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**ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA CONGRATULATES SENATOR ROLAND BURRIS AND
PRAISES SUPREME COURT'S DECISION THAT CLEARED WAY FOR
APPOINTMENT TO THE SENATE**

Chicago, Illinois - January 12, 2009 - Alpha Kappa Alpha's international president Barbara A. McKinzie hailed the Illinois Supreme Court for handing down the decision that Roland Burris' appointment as U.S. Senator of Illinois is legal. She acknowledged the Senate for finally "doing the right thing" by allowing him to take his rightful seat in chambers.

Speaking on behalf of the thousands of members from Illinois who have endured the gamesmanship that has kept Burris from assuming the post, McKinzie said Burris had cleared every hurdle and had met the ultimate test: the Illinois Supreme Court's ruling.

"Given the Court's decision, the delay was a transparent attempt to engage in politics while ignoring the law." "Moreover," she added, "the protracted negotiations were denying the citizens of Illinois from receiving the full scope of representation to which the state is entitled."

She said she is heartened that the matter is finally resolved and that the Senate members who were blocking the appointment have finally come around to the right position.

"The nation is mired in one of the worst financial calamities, is bogged down in wars and is in a period of peril. These times make it critical that the state has the benefit of its full leadership complement. Roland Burris has a distinguished record of service, impeccable credentials, a brilliant mind and a strong record of exemplary service. With his swearing-in later this week, Illinois will—at last—receive the type of leadership that the state deserves. With Sen. Burris joining President-elect Obama as part of America's leadership think tank, perhaps America will be able to overcome its challenges."