

## Nancy Duff Campbell

Nancy Duff Campbell is a widely recognized women's rights advocate who has used litigation, legislative and administrative advocacy, and education to expand opportunities for women, with a particular emphasis on issues affecting low-income women and their families, for over 45 years.

Campbell received her law degree from New York University in 1968 and joined the legal staff of the newly established Center on Social Welfare Policy and Law in New York (now the National Center for Law and Economic Justice). At CSWPL, she played a major role in developing the law of public benefits (particularly the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program), including participating as counsel for the parties or *amicus curiae* in several U.S. Supreme Court cases that expanded the rights of public assistance recipients, the vast majority of whom are women. Working with the National Welfare Rights Organization, she also began to articulate poverty issues as women's issues, including teaching sessions on public benefits law at welfare rights and women and the law conferences and in law schools.

In 1974, she turned to teaching full time, first at Catholic University and then at Georgetown University, where she developed courses in social welfare law and administrative advocacy, in addition to bringing her poverty law perspective to her courses on administrative law and torts.

In 1978, Campbell joined the Women's Rights Project of the Center for Law and Social Policy, one of the nation's first public interest law firms, with the express goal of enhancing its work on low-income women's issues. In 1981, she co-founded the National Women's Law Center, successfully transitioning the Women's Rights Project to an independent organization, where she served as Co-President until July 2017.

In her four decades at NWLC, Campbell's accomplishments continued to be life-changing for millions of women and their families. She helped draft and secure the first comprehensive federal child care legislation since World War II, the 1990 Child Care and Development Block Grant, and successive improvements in that program to help low-income families pay for care and improve the quality of that care. She organized and led the first-ever national Coalition on Women and Taxes, whose analyses and advocacy led to expanded tax assistance for single heads of household and the removal of six million low-income families from the tax rolls in the 1986 Tax Reform Act. She played a key role in assuring that the Social Security Amendments of 1983 contained improvements for women and in successive efforts to keep Social Security strong. She helped secure legislation establishing the Child Support Enforcement Program, and multiple expansions of that program. She ensured that these and other legal protections for women were enforced, including establishing a right to child support enforcement services for custodial parents without regard to income in *Parents Without Partners v. Massinga*, and improving opportunities for women athletes in the first case to challenge sex discrimination in an entire intercollegiate athletic program, *Haffer v. Temple University*. She persuaded the Internal Revenue Service to change its tax forms in a way that increased the number of low-income families claiming tax benefits by over 1.4 million in the first year alone, and she pressed the

Department of Defense to lift stereotyped restrictions on the service of military women, which culminated in a January 2015 directive opening all military positions to women.

Under Campbell's direction, NWLC has a long history of developing and mentoring women law students and recent law graduates. Early on, it established a legal internship program in which law students spent a semester in Washington and received equivalent course credit at their law schools. It helped found the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program, which places recent law graduates at NWLC and other public interest organizations or government agencies to work on women's rights issues. It participates in other well-known fellowship programs and has its own fellowship program to train recent law graduates on women's legal issues.

Campbell has had a profound effect on countless numbers of women in the profession in other ways, as well. Throughout her career, she has worked with, taught, and mentored many women who are now partners in major firms, judges on state and federal courts, law professors, public officials, and public interest advocates. She has actively worked 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 – including women general counsels in Cabinet agencies, other high-level administrative positions, and judges. She served on the NWLC team that helped secure the confirmations of Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan. Campbell's efforts to ensure that women from all walks of life are equipped for success have enriched the lives of countless women – and men.

In recognition of her accomplishments, Congress appointed Campbell to the U.S. Commission on Child and Family Welfare, the Secretary of Defense appointed her to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, and United Nations officials named her the sole North American representative to the Conference on Implications for Women of the Global Financial Crisis. She has been a Twink Frey Visiting Social Activist at the University of Michigan, a Distinguished Visitor at Princeton University, and has received a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Lifetime Achievement Award, the American Bar Association's Margaret Brent Woman Lawyer of Achievement Award, the D.C. Bar's William J. Brennan Award, the D.C. Women's Bar Association's Woman Lawyer of the Year Award, the New York University Women Alumna of the Year Award, and Barnard College's Millicent Carey McIntosh Award for Feminism, among others.