



# A Call to Action Canada

*Diversity in the Legal Profession*



## **Yolanda Coly**

Coly Advocacy LLC

312-545-7327

[ycoly@colyadvocacy.com](mailto:ycoly@colyadvocacy.com)

Before creating “Coly Advocacy LLC”, Yolanda Coly started with over a decade leading, managing and serving in several complex capacities with the National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms, Inc., (NAMWOLF), Mrs. Yolanda Coly, secured over two hundred Fortune 500 companies as corporate partners and financial contributors. These corporate partners were companies that commit 5% of their outsourced legal budget to minority and women-owned law firms. Mrs. Coly, while Managing Director of NAMWOLF, played an integral role in the creation of the ‘Inclusion Initiative,’ which has helped to generate over \$1 billion in expenditures on minority and women owned law firms by its participating companies.

Mrs. Coly was one of the advisees on Section 342 of the Dodd Frank Act, to ensure procurement of professional services to include legal. Mrs. Coly worked with merging companies urging them to be mindful of minority and women owned law firms.

Mrs. Coly’s personal dedication laid the foundation for respect, inclusion and the retention of minority and women-owned law firms to a degree unimaginable a few years ago. In 2008, Mrs. Coly was the recipient of the Vatican II Award for her distinguished service to society. In 2012, she was the recipient of The Hinton J. Lucas International Award for promoting Diversity from A Call To Action Canada. Mrs. Coly’s passion for equality in the legal arena and her tireless efforts to lay the foundation for inclusion of minority and women attorneys is unsurpassed.

Mrs. Coly was responsible for implementation and development of post-secondary educational project at YWCA of Greater Milwaukee. She successfully, retained over 40 women participants to obtain their post-secondary education. In addition, she was appointed as YWCA’s education ambassador to Kenya’s YWCA. In 1999, Mrs. Coly served as executive coordinator of the African American World Cultural Center in Milwaukee, WI. During this same period, Mrs. Coly was appointed advisor to African American Ministries Office of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI. Mrs. Coly is tenacious and tireless in her dedication and advocacy for the advancement of minorities, women and children.

She is the mother of three children; the last being just eight years old, in addition, raised two more children from Senegal and Japan. Mrs. Coly is a dedicated and loving wife to a selfless international physician and medical author. Currently, Mrs. Coly is principal of her own consulting group called “Coly Advocacy LLC” of which she was commissioned by NAMWOLF as Expert Consultant – Partnership Program and development. Mrs. Coly serves as co-chair for “A Call To Action Canada” which supports Canadian in-house counsel in advancing inclusion in legal procurement and development.