

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Alaska Supreme Court Justice, Dana Fabe, elected President of the National Association of Women Judges

Alaska Supreme Court Justice Dana Fabe has been elected President of The National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), the nation's leading voice for women jurists. Justice Fabe has been an active member of NAWJ since 1988. In that time, she has served as District Director for the states of Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Alaska and Hawaii, On the Executive Committee as Projects Committee Chair, and President-Elect. She becomes the 30th President of the Association.

Justice Fabe was appointed to the Alaska Supreme Court in January, 1996 and is the first woman to serve on the state's high court. She was elected by her colleagues to serve two terms as Chief Justice, from 2000-2003 and again from 2006-2009. Prior to her appointment to the Alaska Supreme Court, she served as a Superior Court Judge in Anchorage, handling a complex civil litigation caseload on the trial bench. She was Deputy Presiding Judge in charge of the Civil Division and served as Training Judge for rural magistrates. Justice Fabe co-chairs the Alaska Supreme Court's Fairness and Access Committee and chairs the Alaska Supreme Court's Civil Rules Committee, its Commission on Judicial Outreach, its Law Day Steering Committee, and the Alaska Teaching Justice Network. Justice Fabe also serves as a member of the American Judicature Society's Advisory Council and currently chairs its Ethics Advisory Committee.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Justice Fabe received her bachelor's degree from Cornell University and her J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law. In 1976, she moved to Alaska to clerk for the Alaska Supreme Court. She served as a staff attorney for the Alaska Public Defender Agency from 1977-81, and in 1981, she was appointed by Alaska's governor to be Chief Public Defender for Alaska. She served in that capacity until her appointment to the bench.

Justice Fabe said, "Throughout its history, NAWJ has been steadfast in its mission of service—service to vulnerable populations, to each other, to our profession, to our communities, and, ultimately, to our nation as a whole. I have benefited personally and professionally from NAWJ's vision and commitment, and I've seen so many others benefit as well. This organization has given much to me, and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to give back."

NAWJ is dedicated to preserving judicial independence, ensuring equal justice and access to the courts for women, minorities and other historically disfavored groups, providing judicial education on cutting-edge issues, and increasing the numbers and advancement of women judges at all levels to more accurately reflect their full participation in a democratic society. Its members include federal, state, tribal, military and administrative law judges at both the appellate and trial levels from every state in the nation.

Justice Fabe's one-year term of office as NAWJ President began on October 18, 2009. For more on the National Association of Women Judges, visit the organizations website at [www.nawj.org](http://www.nawj.org).

### **EDITOR'S NOTE: For a personal perspective, Justice Fabe can be reached at:**

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