

Barbara Arnwine

Barbara R. Arnwine, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law since 1989, is internationally renowned for civil, human and women's rights. A graduate of Scripps College and Duke University School of Law, she continues to champion issues in the areas of housing, fair lending, community development, employment, voting, education and environmental justice. She is also engaged in critical matters such as immigrant rights, judicial diversity and sentencing and health care disparities.

Ms. Arnwine is a prominent leader of Election Protection, the nation's largest nonpartisan voter protection coalition, launched in 2004 to assist historically disenfranchised persons to exercise the fundamental right to vote. Under her leadership, the Lawyers' Committee continues to participate in monitoring treaty compliance and responding to reports written by the United States regarding the requirements of both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination following the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review. In 1995 and 2000, she served as the convener of the National Conference on African American Women and the Law. Her work has contributed to a United Nations Platform for Action that provides protection for women who confront multiple forms of discrimination and to a report and action agenda for advocacy before the UN General Assembly Special Session on Women. In 2001, she helped to draft provisions of the program for action of the UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa.

She has received numerous national, regional and local awards including the prestigious Gruber International Justice Prize (2011), the National Bar Association's Gertrude E. Rush Award (2011), the National Black Law Students Association's Sadie T. M. Alexander Award (2011), the Washington D.C. Freedom's Sisters Award (2009) and the Keeper of the Flame Award from the Boston Lawyers' Committee (2009). In 2008, she was selected as a prestigious Rockwood Institute Leadership Fellow. Ms. Arnwine is a member of the ABA's Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities and a Board Member of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and Equal Justice Works.