



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

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**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS
URGES APPOINTMENT OF WOMAN TO SUPREME COURT**

Chicago-May 5, 2009- The National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL)® calls upon President Obama to nominate a woman as the next Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, thereby increasing the number of women serving as Justices of the Supreme Court. Associate Justice David Souter's announcement on May 1 that he will resign provides President Obama with the opportunity to demonstrate his commitment to diversity on the Court.

Despite comprising 50% or more of graduating law school classes for more than two decades, women continue to be markedly underrepresented in leadership roles in the legal profession and on the federal bench. According to Lisa Horowitz, President of the National Association of Women Lawyers, "President Obama's appointment of a woman will send a strong message to law firms, corporations, government and academia to eliminate the persistent barriers to the advancement of women attorneys. It will manifest a strong commitment to moving women into positions of parity with men in the legal profession. Women of color are particularly underrepresented in positions of leadership and on the federal bench, and we hope the pool of candidates from which the nominee is drawn will include many women of color."

NAWL's Committee for Evaluation of Supreme Court Nominees will apply the same

careful and thoughtful screening techniques to consideration of President Obama's first nominee, as it did to the nominations of [Justices Roberts](#) and [Alito](#).

NAWL 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.

More information can be found at www.nawl.org.

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