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[NAWJ ONLINE](#)

[NEWS](#)

[CALENDAR](#)

[EDUCATION](#)

[SPONSORS](#)

December 2009

In This Issue:

- [2010 NAWJ Mid Year Meeting and Leadership Conference, March 11-14th, Washington, D.C.](#)
- [Hon. Bernice Johnson Receives ABA's Spirit of Excellence Award](#)
- [New State Gender Ratio Statistics Now Available on the NAWJ Website](#)
- [Call for Counterbalance Submissions](#)
- [Support NAWJ - Make Your Year End Donation Online!](#)

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[NAWJ MIDYEAR MEETING AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE](#)

**March 11-14, 2010
Washington, D.C.**

[THE FAIRFAX HOTEL](#)

Conference Highlights

Thursday, March 11, 2010

[NAWJ 2010 GALA RECEPTION HONORING JUSTICE GINSBURG, JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR, AND LADY HALE OF RICHMOND](#)

Time: 5:30PM - 9:00PM

Attendees will enjoy a wonderful reception followed by a conversation between Justice Ginsburg, Justice Sotomayor, and Lady Hale, moderated by Professor Judith Resnik. Dessert and coffee will be served after the conversation.

Speakers: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States

Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States

Lady Brenda Marjorie Hale, Justice, Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

Moderator: Professor Judith Resnik, Arthur Liman Professor of Law, Yale Law School

Presentation of the NAWJ Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Scholarship

Friday, March 12, 2010

[Program: Law, Justice and the Holocaust at The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)

Overview: Attendees will have a private guided tour of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, followed by a program at the museum that will explore the failure of the judges and those in the legal profession to protect the millions of persons who were left vulnerable to the racist and anti-Semitic ideology of the Nazi regime. A fascinating multi-media historical presentation will examine the judicial response to the key decrees and legislative acts that facilitated the Nazis' ability to carry out their

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

Keep NAWJ Up-to-Date on Your NAWJ Activities!

District Directors, Committee Chairs and individually sponsored activities you would like to post to the NAWJ Web calendar or in COUNTERBALANCE, please send by e-mail with "NAWJ Calendar Submission" in the subject line to lcousin@nawj.org and include the following

agenda. This will be followed by a guided panel discussion, moderated by U.S. District Court Judge Gladys Kessler, exploring the role of the judiciary in modern society and the need for judicial courage and independence.

Luncheon at The Fairfax Hotel

Saturday, March 13, 2010

NAWJ Board Training
NAWJ Board Meeting
Evening Judicial Reception

NAWJ Member Hon. Bernette Joshua Johnson Receives ABA's 2010 Spirit of Excellence Award

On November 10, 2009 the American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession honored Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson of the Louisiana Supreme Court with its Spirit of Excellence Award, recognizing her unwavering commitment to enhancing diversity in the legal profession.

"Justice Johnson epitomizes community service. She has been committed to helping the disadvantaged from her early days as a community organizer for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Even as a justice for the highest court in Louisiana, Justice Johnson maintains her commitment to communities in need," said Fred Alvarez of Palo Alto, Calif., chair of the commission. "She has been a champion for increasing diversity in the profession since the beginning of her career. Her courage and determination serve as inspiration for others - and not just women and minorities. She inspires all of us who are committed to a more diverse profession."

The commission will present the award to Justice Johnson February 6, 2010 during the 2010 ABA Midyear Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

As an African-American woman from a working class family, Justice Johnson overcame substantial barriers throughout her career. As a youth she navigated New Orleans' segregated school system, graduating as her high school's valedictorian. Justice Johnson attended Spelman College on a full academic scholarship before attending law school at Louisiana State University (LSU). She was one of only two African-American students in her first year class at LSU. Post law school, she became a managing lawyer with the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation, where she delivered legal services to more than 3,000 clients from socio economically deprived communities. Justice Johnson has been a role model and a trailblazer in other ways, serving as the first elected female of the Louisiana Civil District Court, and subsequently as the first African-American woman elected to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

The ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession is a catalyst to change the legal profession to reflect the society it serves. It helps racially and ethnically diverse lawyers advance their careers and standing in the profession. Its leadership, programs and information help the profession understand and eliminate racism, bigotry and discrimination. The commission works to increase racial and ethnic diversity in the legal profession, and thus enrich it.

New State Gender Ratio Statistics Are Now Available On The NAWJ Website

From NAWJ's website the 2010 edition of Forster-Long's THE AMERICAN BENCH data on gender ratios of our judicial corps is available by state. In 2008 the National Association of Women Judges joined with Forster-Long, publisher of THE AMERICAN BENCH and THE AMERICAN BAR, to share information it gathers for its publication and for NAWJ members to provide Forster-Long with biographical information and other data to Forster-Long. Over the past year approximately 60 members responded with biographical data, mostly via the form found on Forster-Long's website. Thank

information: Event date,
Event time, Event title,
Event description,
Contact, and Location.

Thank you for your help!

More Events

NAWJ 2010 Annual Conference San Francisco, Open Your Golden Gates!

October 13-17, 2010

A Focus on Children,
Family and the Elderly
Grand Hyatt San
Francisco, Union Square

Register now, [click here](#)

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

Announcements

Eight Circuit Decision on Inmate Shackling

On October 2nd The United States Court of Appeals' Eight Circuit en banc decision - Nelson v. Correctional Medical Services, 8th Cir. en banc, No. 07-2481, 10/2/09. The decision held that there was no qualified immunity for a prison guard who shackled an inmate who was in labor. Thank you, NAWJ Finance Chair Judge Blackburne-Rigsby, for the great news find!

you to all who provided information!

From NAWJ's website you may find for each state: (1) the numeric ratio of total women state court judges to total judges in that particular state, and its corresponding percentage figure; (2) the numeric ratio of women to total judges in the state's court of highest jurisdiction, and corresponding percentage figure; (3) the numeric ratio of women to total judges in the state's intermediate appellate courts and its corresponding percentage figure; (4) the numeric ratio of women to total judges in the state's trial courts of general jurisdiction (e.g., in New York, their Supreme Court) and its corresponding percentage figure; and (5) where applicable, the numeric ratio of women to total judges in the state's lower level trial courts of limited jurisdiction and their corresponding percentage figure.

If you have not already please go take a moment and visit the Forster-Long site to add your [judicial biographical data](#). NAWJ members may purchase the THE AMERICAN BENCH and THE AMERICAN BAR at a reduced cost.

Call for Counterbalance Submissions Deadline February 1, 2010

Counterbalance is a wonderful membership tool that provides a unique opportunity to highlight the many interesting activities that this organization sponsors and the causes it supports. Consider sharing with your fellow colleagues. If you have female judges in your state who have been recently appointed, or if they have been promoted or received an honor, let us know that too. NAWJ will also consider publishing an essay, address or article deemed of interest to fellow colleagues.

The deadline for submitting information for the next issue of COUNTERBALANCE is February 1, 2010. Look for the spring issue at the end of March, 2010. If you have articles, announcements, or events that you'd like included, please pass them along to Lavinia Cousin at lcousin@nawj.org. When submitting articles for review, please refer to the following guidelines:

- E-mail documents are preferred. You may attach either a Word or WordPerfect document, or include the text in the body of your e-mail.
- If you have photos you would like to accompany your submission, please attach the photo files (.JPG, .GIF, .BMP, etc.) and include a caption in the body of the e-mail (e.g., image1.jpg - Judge Jane Doe presents award to John Doe). Please remember that the higher the quality of the image (directly from a camera or scanner), the better the print quality.

If you have any questions or problems getting something to Lavinia please don't hesitate to call (202.393-0222) or e-mail lcousin@nawj.org.

Support NAWJ - Make Your Donations Online!

This month you will receive NAWJ's Annual Year-End Fund Drive letter in support of activities of the organization in the next fiscal year and to help raise critical general operating support for NAWJ.

Our goal this year is to obtain 100% participation from every member making as generous a personal tax-deductible charitable gift to NAWJ as possible individually, via a family foundation or other grant-making organization with which you may associated.

Your strong show of support will help to demonstrate the strong commitment and united support to NAWJ and the inherent need for continuing our mission of promoting the judicial role in protecting the rights of individuals under the rule of law through strong, committed, diverse judicial leadership, fairness and equality in the courts, and equal access to justice.

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 or call 202.393.0222.