

Patricia Ireland

*Leader in the Worldwide Feminist Movement*

Patricia Ireland is one of the most influential feminist leaders in the country. During her ten years as president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), she used her experience as a lawyer to move NOW to the forefront of the political scene and establish herself as a groundbreaking activist.

Currently practicing labor law in Miami, Ms. Ireland credits job discrimination she faced as a flight attendant with leading to her life's work on issues of equality.

Ms. Ireland brings a unique understanding to political organizing. She initiated NOW's "Elect Women for a Change" campaign that played a pivotal role in making 1992 the "Year of the Woman," and she has built on that success. In 2004, she served as campaign manager for Carol Moseley Braun's bid for the White House.

Widely recognized as a key player in improving social and economic conditions for women in the United States and around the world, Ms. Ireland is especially adept at challenging people to make the connections between women's rights and other human rights issues. A hallmark of her work has been to forge stronger links among the women's, antipoverty, civil rights, disability rights, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights movements.

Ms. Ireland has had a continuous presence in national media outlets that shape public opinion. She frequently appears in the nation's most widely-read newspapers. Ms. Ireland wrote about her path to personal and political power in *What Women Want*. She reaches thousands through personal appearances each year.

In 1975, Ms. Ireland graduated from the University of Miami Law School, where she served on the *Law Review* and the *Lawyer of Americas*, an inter-American law journal. Before moving to the nation's capital, she was a partner at a prestigious Miami law firm where she practiced business law while serving as NOW's pro-bono legal counsel. She holds honorary degrees from the University of Rhode Island, Indiana University, Sweet Briar College and the University of Western Massachusetts School of Law.

Ms. Ireland has emerged as a leading figure in the world-wide feminist movement. She initiated NOW's Global Feminist Conference in 1992, bringing together women from more than 45 countries. She has worked with women in England, France, Germany, Brazil, Cuba, China and Kenya.

Patricia Ireland promises to be a major figure in the women's movement during the next decade and beyond.