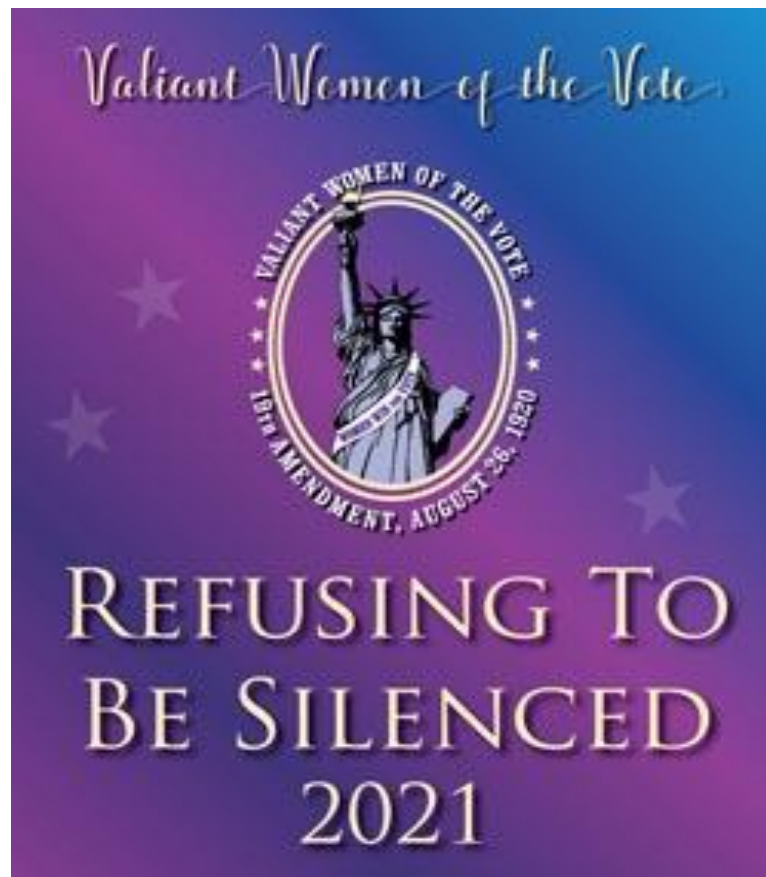


The Hon. Kathie E. Davidson  
9th Judicial District Administrative Judge  
&  
The Westchester Women's Bar Association

**PRESENT**

# Women's History Month



Friday, March 26, 2021  
12:45 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.



## WELCOME

**Hon. Kathie E. Davidson**  
9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Administrative Judge

**Hon. Lisa Margaret Smith**  
President, Westchester Women's Bar Association

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Tiffany Gardner, Esq.**  
CEO, ReflectUs

**Professor Annette Gordon-Reed, Esq.**  
Pulitzer Prize Winner & Author of *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*  
Carl M. Loeb University Professor at Harvard

## POEM - "A DAY WITHOUT WOMEN"

**Sofia Aguilar**  
WriteGirl alum and college senior at Sarah Lawrence College

## SPECIAL HONOREE

**Honorable Jessica Segal, Dutchess County Court Judge**  
\*\*2<sup>nd</sup> Woman to be Elected to a County Court Seat in Dutchess County\*\*

## CLOSING SONG - "THIS IS ME"

*Performed by* Sasha Renae Brown



## Tiffany Gardner, ReflectUS CEO

**Tiffany Gardner** brings over a decade of extensive international experience in human rights advocacy and domestic public interest. She has worked on women's rights, human rights, and grassroots organizing throughout Africa, Southeast Asia, and the United States. She worked with the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the United Nations International Law Commission and Human Rights Watch, and recently was the co-founder and director of the One World Exchange Program for under-represented U.S. college students and organized international solidarity coalitions. She is a

former Mergers & Acquisitions associate at the New York law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. She received a B.A. from Yale University, a J.D. from New York University School of Law, and a LL.M. in human rights law from Columbia University Law School.



## Annette Gordon-Reed, Esq.

**Annette Gordon-Reed** is the Carl M. Loeb University Professor at Harvard. Gordon-Reed won sixteen book prizes, including the Pulitzer Prize in History in 2009 and the National Book Award in 2008, for *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family* (W.W. Norton, 2008). In addition to articles and reviews, her other works include *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy* (UVA Press, 1997), *Vernon Can Read! A Memoir*, a collaboration with Vernon Jordan (Public Affairs 2001), *Race on Trial: Law and Justice in American History* (Oxford University Press, 2002), a volume of essays that she edited, *Andrew Johnson* (Times Books/Henry Holt, 2010) and, most recently, with Peter S. Onuf, *“Most Blessed of the Patriarchs”: Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination* (Liveright Publishing, 2016).



Gordon-Reed was the Vyvyan Harmsworth Visiting Professor of American History at the University of Oxford (Queens College) 2014-2015. Between 2010 and 2015, she was the Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. She was the 2018-2019 President of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR). She is the current President of the Ames Foundation. A selected list of her honors includes a fellowship from the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, a Guggenheim Fellowship in the humanities, a MacArthur Fellowship, the National Humanities Medal, the National Book Award, the Frederick Douglass Book Prize, and the George Washington Book Prize, and the Anisfeld-Wolf Book. Gordon-Reed was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2011 and was a member of the Academy’s Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences. In 2019, she was elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society.



## Sofía Aguilar

Sofía Aguilar, originally from Los Angeles, is a Latina writer, editor, and fourth-year student at Sarah Lawrence College. Most recently, her work has appeared in *Unpublished Magazine*, *Melanin Magazine*, and *The Westchester Review*, among other publications. An alum of WriteGirl, she received the 2018 Nancy Lynn Schwartz Prize for Fiction and is a three-time recipient of the Jean Goldschmidt Kempton Scholarship for Young Writers for her outstanding contributions to her college community.



### About WriteGirl

Founded in 2001, WriteGirl is a nationally-recognized creative writing and mentoring organization serving more than 500 teens annually, mainly from LA's high-density neighborhoods. WriteGirl envisions a world where all teens live, write, and speak boldly as they become inspiring, transformative leaders, driven to effect positive change in their communities. Now in its 20th season, WriteGirl has maintained a 100 percent success rate in helping its seniors not only graduate from high school, but also enroll in college. WriteGirl also works with boys and co-ed groups under the name "Bold Ink Writers." As a founding member of the Arts for Healing and Justice Network (AHJN), Bold Ink Writers brings creative writing workshops and mentors to youth who are incarcerated and systems-impacted. For more information, visit [www.writegirl.org](http://www.writegirl.org).

### National Recognition for WriteGirl:

WriteGirl has won more than 90 awards for its 19 years of empowering teen girls. WriteGirl and Executive Director Keren Taylor were awarded the 2020 Los Angeles Times Innovator Award and in 2014 Keren Taylor was named a CNN Hero. In 2013, WriteGirl was honored by First Lady Michelle Obama with the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award – an initiative of the President's Committee on the Arts & the Humanities and the highest national honor awarded to exemplary out-of-school time programs. One of the breakout stars of 2021 so far has been WriteGirl Alum, Amanda Gorman, the national youth poet laureate whose performance at President Biden's Inauguration and the Super Bowl LV struck the hearts of America and the world. We are so proud of Amanda and all that she has achieved since her WriteGirl days, and that pride extends to our entire WriteGirl community. We continue to support and encourage the writing of hundreds of young women like Amanda each year and whether they recite a poem at the Presidential Inauguration or for their families at home, we are filled with pride and hope for the futures of these young writers.

## “A DAY WITHOUT WOMEN” – A Poem by Sofía Aguilar

Without us, where would you be?  
Without all the women you love, you need  
—not just your mother or sister  
but your neighbors, your authors, your scholars—  
would you survive a day?  
For so long we were made  
to feel powerless  
because you were afraid for us  
to feel powerful  
and we don't blame you.

Have you seen us?  
Have you heard our quiet walkings  
as though tigers in the grass,  
our mouths ready to roar?  
Here we are (look at us)  
not following but leading,  
not surviving but thriving,  
resilient and soft,  
outspoken and tender,  
unstoppable and kind.

We can be anything,  
we have made history,  
we are made of multitudes—  
every size and spirit,  
color and country  
every feeling inside  
every expression of life and womanhood.  
Our voices have always been as loud,  
our bodies as strong,  
our hearts the same size as yours.  
Have you seen us?  
Have you heard?  
Are you listening?

## Honorable Jessica Segal



**Jessica Segal** served for seventeen years (2000-2017) with the Dutchess County District Attorney's office. After three years in the Appeals Bureau, Jessica went on to serve as lead trial attorney in over one hundred criminal trials, including Aggravated Vehicular Manslaughter, Leaving the Scene of an Incident Resulting in Death, Vehicular Assault, Driving While Intoxicated, and animal cruelty offenses.

As a member of the New York State DWI Advisory Council, Jessica assisted in the creation of statewide DWI law enforcement forms. Additionally, Jessica was a leading advocate for animal cruelty prevention education. Segal created a forensic evidence team for the Dutchess County SPCA Humane Law Enforcement Office and worked closely with the Office of the New

York State Attorney General to hold accountable unscrupulous pet retailers and animal abusers.

Upon entering private practice, Jessica solidified herself as one of the area's top civil trial attorneys by winning a personal injury jury trial verdict that was recognized as a Top 100 Premises Liability Verdict in United States in 2018. Additionally, Jessica taught Criminal Law and Procedure classes at Dutchess Community College until her election to Dutchess County Court.

Jessica obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree, *Cum Laude*, from Hofstra University in 1996 and her Juris Doctorate, *Cum Laude*, from Pace University School of Law in 1999.

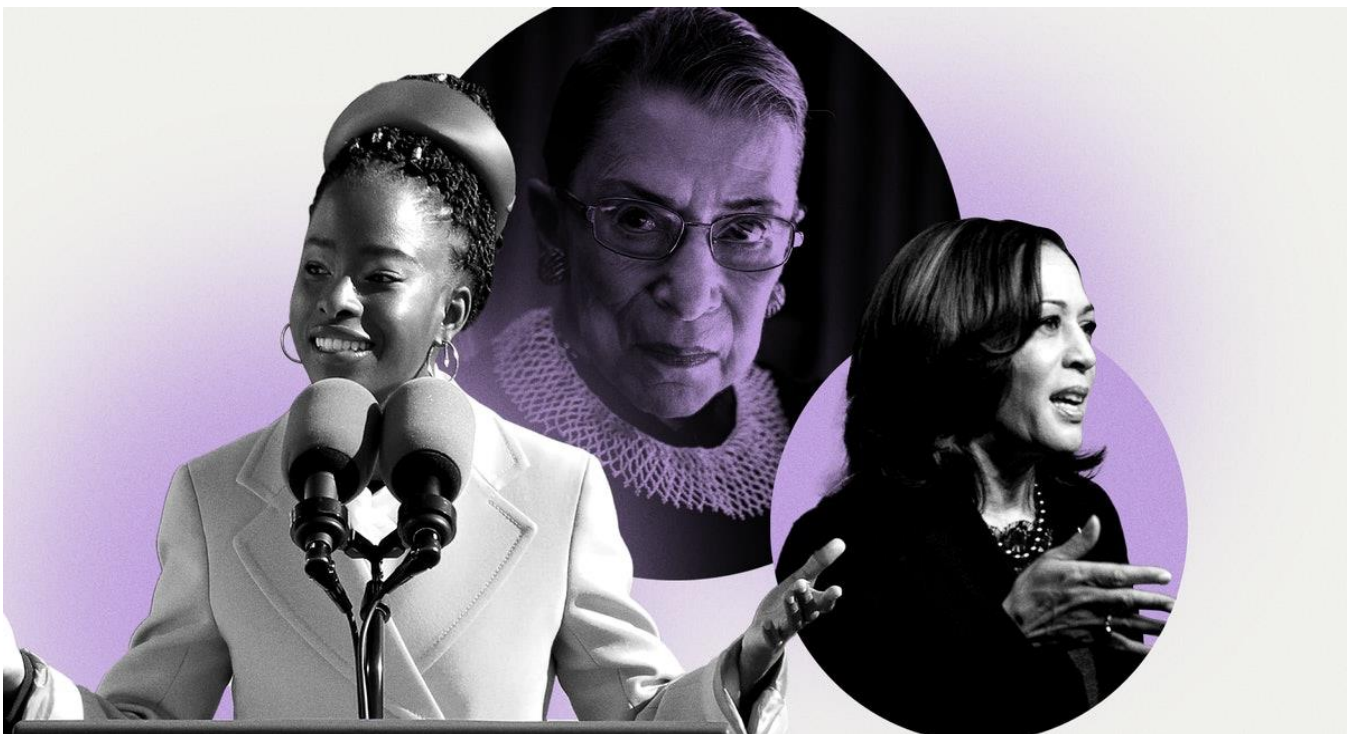
Jessica regularly presents criminal law legal trainings to the Dutchess County Magistrates Association, Dutchess County Bar Association, Mid-Hudson Women's Bar Association, and the Council on Addiction Prevention & Education of Dutchess County.

Jessica was elected to the Dutchess County Court in November of 2020 and will serve a ten-year term. She is the presiding Judge of the Judicial Diversion Treatment Court program and an Acting Surrogate Court Judge.

## Sasha Renae Brown



**Sasha Renae Brown** is a CT native and received her BFA in Musical Theatre from Western Connecticut State University. Upon graduation, she worked for Norwegian Cruise Line sailing around the world as a production cast singer. She has also done various regional theatre all throughout the Northeast.





## About Women's History Month



Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women's History Week." In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."

The theme for Women's History Month in 2021 captures the spirit of these challenging times and extends the 2020 theme of "Valiant Women of the Vote", which pays homage to the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. We honor women from the original suffrage movement as well as 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century women who have continued the struggle (fighting against poll taxes, literacy tests, voter roll purges, and other contemporary forms of voter suppression) to ensure voting rights for all. Thus, "Refusing to be Silenced".

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Unified Court System  
The Westchester Women's Bar Association  
The Westchester County Black Bar Association  
Barbara Lerman, Esq.  
The 9<sup>th</sup> JD Support Center



Thank you!



# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

