

**International Leadership Institute Hosts Annual Twin Cities International Citizen Awards  
Stout, Taylor's and PRI Receive TCICA top 2009 Honors**



**John Stout, PRI's CEO Alisa Miller, and Kojo and Theresa Taylor**

John Stout, Kojo Benjamin and Theresa Taylor and PRI (Public Radio International) were honored at 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Twin Cities International Citizen Awards (TCICA) Gala on Monday, April 20, 2009, at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in Minneapolis. The keynote speaker for the event was J. Brian Atwood, Dean of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota. The annual theme of the Gala was Freedom, Democracy, and Empowerment, and the event celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of South Africa's Freedom Day, and 15<sup>th</sup> year of global and local service of the International Leadership Institute. The evening was black tie and international attire.



**James Thomas and Ms. Oluyemisi Soyomokun presenting to John Stout (r.)**

**International Citizen Recipient:** John Stout has been very active in international and Twin Cities projects for over thirty years. Many people have benefitted from opportunities sowed by Mr. Stout's generosity. John has enriched the community through his leadership and enhanced business operations by advising executive, board of director, board committees, and individual directors and officers of for-profit and non-profit organization. He is recognized on a local and global scale which includes corporate partnerships and legal practices in Shanghai and other international cities. Locally John has been a strong supporter of both minority and immigrant business communities. Co-founder of Milestones Growth fund and the Metropolitan Economic Development Association (MEDA). As an attorney with Fredrikson & Byron, he was recently appointed by the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association (ABA) as vice chair of its 2,000-plus member Corporate Governance Committee. He is a frequent speaker on corporate governance subjects, and has served as an expert witness on governance matters in litigation

proceedings. He also teaches corporate governance courses at the business and law schools of the University of St. Thomas as an adjunct professor.



**Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Rouner presenting to Theresa and Kojo Taylor**

**International Immigrant Achievement Recipients:** Kojo Benjamin and Theresa Taylor. Mr. Kojo Taylor is a senior executive with 22 years experience in leading and growing a broad range of companies, especially franchised organizations. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor believe that unless a company's existence somehow improves the lives of those at the base of the economic ladder in our society, its management should review the purpose for being. In 1989 Kojo Taylor founded a technology services company and built that company into a \$70 million franchised organization with 300 employees in 15 US cities. The company was later sold to ExecuTrain Corporation, a division of IDG Inc. (Publishers of "Books for Dummies".) Under his leadership, the company he founded was twice recognized on the INC 500 listing as one of the fastest growing private companies in America. Metropolitan Economic Development Association (MEDA) distinguished Mr. Taylor as "Entrepreneur of the Year".

The recipients, Theresa and Kojo Benjamin Taylor, having sold their business, decided to give back to the continent of Africa. They recognized that six diseases account for two out of three deaths among children and young adults and determined that they were going to address this problem. Now Kojo and Theresa are founders of MicroClinic International believing franchising is the most effective way to effectively expand primary health coverage in Africa. MicroClinic International has recently launched clinics in Uganda and Ghana. The founders envision a world where basic healthcare is accessible to every individual in the developing world.



**MN Best Enterprises CEO Hyon Kim and Judge Lange, ILI Pres, present to PRI's CEO Alisa Miller (c.)**

**International Corporate Recipient:** PRI (Public Radio International) is a Minneapolis-based American public radio organization, with locations in Boston, New York, London and Beijing. PRI's tagline is PRI a major public media content creator and also distributes programs from many sources. In public radio, PRI competes with National Public Radio and American Public Media to provide programming to public radio stations.

Additionally, the company is increasingly focused on fulfilling the unmet needs in global news and cultural perspectives, created and curated specifically for relevance for Americans. PRI recognizes as its core principles: the central role played by diversity in our nation's past and its importance to our future; the urgent need to understand connections between American life and cultures around the globe; the responsibility of public media to encourage the exchange of ideas and search for common principles fundamental to a civil society; and the power of sound and of the spoken word to engage the mind and nurture the human spirit. PRI, along with NPR and American Public Media, is one of the largest program producers and distributors of public radio programming in the United States.

PRI was founded in 1983 as American Public Radio to provide diverse voices and an alternative to NPR for public radio program distribution. PRI offers over 400 hours of programming each week to stations and listeners. Alisa Miller, President and CEO, (photo) accepted the award for the PRI organization.

2009 Gala sponsors include Twin Cities Business Magazine [www.tcbmag.com/](http://www.tcbmag.com/), South African Consulate General - Chicago, and Fredrikson and Byron P.A. [www.fredlaw.com/index.htm](http://www.fredlaw.com/index.htm), Wells Fargo, Faegre & Benson LLC, and MN Best Enterprises, Inc [www.mnbestinc.com](http://www.mnbestinc.com), Paschal Nwokocha Law Office <http://paschal-law.com/>, Leonard Street & Deinard; Robin, Miller, Kaplan & Ciresi, US Saudi Arabia Business Council, Wesa ComServ, University of Minnesota, and TCICA Host Committee. The Awards recognize the depth and breadth of the Twin Cities' international connections, concerns and commitments - in business and trade, research and human rights, agriculture and technology, the arts and medicine, education and journalism, and in hospitality and humanitarian relief.

The International Leadership Institute, host of TCICA Gala, is a Minnesota based non-profit supporting people and countries in transition with professional expertise and resources for sustainable programs and progress development. Program information and partners are listed on their website at [www.internationalleadership.org](http://www.internationalleadership.org). The ILI is a volunteer operated organization and funds go directly to programs and partner projects.

Mailing address for the ILI is 50212 Vernon Avenue So, 136, Minneapolis, MN and the Resource Center is located at 430 Oak Grove, 220 in Minneapolis. Judge LaJune Lange is president and Coventry Cowens is program coordinator.

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