



January 2024 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Newsletter  
<https://womensclearinghouse.org>

## Meeting Invitation: Reforming the Federal Judiciary: Expand the Supreme Court, Limit Terms, Restore Legitimacy

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 Noon – 1:00 PM

**Zoom Meeting Registration Link**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcscuusqTMuHNEp2K7Sy4bVHIYHW7T8k7IS>

Please share this invitation and join CWI. Meetings are public and free of charge.

Approval of the Supreme Court remains at [a historic low](#). This follows [polling last term](#) finding that about half of Americans view the Court unfavorably and would describe the Court as “corrupt” and “unaccountable.” The same proportion, 48 percent, said that the Court is making decisions to take away their freedoms.

In just the past two years, the conservative supermajority, led by justices placed on the Court by Donald Trump, has overturned laws on abortion, gun control, voting rights, affirmative action, executive power, and privileging religious views to permit discrimination in public spaces.

As [revelations](#) about certain justices receiving elaborate gifts and failing to report gifts and spousal income as required mount, the legitimacy of the Supreme Court has come into serious question. Despite public and congressional scrutiny, the Supreme Court remains resistant to adopting [an enforceable code of ethics](#).

Calls to reform the Court are growing louder. One change often suggested is to expand the number of justices, perhaps adding four more justices to the current nine. Another [possible avenue of reform](#) would limit justices' active terms to 18 years, rather than allowing for lifetime appointments. A Presidential Commission studied these and other options and [issued a report](#) in 2021.

In addition to support for reform at the country's highest court, there is increasing recognition that our system of federal circuit and district courts needs serious updating. Two speakers grounded in these concerns and possible solutions will speak at the Tuesday, January 23, 2024 CWI meeting.

**CHRIS KANG** - Chris Kang is Co-founder of Demand Justice (<https://demandjustice.org>) and former Chief Counsel of the organization. Demand Justice is an advocacy organization which aims to inform and empower citizens to fight for progressive change in our judicial systems. Chris serves on the Board of Advisors for the American Constitution Society and was [invited to testify](#) before the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court.

Chris served in the Obama White House for nearly seven years in key roles. He was Deputy Counsel to the President as well as Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs. Chris oversaw the selection, vetting, and confirmation of more than 220 of the president's judicial nominees—who set records for the most people of color, women, and openly gay and lesbian judges appointed by a president. In the Office of Legislative Affairs, as an advocate for the administration before Congress, Chris helped spearhead the confirmations of Supreme Court Justices Sotomayor and Kagan, the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, and passage of the Fair Sentencing Act, which reduced the sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine offenses.

Chris also served as National Director of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans and worked for U.S. Senate Democratic Whip Richard Durbin, of Illinois, as Director of Floor Operations, Judiciary Committee Counsel, and Counsel for labor issues.

The organization Chris co-founded, Demand Justice, is working to restore balance to the courts by reforming the Supreme Court, expanding the circuit and district courts, and championing new judges with experience as public defenders, civil rights lawyers, legal aid lawyers, and labor lawyers who represent working people. Demand Justice first endorsed Supreme Court expansion in 2018 and called for a freeze on the appointment of corporate lawyers to the federal bench in August of 2019. Demand Justice publishes an informative Daily Supreme Court News Briefing which reports on cases before the Court and related media coverage.

**REBECCA BUCKWALTER-POZA** - Rebecca Buckwalter-Poza is Aron Senior Justice Counsel at the Alliance for Justice. (<https://afj.org>). An advocate, attorney, and author, Rebecca is best known for successfully suing the forty-fifth president of the United States under the First Amendment with Columbia University's Knight First Amendment Institute.

A second-generation American and two-decade veteran of Washington, Rebecca has worked on progressive campaigns and policy projects on five continents, including as a Luce Scholar at Hong Kong's Asian Human Rights Commission and as Deputy National Press Secretary of the Democratic National Committee during President Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign.

Rebecca went on to direct access to justice project Making Justice Equal at the Center for American Progress, cover the Supreme Court and federal judiciary at NPR with Legal Affairs Correspondent Nina Totenberg, and originate the role of Judicial Affairs Editor at *Daily Kos*. She is a co-founder of *Prism*, a publication that elevates stories, ideas, and solutions from the underrepresented leaders, thinkers, and activists whose voices are critical to a reflective democracy.

Rebecca received her A.B. from Harvard College and her J.D. from Yale Law School. A student of military law who observed at Guantanamo, Rebecca clerked for the Honorable Margaret Ryan on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces as well as the late Honorable Juan R. Torruella on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

The next CWI meeting on Election Reforms is February 27, 2024 at noon on zoom.

## Summary of Oct 24, 2023 CWI Meeting on “The National Women’s Health Network with a focus on Mifepristone”

Kristen Batstone, the policy manager at the National Women’s Health Network, presented on a recent court decision and how it threatens the national availability of Mifepristone, one of two abortion pill medications for more than half of abortions in the US. Due to a stay issued by the Supreme Court, abortion pills are still available during judicial proceedings, but a similar decision from the Supreme Court could have a devastating impact on abortion access. Even if the Supreme Court sides with abortion advocates and upholds recent FDA guidance that allows Mifepristone to be dispensed through the mail and retail pharmacies, Mifepristone access is not guaranteed due to efforts to codify abortion pill bans at the state and federal level. Regardless of actions taken by courts and Congress, abortion pills will still be available by mail in all 50 states, even in states that ban abortion care. This presentation discussed how we got to the most recent 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals ruling, and where we go from here. More information on Kristen’s background is in the Oct. 2023 CWI newsletter meeting invitation.

[Kristen Batstone’s Mife presentation](https://nwhn.org/mifepristonecase2023/) was based on her August 2023 article: <https://nwhn.org/mifepristonecase2023/>

A Link for NWHN's statement on December 13 urging the Supreme Court to validate the safety of mifepristone as it prepares to hear oral arguments in *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine et al v. U.S. Food and Drug Administration*. <https://nwhn.org/the-nwhn-urges-the-supreme-court-to-validate-the-safety-of-mifepristone/>

In addition to Kristen Batstone's substantive information on mifepristone, the video of the meeting where we were also able to learn about the other critically important work of the National Women's Health Network from Denise Hyater Lindenmuth, Executive Director of the National Women's Health Network and Vice President for Women's Health at the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues and Laura Tucker, NWHN's Director of Development. This video recording of the CWI [Oct. 2023 Meeting: "The National Women's Health Network with a focus on Mifepristone"](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TZAqxjip4g) with Denise Hyater-Lindenmuth, Kristen Batstone, and Laura Tucker is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TZAqxjip4g>.

The National Women's Health Network was founded in 1975, as a consumer watchdog organization that changes the way the medical establishment listens to women. It has thousands of institutional and organizational members. A donation of \$25 also provides a 12 month membership and other benefits. Special topics of interest include: aging women, maternal health, sexual and reproductive health, abortion, contraception, disability, FDA advocacy, breast health, chronic conditions, LGBTQAI health, mental health and wellbeing, and the social determinants of health. NWHN also analyzes and supports bills and monitors appropriations related to women's health. It also provides many resources in its key topic areas on its website (NWHN.org).

## Arts and Culture Opportunities

### ART MUSEUMS

The National Museum of Women in the Arts reopened on Oct 21 with exhibition *The Sky's The Limit* (to Feb. 25, 2024)

Smithsonian American Art Museum presents *Composing Color: Paintings by Alma Thomas* (to June 2, 2024)

The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden will present an exhibit by Simon Leigh (to March 3, 2024)

The Baltimore Museum of Art exhibit *Work: Women Printmakers of the WPA*, (to June 30, 2024).

### THEATER

*Tempestuous Elements* (February 16 - March 17, 2024) at Arena Stage

is the story of Anna Julia Cooper. Born in slavery, the visionary Black feminist and educator in the late 19th/early 20th centuries, was only the fourth African American woman to earn a doctoral degree. The 11th in Arena Stage's Power Play cycle, *Tempestuous Elements* shines a light on Cooper's tumultuous tenure as Principal of Washington, D.C.'s historic M Street School where she fought to keep Black education alive, despite the racism, gossip and sexism that threatened to consign her efforts to obscurity.

*CWI's newsletter is endowed in loving memory of our previous longtime editor, Roslyn Kaiser*

*Newsletter edited by Sue Klein*

### CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2023- JUNE 2025

**OFFICERS:** Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Jan Erickson; Holly Taggart Joseph, Treasurer; Connie Cordovilla, VP Membership; Sheila Wickowski; VP Women and the Arts; Loretto Gubernatis; VP Media Outreach; Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Legal Affairs; Sherry Klein; VP Technology; Anne Martin, VP Organizational Management; Alotta Taylor, VP Diversity, Denise Hyater Lindenmuth, VP Women's Health



# Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Membership Form

<https://womensclearinghouse.org/>

The CWI membership year is: **July 1-June 30**. Multi-year and Gift memberships are encouraged and discounted! Please fill in beginning and end years (e.g. 2024-2027 for a 3-yr membership). Members will receive CWI newsletters and meeting announcements as well as other feminist news and event notifications. Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

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STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: H/W \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

OR

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

ORGANIZATION NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
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Organization website address (URL): \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME & EMAIL of Org. Rep.: 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME & EMAIL of Org. Rep.: 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Years Covered: 202- _____ (Check your Membership Type below.)				
	Individual	Organization	Young Adult (< 30 yrs. old)	Virtual (outside DC area)
One-year	\$25	\$40	\$15/yr.	\$20/yr.
Two-year	\$45	\$70	Gift Membership (insert information in individual or organization membership)	
Three-year	\$65	\$100		
<b>Membership Dues Amount:</b> _____ <b>Tax deductible donation:</b> _____ <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED =</b> _____ <b>Date of Payment</b> _____				

- Mail form & check to Connie Cordovilla, Membership Chair, CWI, 7439 Patterson Rd., Falls Church, VA 22043-1332; or
- Pay through PayPal, by selecting the desired membership option on our website's membership page <https://womensclearinghouse.org/membership/> & please send this form by mail to the above address or email it to MembershipChair@womensclearinghouse.org; or
- Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this completed form to a CWI meeting.