## Realizing the Power That Flows from Diversity

Partnerships are crucial to fostering equality, creating opportunities and strengthening communities



By Barbara R. Arnwine, Executive Director Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

In today's increasingly diverse and interconnected society, equal access and inclusion are more vital than ever.

Since 1963, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law has strived to ensure that all people, through the rule of law, receive fair access to housing, employment, education and other rights.

One of our premier corporate allies is Microsoft, this year's recipient of our prestigious A. Leon Higginbotham Corporate Leadership Award for advancing diversity and equal opportunity.

At last week's awards dinner in New York City, Microsoft was recognized for a variety of efforts, including its pro-bono legal work and a program that encourages law firms to enhance diversity within their ranks.

What we find most compelling, however, is the company's unambiguous commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion, even in challenging economic times. At all levels and through its partnerships, Microsoft demonstrates that fostering a broad range of experiences, perspectives and capabilities is essential for businesses to remain innovative and relevant.

With the outstanding leadership of partners like Microsoft, we are moving closer to the goal of true equality for all and the realization of a more perfect union.

