

## *Nancy L. Davis*

*Executive Director*

*Equal Rights Advocates, Inc.*

*San Francisco, California*

Nancy L. Davis “embodies the highest public service ideals of our profession,” according to Dean Herma Hill Kay, 1992 Brent Award recipient and Ms. Davis’s former professor and colleague. She “is a gift of extraordinary measure to the women law students, attorneys, and clients she has served for...two decades,” according to Steven A. Brick, former president of the Bar Association of San Francisco.

Beginning to work for social change during her undergraduate days, in the mid-’60s, she taught in “freedom schools” and organized voter registration. She continued her leadership into the ’70s, as she and two fellow law school graduates founded Equal Rights Advocates, Inc. (ERA). Their mission, ardently initiated and steadfastly continued, sought to promote and ensure women’s equality and justice under the law and to educate law students and the legal profession about issues of sex-based discrimination, which it enhanced by providing a clinical training program. Equal Rights Advocates, a non-profit center, has focused local, regional, and national legal and civil attention on the multi-dimensional issues confronting women.

After twenty years under Ms. Davis’s leadership, ERA continues to champion underrepresented populations, especially women of color and low income, who confront gender, ethnic, economic, religious, political, and educational barriers. Her advocacy has touched the lives of girls playing soccer to women seeking traditionally male jobs. “She also has served as an inspirational role model and mentor to a generation of female attorneys.”

Ms. Davis was adjunct professor at the University of San Francisco School of Law (1983); lecturer in law, Stanford Law School (1977-78); co-instructor, Golden Gate, San Francisco, and University of Santa Clara (1973-74) schools of law; and assistant team leader, National Institute of Trial Advocacy (1977, 1978, 1979). She is a former partner of Davis, Dunlap & Williams, San Francisco (1973-74).

Nancy Davis is the 1993 recipient of the California Women Lawyers’ Fay Stender Award, recognizing the woman lawyer whose legal career demonstrates “tenacity, creativity, a compelling sense of justice, commitment, and integrity;” the 1994 Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund’s Legal Services Award, and will be presented the Boalt Hall Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Award in September 1994. She is a member of the California Bar, California Women Lawyers, and San Francisco Women’s Lawyers Alliance, and a member and former board member of the San Francisco Bar Association and ACLU of Northern California, among others.

Nancy Davis earned her A. B. from Stanford University (1968) and her J.D. from Boalt Hall, University of California, Berkeley (1972). She and her partner, Superior Court Judge Donna J. Hitchens, have two daughters.

