

Gloria Allred Founding Partner Allred, Maroko & Goldberg



GLORIA ALLRED is a celebrated civil rights attorney whose practice includes representation of victims of discrimination due to sex, race, age, physical handicap, or sexual orientation. She founded and currently serves as president of the Women's Equal Rights Legal Defense and Education Fund. Among the many honors awarded her are: the 1985 President's Award from the National Association of Women Lawyers, the President's Award for Outstanding Volunteerism (presented in 1986 by President Ronald Reagan), the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award from The National Trial Lawyers, and the 2016 International Women's Forum Women Who Make a Difference Award. Allred has been listed in "Southern California Super Lawyers" from 2004 to 2017 as well as "Best Lawyers in America" from 2011 to 2017. Her television commentaries and show, *We the People, with Gloria Allred*, have been nominated for Emmys. Allred is also the author of *Fight Back and Win: My Thirty-Year Fight Against Injustice—And How You Can Win Your Own Battles*.

What's the first thing in the morning that brings a smile to your face? The sunrise.

What is a typical day? Every day is very different.

What about weekends? I work all of the time unless I'm sleeping or occasionally

with family or friends.

It's been said you haven't taken a vacation since the 1970s. True? It's been so long that no one can remember.

What drives you? I do have a passion for justice. There are many wrongs that need to be righted, and there are many individuals who have been victims of injustice. I am very aware that I have a heavy responsibility. That's my duty and I plan to use every moment to fulfill it.

The New Yorker said you may be the most famous practicing attorney in the country. When did you know you were well-known? People come up to me wherever I am—in the airport, sidewalk, a store... wherever.

You went to the University of Pennsylvania, married, had a child, divorced, and returned to live with your parents. How did that feel? Life is what's happening when you're planning other things.

After earning a master's degree, you moved to Los Angeles to be a teacher. Why L.A.? I decided that if I was going to be poor, I'd at least like to be poor in the sunshine. My daughter was five years old, and I thought it would be a wonderful place for her to grow up.

You graduated from Loyola Law School and became a lawyer in 1975. Good experience? Loyola is where I met my wonderful partners, Michael Maroko and Nathan Goldberg. They were my classmates.

You dedicated your book *Fight Back and Win* to your partners, crediting them in your battle against injustice. How so? We work as a team. We could not have won the victories we have won and continue to win without that effort. We're still together more than four decades later.

As a young woman, you were raped at gunpoint while in Acapulco. Did that incident inform the way you treat women? It helps me understand what their life is like. Many of my clients call me Mama

Gloria.

In 1981, California State Senator John G. Schmitz called you a "slick butch lawyer-ess" after you presented him with a black leather chastity belt. You sued him, got \$20,000 and an apology. Was the apology sincere? I really don't care about apologies, and I donated the money to other organizations whom he had maligned.

Why the smile on your face? The irony is that Schmitz was a right-wing, John Bircher type. He always flaunted his so-called family values. It turns out that he had had a child outside of marriage with a student of his. I'm the one who leads a very conservative life style.

In the 1980s, you sued Flair Dry Cleaners, and they changed their policy of charging women more than men within five hours. Quickest victory? Yes.

In 1992, you pressured the U.S. Senate Ethics Committee and urged Oregon Senator Robert Packwood to release his diaries after a newspaper article detailed his history of sexual harassment. Aren't diaries private? I filed a complaint against him, which led to the investigation of allegations of sexual harassment. The Ethics Committee took it from there.

You sued the Boy Scouts of America more than 20 years ago for excluding girls, and they changed their policy in October 2017. Trend setter? Absolutely! We are pioneering civil rights attorneys. We don't wait for a time that it's popular.

In 2007, you represented Circuit City employees in an age discrimination lawsuit. Are you seeing more of this as baby boomers age? I think that more victims are aware of their rights and are more willing to assert their rights.

Is there a change you think is needed in California Law? I would like the statute of limitations for civil cases for adult survivors of child sexual abuse to be eliminated.

You went through your own messy divorce. What do you legally advise those about to marry? Marriage is a business as well as romantic relationship. Sometimes, romance blinds a person to the business aspect. Proceed at your own risk.

What is the most important part of a relationship? Honest communication.

You've sued individuals, small businesses, corporations, and the government. What is the common denominator among them? Some form of injustice.

You've called yourself a warrior. What is the first thing you do to get ready for battle? Whatever you are planning to do or not planning to do, make your client part of the decision-making.

Do your clients expect you to be a miracle worker? I say I am a lawyer and not a magician, but we'll do the best that we can.

It is said you don't shop and don't cook. What is the one thing you enjoy that is not work-related? Watching *Curb Your Enthusiasm* on the airplane.

Do you have a favorite exercise? Well, I exercise my mouth quite a bit, but I'm told that doesn't count. I do run through airports, though.

Super Lawyer, White House Award, and Emmy—is there something else you want? Nothing, except to have this gift of life as long I'm permitted to have it.

What are your retirement plans? There is nobody who knows me that thinks that I'll retire.

Are they right? A hundred percent.

You always appear to be camera ready. How do you do it? I get enough sleep, I don't do drugs, I don't drink alcohol, I never smoked, and I'm a pescatarian.

You've been called a "limelight person." What advice do you give young lawyers in dealing with the media? They need to understand what this is; it's not Hollywood. It's civil rights.

Any recent event you're excited about? In early 2018, Netflix premiered a documentary called *Seeing Allred*, which was part of the U.S. Documentary Competition at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival.

Cosby, Weinstein, Louis C.K., Moore, Franken, Trump...is this the nation's tipping point? This is it. It's not just one moment; it's been building for a very long time. But it doesn't mean it's the end of sexual harassment. It's too severe

and too pervasive.

What do you make sure to have in your brief case? Two computers and two cell phones.

What feature do you wish you could operate on your iPhone? I do not profess to have the knowledge that I should have about tech. I don't text and I don't have people call me on my cell phone.

What book is on your night stand? There is no book on my nightstand. By the time I go to bed, I close my eyes and go to sleep immediately.

What magazine do you pick up at the doctor's office? I take my computer and work while I'm waiting.

What is your favorite restaurant? Whatever is closest when I am hungry.

Do you have a hidden talent? I love to dance.

What are the three most deplorable world conditions? Lack of equality for women, poverty, and a lack of meaningful action about climate change.

Who are your two favorite presidents? Kennedy and Obama.

What do you want written on your tombstone? Here, we are all equal.