William O. Douglas Award - Civil Rights Legend, Dolores Huerta

Dolores Huerta is the President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation. Her lifelong journey has been working as a community organizer and social justice activist for over 50 years. Dolores spent most of her childhood and early adult life in Stockton, California. It was there that she found her calling as an organizer while serving in the leadership of the Stockton Community Service Organization (CSO). During this time she founded the Agricultural Workers Association, set up voter registration drives and pressed local governments for barrio improvements. In 1955, through CSO founder Fred Ross, Sr., she met a likeminded colleague, CSO Executive Director César E. Chávez. The two soon discovered that they shared a common vision of organizing farm workers. In the spring of 1962 César and Dolores resigned from the CSO, and launched the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers (UFW). Dolores’ organizing skills were essential to the growth of this budding organization.

Dolores went on to play a major role in the American civil rights movement. As one of the most famous and celebrated Latinas in the US, Huerta has been an advocate for social justice, women’s rights, and reproductive freedom and LBGT civil rights. She continues working to develop community leaders to advocate for the working poor, immigrants, women and youth through her work with the Dolores Huerta Foundation. She speaks at universities and conference forums on issues of public policy, social justice, and advocacy influencing thousands of young people to serve their communities.

Dolores is a two time United States Presidential Award Recipient; she received the Medal of Freedom Award from President Obama in 2012, the highest civilian award in the United States, and the Eleanor D. Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Clinton in 1998.

She is a founding board member of the Feminist Majority Foundation and also serves on the board of Ms. Magazine. Her numerous awards include the Ohtli award from the Mexican Government, the James Smithson Award from the Smithsonian Institution, and the Icons of the American Civil Rights Movement Award, bestowed to her in 2011 by the National Civil Rights Museum. She also was named one of Ms. Magazine’s three most important women of 1997, and the Ladies Home Journal’s 100 most important woman of the 20th Century, among many other accolades. She is a former UC Regent and has earned nine honorary doctorates from universities throughout the United States. Her most recent recognitions include her induction to the U. S. Department of Labor Hall of Honor. Dolores was also the first Latina inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame.

At the age of 85, Dolores has not slowed down at all. She continues to work tirelessly, traveling across the country engaging in campaigns and influencing legislation that supports equality and defends civil rights.

Corporate Achievement Award

Google’s mission is to organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful. As a company with an inherently social impact business mission, Google encourages and enables our employees to leverage expertise, time and resources to improve the human condition and the environment. Whether through the development and use of our products or through pro bono volunteering and employee giving, our 55,000 global Googlers are empowered to make the world a better place.

At their IPO, their founders set forth a guiding principle to donate 1% of net profit and our equity to philanthropy. They have followed that principle since. Employees are supported in their philanthropy by Google’s gift matching program, their time off policy to volunteer and their generous volunteer time matching program. Last year, Google.org (their foundation) and their employee philanthropy programs donated over $100M to nonprofits and NGOs globally. In addition to cash grants and employee talent, Google’s technologies are used to assist in times of crisis, to help provide transparency in elections and to enable nonprofit’s and NGO’s information to be shared with the world more easily so that they can propel their social missions further and reach new supporters.

In 2014, more than 70% of the Legal Googlers made charitable donations and/or volunteered. The majority of the legal team volunteering efforts are focused on pro bono service—from assisting San Franciscans with understanding their legal rights for housing equality to teaching teens about laws and resources relating to physical assault to setting up free legal clinics for low-income Californians to hosting on-site Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals clinics for youth seeking legal status to obtain employment. Legal Googlers exemplify our company mission by providing guidance and information to those who need their expertise to gain access and understand their rights.

Law Firm Pro Bono Award

Morgan Lewis Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP recognizes the great unmet need for pro bono legal services in the communities in which it practices and understands that the promise of equal justice can only be achieved if legal services are made available to those who are unable to afford them. The firm has a long history of service to traditionally underrepresented members of society, and prides itself on its clear institutional commitment to stimulating and supporting pro bono work by its attorneys. They recognize and endorse the basic responsibility and ethical obligation of each lawyer to provide public interest legal services and encourage the firm’s lawyers to fulfill that responsibility. In 2014, the firm contributed more than 75,000 hours to pro bono work, providing general representation to thousands of non-profit organizations and handling cases involving public benefits, immigrant rights and asylum seekers, family law matters, and civil liberties. They are particularly proud of their decades-long collaboration with Public Counsel. They have stood shoulder to shoulder with the nation’s largest pro bono law firm as a Founding Partner of the Shriver Housing Project LA, in numerous immigrants rights and domestic violence cases, protecting property owners from scam artists and most recently, as lead counsel in the landmark suit that resolved claims on behalf of tens of thousands of people in need who had been deprived of proper benefits under Los Angeles County’s General Relief program.