

Excerpt from: Lynn Hecht Schafran, Educating the Judiciary About Gender Bias: The National Judicial Education Program to Promote Equality for Women and Men in the Courts and the New Jersey Supreme Court Task Force on Women in the Courts, 9 *Women's Rights Law Reporter* 109, 112 (1986)

As part of its efforts to document the existence of gender bias in the courts, NOW LDEF interviewed knowledgeable judges and lawyers, hired five New York University Law School students to conduct a court monitoring project, and gathered recent examples from all parts of the country of the kind of cases and courtroom statements which demonstrated the need for judicial education about gender bias. Typical instances included a group of sexual assault cases: a Colorado judge dismissed as "an attempted seduction" a sexual assault charge against a man who broke into a woman's trailer, threw her to the floor and put his hand inside her clothing and vagina; a Wisconsin judge was recalled from the bench after sentencing a teenage rapist to probation because he was only reacting "normally" to a permissive society; a California judge told a rape victim that by hitchhiking she had invited sexual intercourse; a Connecticut judge dismissed an indictment against a man who failed in an attempted rape with the comment, "You can't blame someone for trying."