

-Please Save the Date-

October 8, 2010

Conference on Ensuring an Independent and Diverse State Judiciary

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of South Carolina

The League of Women Voters invites you to a conference addressing the importance of an independent and diverse judiciary in South Carolina, and examining the impact that the judicial selection process has on reaching that goal. Please mark October 8th on your calendars. Additional information will be forthcoming. Contact Barbara Zia (ziab1@comcast.net) or Constance Anastopoulos (canastopoulos@charlestonlaw.edu) for more information. The conference is free to all. Register by October 5 at 803.251.2726 or angelwarren@msn.com.

Location: Charleston Museum Auditorium, 360 Meeting St., Charleston, SC

Date: Friday, October 8, 2010

Check-in: 12:30 PM

Conference: 1 PM until 5:30 PM

Reception follows at: Alluette's Jazz Cafe, 137 Calhoun St.

The program will open with our eminent keynote speaker addressing *The Impact of the Judicial Process on Citizens*. Several distinguished panels and speakers will then discuss:

Why Does Judicial Independence and Diversity Matter?

What Does a Fair and Balanced Judiciary Look Like?

How Does the Current South Carolina System Compare with This Model?

How Can We Achieve This Vision of a Fair and Balanced Judiciary?

Keynote Speaker: Hon. Rebecca Love Kourlis, Executive Director, Institute for the Advancement of the Legal Profession, University of Denver; former Justice, Colorado Supreme Court

Invited Participants Include:

Hon. Jean H. Toal, Chief Justice, South Carolina Supreme Court

Hon. J. Michelle Childs, Judge, U.S. District Court

Hon. David Weeks, Chair, South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus; Member, SC House

Hon. Gerald Malloy, Member, South Carolina Senate

Hon. Jenny Horne, Member, South Carolina House of Representatives; Past President, SC Women Lawyers Association

M. Dawes Cooke, Jr., Chair, SC Bar Commission on Judicial Independence and Impartiality

Barbara Williams, Editor Emeritus, The Post and Courier

Ciara Torres-Spelliscy, Counsel, Democracy Program, Brennan Center for Justice, NYU School of Law

Bert Brandenburg, Executive Director, Justice at Stake, Washington, DC

Elisabeth MacNamara, President, LWVUS

We hope that you will join us for what promises to be a lively and engaging event. The League of Women Voters continues to work to promote the importance of fair and impartial courts nationwide. The Conference will launch the South Carolina League's yearlong, statewide *Judicial Independence and Diversity Initiative*. During 2010-2011, the Leagues in South Carolina will focus on promoting diversity at all levels of the state judiciary to enhance the legitimacy of our system of justice in the eyes of an increasingly diverse public.

All stakeholders in a fair and impartial state judiciary are welcome as project co-sponsors. Co-sponsors to date: AARP SC, AAUW SC, Center for Women, Charleston Branch NAACP, Charleston School of Law, College of Charleston Women and Gender Studies Program, Common Cause of SC, Girl Scouts of Eastern SC, Girl Scouts of Mountains to Midlands, Justice at Stake Campaign, Riley Institute at Furman, SC NAACP, Southeastern Institute for Women in Politics.



This Conference is supported (in part) by a grant from the Transparency and Integrity Fund of the Open Society Institute and the League of Women Voters Education Fund.