

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 1, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

LOUIS MARTIN  
SARAH WEDDINGTON

SUBJECT:

Reception for National Association  
of Women Judges  
October 3, 1980, 1:00 P.M., Residence

I. PURPOSE

To greet attendees of the Second Annual Conference of the National Association of Women Judges and to receive a commendation from the organization.

II. BACKGROUND

The National Association of Women Judges, which is holding its Second Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. from October 2 through October 6, 1980, was founded in October, 1979. The organization grew out of a Judges Committee of the California Women Lawyers Association. President Joan Dempsey Klein and President-elect Vaino Spencer (who is Black), both Justices of the California Courts of Appeal, were instrumental in the founding of the Association. There are over 500 women judges in the country. Membership in the Association includes judges from state, Federal, and administrative courts in almost every state.

The purposes of NAWJ are to formulate solutions to the legal and other problems mutually encountered by women judges; to increase the number of women judges; and to promote the administration of justice. In its first year the Association has participated in two significant projects: the preparation of a directory of the women judges in America and a judicial education program to eliminate sex bias in decision making.

Three resolutions were passed at last year's meeting supporting the ratification of ERA, advocating that judges not be members of private organizations which

discriminate on the basis of sex, race or religion, and recommending the appointment of a woman to the next vacancy on the United States Supreme Court.

Speakers at this year's conference will include Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris, Justice Shirley Abrahamson of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and Assistant Secretary of State Patricia Derian.

### III. PARTICIPANTS, PRESS AND FORMAT

- A. Participants: Approximately 250 women judges and guests will attend the reception.  
White House Staff: Louis Martin and Sarah Weddington.
- B. Press: White House Photographers and Open Press Opportunity
- C. Format: President Joan Dempsey Klein and President-elect Vaino Spencer will present you with a commendation for your commitment and contributions to increasing the number of women in the judiciary following your remarks.

### IV. TALKING POINTS

Talking Points will be provided by the Speechwriters.