



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

1341 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036

T: 202 393 0222 F: 202 393 0125 W: www.nawj.org

Fernande R.V. Duffy
President
Appeals Court
Boston, Massachusetts

La Tia Martin
President-Elect
Resource Board Co-Liaison
Supreme Court, Westchester
County
White Plains, New York

Sarah Sharer Curley
Vice President-Districts
United States Bankruptcy Court
Phoenix, Arizona

Sheri S. Roman
Vice President-Publications
Supreme Court, Queens County
Kew Gardens, New York

Laura L. Jacobson
Treasurer
Supreme Court, Kings County
Brooklyn, New York

Joan V. Churchill
Secretary
Immigration Court, Retired
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Brenda Stith Loftin
Immediate Past President
St. Louis County Circuit Court
St. Louis, Missouri

Dana Fabe
Projects Committee Chair
Alaska Supreme Court
Anchorage, Alaska

Barbara A. Madsen
Finance Committee Chair
Washington State Supreme Court
Olympia, Washington

Marjorie Laird Carter
Policy Development Advisory
Committee Chair
Orange County Superior Court
Orange, California

Sandra Thompson
Resource Board Co-Liaison

Carolyn Engel Temin
International Director

Cara Lee Neville
ABA Delegate

Drucilla Ramey
Executive Director

September 15, 2008

Judge Bernice Bouie Donald
United States District Court, Western Tennessee
167 North Main
Suite 951
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Judge Donald:

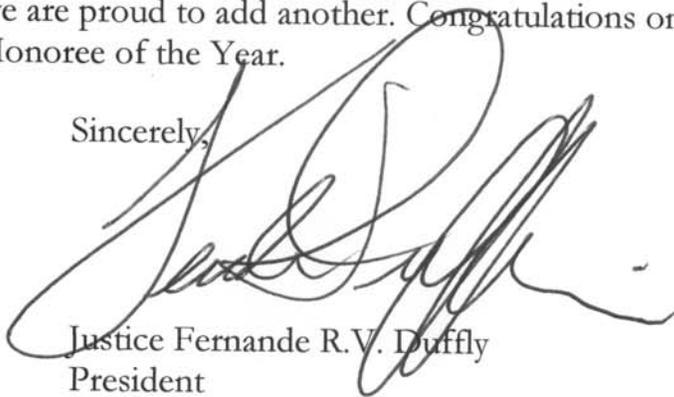
It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of honor that I write to inform you that the National Association of Women Judges has selected you as its Honoree of the Year. This Award, which is given each year in the name of our founding mother Joan Dempsey Klein will be presented to you during our the Annual Conference in Portland, at the Awards Dinner on the evening of Saturday, October 18th.

I know that you are aware, as all of us who are members of NAWJ are, of the legacy of this award and the distinguished jurist in whose name it is given. Justice Klein has been on the California Court of Appeal since 1978, the year of NAWJ's founding. A judge since 1963, Justice Klein is known for her independence and refusal to accept stereotypical sex roles. She has worked throughout her life to encourage women to seek political power and is a fierce advocate of a fully diverse judiciary. Her vision led to the founding of NAWJ and to mobilizing NAWJ's organizational strength to help ensure that the first woman was appointed to the Supreme Court. As NAWJ's first President, she addressed the Senate Judiciary committee considering Sandra Day O'Connor's appointment as the first woman on the Supreme Court of the United States, saying: "the appointment of a woman to assume a rightful seat on the highest court has had top priority on our agenda. . . As timely as we consider this appointment to be, and as eager as we are to have such an appointment become a reality, we are emphatic that the woman selected be of the highest caliber." Justice Klein has continued throughout her illustrious career, to promote the advancement of women in all aspects of the legal profession. Not only did she found NAWJ, but she is a founder of the California Women's Law Association and of the International Association of Women Judges.

Your own career and leadership in various organizations including in particular that of the National Association of Women Judges, make you a fitting a recipient of this recognition. You have served in vital leadership roles in every organization in which you have been a member, including the American Bar Association in which you presently serve as Secretary, as well as the Association of Women Attorneys, and the Tennessee, Memphis and National Bar Associations. As chair of the Memphis Diversity Institute and as former Chair of the ABA Commission on Opportunities for Minorities in the Legal Profession you have worked tirelessly to advance women and minorities in the legal profession. And, of course, as an active and inspirational leader on NAWJ's Executive Committee, and its 11th President, you continued in the proud tradition inaugurated by Joan Dempsey Klein, raising our collective voice to secure the appointment of women to the bench and promote their advancement to leadership roles.

To the over one hundred awards and honors you have already received, we are proud to add another. Congratulations on your selection as NAWJ's 2008 Honoree of the Year.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fernande R.V. Duffly', is written over the typed name and title.

Justice Fernande R.V. Duffly
President