



**Film in California Conference Presents 2nd Annual Golden Slate Award to
Shondaland's Betsy Beers**

*Executive Producer of "Grey's Anatomy," "Scandal" and "How to Get Away with Murder"
Among Industry-Leaders Headlining May 20 Conference Celebrating In-State Production*

Hollywood, Calif. – May 22, 2017 – More than 500 production industry professionals descended on CBS Studio Center (Radford) May 20th for the 2017 Film in California Conference, where Shondaland's Betsy Beers received the 2nd Annual California Golden Slate Award for her long history of production in-state.

First bestowed to Ryan Murphy in 2016, the Golden Slate Award honors an individual who champions filming in California and whose work has generated thousands of in-state jobs. Ms. Beers' credits include serving as executive producer on popular TV series such as *Grey's Anatomy*, *Scandal*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, *Still Star-Crossed*, *Private Practice*, and the upcoming new drama, *For the People*.

The Golden Slate Award was presented to Ms. Beers by actor Jason George (*Grey's Anatomy*, *Mistresses*, *Playing the Field*, *With this Ring*), who recounted some of their more memorable on-set experiences. He also talked about her commitment to diversity, and her passion, humor and unique ability to get things done.

During her emotional acceptance speech, Ms. Beers recalled growing up in New York and longing to visit the iconic California locations depicted in TV shows of the 1960s and '70s. She discussed her journey, and why she was destined to work in the Golden State.

Other highlights of this year's conference included "The Making of *This Is Us*" panel (with cast member Chris Sullivan), and a video message from Director/Producer/Writer Ava DuVernay presented by *A Wrinkle in Time* Producer Jim Whitaker. Other topical panels covered "Film Financing for Independents," "Sustainability – The Greening of Hollywood" and "Content Production & Distribution in the Rapidly-Changing Digital Age."

The Film in California Conference is the only annual event of its kind showcasing the benefits of filming in the Golden State. What began 10 years ago as a modest trade show and wine-tasting reception for location managers has grown into a day-long conference for professionals representing all facets of film, TV, commercial and digital media production. The focus is on learning how to make the most of California's vast production resources, while getting up to speed on key industry issues.

The Film in California Conference is produced by the California Film Commission and Film Liaisons in California Statewide (FLICS), with support from ABC Studios and The Walt Disney Studios.

More information, including the conference agenda and list of speakers, is available at <http://www.filmcalexpo.com/>.

###

Contact:

Erik Deutsch (for the California Film Commission) – 323-851-2455 / erikd@excelpr.com.