



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

RESOLUTION

The membership of NAWJ calls on its allies and partners to join NAWJ in its sense of urgency and commitment to working towards a fair and effective juvenile justice system that offers girls the equal protection they are promised by law, including access to appropriate services and decision-making that is not biased by gender-stereotyping.

Submission Date: October 15, 2011

Submitted by: NAWJ District 4 – District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

Presenters to NAWJ Board and NAWJ Membership: Sandra Ann Robinson-New Jersey, Chair Resolutions Committee, and Committee Members: Honorable Stephanie Domitrovich-Pennsylvania, and Honorable Sara Welch-Kansas (Assistance on the Resolution The Honorable Dana Fabe-Alaska).

Location: NAWJ Annual Conference in Newark, New Jersey.

WHEREAS, a growing body of research has documented that girls and boys tend to present different pathways into the juvenile justice system;

WHEREAS, since their inception, juvenile justice system processes and programs have been informed primarily by the needs of boys because girls have been a numerical minority in the system,

WHEREAS, providing appropriate, individualized rehabilitative services requires attention to gender differences because girls frequently present needs, social histories, and offending patterns different from those of boys,

WHEREAS, girls of color are disproportionately represented at every point of contact in the juvenile justice system,

WHEREAS, NAWJ is committed to equal justice under the law for all persons, regardless of sex, and to providing leadership on gender bias and other fairness issues,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the membership of NAWJ calls on its allies and partners to join NAWJ in its sense of urgency and commitment to working towards a fair and effective juvenile justice system that offers girls the equal protection they are promised by law, including access to appropriate services and decision-making that is not biased by gender-stereotyping.

Mover: Honorable Cathy Hollenberg Serrette, Maryland

Second: Honorable Julie B. Weatherly, District IV Director

Approved by the NAWJ Board of Directors – October 15, 2011