

TAKING STOCK: A SYMPOSIUM CELEBRATING THE

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**NYS JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS**

*25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

# SPEAKERS

CO-SPONSORED BY THE

**NYS STATE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS**

AND THE

**NYU REVIEW OF LAW AND SOCIAL CHANGE**

**APRIL 5, 2011**

9:00 AM TO 4:45 PM

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**

GREENBERG LOUNGE, 40 WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH, NY NY 10012

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**TAKING STOCK: 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
NYS JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS**

**BIOGRAPHIES**

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## **OPENING ADDRESS**

### **ELAINE JONES, PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR-COUNSEL, EMERITUS, OF THE NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC. (LDF)**

Elaine R. Jones is President and Director-Counsel, Emeritus of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), the nation's oldest law firm fighting for equal rights and justice for people of color, women, and the poor. When Ms. Jones took the helm of the Legal Defense Fund in 1993, she became the first woman to head the organization. She brought with her vast experience as a litigator and civil rights activist, as well as a passion for fairness and equality that dates back to her childhood.

Born in Norfolk, Virginia, Ms. Jones learned about the realities of racism and the importance of idealism from her mother, a college-educated school teacher, and her father, a Pullman porter and a member of the nation's first black trade union. From the age of eight, she knew she wanted to be a lawyer and to commit her life to the pursuit of equal justice.

After graduating with honors in political science from Howard University, Ms. Jones joined the Peace Corps and became one of the first African Americans to serve in Turkey. This began a long series of "firsts" in her career. Following her two-year Peace Corps stint, she became the first black woman to graduate from the University Of Virginia School Of Law, and subsequently the first African American to serve on the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association.

Ms. Jones was invited to join one of Wall Street's most prestigious firms after her graduation. She turned it down to pursue the goal she had chosen in her youth and instead joined the Legal Defense Fund's staff. With the exception of two years as Special Assistant to the United States Secretary of Transportation, she has remained with LDF ever since.

In her early years at LDF, Ms. Jones continued to blaze trails, becoming one of the first African American women to defend death row inmates. Only two years out of law school, she was a counsel of record in *Furman v. Georgia*, a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that abolished the death penalty in 37 states for 12 years. During this period, she also argued numerous employment discrimination cases, including class actions against some of the nation's largest employers (e.g., *Patterson v. American Tobacco Co.*, *Stallworth v. Monsanto*, and *Swint v. Pullman Standard*).

Ms. Jones holds fourteen honorary degrees and the Jefferson Medal of Freedom, the highest honor awarded by the University of Virginia which does not award honorary degrees. She also has received the recognition of many organizations, including the Secretary's Award of the Department of Transportation, first recipient of

the Brennan Award of the DC Bar Association, the Hannah G. Solomon Award of The National Council of Jewish Women, Mickey Leland Public Service Award of the Congressional Black Caucus, Ida B. Wells-Barnett Justice Award of the Metropolitan Bar Association in New York City, Brennan Legacy Award of the Brennan Center, American Lawyer Lifetime Achievement Award, National Newspaper Publishers Association's First Public Service Award, People for the American Way's 2001 Democracy Award and The American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession (Margaret Brent Award).

In 2009 she has received awards from the New York Bar Association (advocacy award) and its highest honor from the Old Dominion Bar association (Virginia, Douglas Wilder Award). In December 2000, President William Jefferson Clinton presented her with the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award.

After a 32 year tenure with LDF, Ms. Jones stepped down on May 1, 2004. Since that time, she has been lecturing, writing, teaching and publicly speaking on legal and related policy issues.

## CLOSING ADDRESS

### GLORIA STEINEM, FEMINIST WRITER AND ORGANIZER

Gloria Steinem is a writer, lecturer, editor, and feminist activist. She travels in this and other countries as an organizer and lecturer and is a frequent media spokeswoman on issues of equality. She is particularly interested in the shared origins of sex and race caste systems, gender roles and child abuse as roots of violence, non-violent conflict resolution, the cultures of indigenous peoples, and organizing across boundaries for peace and justice.

In 1972, she co-founded *Ms.* magazine, and remained one of its editors for fifteen years. She continues to serve as a consulting editor for *Ms.*, and was instrumental in the magazine's move to join and be published by the Feminist Majority Foundation. In 1968, she had helped to found *New York* magazine, where she was a political columnist and wrote feature articles. As a freelance writer, she was published in *Esquire*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and women's magazines as well as for publications in other countries. She has produced a documentary on child abuse for HBO, a feature film about the death penalty for Lifetime, and been the subject of profiles on Lifetime and Showtime.

Her books include the bestsellers *Revolution from Within: A Book of Self-Esteem*, *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions*, *Moving Beyond Words*, and *Marilyn: Norma Jean*, on the life of Marilyn Monroe. Her writing also appears in many anthologies and textbooks, and she was an editor of Houghton Mifflin's *The Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History*.

Ms. Steinem helped to found the Women's Action Alliance, a pioneering national information center that specialized in nonsexist, multiracial children's education, and the National Women's Political Caucus, a group that continues to work to advance the numbers of pro-equality women in elected and appointed office at a national and state level. She was president and co-founder of Voters for Choice, a pro-choice political action committee for twenty-five years, then with the Planned Parenthood Action Fund when it merged with VFC for the 2004 elections. She was also co-founder and serves on the board of Choice USA, a national organization that supports young pro-choice leadership and works to preserve comprehensive sex education in schools. She was the founding president of the Ms. Foundation for Women, a national multi-racial, multi-issue fund that supports grassroots projects to empower women and girls, and also a founder of its Take Our Daughters to Work Day, a first national day devoted to girls that has now become an institution here and in other countries. She was a member of the Beyond Racism Initiative, a three-year effort on the part of activists and experts from South Africa, Brazil and the United States to compare the racial patterns of those three countries and to learn cross-nationally. Now, she is working with the Sophia

Smith Collection at Smith College on a project to document the grassroots origins of the U.S. women's movement.

As a writer, Ms. Steinem has received the Penney-Missouri Journalism Award, the Front Page and Clarion awards, National Magazine awards, an Emmy Citation for excellence in television writing, the Women's Sports Journalism Award, the Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award from the Society of Professional Journalists, the Society of Writers Award from the United Nations, and most recently, the University of Missouri School of Journalism Award for Distinguished Service in Journalism.

Ms. Steinem graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Smith College in 1956, and then spent two years in India on a Chester Bowles Fellowship. She wrote for Indian publications, and was influenced by Gandhian activism. She also received the first Doctorate of Human Justice awarded by Simmons College, the Bill of Rights Award from the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, the National Gay Rights Advocates Award, the Liberty award of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Ceres Medal from the United Nations, and a number of honorary degrees. Parenting magazine selected her for its Lifetime Achievement Award in 1995 for her work in promoting girls' self-esteem, and Biography magazine listed her as one of the 25 most influential women in America. In 1993, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York. She has been the subject of two biographical television documentaries, and *The Education of a Woman*, a biography written by Carolyn Heilbrun.

In 1993, her concern with child abuse led her to co-produce and narrate an Emmy Award winning TV documentary for HBO, "Multiple Personalities: The Search for Deadly Memories." With Rosilyn Heller, she also co-produced an original 1993 TV movie for Lifetime, "Better Off Dead," which examined the parallel forces that both oppose abortion and support the death penalty. She now lives in New York City, and is currently at work on *Road to the Heart: America As if Everyone Mattered*, a book about her more than thirty years on the road as a feminist organizer. She is also writing for other books and publications and co-founded the Women's Media Center in 2004

## **SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS**

### **AMY BARASCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Amy Barasch, Esq. was appointed in February 2007 to serve as Executive Director of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. Prior to her appointment, Director Barasch worked for the New York City Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence. During her tenure there she became the Executive Director of New York City's first Family Justice Center ("FJC") in Brooklyn, NY. This facility combines professionals from over 20 nonprofit and governmental organizations under one roof to provide "one-stop" services to domestic violence victims. Before heading the FJC, in her capacity with the Mayor's Office, she launched and directed the Domestic Violence Response Teams (DVRT) pilot program, an interagency case management program designed to improve the City's coordinated response to victims.

Director Barasch has practiced as a litigator, both in private practice with Hughes, Hubbard and Reed LLP; as the creator and Director of the Family Court Legal Program for the Pace Women's Justice Center in White Plains, NY; and as an associate with the public interest firm of Lansner & Kubitschek. Director Barasch worked as a journalist and translator in New York and Paris prior to attending law school. She speaks fluent French.

Director Barasch received her J.D. from Columbia University in 1996, and her B.A. from Brown University in 1986. She is admitted to the New York State Bar and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

### **MELISSA L. BREGER, PROFESSOR OF LAW, ALBANY LAW SCHOOL**

Professor Melissa L. Breger has taught at Albany Law School since 2002. For eight years, she also served as the Director of the Family Violence Litigation Clinic. Prior to teaching at Albany Law, Prof. Breger taught for three years at the University of Michigan Law School, her alma mater (Class of 1994). She has dedicated her career to children, women and families, with her formative years practicing in New York City in a number of capacities. She is the recipient of several teaching and service awards, both on a national level and on a local level. She is a co-author of the two-volume treatise entitled NEW YORK LAW OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (with Brooklyn Family Court Judge Elkins and Jane Fosbinder, Esq.), as well as the author of numerous law review articles regarding issues of family law.

**HON. FERNANDO CAMACHO,  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE FOR CRIMINAL MATTERS, QUEENS**

Hon. Fernando Camacho was born in Cuba and came to the United States at the age of nine. After obtaining his undergraduate degree from Columbia University, he graduated from Fordham Law School in 1985. Upon graduation he joined the Manhattan District Attorney's Office where he was assigned to the Trial Division and the Sex Crimes Unit. In 1989, he was named Senior Trial Counsel and served in the Homicide Investigation Unit where he investigated and prosecuted violent drug gangs.

In 1997, after two years in private practice with the law firm of Balsam Felber and Fabian, Judge Camacho was appointed to the New York City Criminal Court by Mayor Giuliani. He spent four years in Kings County Criminal Court before transferring to Queens County. In Queens County Criminal Court he served as Deputy Supervising Judge and presided over the Domestic Violence Court, a jury trial part and a specialized court dealing with teenagers charged with prostitution-related offenses. There, Judge Camacho worked closely with agencies and programs dedicated to combating the sexual exploitations of children and human trafficking and often spoke on issues relating to youths and the criminal justice system. In 2008, he was appointed by Governor Patterson to the New York State Court of Claims and served as an Acting Supreme Court Justice in the Integrated Domestic Violence Part in Queens County Supreme Court.

Judge Camacho has constantly championed the rights of sex trafficking victims. With the New York County Lawyer's Association, he moderated a panel on the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act and participated in "A Conversation Among Men About Sex Trafficking," hosted by the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women. He also pushed to bring attention to city programs that offer supportive services to women trying to leave prostitution, thereby ensuring they are utilized by those most in need of help.

In May 2009, Judge Camacho was appointed Queens County Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters.

**PAMELA CHEN, ASSISTANT US ATTORNEY,  
CHIEF CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT (CRIMINAL DIVISION), EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

Since 1998, Pamela Chen has been an Assistant United States Attorney in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York (except for a brief period in 2008). She currently is chief of the criminal Civil Rights Unit, which investigates and prosecutes cases involving human trafficking, hate crimes and color of law violations. Previously, Ms. Chen was assigned to the Violent Criminal Enterprises unit, where she worked on gang and terrorism matters. Prior to joining the

U.S. Attorney's Office, Ms. Chen was a trial attorney in the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division in Washington D.C., and litigated cases involving access to reproductive health care clinics, under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, and cases involving the constitutional rights of individuals housed at State and local institutions, including prisoners, the elderly, and mentally and physically disabled persons, under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act. Ms. Chen was an undergraduate at the University of Michigan and received her J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.

**HON. BETTY WEINBERG ELLERIN,  
CHAIR, NEW YORK STATE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS**

Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin is the Chair of the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts and has been a member of the Committee almost since its inception in 1986. Currently she is senior counsel in the Litigation and Trial Practice Group of Alston & Bird.

Before joining Alston & Bird, Justice Ellerin served for more than 20 years as a justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New York (First Department). She was the first woman appointed to that bench, and she served as its first woman Presiding Justice. She was also the first woman appointed as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts, where she was responsible for the operation of all trial courts within the City. Prior to her tenure on the bench, she served as Law Clerk to various State Supreme Court Justices.

Justice Weinberg Ellerin is a founding member of numerous New York and national professional organizations. She is currently vice-chair of the New York State Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics and vice chair of the Character Committee of the Appellate Division, First Department. She has served as president of the National Association of Women Judges and was a founding member and is a current board member of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. Upon her retirement from the bench, she was appointed to a newly-created position with the judicial resources office, to assist in acclimating new judges to the bench and to help design training programs for new judges. She also is currently a Trustee Associate of New York University, and, in addition to various other bar association leadership roles, she is chair of the NYS Bar Associations Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction.

Justice Weinberg Ellerin received her LL.B. in 1952 from New York University, as recipient of the Florence Allen Scholarship. She received her B.A., cum laude, in 1950 from Washington Square College under the combined college-law program, where she was elected to Justinian, the Pre-Law Honor Society.

**MARTIN GUGGENHEIM,**

**FIGRELLO LAGUARDIA PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL LAW, NYU LAW SCHOOL**

Martin Guggenheim is the Fiorello LaGuardia Professor of Clinical law at New York University School of Law where he has taught since 1973. He served as Director of Clinical and Advocacy Programs from 1988 to 2002 and also was the Executive Director of Washington Square Legal Services, Inc. from 1987 to 2000. Guggenheim has been an active litigator in the area of children and the law and has argued leading cases on juvenile delinquency and termination of parental rights in the Supreme Court of the United States.

Prof. Guggenheim is also a well-known scholar whose research has focused on family law, adolescent abortion, First Amendment rights in schools, the role of counsel for children in court proceedings, empirical research in child welfare practice, and juvenile justice. He is the author of five books on children and parents. His most recent books include *WHAT'S WRONG WITH CHILDREN'S RIGHTS*, published by Harvard University Press in 2005 and, along with Randy Hertz and Anthony G. Amsterdam, *TRIAL MANUAL FOR DEFENSE COUNSEL IN JUVENILE COURT* (2d Edition), published by ALI/ABA in 2008 and two of his recent law review articles include *Polygamy and Child Welfare*, in the *Houston Law Review* (2009) and *Rediscovering Third-Party Visitation Under the Common Law in New York: Some Uncommon Answers* in *N.Y.U.'s Review of Law and Social Change* (2009).

**JILL LAURIE GOODMAN, COUNSEL  
NYS JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS**

Jill Laurie Goodman is Counsel to the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts, a position she has held since 1989. Prior to joining the Committee, she worked for the Charities Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office; the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education; the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, and South Brooklyn Legal Services. She co-chairs the Lawyer's Committee Against Domestic Violence, and she is the editor of the fourth and fifth editions of the *Lawyer's Manual on Domestic Violence: Representing the Victim* and the *Lawyer's Manual on Human Trafficking: Pursuing Justice for Victims*. She is a graduate of Bennington College and New York University School of Law.

**DORCHEN A. LEIDHOLDT  
DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR BATTERED WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES,  
SANCTUARY FOR FAMILIES**

Since 1994 Dorchen A. Leidholdt has served as the Director of the Center for Battered Women's Legal Services at Sanctuary for Families in New York City. The

largest legal services program for domestic violence victims in the country, the Center provides legal representation in family law, criminal, civil rights, public benefits, and immigration cases. Under Dorchen's leadership, the Center has grown from two to twenty-five lawyers and eight support staff members and has strengthened its advocacy efforts on behalf of underserved populations, especially those in New York's immigrant and LGBT communities.

The Center has successfully advocated for many laws protecting and furthering the rights of victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking in New York State. Through its Anti-Trafficking Initiative, the Center has provided direct representation to dozens of victims of sex and labor trafficking, has trained thousands of law enforcement personnel, judges, and legal and social service providers on understanding human trafficking and assisting victims.

Dorchen also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), which she helped found in 1988. An umbrella of grassroots organizations around the world, CATW has regional networks in Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

Dorchen has been an activist and leader in the movement against violence against women since the mid-1970's, representing hundreds of women victimized by practices of violence against women. She has lectured internationally on violence against women and has produced numerous publications on domestic violence. Dorchen has taught Criminal Procedure at City University School of Law and teaches Domestic Violence and the Law at Columbia University School of Law.

Dorchen hold a masters degree from the University of Virginia and a law degree from New York University School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden-Snow scholar. She has received numerous awards in recognition of her service to domestic violence victims and sex trafficking victims.

**SHERRY LEIWANT,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, A BETTER BALANCE**

Sherry Leiwant is Executive Director and co-founder of A Better Balance. Sherry has over 30 years of experience working on legal issues affecting poor women. As a staff attorney at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now Health and Human Services) she worked on issues involving welfare and medical care for the poor. As a senior staff attorney for 12 years at the Welfare Law Center (now National Center for Law and Economic Justice) she worked with grassroots welfare groups helping to organize efforts to improve public assistance, litigated cases involving welfare issues, wrote articles on welfare law and trained legal services attorneys working on welfare issues. As a senior attorney at NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund (now Legal Momentum), where she worked for 10 years, she developed the State Advocacy Project, a response to the 1996 changes in welfare that focused on issues intersecting women's

rights and poverty (discrimination, child care, violence and reproductive rights), working with advocates, lawmakers and regulators to improve Federal, state and local policies affecting poor women. Sherry graduated *summa cum laude* Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University and has a law degree from Columbia School of Law. She has three children and has served on the boards of Bank Street College and Basic Trust Infant and Toddler Center.

**HON. JONATHAN LIPPMAN,  
CHIEF JUDGE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

Jonathan Lippman was born in New York City and raised on Manhattan's Lower East Side. A product of the New York City public school system, he received his B.A. in 1965 from New York University, graduating *Phi Beta Kappa* and *cum laude*, with a major in Government and International Relations. He received his J.D. from New York University School of Law in 1968.

Chief Judge Lippman started his four-decade career in the court system as an entry level court attorney in Supreme Court. In 1995, he was appointed as a Judge of the New York Court of Claims by Governor George E. Pataki, who subsequently reappointed him to a full nine-year term on that court in 1998. In 2005, he was elected as a Justice of the Supreme Court for the Ninth Judicial District. He also served as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Term for the Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts.

From January 1996 to May 2007, he served as the Chief Administrative Judge of all New York State Courts. As the longest tenured person ever to serve in that position, he played a central role in many far-reaching reforms of the Judiciary and legal profession, including problem-solving community courts, drug courts, and domestic violence courts; specialized commercial and matrimonial parts; overhauling the state's jury system; opening Family Court to the public; and adopting new rules governing fiduciary appointments, mandatory continuing legal education, and attorney-client fee dispute arbitration.

In May 2007, Governor Eliot Spitzer appointed Judge Lippman to serve as the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Department, one of the largest and most influential appellate courts in the country. In that capacity, he dramatically reduced the court's pending backlogs and served on the Administrative Board of the Courts, the policy and rule making body of the New York State Court System.

In February 2009, Governor David A. Paterson appointed Judge Lippman to serve as the Chief Judge of the State and Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. In that capacity, he presides over New York's highest court while heading a statewide court system with a \$2.7 billion budget, 3,600 state and locally paid judges, and over 16,000 non-judicial employees in over 350 locations around the State.

During his tenure on the Court of Appeals, Chief Judge Lippman has authored major decisions addressing constitutional, statutory and common law issues shaping the law of our state, the contours of state government and the lives of all New Yorkers. As Chief Judge he has championed equal access to justice issues and taken an active leadership role in identifying permanent funding streams for civil legal services, strengthening the state's indigent criminal defense system, addressing the systemic causes of wrongful convictions, and reforming New York's juvenile justice system, among other issues.

Judge Lippman is deeply committed to fostering a justice system that is independent, open, accountable and responsive to the people it serves. He pursues these goals with a work ethic, energy and passion that can only be described as legendary. He is widely respected in legal and governmental circles for his competence and credibility.

Judge Lippman is active in court reform efforts at the national level. He is a member of the Conference of Chief Judges and former President of the Conference of State Court Administrators. He also served as Vice-Chair of the Board of the National Center for State Courts. In 2008, he received the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, presented each year by the nation's Chief Justice to a state court judge who exemplifies the highest level of judicial excellence, integrity, fairness, and professional ethics.

Judge Lippman lectures frequently in New York and nationally, and has published numerous articles and essays. He resides in Manhattan and Rye Brook with his wife, Amy.

**JANE MANNING,  
PRESIDENT, NOW-NEW YORK CITY**

Jane Manning is president of the National Organization for Women's New York City chapter, where she has pursued successful campaigns to repeal the statute of limitations on rape cases and to make strangulation a crime in New York State. As president of the NOW chapter, she is currently pursuing a campaign called Take Rape Seriously.

Ms. Manning began her career as a prosecutor handling cases of domestic violence, child abuse, and sex crimes. In private practice, she represented a coalition of battered women's organizations arguing *amicus curiae* to the New York State Court of Appeals against a lower court decision that would have made it easier for men who murder wives or girlfriends to invoke extreme emotional disturbance as a defense. The court ruled unanimously in her clients' favor.

After joining the human rights organization Equality Now, she helped draft and lobby for New York State's law on human trafficking.

**HON. ANN PFAU,  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

In May, 2007, Ann Pfau became Chief Administrative Judge of all New York State courts by appointment of Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye. In that capacity, she oversees the administration and operation of the Statewide court system with a \$2 billion budget, 3,600 State and locally paid Judges and over 15,000 nonjudicial employees in over 300 locations around the State.

Immediately prior to her appointment as Chief Administrative Judge, Judge Pfau served as the First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, in which capacity she was responsible for assisting the Chief Administrative Judge in overseeing the operations of the trial courts and the Office of Court Administration. Judge Pfau held that position for four years. Judge Pfau previously served as the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support and, in 2002 and 2003; she also served as the Administrative Judge for the Second Judicial District.

Judge Pfau was appointed in 1997 as an Interim Judge of the New York City Civil Court and in 1998 as a Judge of the New York City Criminal Court. She currently is an Acting Supreme Court Judge in the Second Judicial District.

Judge Pfau began her legal career in Counsel's Office of the Office of Court Administration after graduating from Brooklyn Law School in 1984. Judge Pfau is a

member of the New York State Bar Association and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Judge Pfau graduated from Wells College. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband, Peter. They have two children.

**BONNIE RABIN**  
**FOUNDING PARTNER, COHEN RABIN STINE SCHUMANN LLP**

Bonnie E. Rabin is a founding member of Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann LLP., and has been a trial lawyer for 25 years, concentrating exclusively in the field of matrimonial and family law practice. She has appeared in New York State trial and appellate courts on issues, inter alia, of custody and support, visitation, adoption and parentage, equitable distribution, including same sex proceedings, Hague Convention cases (Federal Court), habeas corpus cases and other matters in the field of family and matrimonial law. She spent ten years with the Juvenile Rights Division of the Legal Aid Society. During the final years of her service at the Legal Aid Society before she left to join Cohen Hennessey Bienstock & Rabin P.C., first as an associate and then as a member of the firm, she was a supervising Attorney in Charge of the Manhattan Trial Office, where she represented, supervised and trained other attorneys representing children in cases involving custody, adoption, paternity, termination of parental rights, abuse and neglect, etc. She has also been appointed law guardian and attorney for the child in numerous and complex child custody proceedings. Ms. Rabin lectures regularly in the area of family law, custody, domestic violence and children's rights and has been an Adjunct Professor of Law at Cardozo Law School where she taught the Family Court Seminar and Clinic. She has published articles on domestic violence, children's rights and other family law issues. Finally, she is a founding member of the Center for Battered Women's Legal Services, a past director of Sanctuary for Families.

**LYNN HECHT SCHAFRAN, DIRECTOR,**  
**NATIONAL JUDICIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM, LEGAL MOMENTUM**

Lynn Hecht Schafran is an attorney and Director since 1981 of the National Judicial Education Program to Promote Equality for Women and Men in the Courts (NJEP), a project of Legal Momentum in cooperation with the National Association of Women Judges, [www.njep.org](http://www.njep.org). NJEP initiated judicial education about gender bias in the courts and continues to educate judges and justice system professionals about promoting gender fairness across the spectrum of civil, criminal, family, probate and juvenile law. NJEP's judicial education programs were the catalyst for state supreme courts across the country to establish task forces to investigate gender bias in their own court systems and recommend and implement reforms. Lynn has worked with all of them in all phases of their work. She was an Advisor to the New York Task Force on Women in the Courts and co-author of its 1986 report.

Lynn has been on the faculty of national, state and federal judicial colleges throughout the United States and Canada. She is co-author of model judicial education curricula in use across the country and internationally including *When Bias Compounds: Insuring Equal Justice for Women of Color in the Courts*; *Understanding Sexual Violence: The Judicial Response to Stranger and Nonstranger Rape and Sexual Assault* and its DVD version; and a web course/resource *Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Adjudicating this Hidden Dimension of Domestic Violence*, available free at [www.njep-ipsacourse.org](http://www.njep-ipsacourse.org). Lynn is widely published on issues respecting gender bias in the law, the courts, and the legal profession. She was an original member of the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession, established in 1987, and since then has continuously served as special advisor and then liaison from Legal Momentum. She currently serves on the editorial board of its magazine, *Perspectives*. She was a founder in 1999 of the Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Distinguished Lecture on Women in the Law at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and continues to serve on the Lecture Committee.

In recognition of her work to eliminate gender bias in the courts and the profession Lynn has received numerous awards including the American Bar Association Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, the Smith College Medal, the Columbia Law Public Interest Fellows Award and the American Law Institute-American Bar Association Rawle Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Continuing Education of the Legal Profession. She is a Fellow of the American Law Institute and a graduate of the Columbia University School of Law.

**FERN SCHAIR, BOARD CHAIR,  
FEERICK CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AT FORDHAM LAW SCHOOL**

Fern Schair is the Chair of the Feerick Center for Social Justice at Fordham Law School. Her other current community positions include: President of the Children's Law Center; Vice Chair of the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts; Co-Chair of the Court Interpreter Advisory Committee; and Co-Chair of the Chief Judge's Attorney Emeritus Advisory Committee. She also currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Fund for Modern Courts (where she is the immediate past Chair of the Board) and Legal Services for New York City (where she is also the immediate past Chair of the Board). In addition, she serves as a member of the Committee on Character and Fitness for the Appellate Division, First Department and the New York County Lawyers Task Force on Judicial Selection. Previous positions have included: Senior Vice- President of the American Arbitration Association; consultant to the Open Society Institute-Soros Foundation; and Chief Administrative Officer for the New York City Bar Association. She attended Cornell University and St John's School of Law.

**HON. TOKO SERITA**

## **NEW YORK CITY CRIMINAL COURT, QUEENS COUNTY**

Hon. Toko Serita was appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg to the Criminal Court on October 20, 2005, and is the first Japanese-American judge in New York State as well as the first Asian-American female appointed to the Criminal Court. Judge Serita now presides over the Prostitution Diversion Court in Queens Criminal Court, which offers alternatives to incarceration for individuals arrested on prostitution charges and is dedicated to eliminating sex trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Judge Serita also presides over the Queens Misdemeanor Treatment Court and the Queens Mental Health Recovery Court. Prior to her appointment, Judge Serita served as the Executive Assistant to the Administrative Judge of the Supreme Court Queens County, Criminal and Civil Terms, first to the Hon. Steven W. Fisher, and then the Honorable Leslie G. Leach, from 2002 - 2005. She joined the court system in 1999 as a court attorney to Hon. Joseph A. Grosso, Acting Supreme Court Justice of Queens County, Criminal Term. From 1989 - 1999, Judge Serita worked as an appellate attorney at the Legal Aid Society, Criminal Appeals Bureau, where she argued before the New York State Appellate Division, First and Second Departments, the New York Court of Appeals, and the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She is the former co-chair of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), and since 2007, she has been the Citywide Chair of the Gender Fairness Committee of the New York City Criminal Court. She also serves as a member of the statewide Criminal Jury Instructions Committee and more recently on the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts. A graduate of Vassar College and CUNY Law School, Judge Serita is married to Paul Lewis, who is Chief of Staff to Ann T. Pfau, the Chief Administrative Judge of New York State.