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NAWJ Weighs in On Affirmative Action, Minority Lawyer Progression

On November 29, 2006, The New York Times published an article reviewing the results of an affirmative action study prepared by UCLA law professor Richard H. Sander. An abstract of the article is available here. See also Richard H. Sander, The Racial Paradox of the Corporate Law Firm. 84 N.C. L. Rev. 1755 (2006). In his study, Professor Sander cited poor grades as the primary reason that African-Americans are lagging at major law firms The following is NAWJ’s editorial response:

To the Editor:

“Lawyers Debate Why Blacks Lag at Major Firms” did not acknowledge the many bar association- and court-sponsored diversity studies that have documented patterns of racial bias that continue to impede the progress of minorities, especially African-Americans, Latinos and Native Americans, in large law firms.

Many of these studies focus on an often unconscious presumption of incompetence that clouds law firm decision-making with respect to minority attorneys. The result is that minority associates are disproportionately denied training and mentoring opportunities; early mistakes are often fatal to the advancement of minority attorneys while excused for their white peers; and desirable assignments, case referrals and opportunities for partner and client contact tend to be funneled more often to white associates.

These findings belong in any discussion of the factors determining the career success of minority attorneys and the larger question of our society’s ability to achieve a diverse legal profession.

Brenda Stith Loftin
President, National Association of Women Judges
St. Louis, Nov. 30, 2006

NAWJ Undertakes Strategic Planning Process

As you know, a cornerstone of my Presidency is the development of a Strategic Plan which hopefully will serve NAWJ as both a guide and a measuring tool over the course of the next five to ten years. In order to achieve that goal, shortly after taking office I assembled a small but diverse group of past and present NAWJ leaders to work together with Shelley Stump, Esq., a highly qualified expert in the promulgation of strategic plans for non-profit legally-related organizations, with the additional expert assistance of Linda Evans, Esq., Director of the Division of Judicial Education of the Missouri state courts.

Have You Moved to A New Court or A New Home?

If you're not getting e-mail, postal mail, or faxes from us, it could very well be that we don't know where you are. Don't miss out on anything. If you have recently moved to a new court or a new home, please take a minute and send us an e-mail at nawj@nawj.org to let us know so we can update our membership database.

NAWJ Latest News

NAWJ Announces the Host Hotel for the 2007 Annual Conference

The 29th Annual NAWJ Conference is November 7 - 12, 2007 at the Four Season Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. Room rates are $198.00 Single and $228.00 Double. Register today to ensure you are able to take advantage of this great rate. The group identifier...
As luck would have it, St. Louis suddenly became the focus of a major snow and ice storm that hit the day and night before the scheduled meeting. It will surprise no one who knows NAWJ, however, that while a few of the participants were irrevocably stranded by the airlines (and will be integrated into the remaining work of the group), most of our members were able to attend, albeit via remarkably circuitous routes.

Over the course of the weekend, all of the participants' views were freely discussed and distilled on a broad range of issues, beginning with a focus on NAWJ's history, mission, core values and overarching accomplishments as against a backdrop of major world and judicial system events. After a wonderful series of sessions, the group ultimately came to agreement on the fundamental building blocks for a Draft Strategic Plan, and will continue its hard work to ensure that a Draft Plan can be considered by the Board of Directors at the Midyear Meeting, scheduled for March 23-25, 2007.

Brenda Stith Loftin  
President, NAWJ

NAWJ Committee Update

To date the following members have signed up for one or more NAWJ committees. This list does NOT include committee chairs. If you sent in a request to serve and are not listed, or if you have not responded but wish to serve, please contact Jeff at 202-393-0222 or jgroton@nawj.org.

Leslie M Alden  
International Outreach Committee

Pearle Appelman  
Retired/Senior Judges Committee

Micki I. Aronson  
Administrative Law Committee

Joan Arrowsmith  
Administrative Law Committee  
International Outreach Committee

Claudia Barber  
Federal Judges Committee  
Judicial Selection Committee

Carol A. Beier  
Judicial Academic Network/ Judicial Education Committee

Stephanie Browne  
Military Courts Committee

Joan V. Churchill  
Administrative Law Committee  
International Outreach Committee  
Conference Site Selection Committee

Dorothy H. Clarke  
International Outreach Committee  
Judicial Selection Committee

Jane Spencer Craney  
Conference Site Selection Committee

Susan Criss  
Fairness and Access Committee

Beverly Winslow Cutler  
Judicial Academic Network/ Judicial

Chandilee Johnson Kuhn  
Women in Prison Committee

Judith A. Lee  
Administrative Law COmmitee

Linda S. Marks  
Fairness and Access Committee

Michelle A. McGovern  
Administrative Law Committee

Sharon Mettler  
International Parental Abduction Liaison Network Committee

Donna Mills  
Federal Judges Committee  
Judicial Selection Committee

Barbara Jean Mobley  
International Outreach Committee  
International Parental Abduction Liaison Network Committee

Niza M. Motola  
Membership Outreach and Retention Committee

Sheila M. Murphy  
International Outreach Committee

Beverly Sherman Nash  
Administrative Law Committee

Jeanette O'Banner-Owens  
History Committee  
International Outreach Committee

Debbie O'Dell-Seneca  
Judicial Academic Network/ Judicial

is National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ)

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1-866-516-1100  
215-963-1500

Fall 2006 Issue of Counterbalance Ships!

The lastest issue of Counterbalance was shipped last week. If you haven't received your copy yet, please allow up to 3 weeks.

Download the Latest Issue of Counterbalance (PDF)

Upcoming Events

Save the Date!  
NAWJ 29th Annual Conference  
November 7 - 11, 2007  
Philadelphia, PA

Are you keeping up with all NAWJ events? If not, check out our NAWJ website at http://www.nawj.org

Announcements

2006 Annual Report

The National Office still has copies of NAWJ's 2006 Annual Report. If you would like to distribute some to your colleagues, please
Education Committee
Membership Outreach and Retention Committee

Judith Nelson Dilday
International Outreach Committee

Louise D. Donaldson
Conference Site Selection Committee

Fernande R.V. Duffy
Ethics Committee

Diana S. Eagon
Awards Committee

Elisabeth Ashlea Earle
Conference Site Selection Committee

Carol Feinman
Administrative Law Committee

Marjory D. Fields
International Parental Abduction Liaison Network Committee

Audrey Jennings Franks
Retired/Senior Judges Committee

Jennifer Gee
Conference Site Selection Committee

Andrea L. Harnett
International Outreach Committee

William A. Herbert
Administrative Law Committee

Sue Ann Hoahng
Women in Prison Committee

Frederick P. Horn
Fairness and Access Committee

Patricia A. Hurst
Conference Policy Committee
History Committee
International Outreach Committee

Vicki Isaacks
Fairness and Access Committee

Susan K. Jamison
Federal Judges Committee
Judicial Selection Committee

Shelia R. Johnson
Conference Site Selection Committee

Karen G. Johnson-Mckewan
Fairness and Access Committee
Judicial Selection Committee

Heather Karjane
Fairness and Access Committee
Judicial Academic Network/ Judicial Education Committee

Education Committee
E. Jeannette Ogden
Fairness and Access Committee

Charlaine F. Olmedo
Fairness and Access Committee
Judicial Selection Committee

Denise Owens
Fairness and Access Committee
International Outreach Committee
Conference Site Selection Committee

Lise A. Pearlman
International Outreach Committee

Nina M. Radakovich
Retired/Senior Judges Committee

Ellen F. Rosenblum
Ethics Committee

Vanessa Ruiz
International Outreach Committee
Women in Prison Committee

Maria Salas-Mendoza
Fairness and Access Committee

Lynn Hecht Schafran
Fairness and Access Committee
International Parental Abduction Liaison Network Committee

Tam Nomoto Schumann
Ethics Committee

Dolores K. Sloviter
Federal Judges Committee

Elaine Stroger
Conference Site Selection Committee

J. Elizabeth Sullivan
Administrative Law Committee

Shirley A. Tolentino
Judicial Academic Network/ Judicial Education Committee
New Judges Committee

Aleta A. Trauger
Federal Judges Committee

Hinna Mirza Upal
International Outreach Committee

Brooke C. Wells
Federal Judges Committee

Patricia A. Whalen
International Outreach Committee
International Parental Abduction Liaison Network Committee

Deanne M. Wilson
Fairness and Access Committee

contact Jeff at (202) 393-0222 or jgroton@nawj.org.

New NAWJ Logo Pin Available

This stunning NAWJ logo pin, created by award-winning jeweler Judith Kinghorn for the 1999 NAWJ annual conference in Florida (Google "Judith Kinghorn jewelry" for samples of her work at museums/shows around the country), will be available on a one-time, advance order basis only and ready by the Philadelphia conference. To get yours, you must order now and pay in advance. Silver pins are $250. The price is to be determined for gold and gold/silver, so deposits for these are refundable. You may send a check payable to “National Association of Women Judges” to NAWJ, ATTN: Pin Offer, 1341 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 4.2, Washington DC 20036, or call (202) 393-0222 or jgroton@nawj.org.
Women Judges Successful in Races Across the Nation

Immediately after this year's elections, we asked our members to let us know of women judges who had successfully been elected (in both contested and uncontested elections), reelected or retained in judicial elections this past November 7th. We appreciate your feedback, and want to congratulate all the outstanding women whose names are set forth below (with the titles they will have when their new term begins). We realize, however, that they are only a small part of a much larger group of women jurists who prevailed on November 7th and apologize in advance. We want this list to be all-inclusive, so please take a moment to let us know of all the additional women judicial electees of whom you are cognizant, simply by e-mailing their names (and, if possible, contact information) to Jeff Groton at jgroton@nawj.org. Thank you, as always, for your support of NAWJ.
Alabama
Chief Justice-Elect Sue Bell Cobb (newly elected, Alabama Supreme Court)

Arizona
Chief Justice Ruth McGregor (retention election)

California
Justice Carol Corrigan (retention election)
Justice Joyce Kennard (retention election)
Court of Appeal Presiding Justice Judith McConnell (former NAWJ President)
Court of Appeal Justice Patricia Banke (retention election)
Court of Appeal Justice Joan Irion (NAWJ Secretary) (retention election)
Court of Appeal Justice Judith Haller (retention election)
Court of Appeal Justice Cynthia Aaron (retention election)
Superior Court Judge Sandra Thompson (NAWJ Past-President)
Superior Court Judge Davian Mitchell
Superior Court Judge Bobbi Tilmon
Superior Court Judge Sharon Mettler
Superior Court Judge Sheila Hanson
Superior Court Judge Sandra Kay Bean

Florida
Circuit Court Judge Rochelle Curley

Georgia
Supreme Court Justice Carol Hunstein

Indiana
Court of Appeals Justice Pat Riley (retention election)

Illinois
Chief Judge Ann E. Callis: retained in the Third Circuit
Barbara Crowder: elected Circuit Judge in the Third Circuit
Circuit Judge Kathleen Moran
Circuit Chief Judge Ann Callis (retention election)
Circuit Judge Barbara Crowder

Kentucky
Supreme Court Justice Mary C. Noble

Maryland
Court of Appeals Judge Irma Raker (retention election)
Court of Special Appeals Judge Ellen Hollander (retention election)

Michigan
Judge Susan Moiseev

Minnesota
District Court Judge Elena Ostby
District Court Judge Patricia Harasov

Missouri
Supreme Court Justice Mary Rhodes Russell (retention election)
Judge Brenda Loftin
Judge Nannette Baker
Judge Judy Draper
Judge Barbara Peeples

Mississippi
Chancellor Jacqueline Estes Mask (retention election)

New York
Appellate Division Justice Angela Mazzarelli
Supreme Court (NY state trial court of general jurisdiction) Justice Elizabeth Garry
Supreme Court Justice Darrell Gavrin
Supreme Court Justice Joan Lobis
Supreme Court Justice Delores Thomas
Civil Court Judge Rita Nella Michaels
Civil Court Judge Jacqueline Williams
Civil Court Judge Deena Douglas

Nevada
Supreme Court Justice Nancy Saitta
District Court Judge Susan Johnson
District Court Judge Elizabeth Halverson
Justice Court Judge Ann Zimmerman
Justice Court Judge Abbi Silver
Justice Court Judge Natalie Tyrrell
Justice Court Judge Patricia Lynch

North Carolina
Supreme Court Justice Sarah Parker
Supreme Court Justice Patricia Timmons-Goodson
Supreme Court Justice Robin Hudson
Court of Appeals Justice Donna Stroud
Chief District Court Judge Elizabeth Keever
District Court Judge Lisa Bell
District Court Judge Rickye McKoy-Mitchell
District Court Judge Nancy Norelli
District Court Judge Becky Tin

North Dakota
District Court Judge Karen Braaten

Ohio
Common Pleas Court Judge Denise Cross

Oregon
Supreme Court Justice Virginia Linder
Court of Appeals Judge Ellen Rosenblum:

Texas
County Court at Law Judge Sarah Clark
Court of Appeals Justice Diane Henson

Washington
Supreme Court Justice Susan Owens

2007 Annual Membership Directory

Getting the Information Correct is Key!

Each year, National sends each NAWJ member (via email, fax or U.S. mail) a copy of all of the member's contact data. We do this to ensure we have the most current data for the printing of the NAWJ Annual Membership Directory. The Directory is only as good as the information in it, so if you have received an update form or reported your changes to us, please do so.

Thank you!

Submitting Events for the NAWJ Web Calendar

Keep NAWJ Up-to-Date on your local activities!

If you would like to post events on the NAWJ Web calendar or in Counterbalance, please send an e-mail with “NAWJ Calendar Submission” in the subject line to sbrown@nawj.org and include the following information (in this format) in the body of that e-mail—
Event date:  
Event time:  
Event title:  
Event description:  
Contact:  
Location:  

E-mails without the above information may cause a delay or error in posting. You may attach flyers or registration forms to be posted along with your event, but it is most helpful if you can extract the required information and present it in the above format. Events are automatically included in the most current issue of *Counterbalance* if submitted by the deadline. Thank you for your help.

**About NAWJ**

The National Association of Women Judges is a non-profit organization which has for 27 years served as the nation’s leading voice for jurists dedicated to preserving judicial independence; ensuring equal justice and access to the courts for women, minorities and other historically disfavored groups; providing judicial education on cutting-edge issues; and increasing the numbers and advancement of women judges at all levels to more accurately reflect their full participation in a democratic society. For more information, visit [www.nawj.org](http://www.nawj.org) or call 202.393.0222.