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U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd District Judge Sonia Sotomayor Announced as U.S. Supreme Court Justice Nominee by President Barak Obama at the White House

The National Association of Women Judges was invited to attend the President Barak Obama's announcement of Judge Sonia Sotomayor as his nominee to the United States Supreme Court on May 26, 2009.

19th Annual Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Awards Luncheon Chicago Fairmont Hotel Sunday, August 2, 2009 Noon-2:00 PM

Historically, NAWJ has secured an NAWJ table at the Margaret Brent Awards Luncheon so that NAWJ members can come together and enjoy the event as well as to show support when an NAWJ member receives an award. This year NAWJ member Judge Vanessa Ruiz, NAWJ Past President, will receive the Margaret Brent Award.

The cost of the table is \$1,500 and it has 10 seats. If you are interested in purchasing a seat at the NAWJ table (\$150/ticket), please let me know as soon as possible so I may determine the extent of interest and reserve accommodations. Jeff Groton, 202-393-0222.

The Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, established by the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession in 1991, recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of women lawyers who have excelled in their field and have paved the way to success for other women lawyers. The Commission traditionally holds

the Award Luncheon during the ABA's Annual Meeting which will take place in Chicago, Illinois from July 30th-August 4, 2009.

2009 Margaret Brent Award Honorees:

Linda L. Addison, Partner, Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. and co-founder of the Center for Women in Law at the University of Texas; in Houston, TX and New York, NY,

Helaine M. Barnett, President, Legal Services Corporation and first legal aid attorney to serve as president of the Legal Services Corporation; in Washington, DC,

Hon. Arnette R. Hubbard, Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County, IL and champion of human rights through the exercise of the right to vote; in Chicago, IL,

Hon. Vanessa Ruiz, Judge, District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the first Hispanic judge to serve on D.C.'s highest court; in Washington, DC,

Loretta A. Tuell, Partner, Anderson Tuell, LLP, lawyer and legislative advocate on behalf of Indian tribes; in Washington, DC.

Margaret Brent was the first woman lawyer in America, arriving in the colonies in 1638. She was a master negotiator, an accomplished litigator, and a respected leader. Ms. Brent was involved in 124 court cases over eight years and won every one. In 1648, she formally demanded a "vote and voice" in the Maryland Assembly, which the governor denied. Over 250 years later, *Harper's* magazine noted: "by this action, Margaret Brent undoubtedly placed herself as the first woman in America to make a stand for the rights of her sex."

**New Jersey Chapter Host Breakfast for
Justices from the Shanghai People's High Court in China
June 8th from 8:00-9:30 AM**

A delegation of Justices from the Shanghai People's High Court in China will be visiting the Somerset County Courthouse on Monday, June 8, 2009. Their host at the Courthouse will be Assignment Judge Yolanda Ciccone.

Former NAWJ District Three Director Judge Sue Pai Yang will host the Justices for breakfast at her home in Bridgewater from 8 to 9:30 am. You are invited to meet the justices at that time. The Breakfast is co-sponsored by the New Jersey Chapter of the NAWJ, Somerset County Bar Association and Somerset County Cultural Diversity Coalition.

The visiting delegation from Shanghai will stop in Washington D.C. as well, and visit the U.S. Supreme Court. The delegation previously hosted U.S. Supreme Court Justices Kennedy, Scalia, O'Connor and Ginsburg in Shanghai.

To RSVP for Breakfast please reply to Judge Sue Pai Yang, J.W.C. Cell phone: 908-875-8005 or email: SuePYang@yahoo.com.

**IAWJ President Judge Leslie Alden
Featured Speaker at
Northern Virginia Annual Potluck Dinner and Election
Tuesday June 9th 6:30-8:30 PM**

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association will host featured speaker The Honorable Leslie Alden, Judge, Fairfax County Circuit Court and President of the International Association of Women Judges at its Annual Potluck Dinner and Election.

Email, fax or call Laurie M. Crawford, Esquire, to RSVP. The Law Offices of Catherine M. Reese, PLC, 10560 Main Street, Suite 310, Fairfax, VA 22030. Tel: 703.279-5140. Fax: 703.279.5141, email: LCrawford@reeselawoffice.com.

The Annual Meeting will take place at the home of The Honorable Karen Henenberg. Direction will be supplied as needed.

**PLEASE JOIN!
DISTRICTS 3 & 4 and the Maryland Chapter
for
BRUNCH AT THE BEACH**

With Judges from Delaware
&
Hon. La Tia W. Martin
President, National Association of Women Judges

Where: An ocean front home in beautiful
Bethany Beach, Delaware
Address and directions will be supplied by email upon receipt of reservations.

When: Sunday, June 14, 2009, 11am

Cost: \$20.00

Contact Jeff Groton, 202-393-0222 or jgroton@nawj.org

Alaska Color of Justice

Three Program Tracks:
**Educators, Youth Program Leaders and Career Counselors
High School Students
Careers for College Students and Adults**

Anchorage, Alaska

June 18 - 19, 2009

This month, from June 18 through June 19th Alaska will present its annual Color of Justice extravaganza. Programs will provide workshops on law and legal careers taught by Law School Professors throughout the Northwest and Judges and Attorneys from Alaska. The *Color of Justice* program brings diverse youth from across the state together for two days of exciting workshops and activities designed to encourage them to consider legal and judicial careers and to introduce them to campus life. The program also offers educators, youth organization leaders, career counselors and other youth advisors an opportunity to learn more about supporting and encouraging youth of diverse backgrounds as they consider legal and judicial careers.

The Advisors Track for Educators, Youth Program Leaders and Career Counselors will take place June 18 from 9:00AM – 5:30PM, and on June 19th from 8:30AM until late afternoon.

The High School Track for students in grades 9-12 will be held June 18 from 10:00AM – 5:30PM, and June 19 from 8:30AM – 4:30PM.

The Career Track for college students and other interested adults will be held on the afternoon of June 19.

Programs will be held at the University of Alaska at Anchorage campus, and the Anchorage courthouses of the Alaska Court System.

For more information contact Margaret Newman at mnewman@appellate.courts.state.ak.us, or call (907) 264-0864.

Getting to Know Our Specialized Courts Panel and Reception

**The Offices of Dickstein Shapiro LLP
Washington, D.C.**

July 23, 2009

You are invited to a panel presentation and reception presented by the National Association of Women Judges. Please join NAWJ for this new and exciting program and a reception with the panel and other NAWJ members.

A panel of judges from a variety of unique and administrative courts in DC will each give a brief overview of the role and jurisdiction of their respective court, and discuss its similarities and differences with courts of general jurisdiction.

Thursday, July 23, 2009, 6-8pm
The offices of Dickstein Shapiro LLP

1825 Eye Street NW, Washington DC, 12th floor.

Panelists:

Hon. Dawn Eflein, Chief Judge, U.S. Air Force Trial Judiciary
Hon. Diana Kroupa, U.S. Tax Court
Hon. Pauline Newman, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
Hon. Jeri Somers, U.S. Civilian Board of Contract Appeals
Hon. Ann Yahner, D.C. Office of Administrative Hearings
Moderator: Hon. Joan V. Churchill, U.S. Immigration Court (Retired)

RSVP to Kathy Chornyak, Chornyakk@dicksteinshapiro.com.

Planning Committee:

NAWJ Resource Board Members:

Elaine Metlin Esq., Dickstein Shapiro LLP, Chair
Brigida Benitez Esq., WilmerHale
Nicole E. Erb Esq., White & Case LLP
Amy Mauser Esq., Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP

NAWJ Board Members:

Hon. Joan V. Churchill, NAWJ Vice President of Districts, Immigration Judge Retired
Judge Cathy Hollenberg Serrette, 7th Judicial Circuit, MD, District 4 Director, NAWJ

**NAWJ's New York Chapter
host First Annual
Summer Judicial Academy
Pace University School of Law
July, 2009**

NAWJ's New York Chapter will host its First Annual Summer Judicial Academy for young women in July, 2009 at Pace University School of Law in White Plains, New York.

NAWJ President La Tia W. Martin has created an intensive one week pipeline summer academy for high school females to provide them with the skills necessary to succeed in college and law school. Approximately 20 students will be selected to attend the program, which will include daily lectures by volunteer judges, lawyers and law students. The Academy Planning Committee is comprised of the Dean of the Law School, professors, members of the local bar associations and LexisNexis attorneys.

We welcome all those who would like to offer their assistance to this most exciting new program.

Counterbalance Fall Issue

Hello NAWJ Members:

I hope each of you had a wonderful Memorial Day and are ready for summer. Fall 2009 is approaching quickly and of course that means another issue of Counterbalance!! **The deadline for submission of materials for the next issue will be August 3, 2009.** Keep that in mind and please send along your collection of information, articles and photos for inclusion!

You ask....what is it that I can contribute??? We let me inform you once again!

Please send any information of interest about women judges from your state.

Perhaps a noted female judge, especially a NAWJ member, has been appointed, promoted, is retiring or has received an award. Perhaps someone has put on a program that is of interest to women in the judiciary that would be noteworthy to mention.

Maybe you have read a recent news article that would be of interest to NAWJ members or to women in the legal profession. Let me know, and send a copy of the article along, as that may be something potentially newsworthy for our members. I am particularly interested in providing a couple of interesting educational articles for the next issue, so if you have read something of interest, let me know and we may be able to obtain re-publication rights!

Also, if you have authored an article on an issue of interest to women in the legal profession, please let me know. Perhaps you submitted something for publication in your local bar association newsletter or magazine; send it along because it may also be pertinent to NAWJ. Perhaps it can be recreated for our newsletter. If you or your court has a special program that serves the interest of women in law or judiciary or serves the interest of justice in some way, let me know. It may also be the subject for publication.

Similarly, if you have traveled here or abroad on trips pertaining to issues concerning the judiciary, let me know.

I am especially interested to highlight any news from the International Association of Women Judges, so Judge Temin, send over anything pertinent that you would like to highlight.

In short, if there is anything that you have done or know about in your area, that serves the interest of women lawyers, judges or the interests of justice, especially for women, then please let me know.

Your submissions need not be scholarly. They need not be complete edited versions. Any pertinent information in any form will be considered, even if just a brief note or unedited commentary or a re-print of a prior news article.

District Directors, please remember to take photos of your premier events and send them along! If you did not send your personal bio and photo for the last issue, then submit it for this next issue.

Of course, feel free to call me if you have questions.

Shelia R. Johnson
President
Association of Black Judges of Michigan
Vice President of Publications
National Association of Women Judges
District Judge
46th District Court
26000 Evergreen Road

Southfield, Michigan 48076
(248) 796-5810- office
(248) 796-5815- fax
sjohnson@cityofsouthfield.com

Luncheon at Pennsylvania's Governor's Mansion
hosted by First Lady of Pennsylvania
Hon. Marjorie O. Rendell, U.S. Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit
September 26, 2009
Harrisburg, PA

This event will include a luncheon on Saturday, September 26, 2009, at the PA Governor's Mansion hosted by First Lady of PA, Hon. Marjorie O. Rendell who sits on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Plans are being discussed for a weekend at the Hotel Hershey which is a beautiful spa resort/five star hotel near Harrisburg which has chocolate galore and great chocolate spa treatments. Rooms are \$249 plus taxes - limited rooms are available at that rate and meals are not included

For more information, please contact Judge Debbie O'Dell Seneca at (724) 228-6830 or Judge Stephanie Domitrovich at (814) 451-6230.

Justice on the River, Navigating Change

NAWJ 31st Annual Conference
October 15-18, 2009
Memphis, Tennessee



Keynote Luncheon Speaker
Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (Retired)
Thursday October 15th



Hon. La Tia W. Martin
NY State Supreme Court
NAWJ President



Hon. Janice M. Holder
Tennessee Supreme Court
Conference Co-Chair



Hon. Earnestine H. Dorse
Memphis City Court
Conference Co-Chair

Education Chair: Hon. Bernice B. Donald, U.S. District Court, Western TN

Educational Program Topic Highlights

Immigration * Implicit Bias * Bankruptcy * Law and Literature * Judicial Independence * Developing our
Authentic Leadership * Open Courts and Secret Settlements * Gender Bias in Media Coverage *
Judicial Productivity and Stress Management * International Technical Assistance and Outreach *
Emerging Issues in Litigation Resulting from New Legislation * Role of the Courts in Overseeing Executive
Functions in Difficult Economic Times

Register to attend the conference at WWW.NAWJ.ORG.

Reserve your accommodations by calling 1-800-PEABODY (Press 2) and identifying our group name National Association of Women Judges. The NAWJ room block is limited and the rate is subject to availability.

For more information: Tel: (202) 393 -0222 E-mail: nawj@nawj.org

Education and Programming

Chair: Hon. Bernice B. Donald, U.S. District Court, Western Tennessee

Hon. Paulette Delk, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Western Tennessee

Ron Dowling, Chief Deputy Clerk of Court, U.S. District Court, Western Tennessee

Hon. Julia Gibbons, U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

Hon. Holly Kirby, Tennessee Court of Appeals

Liz Mason, LexisNexis

Hon. Camille McMullen, Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals

Hon. Diane Vescovo, U.S. District Court, Western Tennessee

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Wednesday, October 14 – Pre Conference Activities

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	NAWJ 2008-2009 Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Dine Around (pre-registration required) Early arrivals are invited to enjoy an evening “at home”. Small groups will be hosted in the homes of Memphis locals for some good old fashion southern hospitality and dining.

Thursday, October 15 – Opening Day

9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	Conference Opening/Welcome
10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.	Plenary Session: Gender Bias in Media Coverage
12:00 Noon to 1:45 p.m.	Keynote Luncheon featuring Retired Justice Sandra Day O’Connor
2:00 PM to 3:15 p.m.	Concurrent Programs Program 1: The Level Playing Field Program 2: Designer Justice: The Movement for Specialized Courts Program 3: First Amendment Center
3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.	Concurrent Programs Program 1: Immigration Issues

	Program 2: Judges in the Movies
	Program 3: The Level Playing Field
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Shelby County Courthouse Centennial Celebration
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Southern Dining at the Center for Southern Folklore & Café
9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.	Hospitality Suite Open
Note:	Silent Auction will be open throughout the day

Friday, October 16 – Day Two

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	NAWJ District Breakfast Meetings
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Concurrent Programs
	Program 1: Re-entry Programs/Issues
	Program 2: Open Courts & Secret Settlements: A Perspective on the Sedona Conference
	Program 3: International Technical Legal and Judicial Assistance and Outreach – How to Get Involved
10:45 a.m. to 12:00 Noon	Concurrent Programs
	Program 1: What’s Your Point, Honey?
	Program 2: Law & Literature
	Program 3: Jericho Project
12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m.	Keynote Luncheon
	featuring the Reverend Samuel “Billy” Kyles
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Plenary Session: Judicial Independence
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Plenary Session: Judicial Leadership
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Tour of the National Civil Rights Museum and Dinner
9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.	Hospitality Suite Open
Note:	Silent Auction will be open throughout the day

Saturday, October 17 – Day Three

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	NAWJ Committee Breakfast Meetings
9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	Concurrent Programs
	Program 1: Judicial Productivity and Stress Management
	Program 2: Exploring Technology
	Hands on Demo with LexisNexis

	Program 3: Financial Planning
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon	Concurrent Programs
	Program 1: Professional Satisfaction: The New Science of Happiness
	Program 2: Book Club
	Program 3: Diversity in the Profession: Report Card on Women in Law Firms
12:15 Noon to 2:00 p.m.	Business Meeting Followed by Lunch and Investiture
2:00 to 6:00 p.m.	Free Time to Enjoy Memphis
2:15 p.m.	NAWJ 2009-2010 Board Meeting
2:30 p.m.	Silent Auction Closes
6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Cocktail Reception
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	NAWJ Annual Awards Banquet
9:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.	Hospitality Suite Open

Sunday, October 18 – Fare Thee Well

9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	Farewell Breakfast
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Friends Committee

Co-chair: Jeana Littrell, FedEx Express

Co-chair: Jill Steinberg, Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC

Sponsors**

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Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC

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Law Offices of Ricky E. Wilkins

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**American Bar Association
Appellate Judges Education Institute Summit
November 19-22, 2009
Regal Sun Resort
Lake Buena Vista (Orlando) Florida**

The American Bar Association is planning the Appellate Judges Education Institute Summit, November 19-22, 2009 in Orlando, Florida. This seminar will focus on the challenges facing appellate judges and lawyers. Featured speakers will include Judge Diane Wood of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, who is also touted as a possible future nominee for the United States Supreme Court, Dean Kenneth Starr, Professor Pamela Karlan, Dean Erwin Chemerinsky and a host of appellate judges, lawyers and staff attorneys from across the country. This seminar is a great networking opportunity not only for judges but also for your clerks and for appellate attorneys.

More seminar details can be found soon at www.law.smu.edu/AJEI. This seminar remains a great value as registration rates have not increased over time. Registration for ABA members is \$475- CASA, \$575- Judges, and \$675- CAL. Non ABA members is an additional \$50. The registration form and more information will be posted at www.law.smu.edu/AJEI.

The conference is Thursday, November 19 to Sunday, November 22 at the Regal Sun Resort, in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The AJEI has been able to secure tremendous group rates, starting at just \$89.00/nt. We encourage people to book early! The hotel contact information is Regal Sun Resort (800) 624-4109 or (407) 828-4444, 1850 Hotel Plaza Blvd. Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830.

For online reservations please go to <http://www.regalsunresort.com/> and enter Attendee Code: AJEI1109.

**Pre-IAWJ 2010 Conference Tour
Itinerary now up on the Web**

NAWJ International Director Hon. Carolyn Temin has now narrowed down a proposed itinerary for the pre-conference excursion through Asia which immediately precedes the International Association of Women Judges' 10th Biennial Conference which will take place from May 11-15, 2010 in Seoul, Korea. While you need not confirm your attendance until Feb 1, 2010, Judge

Temin would like to have an idea of the number of those who might plan to join the pre-Seoul Conference tour party by November 1, 2009.

Peruse the proposed itinerary from NAWJ's homepage now, www.nawj.org. The summer will come and go before you know it.

Please contact Judge Carolyn Temin by email at cetemin@netzero.com, or call (215) 683-7038, if you have any questions. Learn more about IAWJ's 2010 Biennial Conference in Seoul at www.iawj.org

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

If you would like to post events on the NAWJ Web calendar please send an e-mail with “**NAWJ Calendar Submission**” in the subject line to lcousin@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:

You may attach flyers or registration forms to be posted along with your event. Thank you for your help.
