

# Minnesota Journal of Law & Inequality

---

Volume 4 | Issue 1

Article 1

---

March 1986

## Foreword: The Honorable Susanne C. Sedgwick

Susanne C. Sedgwick

Follow this and additional works at: <https://lawandinequality.org/>

---

### Recommended Citation

Susanne C. Sedgwick, *Foreword: The Honorable Susanne C. Sedgwick*, 4(1) LAW & INEQ. 1 (1986).  
Available at: <https://scholarship.law.umn.edu/lawineq/vol4/iss1/1>

*Minnesota Journal of Law & Inequality* is published by the  
University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing.



## Foreword

The Honorable Susanne C. Sedgwick\*

In October, 1985, the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) held its seventh annual meeting in Minneapolis. The association began in October 1979 when more than 100 women judges gathered in Los Angeles to share their common experiences and to discuss the status of women in the judiciary. The meeting culminated in the creation of the National Association of Women Judges. These founding members, among them Sandra Day O'Connor, recognized that until women achieve substantial parity with men in the legal profession and in the judiciary, there will be a need for an association devoted to advancing the interests of women judges and to addressing both their professional and personal concerns. Since that time, the primary goals of the NAWJ have been:

- To promote the fair administration of justice;
- To discuss the legal, educational, social, and ethical problems faced by women judges and to develop solutions to those problems;
- To increase the number of women judges so the judiciary more appropriately reflects the role of women in a democratic society; and
- To educate other judges—male and female—about the problems encountered in the judicial system by female colleagues, attorneys, witnesses, litigants, and jurors.

In keeping with the NAWJ's primary goals, the *Law and Inequality Journal* has reprinted selected papers from the legal education workshops at the 1985 conference as well as Judge Patricia

---

\* In 1985, Susanne C. Sedgwick was selected as Honoree of the Year by the National Association of Women Judges. Judge Sedgwick completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Minnesota and received her J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law in 1956. After graduation, she was a staff attorney for the Legal Aid Society and served as an assistant county attorney. In 1970, Judge Sedgwick was elected to the Hennepin County Municipal Court. In 1974, she was appointed to the District Court, Family Division where she served for three years before assuming rotation in nonfamily district court cases. In 1983, Gov. Rudy Perpich appointed her to the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Judge Sedgwick's non-judicial roles have included serving as president of the United Way, chairing committees for the Urban League, serving as honorary chair in Minnesota for the United Nations' Year of the Child, and helping to found the Minnesota Women's Political Caucus.

Wald's excellent address on *The Role of Morality in Judging: A Woman Judge's Perspective*. In addition, this issue contains Justice Rosalie Wahl's essay entitled *Some Reflections on Women and the Judiciary*; Professor Suzanna Sherry's article on *The Gender of Judges*; Professors John A. Phillips and Thomas C. Thompson's article on the Penn/Mead and Bushell trials; and an introduction to Professors Phillips and Thompson's article by Gerald Torres and Don Brewster.

The conference presentations raise interesting and provocative questions for both judges and lawyers. In addition, the issues raised in the paper *Establishing a Gender Bias Task Force* and the speech *Special Versus Equal Treatment for Women* by Judge Ruth Ginsburg have interest far beyond the legal community. We appreciate the *Journal's* publication of the highlights of the NAWJ conference and are confident that you will enjoy this symposium issue.