



## 2017 MARGARET BRENT AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

The American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession has chosen five women lawyers to receive its 2017 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award.

The award ceremony luncheon will take place Sunday, Aug. 13, 2017, at the New York Hilton Midtown in New York, New York, during the ABA Annual Meeting.

The honorees are:

**Nancy Duff Campbell**, co-president, National Women's Law Center in Washington, D.C., is a nationally recognized expert on women's law and public policy issues. A co-founder of the National Women's Law Center in 1981, Campbell has participated for more than 45 years in the development and implementation of key legislative initiatives and litigation protecting women's rights, with an emphasis on issues affecting low-income women and their families. Her career includes involvement in three of the most important social and legal movements of our time – civil rights, poverty rights and women's rights. Campbell has served as counsel in landmark litigation expanding women's opportunities and has been a leader in securing significant legislation for women and their families. She has worked tirelessly to recruit highly qualified women lawyers for positions in the federal government and has used her connections and advocacy skills to ensure greater diversity in high government ranks.

**Hon. Bernice Bouie Donald**, circuit judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Memphis, Tenn., is the first African American woman to serve on the Sixth Circuit. Prior to her confirmation in 2011, she was the first African American female jurist on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee (1996-2011), the first African American woman bankruptcy judge in the U.S. (1988-1996) and the first African American female judge in Tennessee when elected in 1982. Donald served as president of the National Association of Women Judges (1990-1991), where she developed a curriculum to teach women how to position themselves for election in states or how to develop as lawyers to be qualified candidates for appointment to judgeships. She has worked tirelessly to mentor women and provide opportunities for and advance the careers of women and women of color in the legal profession, including taking an active role in leadership positions in numerous legal organizations.

**Hon. Lynn Nakamoto**, justice, Oregon Supreme Court in Salem, Ore., is a long-standing trailblazer in the Asian Pacific American community. In 2016, she became the first Asian Pacific American to serve on the Oregon Supreme Court. Five years earlier, in 2011, she became the first Asian Pacific American to serve as a judge on any Oregon state or federal appellate court. While in private practice prior to joining the bench, she started her career as one of the first Asian Pacific American women litigators in Oregon and was the first Asian Pacific American female managing partner at a Portland, Ore., law firm. Nakamoto is an active advocate and mentor to many young women and Asian Pacific American lawyers and is a founding member of the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association. She has received numerous awards throughout her career for her contributions to the Asian Pacific American legal community, including the Daniel K. Inouye NAPABA Trailblazer Award in 2013.

**Lauren Stiller Rikleen**, president, Rikleen Institute for Strategic Leadership in Wayland, Mass., is a nationally recognized expert on developing a thriving, diverse and multigenerational workforce. A prolific author, her works include *Ending the Gauntlet: Removing Barriers to Women's Success in the Law* and *Closing the Gap: A Road Map for Achieving Gender Pay Equity in Law Firm Partner Compensation*. Following a successful practice in environmental law, Rikleen in 2011 founded the Rikleen Institute for Strategic Leadership and joined the Boston College Center for Work & Family as a visiting scholar. Whether in private practice or through her extensive activities in national, state and local legal and community organizations, she has championed gender equity and gender pay equity in the legal



profession, worked to advance women lawyers into leadership positions and minimize the impact of unconscious bias, and fought to remove barriers to women's success in the legal profession.

**Nadine Strossen**, John Marshall Harlan II Professor of Law, New York Law School in New York, NY, has practiced, written and lectured extensively in the areas of constitutional law, civil liberties, women's rights, and international human rights for more than 40 years. She is widely known as a First Amendment scholar and advocate for the freedoms of religion, conscience and speech. From 1991-2008, she served as president of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the first woman to head the organization. Strossen has made countless presentations at campuses around the country to motivate and inspire young women, conveying to them the importance of breaking into a male-dominated profession and working for public interest causes. Through her guidance and outreach as a professor at New York Law School since 1988, many of her former students and research assistants have secured impressive positions within the legal profession, including civil liberties and human rights organizations.

The ABA Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, established in 1991, honors outstanding women lawyers who have achieved professional excellence in their area of specialty and have actively paved the way to success for others. The award is named for Margaret Brent, the first woman lawyer in America. Brent arrived in the colonies in 1638, and was involved in 124 court cases in more than eight years, winning every case. In 1648, she formally demanded a vote and voice in the Maryland Assembly, which the governor denied.

Previous winners range from small-firm practitioners in Alabama and Alaska to U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Winners are selected on the basis of their professional accomplishments and their role in opening doors for other women lawyers. Michele Coleman Mayes, chair of the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession, says of this year's Brent winners: "We are honored to recognize this spectacular group of women. We applaud their achievements, knowing that their efforts will inspire a new generation of women lawyers."