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*Press Contact: DONNA FROSCO, ESQ., WBASNY  
Phone: 212-362-4445, Fax: 212-721-1620,  
E-mail: [info@wbasny.org](mailto:info@wbasny.org),  
[www.wbasny.org](http://www.wbasny.org)*

**WBASNY Calls Upon President Obama to  
Nominate More Women to the Federal Judiciary**

*March 12, 2010. New York, NY.* The Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY) today issued a statement calling upon President Barack Obama to nominate more women to the federal bench. Noting the President's stated commitment to correct persisting inequalities for women and responding to a recent study concerning the gender gap within the judiciary, WBASNY urges the nomination of qualified women to fill vacancies in the Federal District Courts throughout the State of New York and to shatter the glass ceiling in upstate New York.

A copy of the Statement is attached.

The Women's Bar Association of the State of New York is the professional membership organization of choice for attorneys throughout the state. Its more than 3800 men and women members in all legal fields are committed to the Association's mission of the promotion of justice for women in the legal profession and of women, children and families in society, support of the fair administration of justice and to act as a unified voice for its members on issues of statewide, national and international significance to women generally and to women attorneys in particular. WBASNY also holds United Nations NGO status in association with the UN Department of Public Information and Special Consultative status in association with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

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Proclaiming March 2010 as Women's History Month, President Barack Obama committed his administration to correcting persisting inequalities for women and ensuring that our government does all it can to fulfill this country's promise of equal opportunity. The Women's Bar Association of the State of New York applauds that commitment and calls upon President Obama to strive toward that goal by nominating more women to the federal judiciary.

Although women comprise more than 50% of the population and more than 45% of law school graduates since the 1980's, we hold a mere 22% of federal judgeships. Throughout 49 counties of the State of New York – from Buffalo to Albany and from Plattsburgh to New Paltz – no woman currently serves as a District Court judge in the Northern and Western Districts of New York.

As recently noted in the *Report on Women in Federal and State-level Judgeships* conducted by the Center for Women in Government and Civil Society at the State University of New York at Albany, this gender gap cannot be attributed to a lack of women who are qualified to serve on the bench, but is the result of the lack of opportunity and access afforded to women. This lack of diversity needlessly calls into question our nation's promise of equal citizenship and undermines public confidence in the fairness of our judicial system.

Throughout New York State, eminently qualified female candidates stand ready to serve our country with distinction, if only afforded the opportunity to do so. As there are judicial vacancies in every Federal District Court in New York and on the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, that opportunity is available now. We urge President Obama to seize this opportunity to convert proclamations into progress and to shatter the glass ceiling in upstate New York by nominating more women to the federal judiciary.