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NAWJ President's Installation Remarks

The following remarks were made by Hon. Brenda Stith Loftin upon her installation as President of NAWJ on October 7, 2006, at the 28th Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.


A VOICE, A VISION, A WAY


In March 1968, Rabbi Abraham Herschel introduced Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to a group of Jewish leaders and remarked that Dr. King represented "a voice, a vision and a way."

The same may be said of Justice Joan Dempsey Klein and Justice Vaino Spencer, founders of the National Association of Women Judges. On October 25, 1979, under the leadership of Justices Klein and Spencer, approximately 166 women judges, representing 28 states, came together to form the National Association of Women Judges. Today, the NAWJ "voice" speaks for over 1,100 judges in the 50 states and the U.S. commonwealths and territories. Our members — judges of all races, cultures, and religions — preside in federal, state, municipal, military, administrative law and tribal courts. And, just like Justices Klein and Spencer, we are more than "pretty faces." We are courageous, intellectual, talented, hardworking, and yes, we are powerful. After all, we do have our own branch of government. I am proud to be a voice in the NAWJ chorus of women judges, including, among others, Justice Klein, Justice Spencer, Retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Our co-founders had a "vision" for NAWJ — and what a vision it was! NAWJ would provide strong, committed judicial leadership to address issues of gender fairness and equality in American courts. NAWJ would promote equal access to justice for the most vulnerable of our population. Finally, NAWJ would foster professional and personal relationships among women judges so that each judge could attain her full potential, on and off the bench. Each president of NAWJ has executed policies and programs reflecting the vision of our founders. As Judge Ruiz passes the baton to me, I, too, promise to promote the ideals of our visionary founders.

In 1979, our founders presented a "way." Unlike Dr. King, there were no sit-ins or boycotts. Although the way, or the strategy, may have been different, both groups shared a common denominator — a profound passion for equality. This passion was seen in the early days of NAWJ in its hard work on gender bias issues. In 1980, the National Judicial Education Program and NAWJ partnered to investigate bias against women judges, lawyers, litigants and court personnel. By 1985, NAWJ had created the National Gender Bias Task Force. To date, thanks to the NJEP and our NGBTF, there are 42 states with gender task forces and many federal circuit task forces

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

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New NAWJ Logo Pin Available

fighting bias against women in our justice system. Clearly, we have seen changes in the last 27 years, and NAWJ should be proud of its many accomplishments. However, our work is not complete; there is a great deal more to do. After 27 years, it is time to re-evaluate "the voice, the vision and the way."

To that end, I have asked, and received approval from, NAWJ's Board of Directors to begin a formal strategic planning process for our Association. During December, a strategic planning committee will meet in St. Louis, Missouri, to chart a future course for NAWJ. Shelley Stump, a lawyer and educator specializing in strategic planning and management, will assist us in this process. Shelly's talents are many and her credentials are impressive, having helped numerous courts and legal organizations with similar processes. However, our success hinges on each member's *active* participation in the planning process. A strategic planning member questionnaire is posted on the NAWJ Web site. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire upon your return home.

One of our tasks in the long-range planning process will be to identify issues and trends in judicial education. NAWJ is, and always has been, committed to providing innovative and cutting-edge educational programs for our members. This year, we renew our commitment to judicial education by developing a new series of programs for NAWJ districts, judicial educators and courts around the country. NAWJ is fortunate to be guided in this process by Linda Evans, Director of the Missouri Department of Judicial Education. Linda, a nationally recognized judicial educator, has agreed to volunteer her time and talents to this important endeavor. Linda, NAWJ thanks you and looks forward to working with you in the coming year.

NAWJ will be very active during 2007: We will expand our voice, our vision and our way. "The NAWJ Way" this year, in addition to those items I have already discussed, will include:

- Continuing to speak out, strong and courageously, on issues consistent with our mission statement;
- Continuing with the important work of our Women in Prison Project;
- Continuing to increase our membership;
- Hosting the Second Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues;
- Sponsoring two new NAWJ Regional Conferences — one in the west/southwest and one in the south;
- Determining the sites for the NAWJ Annual Conference for 2007, 2008 and 2009;
- Working anew with the talented and supportive members of the NAWJ Resource Board.

I am looking forward to a very productive year. Thank all of you again for giving me this great opportunity to serve as President of NAWJ. Let me close by saying that I may not be Allstate, but, "you are in good hands" with me.

Thank you and God Bless America.

Judge Loftin sits on the St. Louis County Circuit Court in St. Louis, Missouri.

NAWJ Strategic Planning Survey

Deadline: November 17, 2006

The National Association of Women Judges is undertaking a comprehensive strategic planning process of envisioning the future of NAWJ and developing ways to achieve that future. We have retained the services of Shelley Stump, a lawyer and educator, who specializes in strategic planning and management. She has worked with law related organizations and courts in designing and implementing strategic plans. A strategic planning committee has been formed and will begin its long range planning process in St. Louis, Missouri on December 1-3, 2006. The committee will consider a wide range of information in its planning effort, including prior member surveys and other research conducted on behalf of NAWJ. To ensure that the committee has the most current information about the thoughts, needs and preferences of NAWJ members, the committee is asking all members to be part of the process by



Order by November 30

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 (\$250 for the silver; price to be determined for gold and gold/silver). 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 to pay by credit card. Don't delay. Get your NAWJ pin today! Orders must be submitted before November 30, 2006. Because Judith is providing the pins at cost, \$100 of your payment represents a charitable donation to NAWJ.

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Upcoming Events

completing a short survey at http://www.nawj.org/strategic_planning.asp.

Please join me in expanding our voice, our vision and our way. Your response is crucial to the success of the planning process. Thank you for taking the time to contribute to this effort and your ongoing commitment to NAWJ.

Brenda Stith Loftin
President, NAWJ

Justice at Stake Campaign Recruiting Student Interns



The Justice at Stake Campaign is recruiting graduate and law student interns for the spring and summer semesters, and highly motivated undergraduate student interns for the summer and fall semesters. For interested students, Justice at Stake can work with your school to provide academic credit.

Justice at Stake is a national campaign working to keep our courts fair and impartial. More than 40 state and national partners—including the American Bar Association, Common Cause and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights' Under Law—work together to protect our courts from political attacks, special interest pressure, and attempts to undermine their power.

An internship can involve the following:

- **Original Research and Monitoring:** Student will be asked to help Justice at Stake gather and analyze data on federal and state courts, including attacks on the courts, public policy initiatives regarding the courts, elections of state judges, and diversity on the bench. The intern will help track legislation, court decisions, and relevant scholarly literature and news stories from around the country that affect Justice at Stake's mission. In addition to traditional legal, library and Internet research, work may also involve attending hearings and meetings, and gathering information over the telephone. Interns should be familiar with Internet research and library resources. Initiative will be expected, and in many situations research projects can be tailored to the law student's academic interests.
- **Website Updates:** Student will help keep the Justice at Stake website comprehensive and up to date with research information gathered.
- **Outreach:** Student may be asked to help track the activities of Justice at Stake partners and help prepare for meetings and events surrounding Justice at Stake's work.
- **Computer Science:** Student may be asked to help maintain office server and shared database files. The intern will assist with network troubleshooting, technical support, and updating/maintaining the campaign's database. Experience in website development with ASP is a plus.

To learn more please contact Sarah Pope at 202-588-9412 or info@justiceatstake.org
All submissions require a cover letter and resume. Justice at Stake is metro accessible, located two blocks from Gallery Place/Chinatown and across the street from Archives/Navy Memorial. You can visit us on the web at: www.justiceatstake.org.

2007 Annual Membership Directory

Women in Law—Strategies for Success Series: Keys to Advancement and Retention

November 2, 2006
New York, NY

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 Conference Photos

Photos from the 28th Annual Conference held in Las Vegas are now available for free download and/or purchase at [Shutterbug](#). To access the photo album, enter password: *nawjdc* when prompted. If you have trouble accessing the site and you're not behind a firewall, please send an e-mail to Stephanie Brown at sbrown@nawj.org. More photos, taken by the on-site photographer, will be available soon.

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 each year 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 please keep an eye out for the Update and report any changes as soon as you get it.

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 or call 202.393.0222.