



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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Suffolk County Courts Celebrate Women's History Month

CENTRAL ISLIP, NY – District Administrative Judge, H. Patrick Leis III, is pleased to announce that the Suffolk County courts and the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee are celebrating National Women's History Month in a special ceremony to be held on March 8, 2005 at 3:00 p.m., in the Supreme Court Ceremonial Courtroom, S-24, located in the Cohalan Court Complex, Central Islip, New York. Honored speakers at this years ceremony will be Justice Leis and Dean Lawrence Raful from the Touro Law Center.

This year, the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee invited high school students from across Suffolk County to participate in an essay competition entitled "Women Change America". Students were asked to submit essays which recognized American women who have transformed culture, history and politics through their leadership in the fields of law, politics and

government. Special recognition will be given to the six contest winners and prizes will be awarded by a number of competition sponsors, including Touro Law Center, Suffolk County Bar Association Women in the Law Committee, Suffolk County Women's Bar Association, Amistad Suffolk County Black Bar Association, Columbian Lawyers Association of Suffolk County and the Suffolk County Matrimonial Bar Association. In addition, ten Awards of Distinction will be given to selected essay participants. All told, during the weeks that follow, each of the sixteen winning high school students will be given the opportunity to shadow a Judge or Touro Law School professor. Each and every high school student who participated in the contest will also be receiving an Award of Recognition for their efforts.

In addition to the above, the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee is also sponsoring an art exhibit, furnished by students from the Brentwood School District, grades K through 12, in celebration of Women's History Month. This display will remain throughout the month of March on the 2nd floor mezzanine of the Cohalan Court Complex located between the Supreme Court and the District Court buildings. Each of these students will receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the Women in the Courts Committee in recognition of their fine work.

Justice Leis observed, "It is truly a joy to have so many of our high school students participate in this year's Women's History Month celebration. It is my hope that their participation in commemoration of this important month long observance will allow each of them to more fully appreciate the contributions that so many women have made to change America."