

## Lynn Hecht Schafran

LYNN HECHT SCHAFRAN, Esq. is an internationally recognized attorney specializing in gender discrimination law. Since 1981 she has served as Director of the National Judicial Education Program to Promote Equality for Women and Men in the Courts (NJEP), a project of Legal Momentum) in cooperation with the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) [www.njep.org](http://www.njep.org)

A graduate of Smith College and the Columbia University School of Law, Lynn served as law clerk to federal district court Judge Edmund L. Palmieri in the Southern District of New York and litigated with the New York based law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges. She was Founding Director of the Federation of Women Lawyers Judicial Screen Panel which evaluated individuals the President was about to nominate to the federal bench on the basis of demonstrated commitment to equal justice under law.

As NJEP's Director Lynn has designed and presented courses for numerous national, state and federal judicial colleges in the United States and Canada and created model judicial education curricula, videos and web courses. These include the two-day judicial education program *Understanding Sexual Violence: The Judicial Response to Stranger and Nonstranger Rape and Sexual Assault*, which has been presented in twenty-five states, and the web course, *Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Adjudicating This Hidden Dimension of Domestic Violence Cases*, available free at [www.njep-ipsacourse.org](http://www.njep-ipsacourse.org).

Lynn has also developed several on-line curricula on topics related to adult victim sexual abuse and assault such as *Elder Victims of Sexual Abuse*; *Women in Drug Courts: Sexual Assault as the Underlying Trauma* and *Medical Forensic Sexual Assault Examination Kits: What Are They and What Can They Tell the Courts?* All of NJEP's resources are available at [www.njep.org](http://www.njep.org).

NJEP's judicial education programs prompted state supreme courts and federal circuits across the country to establish high-level task forces to investigate gender bias in their own court systems and recommend reforms. Lynn was an advisor to most of them. She is widely published on a range of issues related to gender bias in the courts, the law, and the legal profession. Her publications include *Judges Tell: What I Wish I had known Before I Presided in an Adult Victim Sexual Assault Case*, *Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Who Are The Victims? What Are the Risks? Adults, Teens and Children* and *Domestic Violence, Developing Brains and the Lifespan: New Knowledge from Neuroscience*.

Lynn was an original member of, and then Special Advisor, to the American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Women in the Profession, established in 1987. She continues to serve as Legal Momentum's liaison to the Commission and is a member of the editorial board of the Commission's digital magazine, *Perspectives*. She served for many years on the ABA Human Rights Center Advisory Committee, the ABA Standing Committee on Armed Forces Law, and the ABA Standing Committee on Amicus Briefs. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a member of the American Law Institute.

Lynn was a Presidential appointee to the Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS), Vice Chair and Special Counsel to the New York City Commission on the Status of Women and a member of the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation Justice Program Advisory Board. She chaired the Committee on Sex and Law of the New York City Bar Association and has co-chaired the planning committee for the Annual Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Distinguished Lecture on Women and the Law at the New York City Bar Association since the lecture's inception in 1999.

In recognition of her work to eliminate bias in the courts Lynn has received a number of awards, among them the first Distinguished Service Award of the National Association of Women Judges. She has also received the Smith College Medal and the American Bar Association Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, and, from her long-ago former law firm, the Weil Luminary Alumnus Award. She was the first woman to receive the Francis Rawle Award, given by the American Law Institute - American Bar Association Committee on Continuing Professional Education for outstanding achievement in post-admission legal education.