

NOTICE TO THE BAR

Notice to the Bench and Bar -- Survey of Perceptions of Race and Gender Issues in the New Jersey Courts -- Supreme Court Committee on Women in the Courts

The Supreme Court Committee on Women in the Courts is conducting a new survey of judges and attorneys regarding their perceptions of race and gender issues in the New Jersey court system.

The survey, the third in the past 25 years, is part of the Judiciary's continuing process of identifying areas of concern and tracking improvements in gender equality in the state's courts. The current survey is the first study by the Committee that seeks to understand the impact of both race and gender on judges and attorneys in New Jersey.

Judges and attorneys are asked to go to www.njcourtsonline.com/wicsurvey/ to log onto the survey. The target audience is judges and law clerks, and attorneys who have practiced in New Jersey courts, including attorneys in private practice, corporate counsel, prosecutors, public defenders, legal services attorneys, and attorneys in various state agencies.

The Judiciary's self-analysis in the area of gender bias began in 1982 with the appointment of the Supreme Court Task Force on Women in the Courts. Appointed by Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz, the task force was charged with investigating gender bias in the judicial branch and developing educational programs to help eliminate any such bias. Since then, New Jersey has led the nation in its efforts to ensure gender-neutral justice for litigants, attorneys, judges, court staff and others who interact with the courts.

The Task Force was succeeded in 1990 by the Supreme Court Committee on Women in the Courts, which was established to monitor the Judiciary's progress in achieving gender fairness and to make recommendations to the Supreme Court on ways to ensure that women are treated fairly in and by the courts.

The survey period will run from September 10 to October 31, 2007. Once the Committee receives the data, it will analyze the information and submit its findings to the Supreme Court for review.

Hon. Philip S. Carchman, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
Dated: September 10, 2007

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