

September 21, 2009

Members of all eight Kansas Leagues will convene in the Topeka Public Library, 1515 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, on October 17<sup>th</sup> to launch the first of many events in a two year campaign to enhance the legitimacy of our system of justice in the eyes of an increasingly diverse Kansas population. The event is open to the public and each League is encouraged to send written invitations to members of their respective communities. You are being invited by the Emporia League of Women Voters. Funding for the two year project, "Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: The Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary," comes through the LWVUS Education Fund with funding from the Transparency and Integrity Fund of the Open Society Institute.

Rebecca Love Kourlis, Executive Director, Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, will be a keynote speaker. She previously served as Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court for 11 years. Also addressing the assembly will be Ciara Torres-Spelliscy, Counsel for the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice which works on Fair Court and Campaign Finance Reform Projects. Completing the program will be two panels comprising Kansas attorneys, judges, law school professors, and members of judicial nominating commissions who will address the issues: Why Does Judicial Diversity Matter? How Can It Promote Confidence and Impartiality in the System? How Can We Achieve It?

The events will be held in Rooms B and C of the Marvin Auditorium.

9:30 Registration and coffee  
10:00 Welcome  
10:15 Rebecca Love Kourlis  
11:00 Break  
11:15 Panel: Why Does Judicial Diversity Matter? How Can It Promote Confidence and Impartiality in the System?  
12:00 Lunch (no charge, but reservations required)  
1:00 Ciara Torres-Spelliscy  
1:45 Panel: Why Does Judicial Diversity Matter? How Can We Achieve It?  
2:30 Adjourn

For reservations call Diane Kuhn, 913-631-9499, or email [dianekuhn@kc.rr.com](mailto:dianekuhn@kc.rr.com) or call Diana Solis, 620-342-8753 or email [djsolis@cableone.net](mailto:djsolis@cableone.net), by October 8<sup>th</sup>. We will car pooling from Emporia and if you are interested please contact myself.

We hope you can fit this event into your schedule.

Emporia League of Women Voters

Diana Solis  
President