

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**News Advisory**  
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**Regina Malveaux, CEO of the YWCA of Spokane, has been named the 2015 Myra Bradwell Award winner by the Women’s Law Caucus of Gonzaga University School of Law.**

**Spokane, WA** - Regina Malveaux, CEO of the YWCA of Spokane, has been named the 2015 Myra Bradwell Award winner by the Women’s Law Caucus of Gonzaga University School of Law. A ceremony and reception to honor Malveaux will be held April 2nd at 5:00 p.m. at Gonzaga Law School in the Barbieri Courtroom.

### **Taking Early Leadership**

Even before entering Howard University School of Law, Malveaux had made her mark on advocacy work, serving as an organizer for the Children’s Defense Fund’s Stand for Children in 1996. During law school Ms. Malveaux served as President and Founder of the Child Advocacy Law Association. During law school, Malveaux interned for Chief Judge of DC Family Court, the Honorable Zinora Mitchell Rankin and served as both a White House and Congressional Intern, for First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Congresswoman Maxine Waters, then Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

for every woman

During her last year in law school Malveaux was selected as one-of-ten national policy fellows working within the US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families addressing key issues within child welfare, child health and early learning.

## **Pursuing Front-Line Advocacy**

Malveaux's first job upon returning to her hometown of San Diego was working with the Child Advocacy Division of the San Diego County Public Defender's office which represented children in the dependency system. She continued her work in advocating for the safety of children and families as a Legal Advocate at the YWCA of San Diego where she helped guide victims through the protection order process and helped them access the spirit and resources needed to move from trauma to hope, healing and a new life.

She later founded the Women's Legal Center, a non-profit organization devoted to assisting low-to-moderate income women with document preparation and resource referrals. Malveaux has also served on a number of boards aimed at advancing racial justice and economic empowerment for poor families including the San Diego NAACP, San Diego Dress for Success, and Second Chance.

Malveaux has also worked to train a new generation of advocates as an adjunct professor in Political, Women's and African American studies at La Sierra University, San Diego State University, and at the Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Old Dominion University.

## **Working to Better Spokane's Community**

Since accepting the job as CEO of the YWCA in 2013, Malveaux led the effort to create the Spokane Family Justice Center, the co-location of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals who work together, under one roof, to provide coordinated services to victims of family violence. The partners co-located in the Family Justice Center include the YWCA, Spokane Police Department, Spokane County Sheriff's Department and City & County Prosecutors. Together advocates, law enforcement and prosecutors work to ensure victim safety and perpetrator accountability.

Malveaux also worked actively to help pass House Bill 1840, a new state law directing the court to require the surrender of firearms by those subject to a protection order and to work with local law enforcement and the courts to ensure its implementation with the goal of reducing domestic violence fatalities.

Malveaux is also the author of the chapter "Women and Children First?: How Low Income Female Headed Families Have Fared Since the War on Poverty" in 2014's *The War on Poverty: A Retrospective*.

## About the Myra Bradwell Award

This is the 23rd annual Myra Bradwell award. The Gonzaga Women's Law Caucus has awarded this honor annually to a woman who has made a difference in the lives of women and children. The award is named for Myra Colby Bradwell, who was admitted to the Illinois Bar Association in 1890 after being denied admission 20 years earlier due to gender.

A ceremony and reception to honor Malveaux will be held April 2nd at 5:00 p.m. at Gonzaga Law School in the Barbieri Courtroom. Please RSVP to the Myra Bradwell award ceremony by March 30, 2015 by sending an email to [dshyne@lawschool.gonzaga.edu](mailto:dshyne@lawschool.gonzaga.edu).

*The YWCA of Spokane is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. In 2014, YWCA of Spokane provided counseling, legal services, safe shelter, outreach, job readiness training, and early childhood education to more than 15,861 women and children. The YWCA of Spokane is the go-to place in the region for support for victims of domestic violence and services that empower women and children. The organization is a key resource for issues of racial and social justice in our community.*

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