



NEWS RELEASE

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Bari-Ellen Roberts to speak at USI

Bari-Ellen Roberts, president of Bari-Ellen Roberts, Inc., a management consultant firm that focuses on diversity, sexual harassment, and violence in the workplace, will speak at the University of Southern Indiana at 10 a.m. Monday, January 15, in Carter Hall, as part of the University's program held in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

In 1996, Roberts made history as lead plaintiff in a class-action racial discrimination suit against Texaco, the fourth largest U.S. oil company, that settled out-of-court for \$176 million.

Roberts received a B.A. in business from Loyola University in Chicago, and in 1990 was recruited by Texaco to join the finance department as senior financial analyst. After a year at Texaco, she suspected a persistent pattern of racial discrimination. Roberts attempted to work within the company to help Texaco improve its women's and minority programs. After repeated resistance by the company, she filed the lawsuit. Her book *Roberts vs. Texaco, A True Story of Race and Corporate America*, is a testimony of her fight against discrimination.

Roberts has won numerous awards including "The Joyce Johnson Award," from The National Association of Securities Professionals; "The Courage in Action Award," from the National Black Chamber of Commerce; and "Church Women United—Human Rights Award," from the United Nations. She serves as chair of the African-American Association for Corporate Responsibility.