

Yale Law Alumni Achievement Award  
Anna Funtelar  
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Hello, and welcome to the YLW Alumni Achievement ceremony. My name is Anna Funtelar, I was the 2018-2019 YLW Chair. I am so thrilled to present the YLW Alumni Achievement Award today.

These walls are hung with portraits of white men, but today we get to add a picture of an incredible, inspirational woman of color. As a woman of color, and as the first person in my family to graduate college, it is a great privilege to be able to honor and recognize an Alumni who is paving a path for myself, and many others, to see themselves reflected in the law.

The YLW board gave Stacey this award in recognition of the work she has done for womxn and gender nonconforming individuals, for people of color, for those who are struggling to make ends meet. We wanted to honor her courage and conviction, her principles, and her fight for justice.

The YLW Alumni Achievement Award honors an alumni whose career exemplifies the mission of YLW: to advance the status of women and traditionally underrepresented gender identities at Yale Law School and in the legal profession at large. We're delighted to honor **Stacey Abrams '99**, an alumni who is making history while championing the rights and voices of women, working families, and voters of color, with an award that has previously been presented to **U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor c/o 79**, former Secretary of State **Hillary Rodham Clinton c/o 73**, former Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court **Margaret Marshall c/o 76**, civil rights activist **Marian Wright Edelman**, and Chief Executive Officer of Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator **Maryana Iskander c/o 03**.

**Stacey Abrams** delivered the Democratic State of the Union response in 2019. In 2018, she ran for governor of Georgia, a state that had never before elected a woman or person of color to serve as governor. In 2006, Stacey was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives. In 2010, she became the first woman ever to lead either party in the Georgia General Assembly, and the first African-American to lead in the House of Representatives.

We have Stacey as an inspiration and a role model, and we are so grateful she took time out of her wild schedule to come here today and share her thoughts so we can continue to learn from her. We are so excited to see what she will go on to do in this world, and we are thrilled to welcome you here today.