremony.

The first award of the evening went to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for Industry Contribution. In presenting the award to Colin MacNaught, Assistant Treasurer for Debt Management, Mr. Aikman noted, "The NFMA has chosen to honor the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for its exemplary website, [www.massbondholder.com](http://www.massbondholder.com), with its comprehensive disclosure of financial, debt and transaction information and user-friendly organization for municipal analysts and investors."

The NFMA recognized Rhode Island General Treasurer Gina M. Raimondo with an Industry Contribution award. Mr. Aikman said, "The rationale for this award is clear: In 2011, her first year of office, Ms. Raimondo began work to redesign Rhode Island's state-administered public employee pension system. These efforts put a much-needed spotlight on public pension systems, and Ms. Raimondo has been a tireless advocate for responsible reform."

The Meritorious Service Award was given to Lisa Washburn, Managing Director at Municipal Market Advisors, and current Secretary of the NFMA Board of Governors. Of the many contributions Ms. Washburn has made to the NFMA, Mr. Aikman noted her “leadership of the industry group that developed the new *White Paper on Voluntary Secondary Market Disclosure About Bank Loans*.” Among Ms. Washburn’s other NFMA activities are her work as co-chair of the Industry Practices and Procedures Committee, chair of the Education Committee and chair of the Annual Conference Committee.

The final award of the evening was the 2013 award for Career Achievement recognizing Cadmus Hicks, CFA, Ph.D., Managing Director, Manager of Performance and Risk Analysis and Market Strategist at Nuveen Asset Management. In listing Mr. Hicks’ many achievements, Mr. Aikman referred to “... his long tenure at Nuveen, and his research on tax policy municipal bonds, affecting attribution analysis, financial planning, and credit issues.” Mr. Hicks is a past president of the Chicago Municipal Analyst Society and a former Board member of the NFMA. He also served on an advisory committee of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. He holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University in the Classics, an M.A. in Ancient History from the University of Chicago and an undergraduate degree in History from Wheaton College.

Established in 1983, the NFMA is an organization of nearly 1,300 members, primarily research analysts, who evaluate credit and other associated risks in the municipal market. These individuals represent, among others, mutual funds, insurance companies, broker/dealers, bond insurers, rating agencies, and financial advisory firms.