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## Law Professor Wins Unity Award

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**For Immediate Release**

## **Law Professor Wins Unity Award**

SAN FRANCISCO — Professor Maria Blanco, Associate Director of the Women's Employment Rights Clinic at Golden Gate Law School has received the 1995 La Raza Lawyers Association Unity Award. The award is given each year to an attorney who has rendered outstanding service to the community. Other 1995 recipients of the award are Martha Jimenez, Regional Counsel for Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) and Mary Hernandez of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.

Professor Blanco has been counsel on several landmark cases gaining recognition of workers' rights, including the San Francisco fire department challenge. The Women's Employment Rights Clinic recently mounted a successful challenge to the State Labor Commission practice of calculating unpaid back wages from the Commission hearing date, instead of from the wage claim filing date. The former practice cost low-paid employees months of back wages as defendant employers delayed hearing dates in order to use the two-year statute of limitations to reduce their liability for past owed wages.

In the past, Professor Blanco has received the MALDEF 1991 Legal Services Award, and the 1988 NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Award. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and Boalt Hall Law School, and formerly a Staff Attorney with Equal Rights Advocates, Professor Blanco has been at Golden Gate Law School since 1994.

Golden Gate University School of Law is located on the San Francisco campus of Golden Gate University at 536 Mission Street. The University is accredited by the Western Association of Colleges and Universities and the Law School is approved by the American Bar Association.

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