

# *Myrlie Evers-Williams* will be Keynote Speaker

## Thursday October 25th at 8pm



Thanks to the Oregon Coalition of Victim Offender Mediation Programs for sponsoring Myrlie Evers-Williams keynote address.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

VOMA is committed to enhancing the level of diversity in its membership and conference participants. Conference scholarships are available and members of historically underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply. The deadline for submitting a scholarship request is August 1st.

For information/application contact Doris Luther at [dluther@psouth.net](mailto:dluther@psouth.net)

### **Biographical Information**

On Feb. 18, 1995, Myrlie Evers-Williams was elected to the position of Chairman of the National Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the first woman to lead the nation's oldest civil rights organization.

A native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Evers-Williams was an honor student at Alcorn A&M College in Lorman, Mississippi, where she met and married fellow student Medgar Evers. They later moved to historic Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where together they opened and managed the NAACP Mississippi State Office. They lived under constant threats as they worked for voting rights, economic stability, fair housing, equal education, equal justice and dignity.

A pioneer of the civil rights movement, Medgar Evers was assassinated on June 12, 1963. His wife and their three small children saw the murder at the front door of their home in Jackson, Mississippi. After suffering through two hung jury trials in the murder of her husband, Myrlie Evers moved her three children to California. She did not see justice for the murder of Medgar Evers until 31 years later. In 1994, she was present when the guilty verdict and life imprisonment was handed down for Byron De La Beckwith.

Evers-Williams has received honorary doctorates from Pomona College, Medgar Evers College, Spelman College, Columbia College, Bennett College, Tougaloo College, and Willamette University.

She chronicled the life of her late husband, Medgar, and the civil rights struggle in Mississippi in the book "For Us, the Living." She also anchored a special HBO production, "Southern Justice, the Murder of Medgar Evers."

*"Of all the dealings I've had with the legal system,  
this was by far the cleanest" . . . Victim*

Quotes throughout the brochure are from Oregon VOM participants who were interviewed in an ongoing research study conducted by Mark Umbreit, Robert Coates and Betty Vos.