



Equal Rights Advocates

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Press Release

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Liza Featherstone to Speak at Equal Rights Advocates' 31st Anniversary Luncheon

San Francisco, CA (May 10, 2005) Equal Rights Advocates will feature best-selling author and journalist Liza Featherstone at their 31st Anniversary Luncheon. The Luncheon, *Equal Rights Always*, will be held on Tuesday, May 31, 2005 at the Marriott San Francisco in San Francisco, California. The reception and silent auction will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the luncheon program starts at noon. Pam Moore, KRON 4 News Anchor, will emcee the event. For ticket information contact Ron Wong & Associates at 415-355-9988 or ERA@wongway.net

Liza Featherstone is the author of *Selling Women Short: The Landmark Battle for Workers' Rights at Wal-Mart* and is the co-author of *Students Against Sweatshops: The Making of a Movement*. She is a contributing editor to *The Nation*, and is a journalist whose work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsday*, *In These Times*, *Ms.*, *Salon*, *Nerve* and *Rolling Stone*, among other publications. *Selling Women Short* chronicles the sex discrimination lawsuit *Dukes v. Wal-Mart Stores*. ERA is the only women's organization serving as plaintiffs' co-counsel on this case that is the largest class-action lawsuit in United States history. Featherstone's book tells the employees' own stories and provides a compelling account of how discrimination against women in the workplace continues. Her work demonstrates the critical role of the media in promoting social justice.

The Luncheon will honor Tradeswomen, Inc. Founded in 1979 as California's first grassroots tradeswomen organization, Tradeswomen, Inc. is dedicated to helping women enter and succeed in construction and skilled trades careers. Through direct services, technical assistance, advocacy, and policy initiatives, Tradeswomen, Inc. builds community, leadership, survival and growth strategies for women in these nontraditional careers and fights for fair and equitable conditions.

"Women continue to earn less than men do, whether they work at Wal-Mart or are the general counsel at a major corporation," says Irma D. Herrera, ERA Executive Director. "Today, women constitute forty-six percent of the work force. It is imperative we be compensated fairly and have equal opportunity for advancement. Workers, particularly women workers, also need flexibility. The new frontier will be a flexible workplace where career goals and family lives are not presumed to be at odds."

Equal Rights Advocates' mission is to protect and secure equal rights and economic opportunities for women and girls through litigation and advocacy. For the past 31 years, ERA has pursued impact litigation - cases that have the potential to create new law and/or improve the lives of large classes of women - as its primary strategy to challenge gender discrimination. ERA represents a diverse range of plaintiffs on cases involving wage inequities, sexual harassment, barriers to hiring and advancement. In conjunction with their litigation efforts, ERA operates an Advice & Counseling (A&C) Program through which they educate women across the country about their legal rights. In a time when the wage gap is widening, more women are living in poverty, and more women are uninsured, it is more important than ever that organizations such as ERA take on discriminatory corporate practices and public policy. Learn more about ERA's work at www.equalrights.org.