

*If Justice is a Woman, Why Aren’t More Women Judges?*

Get Your Gavel: Your Blueprint for

Breaking the Judicial Glass Ceiling

October 12, 2012

*Program*

8-9 a.m. Registration, coffee and rolls

9-9:15 **Welcome**

**Introduction**

9:15-10:15 **“Seeing Yourself as the Candidate” Nuts and Bolts of Getting Elected**

 **Circuit Court Races**

 Discuss the nitty gritty of getting elected. To the extent that problems are perceived but not real, expose the myths. You will come away with a sense of how to deal successfully with the challenges of getting elected, from organization to fundraising to campaigning.

10:15-10:30 **Morning Break**

10:30-11:15 **Getting elected:**

 **A View from the Inside**

A panel of women who have prior experience in being elected from the municipal court to the circuit court will share their experiences in the election arena.

11:15-12:30 **Getting Appointed: A Reality Check**

What really counts in getting appointed? Is it solely merit, or is merit not enough—and what, exactly, constitutes merit? How and when do you position yourself for judicial appointment?

12:30-1:30 p.m. **Luncheon**

The Supreme Court is made up of four women and three men. How did that happen? What’s the impact? Are there lessons here for Wisconsin? What is life like with a majority of women?

1:30-2:45 **A Day in the Life of…**

What is the job of being a judge really like? Four experienced jurists will explore the ups and downs, the victories and frustrations, and their overall job satisfaction. They’ll describe not only the day-to-day management of the job, but how today’s judges balance professional and personal responsibilities.

2:45-3 **Afternoon Break**

3-4 **Question and Answer session**

4-4:45 **Reception**

 Share hors d’oeuveres and refreshments as you discuss the day’s events with conference speakers and participants.

*The History*

According to the Wisconsin Law Journal, women make up just 16.8 percent of all total state and federal judgeships in Wisconsin. According to the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), women make up only 16% of the total state court judges. In addition, women make up 33% of the total state judgeships in Minnesota, 28% in Illinois, and the national average of women in state court judgeships is 27%. This puts Wisconsin significantly below the national average and our neighboring states.

*Who should attend?*

* Any woman who is considering a career in the judiciary, either today or in the long run
* Men and women who want to help women attain careers in the judiciary

*Objectives*

Participants will come away from this conference with…

* A reality check on the appointive process. How much is merit, how much is who you know, and how do other, unknown factors affect the process of appointment?
* A better understanding of what getting elected is all about. How do we sort out perceived election problems—they myths—from real campaign challenges? We will expose the myths and demystify the challenges of the campaign trail, from organizing to establishing visibility to fundraising.
* A realistic knowledge of what the job of being a judge is all about. We’ll look at the day to day management of the job and hear from judges on the bench