



# National Association of Women Judges' 34th Annual Conference Miami, FL - November 7-11, 2012

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**NAWJ is the nation's leading voice for women jurists dedicated** to preserving judicial independence, ensuring equal justice and access to the courts for women, minorities and other historically disenfranchised groups, providing judicial education on cutting-edge issues, and advancing the interests of women judges, both in numbers and status at all levels to more accurately reflect their full participation in a democratic society.

**NAWJ is committed to diversity in its membership** and welcomes both men and women, as well as judicial clerks, attorneys and law students. NAWJ members include federal, state, tribal, military and administrative law judges at both the appellate and trial levels from every state in the nation. Everyone who shares NAWJ's vision of justice for all is welcome to membership. Current NAWJ membership includes over 1,200 individuals.

**The NAWJ Annual Conference is the premier education event of the year.** This conference brings NAWJ members, guests and sponsors from across the nation and around the world together for cutting edge educational sessions, networking and socializing. The purpose of the conference is two-fold. One is to provide the attendee with an outstanding educational experience. The second is to provide NAWJ with much needed support for its important education and outreach programs which reach thousands each year. The 2012 Annual Conference expected to have between 250-300 registered attendees.

## **Conference Topics Being Considered and Developed:**

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**INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY** – What are the problems facing the independence of the judiciary, what can we do about it, what ARE we doing about it, effective strategies for judicial independence, what is happening in other countries.

**THE POWER AND REACH OF THE INTERNET AND THE AGE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING** – What are the existing privacy laws, what are expectations of privacy, how do those existing privacy laws fit in with the current realities, cyberstalking and available remedies. How does the internet and social networking impact the judiciary and the ethics of judges or their clerks using the internet to research information about cases, jury members, lawyers, etc.

**JUDGING IN AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY** – What judges can, do and should communicate with one another, formally and informally, regarding cross border issues or simultaneous proceedings.

**THE ECONOMIC CRISIS** – It's hidden impact – how the economic crisis is hurting, who and where.

**PRESENTATIONS BY AUTHORS** – Authors will discuss their books, answer questions, and sign books.

**BRINGING HUMAN RIGHTS HOME** – Examination of what is new and what is happening with respect to the use of Human Rights Norms in the domestic (US) context.

**THE IMPACT OF OTHER LAWS ON COURT DECISIONS** – Issues relating to bankruptcy, immigration and other laws that may or will impact criminal, family and commercial cases.

**LAWYERING AND JUSTICE** – Emerging issues in the changing Middle and Far East – This panel will look at the challenges that women lawyers and judges, especially Muslim lawyers and judges) are facing as the world around them changes. We did not resolve if we wanted to expand this beyond the Middle and Far East.



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- Ten additional tickets for the sponsor appreciation keynote luncheon program;
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# *National Association of Women Judges*

## *Mission Statement:*

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The National Association of Women Judges' mission is to: Promote the judicial role of 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.

## *About NAWJ:*

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Since its formation in 1979, NAWJ has inspired and lead the American judiciary in achieving fairness and equality for vulnerable populations. Led by two visionary women – Justice Joan Dempsey Klein and Justice Vaino Spencer – 100 brave and intrepid women judges met and formed an organization dedicated to the following ideals: ensuring equal justice and access to the courts for all including women, youth, the elderly, minorities, the underprivileged, and people with disabilities; providing judicial education on cutting-edge issues of importance; developing judicial leaders; increasing the number of women on the bench in order for the judiciary to more accurately reflect the role of women in a democratic society; and improving the administration of justice to provide gender-fair decisions for both male and female litigants.

From the day it was founded, NAWJ has been committed to diversity in our membership. Our organization welcomes both men and women. We include appellate, trial, tribal, administrative law judges, state and federal judges, and members from every state in the nation.

NAWJ takes pride in its accomplishments. We were at the forefront in the establishment and implementation of gender bias task forces in both federal and state courts. We have greatly advanced the administration of justice in areas of domestic violence, child support and child custody, and the treatment of women in the courts of America. We also are respected as a leader in educating judges on bioethics, elderly abuse, the sentencing of women offenders with substance abuse problems; improving conditions for women in prison; and the problems facing immigrants in our court system. Currently we are developing curricula on the effect of genetic advances on women and vulnerable populations, the impact of international law on state and federal courts, and cognitively disabled persons in criminal courts.

In addition to addressing these and other important issues, NAWJ provides an opportunity for judges to meet and discuss professional issues of mutual concern in a supportive atmosphere. Connecting with others with the same values, we laugh, enjoy life and mentor one another nationwide.



# NAWJ Resource Board

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NAWJ's Resource Board is a longstanding and essential advisory arm of NAWJ whose members have the opportunity to formally meet with NAWJ's Board of Directors at both the Midyear and Annual Conferences, and, on a more informal basis, provide ongoing operational advice and substantive assistance in the initiation and implementation of NAWJ's national judicial education programs and other projects.

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