

**The National Consumer Law Center
Honors
Lorray Brown**



**With the 2015
Vern Countryman Consumer Law Award**

The National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) is proud to honor Ann Arbor, Michigan attorney Lorray Brown with the 2015 Vern Countryman Consumer Law Award. The Countryman Award is presented each year to a legal services or other public interest attorney whose special contributions to the practice of consumer law have strengthened and affirmed the rights of low-income Americans.

Lorray Brown is an exceptional advocate who has devoted her career to helping vulnerable consumers. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law – and a former NCLC Consumer Law fellow - she has been the managing attorney and statewide consumer law specialist at the Michigan Poverty Law Program (MPLP) since 2001. In 2008, MPLP created the Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Program, which Lorray has led since its inception.

In the terrible days of the Great Recession, when low-income Americans were losing their homes because of predatory, unfair lending practices, Lorray Brown fought back. Working tirelessly so that distressed homeowners could get a fair deal, Lorray brought housing counselors and lawyers together to advocate for those who needed champions.

Michigan was hit hard by the foreclosure crisis. For several years, the city of Detroit had the highest repossession rate for a major city in the US. Once prosperous neighborhoods were decimated, as foreclosed homes created urban blight and declining property values. Life savings were eroded, particularly in communities of color, where subprime loans had been aggressively sold.

Colleagues and friends who nominated Lorry for the Countryman Award praise her leadership in Michigan on foreclosure and other consumer issues, and make particular mention of her willingness, despite her significant statewide responsibilities – to become personally involved in and successfully litigate individual consumer cases. Those who know Lorry Brown describe her as soft spoken, yet tenacious – the epitome of quiet strength.

Lorry's friends and colleagues had plenty to say about this passionate advocate:

“Lorry has been at the center of every positive development in the foreclosure area since 2008.” – Bob Gillett, Executive Director, Michigan Advocacy Program

“Lorry is a passionate, articulate, and knowledgeable consumer advocate and attorney... she is the smartest or among the most knowledgeable people in the room.” - Steve Tobocman, former Co-Director, Michigan Foreclosure Task Force

Lorry is exceptionally well respected by elected officials, their staff, and the industry for her knowledge, dedication, and willingness to do the hard work necessary on these issues... she is a strong and committed voice.” – Karen Merrill Tjapkes, Director, LAWM Home Ownership Preservation Project

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