

2010 Mid-Year Meeting Honorees

dallas, texas
february 25, 2010

The NAWL Challenge Award presented to an in house legal department with policies designed to meet the NAWL Challenge (By 2015, women will represent 30% of law firm equity partners, 30% of chief legal officers, and 30% of tenured law school faculty members).

Dell Inc.'s Legal Department, Dell's current mission includes objectives relating to the recruitment and retention of minority and female counsel, the support and sponsorship of minority and women counsel in non-minority law firms, and building productive relationships with minority and women-owned law firms. Dell Legal is also committed to internally promoting women lawyers.

With these objectives, and with dedicated hard work on the development of counsel both within and outside Dell, they strive to be recognized as a leading proponent of diversity in the legal profession, not just in their local environment, but on a national basis as well.

The Leadership Award presented to high-profile individuals in the community whose personal contributions advance women lawyers and promote diversity in the legal profession.

Chief Justice Carolyn Wright Justice Wright has served in the judiciary for more than 25 years. While many of the positions held by her have been historical firsts for women and minorities serving in the Dallas judiciary, her election to the Court of Appeals marked the first time in Texas history that an African American woman has ever won a multi-county election for any elected office in Texas, and she is the only African-American woman currently serving on an appellate court in the State of Texas. Her judicial service includes more than 14 years on the Court of Appeals, 8 years as an elected State District Judge and 3 years as an Associate Judge in the Family District Courts.

She is past Chair and a Sustaining Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, a multi-million dollar legal charity; Fellow of the Foundations of the Dallas Bar and Dallas Young Lawyers; Member of the College of the State Bar of Texas, the National and American Bar Associations and the JL Turner African-American Legal Association; former faculty member of the Texas Center for the Judiciary and National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada.; appointed to the Judicial Ethics Committee and a Texas Supreme Court Appellate Tribunal for removal of a judge from elected office; appointed to a National Task Force to set national standards for mediation practice. Most recently she was appointed by the Chief Justice of the TX Supreme Court to serve on the MDL Panel for multi-district litigation; served on State Bar Task Forces to set standards for Death Penalty Habeas Representation and Improving the Hiring and Retention of Minorities and Women in Major Law Firms in Texas. Justice Wright worked tirelessly with the Texas Young Lawyers Association to produce two videos on Civil Rights - the Emmy-award winning They Had a Dream Too - Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement and Vote America - Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right.