



FRITZ POLLARD ALLIANCE FOUNDATION

“Promoting diversity of leadership in the business plan
of every sports franchise”

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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcement of the Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr. Salute to Excellence Awards Honorees

Washington, DC -The Fritz Pollard Alliance Foundation (FPAF) announced the honorees for the 15th annual Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. Salute to Excellence Awards to be held January 30th at 4:30 PM at the Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center. The awards honor individuals and organizations who display outstanding performances on the field, in front offices and across the U.S. by exemplifying diversity, courage and meritorious performance.

“This year’s recipients epitomize the true value of each award,” said Rod Graves, Executive Director. “Their devotion to excellence has helped to transform our game and our communities.”

The FPAF holds the event annually in honor of the late attorney Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr., who was instrumental in the formation of the Fritz Pollard Alliance.

The awards include the Paul J. Tagliabue Award honoring industry leaders for diversity, the Dan Rooney Lifetime Achievement Award honoring dedication and meritorious performance to improve the workplace surrounding the Game, Salute to Excellence Awards honoring exceptional work to promote workplace diversity, and the inaugural Fritz Pollard Trophy honoring a college player who has exemplified extraordinary courage, community values, and exceptional performance on the field.

Paul J. Tagliabue Award

The Miami Dolphins Football Club acceptance by Tom Garfinkel, President

The Miami Dolphins Football Club is the NFL’s foremost leader in diversity of leadership. Under its community initiative called *Football Unites*, the club states, “The Miami Dolphins’ goal is to level the playing field through the power of teamwork to inspire a healthier, more educated and united South Florida community.”

Dan Rooney Lifetime Achievement Award

Richard Lapchick, PhD Endowed Chair and Director, The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport.

Human rights activist, pioneer for racial equality, internationally recognized expert on sports issues, scholar, and author Richard E. Lapchick is often described as “the racial conscience of sport.”

Salute to Excellence Awards

Troy Vincent NFL Executive Vice President, Football Operations

Troy Vincent, Executive Vice President of Football Operations, informs the business of the NFL through the unique lens of his previous roles as a player, a player's union president, and the Senior Vice President of Player Engagement.

Paraag Marathe President of 49ers Enterprises and EVP of Football Operations

Paraag Marathe is in his 19th year with the 49ers, currently serving as both President of 49ers Enterprises and Executive Vice President of Football Operations

City Furniture

A Florida based retailer that believes a diverse and inclusive workplace is an integral part of their culture. They established programs specifically designed to hire, support and retain a diverse workforce.

Fritz Pollard Trophy

Trey Smith University of Tennessee

One of the nation's top collegiate offensive lineman. 2019 All-SEC First Team. 2019 Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year Finalist. Majoring in sport management with a minor in business.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell will be in attendance and providing remarks.

Additional details about the event can be found at <https://www.fritzpollard.org/events-1>

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[The Fritz Pollard Alliance](#) is dedicated to promoting diversity and equality of job opportunity in the coaching, front office and scouting staffs of NFL teams.