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**South Beach Regional Conference A Wonderful Success!**

Judge Diana Eagon, NAWJ District Director, Co-Chair  
 Judge Mary Becnel, Judicial District Court of Louisiana, Co-Chair

One of the many highlights of the Conference was the Southern Judicial Leaders' Luncheon. Our seven Honorees shared with the group many of the challenges they faced during their fascinating journey to their current position. Many thanks to each Honoree!

**Honorees:**

Justice Donna M. Barnes, Mississippi Court of Appeals  
 Presiding Justice Pamela W. Baschab, Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals  
 Justice Janice M. Holder, Tennessee Supreme Court  
 Justice Robin E. Hudson, Supreme Court of North Carolina  
 Justice Carol W. Hunstein, Supreme Court of Georgia  
 Justice Barbara J. Pariente, Florida Supreme Court  
 Justice Paula Hinson Thomas, Supreme Court of South Carolina

**We would like to thank our supporters of  
 the NAWJ South Beach Regional Conference:**
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 Kenny Nachwalter, P.A.

**Save the Date! NAWJ Southwest Regional Conference**
**Save the Date!**
**The National Association of Women Judges Presents**
**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](mailto:nawj@nawj.org) to let us know so we can update our membership database.


**NAWJ Latest News**

**Marquette University  
 Honors Milwaukee  
 Judge and NAWJ  
 Member for Service  
 to the Community**

**MILWAUKEE -  
 Maxine Aldridge  
 White, presiding judge  
 in the Milwaukee  
 County Circuit Court**

## The First-Ever NAWJ Southwest Regional Conference

Keynote Speaker: Justice (Retd) Sandra Day O'Connor  
Guest Speaker: Hon. Sharon Majors-Lewis

August 24-26, 2007  
San Diego, California

Join us for A Focus on Judicial Independence and Judicial Diversity

- Keynote Speaker on Judicial Independence: Justice (Retd) Sandra Day O'Connor Conference Luncheon, Noon, Saturday, August 25th
- Focus on Diversity in the Courts: Hon. Sharon Majors-Lewis, California State Judicial Appointments Secretary, Friday, August 24th.
- Plenary sessions featuring academic and judicial experts addressing the relationship of judicial diversity and judicial independence, and the impact on female and minority judicial candidates and sitting judges of different systems of judicial selection, retention and evaluation and related issues
- Free time Saturday afternoon to explore the beauty of San Diego, pamper yourself or just relax on the water
- Outstanding judicial programming, Gala Receptions on Friday and Saturday evenings; Friday evening remarks by Governor Schwarzenegger's Judicial Appointments Secretary, Justice O'Connor Saturday Keynote Luncheon; two breakfasts with old and new friends

***Keep an eye out for your invitation!***

### Save the Date! NAWJ Annual Conference

**Reserve your room now!  
NAWJ 29th Annual Conference  
Historic Philadelphia, PA  
November 7 - 11, 2007 (Veteran's Day Weekend)**



#### Hotel:

Conference Attendees will enjoy the comforts of the spectacular Four Seasons 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 amazing rate. The group identifier is National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ). Call today! 1-866-516-1100 or 215-963-1500.

#### Conference Program Highlights (subject to change):

- New Judges Program
- Separation of Powers: What Does It Mean?
- Public Perception of Women Judges
- The Roberts Court Evolving
- The Innocence Project
- Gender and Sexuality Law in the 21st Century
- International Justice for Women

**Fabulous Receptions** at the Four Seasons, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and the National Constitution Center. Luncheon at the Historic

Family Division and a Milwaukee resident, will receive the Alumni Service to the Community Award as part of Marquette University's 2007 Alumni National Awards Dinner on April 28. It is one of six all-university awards given annually.

The second female African-American judge in Wisconsin history and the longest-serving African American in Wisconsin state courts, White was elected by the judiciary as a representative to the Wisconsin Judicial Council.

During Alumni National Awards Weekend, Marquette University honors all-university award recipients who have made significant contributions to the world around them.

#### NAWJ Member Seeks Information on Mental Health Court

Tampa to start a mental health court and I'm gathering information from those jurisdictions who already have them. If you have information to share please email Judge Behnke at [judgebeh@aol.com](mailto:judgebeh@aol.com).

#### Upcoming Events

***You can find more details about these events on our [Web calendar](#).***

#### [Meeting of Virginia Association of Women Judges](#)

May 14 - 17, 2007  
Location TBD

#### [District 4 Weekend In](#)

Bellevue-Stratford (now Hyatt) Hotel with an outstanding speaker TBA.

For up-to-date conference information, visit us at  
<http://www.nawj.org/conference.asp>

***Make your plans today!***

**We would like to thank the early supporters of the NAWJ 29th Annual Conference, with many more to come!**  
 (As of May 1, 2007)

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 Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP  
 Wolf Block Schorr & Solis-Cohen  
 Woodcock Washburn

**Richmond**

May 19 - 20, 2007  
 Richmond, VA

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

**NAWJ Welcomes New Resource Board Members**

**Susan Creighton, Esq.**  
 Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, PC  
 1700 K Street, NW, Fifth Floor  
 Washington, D.C.  
 20006-3817

**Nicki Locker, Esq.**  
 Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, PC  
 650 Page Mill Road  
 Palo Alto, California  
 94304-1050

**NAWJ Is Hiring**

**NAWJ Program and Publication Assistant**  
**32 hours per week**

**Responsibilities Include:**

**Counterbalance newsletter**

- Work with VP of Publications
- Solicit articles and information for publication
- Draft articles and other elements (such as ads and forms) for publication
- Select photographs and graphic elements and edit as required for publication
- Design, develop and disseminate publication

**Monthly Update e-newsletter**

- Gather information to be included in the Update
- Design, develop and disseminate email publication using online email marketing tool
- Respond to any inquires regarding the Update

**Web Site**

- Coordinate with Web Designer to ensure timely updates to site
- Design static or animated Web buttons
- Crop photos for Web
- Assist with management of online member database

**Other Publications and Materials**

- Assist in the production and dissemination of:
  - Annual Directory
  - Membership Brochure
  - Event-related materials such as programs, save-the-date postcards and more

**Board of Directors**

- Draft agendas for Executive Committee and Board meetings
- Send out all materials for Executive Committee calls
- Take minutes, distribute for editing and finalizes for approval (when board secretary is unavailable)
- Assist in arranging other NAWJ committee meetings

**Resource Board**

- Assist Executive Director with communications and support for Resource Board (e.g., setting up meetings)

**Program and Development**

- Assist in research, planning and publicizing of judicial education programs
- Provide on-site support
- Assist in the development of program budgets
- Assist in researching potential funders and writing letters of inquiry

**General office duties**

- Draft and proofread correspondence
- Hire and manage NAWJ interns
- Assist with Annual, Mid-Year and other conferences and events
- Perform others duties as assigned

**Member support**

- Collection of information about women judges, the justice system, and other related areas
- Respond to member inquiries

**Skills Required**

- Good oral and written communications, proofreading  
Diplomacy, discretion
- Print design; Web design a plus
- Experience with latest versions of Adobe InDesign, Macromedia Dreamweaver, Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, Microsoft

Office (Word, Excel, and Power Point), Adobe Acrobat

Contact Jeff for further information: [jgroton@nawj.org](mailto:jgroton@nawj.org)

### **International Senior Lawyers Project**

The International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP) is beginning to work with a local chapter of Global Rights, a non-profit organization, to provide training to implement and enforce the new Domestic Violence Law recently enacted in India. The project is centered in Bangalore, India. The funding is not yet secured, but ISLP hopes to sponsor one US judge or lawyer to spend 2-3 months in Bangalore working with local lawyers and judges in the fall of 2007. Preference will be giving to those who have a background working in domestic violence training. There is no language requirement as English will be the language of choice.

I am advertising this opportunity early in the hopes of giving people time to review their calendars and their lives about this time commitment, and because I have asked ISLP to let me see if we have a NAWJ judge or retired judge who could fill this assignment before they seek applicants from elsewhere.

If secured, funding would cover airfare, housing and medical insurance. Note: ISLP does NOT provide any stipend or per diem allowance. This is an important opportunity to help with a new domestic violence law to make sure that it has the intended impact. If you are interested and could be available for 2-3 months to work with lawyers and judges in Bangalore, please send Jeff your CV and a letter outlining your background in working with domestic violence and any other qualifications you deem relevant. NAWJ will compile a list of interested judges which will be passed on to ISLP.

I need to emphasize that funding has not yet been secured for this project, but ISLP is hopeful that they will be able to place one individual in Bangalore to work with this project this fall. If NAWJ can provide them with a list of qualified women judges eager to help, this might enhance their ability to secure funding.

Best wishes,

Bea Ann Smith  
Chair, International Outreach Committee

### **Mother's Day Gift Idea**

This year you can give a Mother's Day gift that makes your Mom, your sister, your relative or good friend feel good while it does good. The Storybook Project is designed to bring inmate mothers and children together through books and stories in order to offset the damaging impact that a prolonged separation can cause. Studies have shown that imprisonment of the primary care giver exposes children to emotional, social and economic stresses. The Storybook Project hopes to lessen the impact of a mother's prison sentence on children by giving them the opportunity to sing a lullaby or leave a short personal message for their child at the end of the tape or in the book. For many children it is the first time they have received a book as a present. The wonderful thing about this project is that children can turn on the tape recorder and hear their absent mother's voice when they are feeling sad or lonely. They can hear their mother tell them over and over again that she loves them and misses them. It's one way for inmate mothers to stay in touch with their children. In addition, the Project helps to promote and develop the reading skills of the mothers.

Please donate \$35 to the Storybook Project. In return, the Project will send your mother, your sister, your relative or good friend a Mother's Day card letting her know that a donation has been made in her honor! This amount that enables a child whose mother is in prison to receive a new book and a tape of his or her mother reading that book and sending her love.

Please make all checks payable to **“NAWJ-The Storybook Project”**. Your donation is tax deductible as the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) which is a 501 (c)(3) charitable and educational non-profit association. Your donation will be fully tax-deductible and the NAWJ tax identification number is 52-1185005.

Please send all donations along with your mother's, sister's relative's or friend's name and address to: Jennifer Forquer, Strickler, Sachitano & Hatfield, P.A., 4550 Montgomery Avenue, Suite 900N, Bethesda, Maryland 20814; please call if you have any questions (301) 657-8805.

**On behalf of the Storybook Project, Thank You!**

**We would like to thank the supporters of the very successful NAWJ Mid-Year Leadership Conference:**

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**SAVE THE DATE! Bringing Women to the Table**

**Bringing Women to the Table**  
**A series of dinners for Massachusetts' leading women**

Brought to you by  
**The Caucus of Women Legislators**  
co-sponsored by the NAWJ

Featured Speaker: Senate President Therese Murray

Wednesday May 30, 2007  
5:30 p.m. Reception  
6:30p.m. Dinner and Program

Union Club of Boston  
8 Park Street

Invitations and details to follow.

**Court of Appeals Judge Irma Raker Receives National Award**

**Annapolis, MD — May 1, 2007** Judge Irma S. Raker of the Maryland Court of Appeals has been chosen to receive the 2007 Margaret Brent Award from the American Bar Association (ABA). Judge Raker represents the 7th Appellate Circuit (Montgomery County) on the state's highest court.

Each year, the ABA presents the Margaret Brent Award to five women lawyers who have achieved professional excellence while influencing other women to pursue legal careers, opening doors for women lawyers in job settings that

historically have been closed to them, and advancing opportunities for women within the profession of law. The award is named for Margaret Brent, the first woman lawyer in America. Brent arrived in the colonies in 1638, and in 1648 demanded a "vote and voice" in the Maryland Assembly -- which the governor denied. This is the 17th year for the award.

"Judge Raker is only the second woman in the well-over-two-hundred-year history of the Court to serve on this, the State's highest court, and she has proven to be a great asset," said Chief Judge Robert M. Bell of the Maryland Court of Appeals. "She is an assiduous worker, an effective, scholarly, and articulate opinion writer, a willing team player, and a very valuable colleague. Her career has been characterized by efforts to further the understanding of justice and an unwavering commitment to excellence, particularly as it relates to the education of lawyers and judges."

Judge Raker has served on the Court of Appeals since January 1994, and is chair of the Judicial Compensation Committee and a past member of the Public Awareness Committee. She earned her bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and studied at the Hague Academy of International Law. After she earned her law degree from the Washington College of Law at American University and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1973, Judge Raker was Assistant State's Attorney, Montgomery County, from 1973-79. She served as Associate Judge, District Court of Maryland, District 6 (Montgomery County) from 1980-1982, then as Associate Judge, Montgomery County Circuit Court, 6th Judicial Circuit, from February 1982-December 1993. She has served in leadership positions in both the ABA and the Maryland State Bar Association, and is a past president of the Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Women Judges. Judge Raker, who is also an adjunct professor at Washington College of Law, has received many other awards throughout her career, including the Dole Woman of Achievement Award from the American Red Cross, Citizen of the Year from the National Association of Social Workers, and the Maryland Leadership Award from the Daily Record, which has three times named her as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women. Judge Raker will receive the Margaret Brent award at the ABA Annual Meeting in California in August.

For more information, please contact the Court Information Office at (410) 260-1488.

### Legal Momentum Publishes New Book

[Legal Momentum](#), the nation's oldest non-profit women's advocacy organization, is happy to present its new book "Women: A Celebration of Strength."



This book includes:

Amazing 3-D pop-up art

Essays by award winning authors Anna Quindlen and Edwidge Danticat

Beautifully designed, fascinating, fun, fact-filled layouts covering women in science, sports, arts and style, military, politics and more  
Copies of critical documents in our history including

–The Declaration of Independence

–The Declaration of Sentiments

– Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I a Woman" Speech

– Carrie Chapman Catt's stirring summary of the decades of struggle to win women the vote

– 50 Most Important Cases In the Women's Rights Movement

Buy this book for yourself, the women you love and buy it to ensure that the women and girls of the future have an equal opportunity to reach for the stars. Log onto [www.legalmomentum.org](http://www.legalmomentum.org) today to buy your copy.

Please forward this message to your friends, family and colleagues.

### 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 [nawj@nawj.org](mailto:nawj@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:

**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.