



National Association of Women Lawyers®
the voice of women in the law™

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS ISSUES STATEMENT
REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF SUPREME COURT ASSOCIATE JUSTICE
SONIA SOTOMAYOR**

Chicago, August 7, 2009 The National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) applauds President Obama's appointment of Associate Supreme Court Justice Judge Sonia Sotomayor following Senate confirmation on Thursday. As NAWL's representative, Dean JoAnne Epps, testified during the confirmation hearings, Judge Sotomayor has consistently displayed a superior intellectual capacity, a comprehensive understanding of the issues with which she was presented and a thorough and firm grasp of the legal issues that have come before her. She excels in her ability to analyze statutory and case law and her judicial reasoning is supported by sound legal interpretation. She displays the intellectual capacity, the appropriate judicial temperament and respect for established law and process needed to be an effective Supreme Court Justice.

Judge Sotomayor's appointment also reinforces what should be a standard expectation: that women of diverse ethnic backgrounds should occupy positions of parity with men in the legal and other professions. As a symbol of triumph of intelligence, hard work and compassion, Judge Sotomayor serves as a source of inspiration to us all.

NAWL's Committee for the Evaluation of Supreme Court Nominees reviews and evaluates the qualifications of each Presidential nominee to the United States Supreme Court with an emphasis on laws and decisions regarding women's rights or that have a special impact on women. Members of the Committee are appointed by the President of NAWL and include a distinguished array of law professors, appellate practitioners and lawyers concentrating in litigation, with diverse backgrounds from around the country and who work in a variety of professional settings.

The National Association of Women Lawyers is the leading national voluntary organization devoted to the interests of women lawyers and women's rights. Founded over 100 years ago, NAWL has members in all 50 states and engages in a variety of programs and activities to advance its mission. For more information about NAWL, go to www.nawl.org.

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