

## RESOLUTION

*Whereas* It is the mission of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) to promote 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,

*Whereas* Since its formation in 1979, NAWJ has fought to preserve judicial independence and excellence, to ensure equal justice and access to the courts for women, minorities, and other historically disfavored groups, and to achieve fairness and equality for vulnerable populations including those appearing before Immigration Judges across the United States,

*Whereas* The NAWJ is committed to eliminating implicit and unconscious bias in judicial decision-making,

*Whereas* The NAWJ supports a Court that assures fairness and equal access to justice and assures both the appearance and reality of impartiality before that Court,

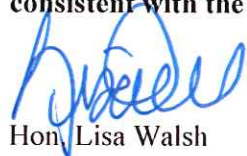
*Whereas* The NAWJ believes that recusal of a Judge from a pending matter should be a decision made on an objective, independent case-by-case basis in accord with the established rules and official procedures for considering recusal issues, in a manner that is uniform, that is not arbitrary, that is not based upon a Judge's race or national origin or association with groups of a particular race or national origin, nor based on their ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, and that guarantees fairness to the person(s) before the Judge,

*Whereas* The NAWJ supports and applauds efforts of Judges to contribute to our society through speaking engagements, volunteer work, educational activities and pursuits, and membership in organizations that promote fairness and equality and improvements in the judicial system,

*Whereas* The NAWJ notes that Immigration Judges are entitled to protection of their rights under the Constitution of the United States of America and the United States Code which includes their right to freedom of speech and assembly and freedom from discrimination on the basis of race, national origin and religion,

*Whereas* blanket orders of recusal going beyond those circumstances in which the relevant federal statute mandates automatic disqualification may violate the letter and spirit of the aforementioned rules and official procedures,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association of Woman Judges urges that recusal decisions in Immigration Court be made on a case-by-case basis by the Immigration Judge assigned to the case, either *sua sponte* or upon the motion of a party to the proceedings consistent with the above stated principles.



Hon. Lisa Walsh  
President

National Association of Women Judges  
November 25, 2015