



**Present a Community Forum--
JUDICIAL SELECTION IN SOUTH CAROLINA:
ENSURING QUALITY, INDEPENDENCE & DIVERSITY ON THE BENCH**

IN CELEBRATION OF CONSTITUTION DAY 2008

Wednesday, September 17

5:30 p.m. Reception

6:00-8:00 p.m. Panel Discussion

The Palmetto Club, 1231 Sumter Street, Columbia

Panel Members:

- Chief Justice Jean Hofer Toal, S.C. Supreme Court
- Sen. James H. Ritchie, Jr., S. C. State Senate (District 13 - Greenville, *Spartanburg* & Union Cos.); Member, S.C. Judicial Merit Selection Commission
- Barbara George Barton, Former SCWLA President and Ladder Group Chairman; Attorney
- John Freeman, Professor Emeritus, University of South Carolina Law School; Member, S.C. Judicial Merit Selection Commission
- I.S. Leevy Johnson, Attorney; Former Legislator
- John L.S. Simpkins, Professor, Charleston School of Law; Specialist in Constitutional Law and Diversity

Moderator: Constance Anastopoulo, Professor, Charleston School of Law; SCWLA; LWV/Charleston Area

Topics for discussion:

- ❖ How does the system of judicial selection in South Carolina compare with that of other states?
- ❖ Does the South Carolina system of appointment of the judiciary by a white male-dominated General Assembly provide equal opportunities for women and minorities to ascend to the bench?
- ❖ Does the selection process ensure independence of the bench?
- ❖ Why does it matter that independence and diversity be considerations in the judicial selection process?
- ❖ How can diversity be promoted in the South Carolina judicial system while ensuring a fair and independent judiciary?

This program is an initiative of the League of Women Voters Education Fund's Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary project. Generous funding has been received from the LWV Education Fund and the Program on Constitutional and Legal Policy of the Open Society Institute.

Co-Sponsors: The Alliance for Women; American Association of University Women of S.C.; Charleston School of Law; Columbia Business and Professional Women; Common Cause South Carolina; League of Women Voters/Columbia Area; South Carolina Bar; South Carolina State Conference of NAACP; University of South Carolina School of Law; Women in Law

Reception hosted by South Carolina Bar

FREE TO ALL * REGISTER BY SEPT. 10 * PARK FREE (behind and below building--Lady Street entrance)

For more information or to register, call SCWLA at 803. 447.1141 or email angelwarren@msn.com.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.