



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

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April 16, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), I speak for more than 1,200 dedicated members of the American judiciary to urge that you look toward expanding the diversity of the membership of the United States Supreme Court as you consider your nominee for the position soon to be vacated by Justice John Paul Stevens. When Justice Sandra Day O'Connor retired, she addressed the question of diversity on the Court at a retirement gala organized by NAWJ in her honor. There, she remarked that she hoped she would be "around and still aware of what is going on" when "our third woman" is appointed to the Supreme Court, "our fourth . . . and wait a minute -- our fifth!"

You have granted Justice O'Connor's first wish with your appointment of our distinguished member Justice Sonia Sotomayor to the high court. But women are still far from being equally represented at the higher echelons of the bench, or the legal profession -- just as they remain underrepresented in other fields of professional endeavor. With this critical nomination, we urge you to make clear again to the nation your commitment to the full and equal participation of women in American society by nominating an outstanding woman in the mold of Justice O'Connor, Justice Ginsburg, and Justice Sotomayor. The field of potential nominees includes a wide array of extraordinarily well qualified women, and NAWJ stands ready to provide you and your advisors with any information you may seek about the distinguished women jurists and attorneys on the list.

NAWJ was founded in 1979 as a nonpartisan association of judges with the mission to ensure equal justice and access to the courts for women and other vulnerable populations; to increase the numbers, advancement and leadership status of women on the bench to accurately reflect the role of women in a democratic society; to preserve judicial independence; and to serve as a leading provider of cutting-edge judicial training initiatives focused on issues of particular importance to women and their families.

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NAWJ believes that only by increasing the number of talented women on the Court can we truly safeguard the right of women to seek fulfillment of their highest aspirations and bring their talents and perspectives to bear on the important issues before the Court. Your selection of Justice Stevens's replacement represents an historic opportunity for you to reaffirm the importance of, and confirm the permanent and rightful presence of, women on the Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dana Fabe".

Dana Fabe
President, National Association of Women Judges