



CounterBalance International

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Recordbreaking 9th Biennial International Conference Focuses on 'Equal Justice for All'

The International Association of Women Judges held its 9th Biennial International Conference in Panama City, Panama, from March 25-28, 2008. The conference boasted a record attendance of 366 participants, with 71 registered accompanying persons. IAWJ members came from 44 countries as far away as Mongolia, Afghanistan, Zambia, Iceland and Finland. Argentina, Brazil, the US, and Canada fielded the largest groups from the Western Hemisphere.

The theme of the conference, "Equal Justice for All: Access, Discrimination, Violence, Corruption," led to substantive panel discussions that addressed many issues facing a wide range of IAWJ members. IAWJ president **Hon. Graciela Dixon**, former president of the Supreme Court of Panama, and **Hon. Nelly Cedena**, the president of the Asociación de Magistradas y Juezas del Órgano Judicial de Panamá, opened the conference. **Hon. Aura Guerra De Villalaz**, former justice of the Panama Supreme Court, first president of AMAJUP, and former judge on the International Criminal Court for Rwanda, delivered the keynote address.

The second day of the conference focused on issues of access and discrimination. Experts from The Hague Permanent Secretariat on the Hague Family Conventions facilitated a panel, titled *The Hague Family Conventions: Providing Access Internationally for the Protection of Children*. IAWJ members **Hon. Jan Doogue** (NZ), chair of the Drafting Committee, and **Hon. Henrietta Wolayo** (Uganda) moderated the panel.



A dancer at the Gala Dinner poses with two delegates from Egypt.



Delegates at the opening ceremony of the 9th Biennial International Conference.

Judges throughout the world are addressing the issues reflected in the Hague Conventions and the discussions provided clarity and background to the different conventions and their application to the international protection of children.

Anne Goldstein, IAWJ Human Rights Education Director, along with judges from different countries in Africa, led an interactive session on the IAWJ's Jurisprudence of Equality Program (JEP) and the challenges and impact of HIV/AIDS on women's property rights, inheritance, and all forms of violence. A discussion about access to justice for people in indigenous, rural, and religious communities was moderated by former IAWJ president **Hon. Jane Mathews** (Australia). **Hon. Patricia Hennessy** (Canada), **Hon. Fatma Senol** (North Cyprus), and **Hon. Gita Mittal** (India) offered diverse examples.

At the end of the day, employment and economic discrimination were the focus of discussion. **Hon. Graziana Campanato** (Italy) spoke on the impact of surnames. **Hon. Christina Camina** (Argentina) talked about employment and gender inequality. **Hon. You-sook Min** (South Korea) looked at military service and sex discrimination, and **Hon. Sheila Greckol** addressed women's economic interests in Canada. Incoming IAWJ president **Hon. Leslie Alden** (US) moderated this panel.

Violence against women remains pervasive throughout the world and is on the ongoing agendas of IAWJ programming and member's courts. New trends in jurisprudence to combat sexual offenses and domestic violence were presented

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IAWJ 2008 Conference in Panama

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by **Hon. Shelma de Lombardi** (Brazil), **Hon. Joyce Aluoch** (Kenya), **Hon. Marianne de Rooij** (The Netherlands), and Rosa Celorio of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States. Argentine Supreme Court Justice **Hon. Elena Highton de Nolasco** served as moderator of this discussion.

IAWJ judges are working to increase access to justice and the courts. **Hon. Lucy Mailula** (South Africa) facilitated a lively discussion on access to justice, judges, and the public. **Hon. Brenda Murray** (US) spoke about what judges are doing for female offenders. **Hon. Claire Hougan Ayemonna** (Benin) described a new "twinning" project between the Canadian and the Benin Chapters of the IAWJ. **Hon. Shiranee Tilakawardane** (Sri Lanka) presented energetically on how judges may be catalysts for change even in a country in conflict, and JEP Trainer **Hon. Selma Herrera Kivers** (Panama) discussed the impact of JEP in Panama.

Human trafficking has become a key issue for many IAWJ judges. **Hon. Daniela Tomova** (Bulgaria) facilitated presentations on trafficking by **Hon. Susana Medina** (Argentina) and **Hon. Barbara Mobley** (US). **Hon. Patricia Goliath** (South Africa) presented recommendations for judges responding to human trafficking, which had been approved at the African regional meeting in October 2007. [See page 6 for more details.]

Mediation is increasingly introduced before, during, and after court proceedings as a means of resolving disputes and improving access to cases and the courts. A traditional method for solving disputes, mediation has reemerged as a successful method for many courts. In a panel led by **Judge Adelenia Pereira Veliz** (Panama), members **Hon. Gladys Alvarez**, (Argentina), **Hon. Eusebia Munuo** (Tanzania), and the **Hon. Carolyn Parr** (US) presented examples and methods of mediation and dispute resolution.



Delegates from the National Association of Women Judges (Nigeria) attend the Gala Dinner.

Silent Auction Raises Funds for IAWJ

The Silent Auction held at the 9th Biennial International Conference in Panama raised over \$9,400 for the IAWJ. The item receiving the highest bid was a dress donated by the delegate from Cameroon. The IAWJ would like to thank all of the Conference attendees for their participation in this event.



Hon. Nelly Cedena (AMAJUP President), IAWJ President Hon. Graciela Dixon, IAWJ Executive Director Joan D. Winship, and Hon. Aura Guerra De Villalez (Keynote Speaker) open the conference.

Finally, **Lady Brenda Hale** (UK) moderated a discussion on fighting corruption in the courts. **Hon. Mary Ang'awa** (Kenya), **Hon. Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitino** (Panama), and Anne Golstein of the IAWJ addressed corruption in legal and judicial systems.

Evenings and informal time in between the sessions allowed IAWJ members to network and socialize with each other. The Judiciary of Panama held a lovely opening reception at the Intercontinental Miramar Hotel, the conference venue. The next evening, the Canadian Chapter of the IAWJ and the Embassy of Canada hosted participants in the old city at the Panama Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Participants and their guests enjoyed the Panama Canal for another evening, organized by the Panama Canal Authority. Members could watch ships go through the locks on a moonlit evening and stroll alongside the Canal.

On the final evening of the conference the Supreme Court of Panama sponsored the Gala Dinner at the Intercontinental Miramar. Lively Panamanian dancers entertained, and congratulations were given to the AMAJUP organizers. **Hon. Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitino** (Panama) received the 2008 IAWJ Human Rights Award from former IAWJ President, past award recipient, and Justice of the Argentine Supreme Court **Hon. Carmen Argibay** and from incoming IAWJ president Hon. Leslie Alden.

Many hours of learning and conversation, new friendships and professional connections, and enjoyment of the wonderful Panamanian sun and countryside made the week special for all participants. As members began to depart, they were already making plans to attend the IAWJ's 10th Biennial International Conference that will be held in Seoul, South Korea, in May 2010.



IAWJ President-Elect Hon. Leslie Alden (US), and Hon. Carmen Argibay (Argentina) present Hon. Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitino (Panama) with the IAWJ's 2008 Human Rights Award.

9th IAWJ Biennial Conference in Panama



IAWJ Regional Meetings

Africa Focuses on Human Trafficking



South African Chief Justice Pius N. Langa speaks with African delegates at Johannesburg meeting.

On October 18 - 21, 2007, the **South African Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ SA Chapter)** hosted the African Regional Meeting, which was themed "Human Trafficking: Regional and Domestic Responses." The aim of the conference was to stimulate lateral thinking among judicial officers confronted with situations involving human trafficking.

The conference included presentations from leading researchers and practitioners working in the field of human trafficking. Presenters were drawn from South Africa, the African region, and the United States. Delegates unanimously adopted the following resolutions for implementation by member associations in their countries:

1. Its member associations call upon their respective governments that have not ratified the international conventions and protocols on human trafficking to do so immediately.
2. Its member associations call upon their respective governments to enact comprehensive Trafficking in Persons (TIP) legislation as a matter of urgency and that, where legislation is in place, it be implemented as a priority.
3. Its member associations call upon their respective governments to commit themselves to developing policies and programmes that will facilitate the implementation of the Palermo Protocol.
4. Its member associations collaborate with NGO's working in the area of human trafficking with a view to lobbying their respective governments to make financial resources available for victim assistance and training of functionaries engaged in combating TIP.
5. The delegates at this conference work together with academics and other entities in developing and conducting training programmes for judicial officers to raise awareness on the need to combat TIP.
6. The delegates at this conference work together with other organisations to create community awareness of the need to combat TIP.
7. The member associations promote on-going awareness programmes in their respective countries.
8. This meeting commits itself to promote regional cooperation with members and non-members in combating TIP.
9. The member associations urge that implementation of programmes and policies to counteract TIP should always be in accordance with regional and international human rights standards.
10. The delegates at this conference urge the prosecution authorities, law enforcement agencies and relevant government departments, as well as NGOs in their countries to establish a database of relevant information and a helpline to combat TIP in their countries.

Asia Looks at CEDAW

On October 26 – 27, 2007 the **Korean Association of Women Judges** hosted the Asian Regional Meeting in Seoul, South Korea. There were more than 200 participants, an assembly that was comprised of 140 Korean women judges and 13 Korean male judges including **Hon. Yong Hoon Lee**, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Korea, as well as 7 Korean women lawyers. In addition, 3 members attended from the Republic of China, including **Justice Xiuhong Wang**; 10 from the Taiwan Chapter, including **Hon. Jin Fang Lin**; 22 from the Philippines; and 16 from Mongolia, including **Hon. Justice Tsetsgee Purev**.

The theme of the meeting was "CEDAW (the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women) in Asia." The program focused on the current and projected future judicial application of CEDAW, as well as the ratification of the optional protocols. The meeting began with a reception on the evening of October 26, followed by seminar sessions on October 27. Korean Supreme Court Justices **Young Ran Kim** and **Soo Ahn Jeon** opened the meeting.

The final panel dealt with recommendations to the IAWJ for its next Asian Regional Meeting. These included:

1. Hold the Regional Meeting biennially in the years between the IAWJ's International Conferences.
2. Establish a website to encourage communication and information exchange within the region.
3. Hold smaller meetings alongside the Regional Meeting to facilitate discussion.
4. Encourage interchanges within the region by way of promotion of regional events.



A delegate poses questions during the two-day Asia regional meeting in Seoul.

Uganda Launches New JEP Initiative



Anne Goldstein, IAWJ Human Rights Education Director, leads a discussion during the launching ceremony.

Thanks to the generosity of Danida and Irish Aid, the **National Association of Women Judges of Uganda** initiated a Jurisprudence of Equality Program for judges in Northern Uganda. The program was launched on February 12, 2008 in Kampala, Uganda, with judges and magistrates from all levels of the judiciary.

The training will focus on the interrelationship of HIV/AIDS with issues of property rights and violence against women. Uganda joins Tanzania, Zambia and Kenya in initiating training on this crucial topic. The Hon. Chief Justice Benjamin Odoki gave the keynote speech at the launch. Chief Justice Odoki has long been a voice for women's rights in Uganda. In his speech he described with approval a recent case by a JEP-trained judge:

In *Uganda vs. Matovu* (unreported), a defilement case, the Court made a strong statement that the cautionary rule that required corroboration of the complainant's evidence in sexual offences was discriminatory because it was premised on the stereotype that a woman cannot be trusted to tell the truth in matters of sex. To that extent, the trial judge disregarded the rule and proceeded to examine the evidence without regard to the requirement for corroboration. It's noteworthy that the decision was made after a JEP training thereby signifying a tangible impact of NAWJU initiatives.

Justice Odoki described this case as "an illustration of how a judicial officer can be creative within the law, in the enforcement of rights of women."



Participants at the HIV/AIDS training held in Kampala, including Chief Justice Benjamin Okoki and former IAWJ President and Deputy Chief Justice Letitia Kikonyogo (center).

Over the next two days, Ugandan judges and magistrates worked with JEP trainers **David Batema** and **Henrietta Wolayo**, and with IAWJ Executive Director **Joan Winship** and Human Rights Education Director Anne Goldstein, to update their training skills and incorporate HIV/AIDS in their training curricula. The Ugandan judiciary faces many challenges in this area with strong personnel, enthusiasm, and dedication.

Associations Update Meetings

The **National Association of Women Judges (USA)** hosted their 29th Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA, on November 7 – 11, 2007. At this conference, individual member initiatives also brought women judges from countries such as Argentina, Canada, Bosnia, Egypt, Ireland, Nepal, Korea, Nigeria, Taiwan, England and Ukraine. Panels and speeches at the conference included *The Breadth of the Constitution's Guarantees*, *Separation of Powers*, *The Roberts Court*, *The Innocence Project*, *Immigration*, *Gender and Sexuality Law*, *The Public Perception of Women Judges*, *Challenges Facing New Judges*, and *International Justice for Women*.

The **United Kingdom Association of Women Judges** hosted their annual meeting in Birmingham, England on March 18 – 19, 2007. The UKAWJ commemorated the 200th anniversary of the end of the slave trade with a meeting that focused on current efforts against national and international trafficking, with an emphasis on the kinds of issues that judges might encounter in these cases.

Websites

Continuing to bring more attention to member activities, readers are encouraged to visit the following websites that associations have created to highlight their activities throughout the year.

- Asociación de Magistradas y Juezas de Panamá
<http://www.organojudicial.gob.pa/contenido/organizacion/asociaciones/amajup/amajup.htm>
- Asociación de Mujeres Jueces de Argentina
<http://www.amja.org.ar/>
- Associação Portuguesa de Mulheres Juristas
<http://www.apmj.pt/>
- Associazione Donne Magistrato Italiane (ADMI)
www.donnemagistrato.it
- Kenya Women Judges Association
<http://www.kwja.org/index.html>
- Korean Association of Women Judges
<http://kawj.org/>
- Mongolian Women Lawyers Association
<http://www.owc.org.mn/mwla/>
- National Association of Women Judges (USA)
www.nawj.org
- Projeto Jurisprudencia da Iguadade
www.jep.org.br
- United Kingdom Association of Women Judges
<http://ukawj.org/>

IAWJ Holds 3rd Afghan Women Judges Judicial Education Program



IAWJ Executive Director Joan D. Winship, leads Afghan participants through capacity-building workshop.

The IAWJ, in partnership with the [Rural Women's Leadership Institute of Vermont \(RWLIV\)](#) and the [Afghan Women Judges Association \(AWJA\)](#), conducted a judicial training program for three Afghan women judges from September 16 – October 6, 2007. The Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the US Department of State provided funding for the program.

During the first two weeks, the women judges stayed with the family of Tonia Wheeler, an American woman in Brattleboro, Vermont, where they learned about the social and personal lives of families in Vermont and the US. The judges also visited rural trial courts in Vermont, met with women in a variety of professions such as law, medicine, education and religion, and experienced life in a rural American town. They also participated in a judicial leadership workshop.



Afghan women judges speak at a roundtable discussion at the U.S. Department of State.

[Bader Ginsburg](#) and discussed obstacles that women judges face both in the US and in Afghanistan. They observed cases in the District of Columbia Superior Court and the District of Columbia Appeals Court and met with Hon. Frank E. Schwelb, IAWJ members and trustees [Hon. Vanessa Ruiz](#) and [Hon. Anna Blackburne-Rigsby](#), who are all judges on the Appeals Court. The judges also spoke about the current conditions of the court system in Afghanistan when they met with INL and other US Department of State officials at a roundtable discussion held at the US Department of State and in other meetings with Congressional officials.

In the months following the women's trip to the United States, the IAWJ staff has worked to develop other programs with the AWJA. In March, the IAWJ brought two women judges from Afghanistan to our 9th Biennial International Conference in Panama City, Panama. [Hon. Hamida Panjshiri](#) and [Hon. Mahro Hamid](#), both judges working at the Supreme Court of Kabul, attended the conference with an interpreter. Their participation at this event highlights the IAWJ's efforts to increase networking opportunities between its members around the globe.



Hon. Hamida Panjshiri and Hon. Mahro Hamid (Kabul, Afghanistan) attend the IAWJ's 9th Biennial Conference.

Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan

The US Department of State has launched a new program called the Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan. This is an effort to raise funds from US law firms to strengthen the justice system in Afghanistan. The IAWJ's work with the Afghan women judges is one of four programs that has been designated to receive this support. Others include organizations that work with prosecutors, legal aid lawyers, and the new Afghan Bar Association.



IAWJ Executive Director Joan Winship speaks at the United Nations for the New York launch of the Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan.

IAWJ Calls for Culturally Responsive, Sensitive Judicial Training Curricula

by: Anne T. Goldstein

Anne Goldstein, the IAWJ Human Rights Education Director, took part in a Technical Consultation on "Gender, Property Rights and Livelihoods in the Era of AIDS," sponsored by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and held in Rome from November 28-30, 2007. She delivered a paper on the role of courts and the training of judges in protecting women's property rights. In her paper, she described the need to develop judicial training that is culturally responsive. See excerpts from her comments below.

Like any other professional group, judges hold widely divergent attitudes on women's rights issues in general, and property rights in particular. For many judges, the idea of allowing women to hold land rights—especially over clan lands—threatens deeply held values.

Even those who express commitment to women's rights in other contexts may find land rights threatening. In addressing the International Association of Women Judges at its 2004 biennial conference in Entebbe, for example, President Museveni of Uganda congratulated and encouraged the women judges and spoke of the importance of women's rights. Yet he then made an anguished plea that they not go what he considered too far, by extending to women rights over clan land: "How could the land be allowed to go outside the 'orurembo'?" he asked. Since a woman's loyalty would be to her (new) husband's family, if a widow were given land rights, President Museveni worried aloud that the wealth of the late husband's land "could be used against his own clan."

A well-crafted judicial training program neither ignores this kind of ambivalence nor wishes it away, but rather draws on it by asking judges to consider their respective cultures in their totality. In concrete terms, this may entail a consideration of pre-colonial land tenure rules, or the extension of property rights to women in the Qu'ran or Bible.

The presumption that customary law is anti-woman, and that international law or statutory law is pro-woman turns out to be an over-simplification. No chief, tribal elder, or sacred text will claim "our culture is based on a desire to make widows and orphans destitute, landless and starving."

In the now-famous case *Magaya v. Magaya*, for example, the Zimbabwean Supreme Court echoed President Museveni's characterization of customary property law:

In my understanding of African society, especially that of a patrilineal nature, the "perpetual discrimination" against women stems mainly from the fact that women were always regarded as persons who would eventually leave their original family on marriage, after the payment of roora/lobola, to join the family of their husbands. It was reasoned that in their new situation they would not be able to look after the original family. It was also reasoned that the appointment of female heirs would be tantamount to diverting the property of the original family to that of her new family.¹

After the decision, the Women and Law in Southern Africa Research and Educational Trust (WLSA) consulted three tribal chiefs from the relevant area, including the one who had jurisdiction over Venia Magaya's rural homeland (the land at issue in the case):

The chief of the area, Chief Mangwened, when interviewed about the case, said that he would have brought about a better result if he had been given an opportunity to preside over the matter. He spoke of his own returnee sisters that he had assisted to get pieces of land and rebuild their lives and that he saw nothing wrong with a woman being given property in her father's home The other chiefs interviewed indicated that Zimbabwean blacks are in a quandary as to what the actual content of their own customary law is as a result of the colonial legal legacy.

According to the chiefs, in earlier days black people's vocabulary when responding to white people was limited to 'yes' or 'no' and mostly it was 'yes'. So when new laws were imposed the answer was a ready 'yes.' Thus the notion that there was a sole male heir may have arisen from inaccurately asked questions and unquestioned answers as to what happened after a man died.

All three chiefs emphasized that prior to colonialism, women had a key role in determining who should be selected as heir when a man died, and that the decision as to who should be heir was based on who would be the best person to protect the deceased's surviving family. In the fact pattern of the

Magaya case, the deceased's eldest surviving son whom the court decreed to be heir had not helped his parents during his father's life (in contrast to the sister, Venia Magaya, who lost), and evicted his mother and sister as soon as he became heir. None of the chiefs saw this as either compelled or desirable as a matter of customary law.²

"I have been keenly interested in your work in Africa and especially the JEP program in East Africa, of which UNIFEM was part. As a woman lawyer, I find your work to be so grounded in the daily realities of our lives.

-Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda
Former Regional Director,
UNIFEM Eastern Africa

In quoting this material at length, it is not my intent to romanticize customary law, which of course does have many discriminatory features. Yet the assumption that modern statutes or international treaties are invariably more protective of women's property rights than custom is unwarranted.

Judicial training can help dispel the myth that international human rights treaties or statutes designed to protect women's rights are neo-colonialist impositions. It can ground women's rights in local sources as well – sources that are likely to be more emotionally resonant and acceptable to judges with traditional views.

¹ *Magaya v. Magaya*, - Zimbabwe Supreme Court 1999, Justice Mucshete opinion.

² *Venia Magaya's Sacrifice: A Case of Custom Gone Awry*, WLSA (Zimbabwe) 2001, pp. 36-38.



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Argentina – On November 17, 2007, Dra. Susana Medina de Rizzo organized a reception in honor of Argentina Supreme Court Justice, **Dra. Carmen Argibay**, to honor her for the receipt of the Gruber Human Rights Award given to her by the Gruber Foundation.



AMJA members honor Hon. Carmen Argibay.

Hon. Beatriz Kohen recently published a book entitled, *El género en la justicia de familia, Miradas y protagonistas*. A reception was held at the Law Faculty of Buenos Aires University on May 7, 2008.



Hon. Claire Suzanne Degla Agbidinokoun

Benin – The **National Association of Women Judges – Benin** mourns the death of its member, **Hon. Claire Suzanne Degla Agbidinokoun**. Judge Delga Agbidinokoun passed away on January 27, 2008 after a short illness.



Benin members with representatives from UNFPA to commemorate the launch of the Benin book.

The National Association of Women Judges - Benin launched their book *Women Judges of Benin: Faces and Contribution to Law Evolution*. The launching ceremony took place in Cotonou, Benin, on March 14, 2008. The book was the result of a collaboration between the NAWJ-Benin and **Canadian Chapter of the IAWJ**.



Hon. Hanan Dahroug and Hon. Cherine Wechahy of Egypt at the IAWJ's 9th Biennial Conference in Panama.

Egypt – In April of 2007, Egypt's Ministry of Justice named 30 women judges to the Court of First Instance. Prior to this, Egypt had had only one female judge serving on the Constitutional Court. Two of the women judges, **Hon. Hanan Dahroug** and **Hon. Cherine Wechahy**, attended the IAWJ's 9th Biennial Conference in Panama City, Panama.

Finland – **Hon. Liisa Kiianlinna** visited IAWJ members in North Cyprus from April 14 – 28, 2008. Hon. Kiianlinna met the judges at the IAWJ's 9th Biennial Conference in Panama City, Panama. She met with **Hon. Emine Dizdarli**, **Hon. Gönül Erönen**, and **Hon. Fatama Senol**. The Cypriot judges hosted Hon. Kiianlinna in their homes and provided her with tours of the respective courts.

Ghana – **Hon. Georgina Theodora Wood** became the first female Chief Justice of Ghana in July 2007. Born in 1947, Hon. Wood attended the University of Ghana, Legon, and received her degree in law from the Ghana Law School. She first joined the judiciary as a magistrate. She has served on the Circuit and High Courts and, in 1991, she presided over the Court of Appeals.



Hon. Georgina Theodora Wood



IAWJ members congregate at Hon. Gita Mittal's residence in New Dehli.

India – **Hon. Gita Mittal** hosted a meeting of IAWJ members, including **Marzia Basel** (founder of the Afghan Women Judges Association) and **Hon. Navanethem Pillay** (International Criminal Court) along with other women judges in her home in New Dehli, India.

International Criminal Court – Judge Navanethem Pillay, a member and IAWJ human rights honoree, is one of 5 judges whose remarkable judicial careers and contributions to global justice are profiled in some depth in a new book entitled, *The International Judge* (Terris, Romano and Swigart, Brandeis University Press, 2007). This publication examines the work of 13 of the 20 extant international and regional courts with a special focus on the role and responsibilities of the men and women judges who serve on these bodies.

Italy – During the past year, the **Associazione Donne Magistrato Italiane (ADMI)** organized two conferences. One dealt with the system of surname attribution in which the wife keeps her surname and adds that of her husband, while the children of the married couple receive the surname of the father. This system is criticized because it reflects a stringent conception of the family and implies an overwhelming position of the husband, a position that is not consistent with the fundamental principle of equality between men and women stated by the Italian Constitution.

The subject of the second Conference was "The culture of legality and the judiciary's role in the defense of this value, in the actual situation of crisis." This is a fundamental issue in Italian society. Those who have political and economic power tend not to accept the judiciary's action and control, especially when their interests are involved. On

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the other hand, the judiciary's intervention is often ineffective due to the relevant workload of the courts, which produces delays in the decisions.

At the beginning of July 2007, the first-ever Egyptian female judges (a group of about 30) visited the Italian Supreme Court. The ADMI was invited to participate in the meeting and to make a report on the situation of women in the Italian judiciary. On the occasion, the Egyptian colleagues were also informed of the activity of the International Association of Women Judges and showed great interest both in the national and international items.

Kenya – On December 24, 2007, **Hon. Joyce Aluoch** of the Kenyan Women Judges Association was sworn in as a judge on Kenya's Court of Appeals. She is only the second woman to hold this position.

Mongolia – The **National Association of Women Judges** in Mongolia formed in 2007. The new association sent three representatives to the IAWJ's 9th Biennial International Conference in Panama City, Panama.



Hon. Joyce Aluoch

Sierra Leone – On January 5, 2008, **Hon. Umu Hawa Tejan**

Jalloh was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone. Hon. Tejan Jalloh is the first woman to be named to this position in Sierra Leone and her nomination garnered the support of many women's rights activists in the country.

Tanzania – **Hon. Eusebia Munuo** will be attending a Judicial Ethics 10-day course at RIPA International in London from the 23rd June to the 4th July 2008. Hon. Munuo is the Chairperson of the Ethics Committee for Judges in Tanzania and will be attending the meeting with the other eight members of the ethics committee. She will also take the Judicial Ethics Training of Trainers course being offered.

The **Tanzanian Women Judges Association** hosted their biennial meeting on May 17, 2008.

The TWJA discussed the forthcoming IAWJ Africa Regional meeting, which it will host in 2009.

United Arab Emirates – **Hon. Kholoud Ahmad Jouan al-Dhaheri** became the first female judge in the U.A.E. on March 26, 2008. Hon. al-Dhaheri previously worked as a lawyer and graduated from U.A.E. University.

United States – **Hon. Terry Ruderman** visited with **Hon. Gital Mittal** on her recent trip to New Dehli, India in February 2008. Hon. Mittal also arranged for Hon. Ruderman to visit the courts in New Dehli.



Hon. Gital Mittal hosted Hon. Terry Ruderman in her office during a recent visit.

IAWJ News– **Hon. Pi-Hu Hsu**, from the Taiwan Chapter of the IAWJ, along with **Hon. Seong-Hee Jeon**, from the Korean Association of Women Judges, visited the IAWJ headquarters on November 13, 2007. The two judges met with the IAWJ Executive Director Joan D. Winship, IAWJ founder **Hon. Arline Pacht**, and the staff. They discussed the issues currently coming before their courts and their impact on gender issues.



Hon. Seong-Hee Jeon and Hon. Pi-Hu Hsu visit with IAWJ Staff and Founder, Hon. Arline Pacht.

Hon. Sharada Shrestha visited the IAWJ offices on November 14, 2007. She spoke with the IAWJ staff about her experiences as a woman judge in Nepal.



Hon. Sharada Shrestha visited the IAWJ offices.

IAWJ featured in *The Federal Lawyer*

In the November/December 2007 edition of *The Federal Lawyer*, a publication of the US Federal Bar Association, the International Association of Women Judges was featured in a 'sidebar' article that followed a speech by IAWJ member Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the US Supreme Court. Justice Ginsburg delivered a speech entitled 'Women's Progress at the Bar and on the Bench' to the Memphis Bar Association and her remarks were reprinted with permission in TFL. Readers may find both articles at *The Federal Lawyer*, Nov/Dec 2007, Vol. 54, Number 10, pp.50-55.

Receive CounterBalance International via Email

Members may opt to receive the newsletter by email. You will be able to enjoy the photos in full color and will not have to wait for printed copies to arrive by regular mail. If you are interested in receiving your newsletter by email, please notify the IAWJ headquarters at office@iawj.org.

CounterBalance International is also available online and in full color at www.iawj.org.

On the Record

Dear IAWJ Members and Friends:

It is hard to believe that the IAWJ's 9th Biennial Conference is now behind us! What a wonderful turnout we had in sunny Panama City! The numbers exceeded our expectations, and the energy and enthusiasm when IAWJ members get together is invigorating. We thank each person who came, those who contributed their wisdom via the presentations, and those who shared themselves informally with others. The generosity of our members is reflected in the record number of silent auction items donated and the monies raised from the auction. Most of all, it is rewarding to see members thoroughly enjoy meeting each other, sharing their expertise and ideas, and demonstrating their commitment to the IAWJ and its work.



For those who were unable to come, we hope you will be able to get a bit of the flavor of the conference through reading the presentations that are now on the IAWJ website www.iawj.org and through enjoying the many photographs of our colleagues sharing good times together. We hope that you might now begin to make plans to join us at the IAWJ's 10th Biennial International Conference in Seoul, South Korea, in May 2010.

Beyond the conference itself, the IAWJ leadership continues to move forward. We sincerely thank the outgoing 2006-2008 Board. For the first time, all 15 officers and board members were able to attend our meeting. This clearly reflects their commitment of time and talent to the IAWJ. We welcome the newly elected slate of officers and directors and look forward to working with them under the leadership of President Leslie Alden during the next two years. The new Board already established that it will hold its next Board meeting in Washington in May 2009.

You can tell from reading the newsletter that the IAWJ and its members continue to move ahead with various programs, focusing in a wide range of regions and areas. We constantly are seeking new grants to allow us to implement the many requests we have for programming from our members. Additionally, the IAWJ is invited more and more to participate with other international organizations and the United Nations. You can be proud of the work being done in your name.

We hope you will visit the IAWJ website often to keep up with the events of our organization and colleagues around the world. We welcome your ideas and comments about programming and your news of your own work and judiciaries.

I also particularly want to thank H. Thuan Do, IAWJ Communications, Membership and Grants Manager, who has provided seven years of dedicated service to the IAWJ. We congratulate her on recently completing her M.A. degree in International Development and wish her our best wishes as she goes in new directions in the future.

All the IAWJ staff join me in sending you their very warm greetings.

Joan D. Winship, IAWJ Executive Director

Spotlight on Staff

Longtime IAWJ staff member, **Hanh Thuan Do**, left her position in May 2008. Ms. Do started working with the IAWJ in 2001 as the Office Manager with then Executive Director, Hon. Arline Pacht. Throughout her time with the IAWJ, Ms. Do has helped to coordinate three IAWJ Biennial International Conferences (in Dublin, Ireland; Kampala, Uganda; and Sydney, Australia), overseen membership relations, edited the IAWJ's newsletter, and provided valuable assistance with grant proposals and reports. In August 2006, she returned to school, pursuing a Masters Degree in International Development Studies at the George Washington University. Ms. Do graduated this May.



Hanh Thuan Do presents her master's project, the final requirement before gaining her degree.

The IAWJ is pleased to welcome **Josephine Ndagire** to our staff as a Program Officer Fellow. Ms. Ndagire received her Bachelor of Laws (Honors) Degree from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda where she also took the Bar Course. She comes to the IAWJ having completed her LL.M. Degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School. She brings experience working with the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative and the Human Rights Commission in Uganda. She will be at the IAWJ through December and will focus her work on our Africa programming.



New staff members Kelly Memphis, Josephine Ndagire, and Maggie Byrne

Every semester, the IAWJ receives help from undergraduate and graduate interns. These students work in various capacities from corresponding with members to conducting research for projects. This past fall 2007, **Regina Verret**, a young woman from Florida State University, provided the IAWJ with support in the office.

In June 2008, **Maggie Byrne**, a recent graduate of the University of Virginia, and **Kelly Memphis**, a senior at Towson University, joined the IAWJ for the summer.

Opportunities for Giving

A Dollar A Day for IAWJ Campaign

The IAWJ has always relied on the generous support of its member and donors. In recent years, the IAWJ has introduced new opportunities for support. In 2006, **Hon. Coral Shaw** (New Zealand) called on members to give the IAWJ "A Dollar a Day" to provide institutional support for the Association. This initiative received immediate support from members in the way of contributions and with the Canadian Chapter of the IAWJ agreeing to present the appeal to its membership. In 2008, the IAWJ encourages members to continue to support the IAWJ, its mission and programs. Those wishing to donate to the "A Dollar a Day for IAWJ" campaign can do so at the IAWJ's website www.iawj.org.



Hon. Mella Carroll

Mella Carroll Fund

Another fundraising initiative started by a member is the **Mella Carroll Fund** to support judges' attendance to the IAWJ's international conferences. The fund honors the life and work on the former IAWJ President. Those wishing to contribute to the fund can do so by giving a contribution in honor of Hon. Carroll. Donations can be made on the IAWJ's website www.iawj.org.

New IAWJ Dues Structure

At the annual meeting in March 2007 in London, the IAWJ's Board of Directors and Executive Council voted unanimously to increase the IAWJ's membership dues structure in order to increase financial support for the organization. The 2008 dues are:

US\$20 per person for Association members
US\$25 per person for Individual members
US\$50 for Amicus judicii members (nonjudicial)

There is no ceiling or cap on membership dues payments.

CounterBalance International

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Contributors: A. DeCamp, A. Goldstein, K. Memphis, M. Byrne, J. Winship, M. Wurf

Article submissions for World News Report and Landmarks are welcome and should be submitted to IAWJ headquarters at office@iawj.org.

Bench Marks



Dear IAWJ Colleagues and Friends:

What a tremendous experience we witnessed in Panama City at the 9th Biennial IAWJ Conference! With nearly 400 attendees from 44 countries, stimulating educational programs, and exciting social events, the meeting was one of the most inspirational yet. The success of the Conference is a tribute to the continued growth, vitality, and recognition of the work of the IAWJ. Many thanks go to Justice Graciela Dixon and her fantastic organizing committee for their hard work and dedication.

It is my privilege to have been elected as President of the IAWJ at the Conference, and I know that the rest of the newly elected Board of Directors is enthusiastic and motivated to continue the steady progress of this unique and valuable organization. The IAWJ, through its 4,000 members worldwide, advances the ability of women and children to access equal justice by promoting IAWJ educational programming, and reaching out to vulnerable communities who are often overlooked. Over the years, the Jurisprudence of Equality Program (JEP) has been presented to more than 1,300 judges and legal professionals in some 12 nations, and continues to extend its influence in new parts of the world. The JEP teaches decision makers how to integrate human rights principles in the resolution of cases involving violence and discrimination against women, and explores the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and the law. This is groundbreaking work.

So much of our success is attributable to the hard work and dedication of Joan Winship, Anne Goldstein, and the other staff members in the home office. Yet, we continue to be challenged every day in finding financial support for our work and programming. In an effort to bolster our growth, the IAWJ has instituted a campaign, the brainchild of Hon. Coral Shaw (NZ), "A Dollar a Day for the IAWJ." Although several members responded immediately after the campaign began, much more is needed to sustain our important work. In Panama, Hon. Constance Hunt (Canada) issued a challenge to all of us to support the program by pledging at least \$1 a day for two years, right away. Please contribute in any way you can; it is easy to do on the IAWJ website. Financial support is crucial to the very survival of our wonderful organization.

Among the initiatives the Board has undertaken is the IAWJ 2010 Jubilee Book project. We ask that you contribute the history of your national associations and chapters of the IAWJ, to be compiled in one book in commemoration of our 20th anniversary. A letter from Hon. Mary-Ann Hedlund (Norway), who is chairing the effort, has been sent to explain how you can contribute to this significant endeavor. Also, Hon. Lucy Mailula (South Africa) has agreed to chair the Membership Committee, so expect to hear from her in the coming months about new members.

It will be here before you know it! Mark your calendar for the 10th Biennial Conference in Seoul, Korea beginning on May 10, 2010. The Conference will continue to explore the innovative ways judges can respond to the critical issues facing women and children around the world. It will be another opportunity for our members, from legal systems and cultures around the globe, to meet together to confront our challenges and celebrate our achievements. I look forward to seeing you there!

Friends, the world around us seems to become more chaotic and dangerous every day. Even as we secure equality for some in one place, justice and freedom threaten to be denied elsewhere. I call upon you, my sisters on the bench, to do all we can to wrap the open arms of the law around those who need it most, so that we may all live in a world free of violence, hunger, and fear.

Peace,

Hon. Leslie Alden, IAWJ President

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