

# Women in Federal and State-Level Judgeships

A Report by the  
Center for Women in Government & Civil Society,  
Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy,  
University at Albany, State University of New York

Dina Refki, D.A.  
Abigya Eshete  
Selena Hajiani



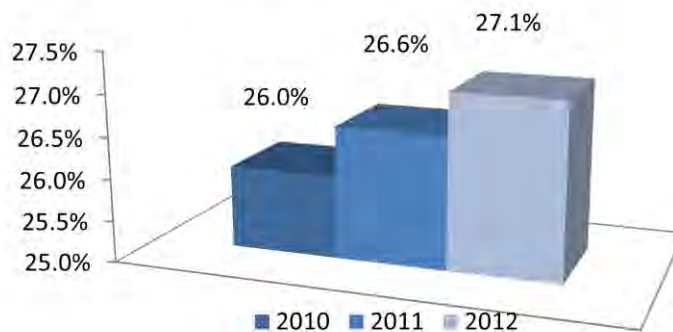
## Women Judges on the Nation's State and Federal Benches – 2012

- In 2012, women's share of seats on the nation's state and federal benches is at 27.1%, up from 26.6% in 2011 and 26.0% in 2010.
- Of the 19,334 judges on the nation's state and federal benches, 5,246 (27.1%) are women.
- Of the 17,462 judges on state benches, 4,796 (27.5%) are women.
- Of the 1,874 judges on federal benches, 451 (24.1%) are women.

**Percentage of Women and Men on Federal and State Benches, 2012**



**Percentage of Women on State and Federal Benches, 2010-2012**



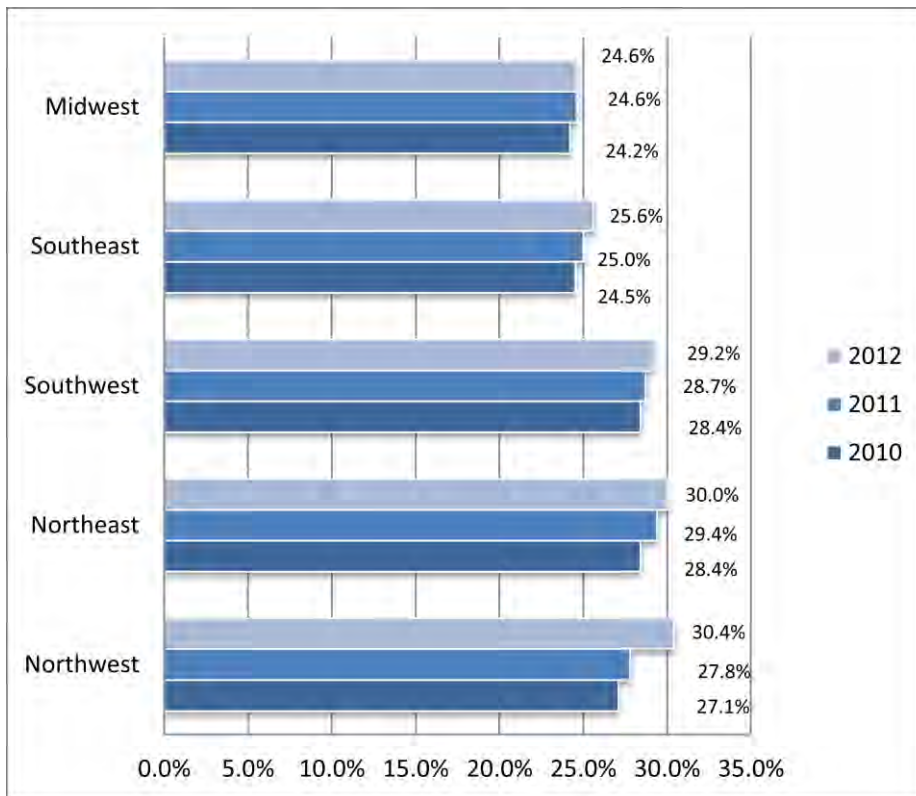
## Regional Variations in the Representation of Women on Federal and State Benches

- The share of women on state and federal benches was highest in the Northwest. At 30.4%, the Northwest ranked first among US regions in terms of the representation of women on state and federal benches.
- The Northwest was followed by the Northeast at 30.0%, the Southwest at 29.2%, and the Southeast at 25.6%
- The Midwest where women’s representation on state and federal benches is at 24.6% ranked last among all regions.

**Notes on Methodology**

This publication utilized existing data compiled by Forster-Long’s 2012 edition of *The American Bench*. We calculated the percentage of women represented in state-level judgeships, as well as those represented in federal-level judgeships located in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Based on the percentage of each level, states are ranked.

**All regions experienced gains in the percentage of women on state and federal benches over the last 2 years.**



- The rate of change has been highest in the Northwest, where women’s share of federal and state judgeships increased by 3.3%. The Northwest was followed by the Northeast where the rate of change was at 1.6%, the Southeast (1.1%) and the Southwest (0.8%). The Midwest experienced no change from its 2010 levels.

## Women and Men on State and Federal Benches, 2012

|                             | Women | Men   | Total | %Women |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| <b>Alabama</b>              |       |       |       |        |
| Total Federal               | 11    | 33    | 44    | 25.0   |
| Total State                 | 55    | 214   | 269   | 20.4   |
| Alabama Total               | 66    | 247   | 313   | 21.1   |
| <b>Alaska</b>               |       |       |       |        |
| Total Federal               | 2     | 11    | 13    | 15.4   |
| Total State                 | 13    | 57    | 70    | 18.6   |
| Alaska Total                | 15    | 68    | 83    | 18.1   |
| <b>Arizona</b>              |       |       |       |        |
| Total Federal               | 9     | 28    | 37    | 24.3   |
| Total State                 | 55    | 148   | 203   | 27.1   |
| Arizona Total               | 64    | 173   | 237   | 27.0   |
| <b>Arkansas</b>             |       |       |       |        |
| Total Federal               | 4     | 20    | 24    | 16.7   |
| Total State                 | 27    | 114   | 141   | 19.1   |
| Arkansas Total              | 31    | 134   | 165   | 18.8   |
| <b>California</b>           |       |       |       |        |
| Total Federal               | 55    | 132   | 187   | 29.4   |
| Total State                 | 528   | 1,366 | 1,764 | 29.9   |
| California Total            | 583   | 1,368 | 1,951 | 29.9   |
| <b>Colorado</b>             |       |       |       |        |
| Total Federal               | 6     | 17    | 23    | 26.1   |
| Total State                 | 94    | 223   | 317   | 29.7   |
| Colorado Total              | 100   | 240   | 340   | 29.4   |
| <b>Connecticut</b>          |       |       |       |        |
| Total Federal               | 8     | 13    | 21    | 38.1   |
| Total State                 | 99    | 302   | 401   | 24.7   |
| Connecticut Total           | 107   | 315   | 422   | 25.4   |
| <b>Delaware</b>             |       |       |       |        |
| Total Federal               | 3     | 7     | 10    | 30.0   |
| Total State                 | 14    | 41    | 55    | 25.5   |
| Delaware Total              | 17    | 48    | 65    | 26.2   |
| <b>District of Columbia</b> |       |       |       |        |
| Total Federal               | 7     | 15    | 22    | 31.8   |
| Total State                 | 41    | 66    | 107   | 38.3   |
| District of Columbia Total  | 48    | 81    | 129   | 37.2   |

|                 | Women | Men | Total | %Women |
|-----------------|-------|-----|-------|--------|
| <b>Florida</b>  |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal   | 26    | 81  | 107   | 24.3   |
| Total State     | 297   | 674 | 971   | 30.6   |
| Florida Total   | 323   | 755 | 1078  | 30.0   |
| <b>Georgia</b>  |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal   | 13    | 44  | 57    | 22.8   |
| Total State     | 244   | 582 | 826   | 29.5   |
| Georgia Total   | 257   | 626 | 883   | 29.1   |
| <b>Hawaii</b>   |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal   | 3     | 8   | 11    | 27.3   |
| Total State     | 22    | 54  | 76    | 28.9   |
| Hawaii Total    | 25    | 62  | 87    | 28.7   |
| <b>Idaho</b>    |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal   | 0     | 4   | 4     | 0.0    |
| Total State     | 16    | 122 | 138   | 11.6   |
| Idaho Total     | 16    | 126 | 142   | 11.3   |
| <b>Illinois</b> |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal   | 20    | 59  | 79    | 25.3   |
| Total State     | 268   | 699 | 967   | 27.7   |
| Illinois Total  | 288   | 758 | 1046  | 27.5   |
| <b>Indiana</b>  |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal   | 5     | 27  | 32    | 15.6   |
| Total State     | 83    | 325 | 408   | 20.3   |
| Indiana Total   | 88    | 352 | 440   | 20.0   |
| <b>Iowa</b>     |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal   | 3     | 17  | 20    | 15.0   |
| Total State     | 51    | 188 | 239   | 21.3   |
| Iowa Total      | 54    | 205 | 259   | 20.8   |
| <b>Kansas</b>   |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal   | 5     | 16  | 21    | 23.8   |
| Total State     | 49    | 212 | 261   | 18.8   |
| Kansas Total    | 54    | 228 | 282   | 19.1   |
| <b>Kentucky</b> |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal   | 5     | 26  | 31    | 16.1   |
| Total State     | 91    | 194 | 285   | 31.9   |
| Kentucky Total  | 96    | 220 | 316   | 30.4   |

|                  | Women | Men | Total | %Women |
|------------------|-------|-----|-------|--------|
| <b>Louisiana</b> |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal    | 14    | 37  | 51    | 27.5   |
| Total State      | 80    | 216 | 296   | 27.0   |
| Louisiana Total  | 94    | 253 | 347   | 27.1   |

|               |    |    |    |      |
|---------------|----|----|----|------|
| <b>Maine</b>  |    |    |    |      |
| Total Federal | 1  | 7  | 8  | 12.5 |
| Total State   | 17 | 54 | 71 | 23.9 |
| Maine Total   | 18 | 61 | 79 | 22.8 |

|                 |     |     |     |      |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| <b>Maryland</b> |     |     |     |      |
| Total Federal   | 8   | 22  | 30  | 26.7 |
| Total State     | 95  | 181 | 276 | 34.4 |
| Maryland Total  | 103 | 203 | 306 | 33.7 |

|                      |     |     |     |      |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| <b>Massachusetts</b> |     |     |     |      |
| Total Federal        | 7   | 18  | 25  | 28.0 |
| Total State          | 145 | 254 | 399 | 36.3 |
| Massachusetts Total  | 152 | 272 | 424 | 35.8 |

|                 |     |     |     |      |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| <b>Michigan</b> |     |     |     |      |
| Total Federal   | 10  | 40  | 50  | 20.0 |
| Total State     | 173 | 440 | 613 | 28.2 |
| Michigan Total  | 183 | 480 | 663 | 27.6 |

|                  |     |     |     |      |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| <b>Minnesota</b> |     |     |     |      |
| Total Federal    | 7   | 17  | 24  | 29.2 |
| Total State      | 108 | 215 | 323 | 33.4 |
| Minnesota Total  | 115 | 232 | 347 | 33.1 |

|                    |    |     |     |      |
|--------------------|----|-----|-----|------|
| <b>Mississippi</b> |    |     |     |      |
| Total Federal      | 2  | 27  | 29  | 6.9  |
| Total State        | 30 | 117 | 147 | 20.4 |
| Mississippi Total  | 32 | 144 | 176 | 18.2 |

|                 |    |     |     |      |
|-----------------|----|-----|-----|------|
| <b>Missouri</b> |    |     |     |      |
| Total Federal   | 9  | 29  | 38  | 23.7 |
| Total State     | 80 | 293 | 373 | 21.4 |
| Missouri Total  | 89 | 322 | 411 | 21.7 |

|                |    |     |     |      |
|----------------|----|-----|-----|------|
| <b>Montana</b> |    |     |     |      |
| Total Federal  | 0  | 10  | 10  | 0.0  |
| Total State    | 79 | 107 | 186 | 42.5 |
| Montana Total  | 79 | 117 | 196 | 40.3 |

|                 | Women | Men | Total | %Women |
|-----------------|-------|-----|-------|--------|
| <b>Nebraska</b> |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal   | 2     | 7   | 9     | 22.2   |
| Total State     | 26    | 113 | 139   | 18.7   |
| Nebraska Total  | 28    | 120 | 148   | 18.9   |

|               |    |     |     |      |
|---------------|----|-----|-----|------|
| <b>Nevada</b> |    |     |     |      |
| Total Federal | 4  | 17  | 21  | 19.0 |
| Total State   | 62 | 132 | 194 | 32.0 |
| Nevada Total  | 66 | 149 | 215 | 30.7 |

|                      |    |    |     |      |
|----------------------|----|----|-----|------|
| <b>New Hampshire</b> |    |    |     |      |
| Total Federal        | 1  | 4  | 5   | 20.0 |
| Total State          | 17 | 79 | 96  | 17.7 |
| New Hampshire Total  | 18 | 84 | 102 | 17.6 |

|                   |     |     |     |      |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| <b>New Jersey</b> |     |     |     |      |
| Total Federal     | 20  | 25  | 45  | 44.4 |
| Total State       | 119 | 337 | 456 | 26.1 |
| New Jersey Total  | 139 | 362 | 501 | 27.7 |

|                   |    |    |     |      |
|-------------------|----|----|-----|------|
| <b>New Mexico</b> |    |    |     |      |
| Total Federal     | 7  | 17 | 24  | 29.2 |
| Total State       | 28 | 74 | 102 | 27.5 |
| New Mexico Total  | 35 | 91 | 126 | 27.8 |

|                 |     |     |      |      |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------|------|
| <b>New York</b> |     |     |      |      |
| Total Federal   | 38  | 109 | 147  | 25.9 |
| Total State     | 374 | 811 | 1185 | 31.6 |
| New York Total  | 412 | 920 | 1332 | 30.9 |

|                       |     |     |     |      |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| <b>North Carolina</b> |     |     |     |      |
| Total Federal         | 3   | 30  | 33  | 9.1  |
| Total State           | 131 | 359 | 490 | 26.7 |
| North Carolina Total  | 134 | 389 | 523 | 25.6 |

|                     |    |    |    |      |
|---------------------|----|----|----|------|
| <b>North Dakota</b> |    |    |    |      |
| Total Federal       | 1  | 5  | 6  | 16.7 |
| Total State         | 11 | 51 | 62 | 17.7 |
| North Dakota Total  | 12 | 56 | 68 | 17.6 |

|               |     |     |     |      |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| <b>Ohio</b>   |     |     |     |      |
| Total Federal | 16  | 46  | 62  | 25.8 |
| Total State   | 180 | 542 | 722 | 24.9 |
| Ohio Total    | 196 | 588 | 784 | 25.0 |

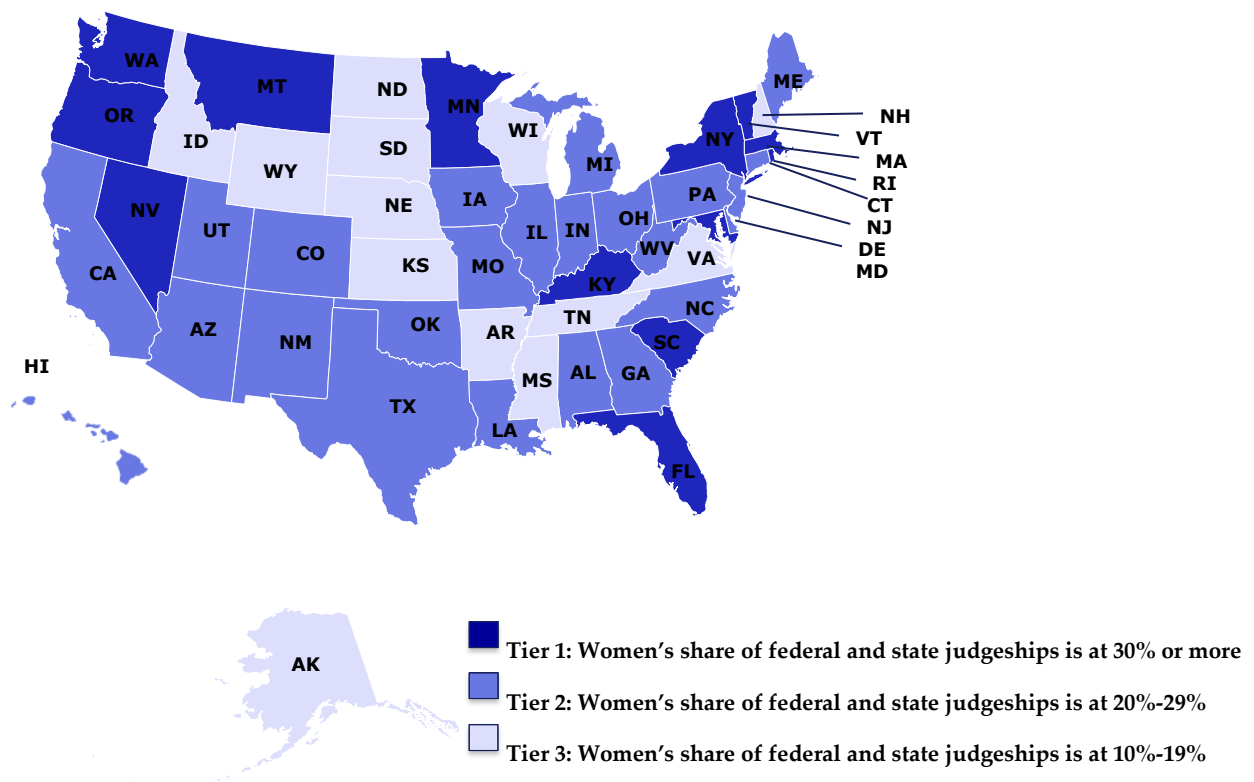
|                       | Women | Men | Total | %Women |
|-----------------------|-------|-----|-------|--------|
| <b>Oklahoma</b>       |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal         | 8     | 23  | 31    | 25.8   |
| Total State           | 57    | 216 | 273   | 20.9   |
| Oklahoma Total        | 65    | 239 | 304   | 21.4   |
| <b>Oregon</b>         |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal         | 6     | 19  | 25    | 24.0   |
| Total State           | 74    | 113 | 187   | 39.6   |
| Oregon Total          | 80    | 132 | 212   | 37.7   |
| <b>Pennsylvania</b>   |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal         | 22    | 74  | 96    | 22.9   |
| Total State           | 126   | 326 | 452   | 27.9   |
| Pennsylvania Total    | 148   | 400 | 548   | 27.0   |
| <b>Rhode Island</b>   |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal         | 1     | 8   | 9     | 11.1   |
| Total State           | 28    | 51  | 79    | 35.4   |
| Rhode Island Total    | 29    | 59  | 88    | 33.0   |
| <b>South Carolina</b> |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal         | 7     | 19  | 26    | 26.9   |
| Total State           | 53    | 108 | 161   | 32.9   |
| South Carolina Total  | 60    | 127 | 187   | 32.1   |
| <b>South Dakota</b>   |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal         | 1     | 11  | 12    | 8.3    |
| Total State           | 7     | 40  | 47    | 14.9   |
| South Dakota Total    | 8     | 51  | 59    | 13.6   |
| <b>Tennessee</b>      |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal         | 11    | 33  | 44    | 25.0   |
| Total State           | 31    | 153 | 184   | 16.8   |
| Tennessee Total       | 42    | 186 | 228   | 18.4   |
| <b>Texas</b>          |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal         | 32    | 90  | 122   | 26.2   |
| Total State           | 278   | 793 | 1071  | 26.0   |
| Texas Total           | 310   | 883 | 1193  | 26.0   |
| <b>Utah</b>           |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal         | 2     | 13  | 15    | 13.3   |
| Total State           | 25    | 86  | 111   | 22.5   |
| Utah Total            | 27    | 99  | 126   | 21.4   |

|                      | Women | Men | Total | %Women |
|----------------------|-------|-----|-------|--------|
| <b>Vermont</b>       |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal        | 2     | 3   | 5     | 40.0   |
| Total State          | 34    | 52  | 86    | 39.5   |
| Vermont Total        | 36    | 55  | 91    | 39.6   |
| <b>Virginia</b>      |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal        | 5     | 42  | 47    | 10.6   |
| Total State          | 85    | 322 | 407   | 20.9   |
| Virginia Total       | 90    | 364 | 454   | 19.8   |
| <b>Washington</b>    |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal        | 9     | 28  | 37    | 24.3   |
| Total State          | 116   | 219 | 335   | 34.6   |
| Washington Total     | 125   | 247 | 372   | 33.6   |
| <b>West Virginia</b> |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal        | 3     | 14  | 17    | 17.6   |
| Total State          | 29    | 92  | 121   | 24.0   |
| West Virginia Total  | 32    | 106 | 138   | 23.2   |
| <b>Wisconsin</b>     |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal        | 6     | 15  | 21    | 28.6   |
| Total State          | 42    | 222 | 264   | 15.9   |
| Wisconsin Total      | 48    | 237 | 285   | 16.8   |
| <b>Wyoming</b>       |       |     |       |        |
| Total Federal        | 1     | 6   | 7     | 14.3   |
| Total State          | 9     | 47  | 56    | 16.1   |
| Wyoming Total        | 10    | 53  | 63    | 15.9   |

## State Ranks Based on Women's Share of State and Federal Judgeships

- 13 states and the District of Columbia ranked in Tier 1 where women occupy 30% or more of federal and state benches.
- 24 states ranked in Tier 2 where women occupy 20-29% of seats on federal and state benches.
- In Tier 3 states, women occupied 19% and less of federal and state benches. 13 states are included in Tier 3.
- Montana ranked in first place with 40.3% of seats on federal and state benches occupied by women, while Idaho ranked last with 11.3%.

## State Ranks Based on Women's Share of Federal and State Benches



| Rank | Tier 1 States<br>Seats occupied by Women are at 30% and higher |     |       |      |      |
|------|--|-----|-------|------|------|
|      | Women  | Men | Total | %    |      |
| 1    | Montana  | 79  | 117   | 196  | 40.3 |
| 2    | Vermont  | 36  | 55    | 91   | 39.6 |
| 3    | Oregon   | 80  | 132   | 212  | 37.7 |
| 4    | District of Columbia   | 48  | 81    | 129  | 37.2 |
| 5    | Massachusetts  | 152 | 272   | 424  | 35.8 |
| 6    | Maryland   | 103 | 203   | 306  | 33.7 |
| 7    | Washington   | 125 | 247   | 372  | 33.6 |
| 8    | Minnesota  | 115 | 232   | 347  | 33.1 |
| 9    | Rhode Island   | 29  | 59    | 88   | 33.0 |
| 10   | South Carolina   | 60  | 127   | 187  | 32.1 |
| 11   | New York   | 412 | 920   | 1332 | 30.9 |
| 12   | Nevada   | 66  | 149   | 215  | 30.7 |
| 13   | Kentucky   | 96  | 220   | 316  | 30.4 |
| 14   | Florida  | 323 | 755   | 1078 | 30.0 |

| Rank | Tier 2 States<br>Seats occupied by women are at 20-30% |     |       |      |      |
|------|--|-----|-------|------|------|
|      | Women  | Men | Total | %    |      |
| 15   | California   | 583 | 1,368 | 1951 | 29.9 |
| 16   | Colorado   | 100 | 240   | 340  | 29.4 |
| 17   | Georgia  | 257 | 626   | 883  | 29.1 |
| 18   | Hawaii   | 25  | 62    | 87   | 28.7 |
| 19   | New Mexico   | 35  | 91    | 126  | 27.8 |
| 20   | New Jersey   | 139 | 362   | 501  | 27.7 |
| 21   | Michigan   | 183 | 480   | 663  | 27.6 |
| 22   | Illinois   | 288 | 758   | 1046 | 27.5 |
| 23   | Louisiana  | 94  | 253   | 347  | 27.1 |
| 24   | Arizona  | 64  | 173   | 237  | 27.0 |
| 25   | Pennsylvania   | 148 | 400   | 548  | 27.0 |
| 26   | Delaware   | 17  | 48    | 65   | 26.2 |
| 27   | Texas  | 310 | 883   | 1193 | 26.0 |
| 28   | North Carolina   | 134 | 389   | 523  | 25.6 |
| 29   | Connecticut  | 107 | 315   | 422  | 25.4 |
| 30   | Ohio   | 196 | 588   | 784  | 25.0 |
| 31   | West Virginia  | 32  | 106   | 138  | 23.2 |
| 32   | Maine  | 18  | 61    | 79   | 22.8 |
| 33   | Missouri   | 89  | 322   | 411  | 21.7 |
| 34   | Oklahoma   | 65  | 239   | 304  | 21.4 |
| 35   | Utah   | 27  | 99    | 126  | 21.4 |
| 36   | Alabama  | 66  | 247   | 313  | 21.1 |
| 37   | Iowa   | 54  | 205   | 259  | 20.8 |
| 38   | Indiana  | 88  | 352   | 400  | 20.0 |

| Rank | Tier 3 States<br>Seats occupied by women are below 20% |     |       |     |      |
|------|--|-----|-------|-----|------|
|      | Women  | Men | Total | %   |      |
| 39   | Virginia   | 90  | 364   | 454 | 19.8 |
| 40   | Kansas   | 54  | 228   | 282 | 19.1 |
| 41   | Nebraska   | 28  | 120   | 148 | 18.9 |
| 42   | Arkansas   | 31  | 134   | 165 | 18.8 |
| 43   | Tennessee  | 42  | 186   | 228 | 18.4 |
| 44   | Mississippi  | 32  | 144   | 176 | 18.2 |
| 45   | Alaska   | 15  | 68    | 83  | 18.1 |
| 46   | New Hampshire  | 18  | 84    | 102 | 17.6 |
| 47   | North Dakota   | 12  | 56    | 68  | 17.6 |
| 48   | Wisconsin  | 48  | 237   | 285 | 16.8 |
| 49   | Wyoming  | 10  | 53    | 63  | 15.9 |
| 50   | South Dakota   | 8   | 51    | 59  | 13.6 |
| 51   | Idaho  | 16  | 126   | 142 | 11.3 |



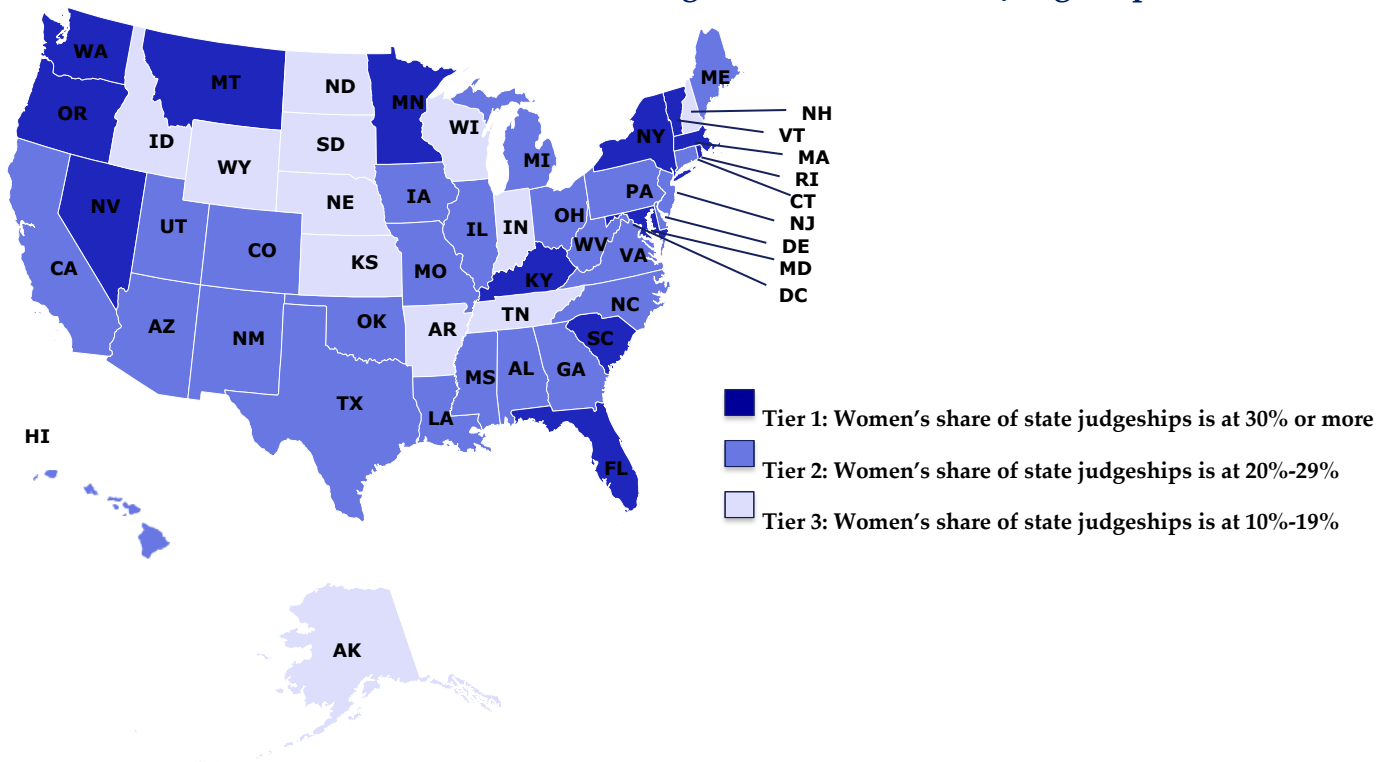
## Variations among State and Federal Judgeships

Taking a closer look at State and Federal benches separately reveals that women generally fare much better within State courts than they do in federal courts.

### 1. State Judgeships

- Of the 17,462 seats on the nation's state-level judgeships, women's share was 4,796 or 27.5%.

State Ranks Based on Percentage of Women in State Judgeships



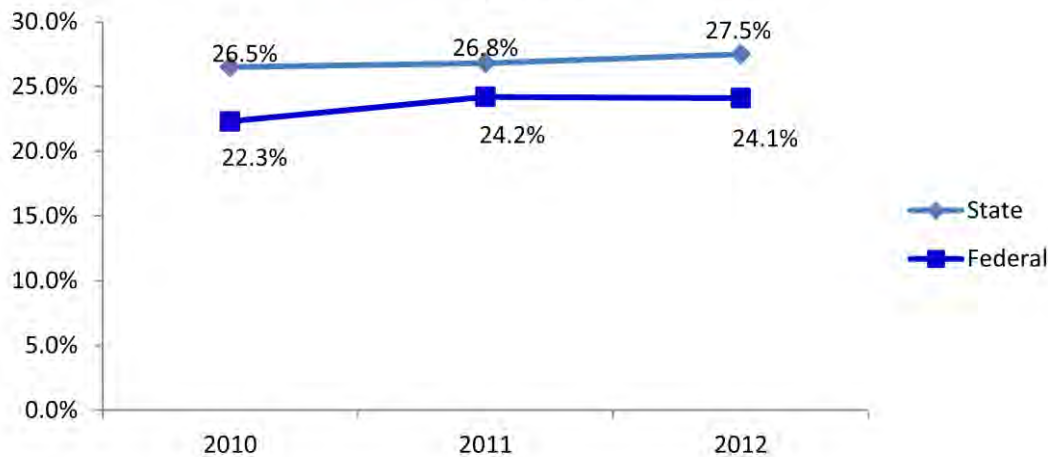


## Change in Women's Representation on State and Federal Benches

2010-2012

- There has been a consistent, yet slow, rise of women's representation on state benches over the last 3 years from 26.5% in 2010, 26.8% in 2011 and 27.5% in 2012.
- In 2010, women's share of federal judgeships was at 22.3% and was at 24.2% in 2011. In 2012, it dropped down to 24.1%.

Percentage of Women in State and Federal Level Judgeship  
2010-2012



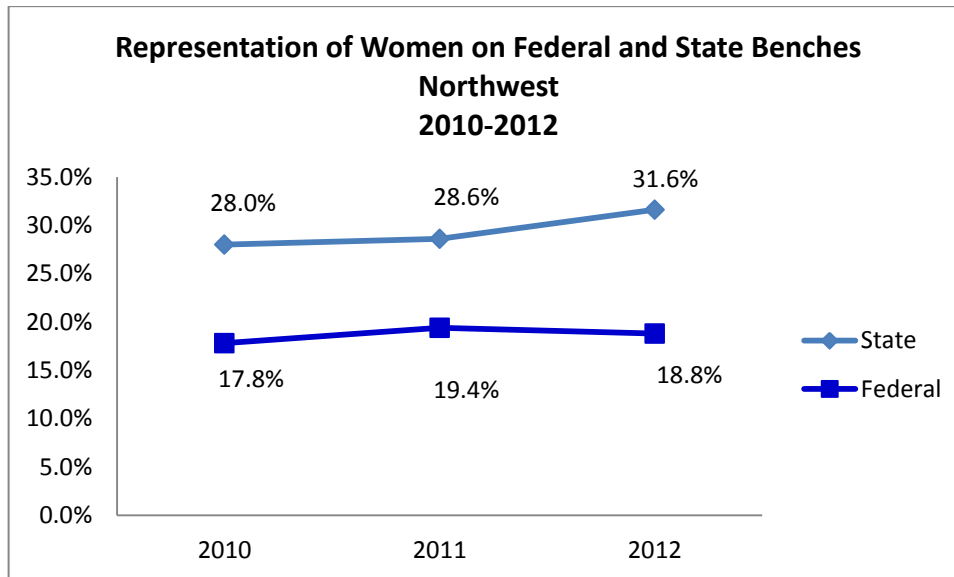
### Why Balanced Representation on the Bench Matters!

There is a critical need for gender (and racial) inclusion on the bench. Descriptive representation, or having judges who resemble the people they serve in descriptive characteristics such as gender and race, is imperative because it inspires trust, credibility and confidence in the judicial system. Descriptive representation makes a difference in the perception of the system and in whether people who have been historically marginalized and excluded are encouraged to access its protections, and feel that it will treat them equally and equitably. Additionally, a diverse bench strengthens the judicial system because women by virtue of their experiences as women bring different perspectives, different interpretations and varied applications of the law. Descriptive representation yields substantive representation.

## Regional Change Rates in Women’s Representation on State and Federal Benches 2010 – 2012

### 1. The Northwest

Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming



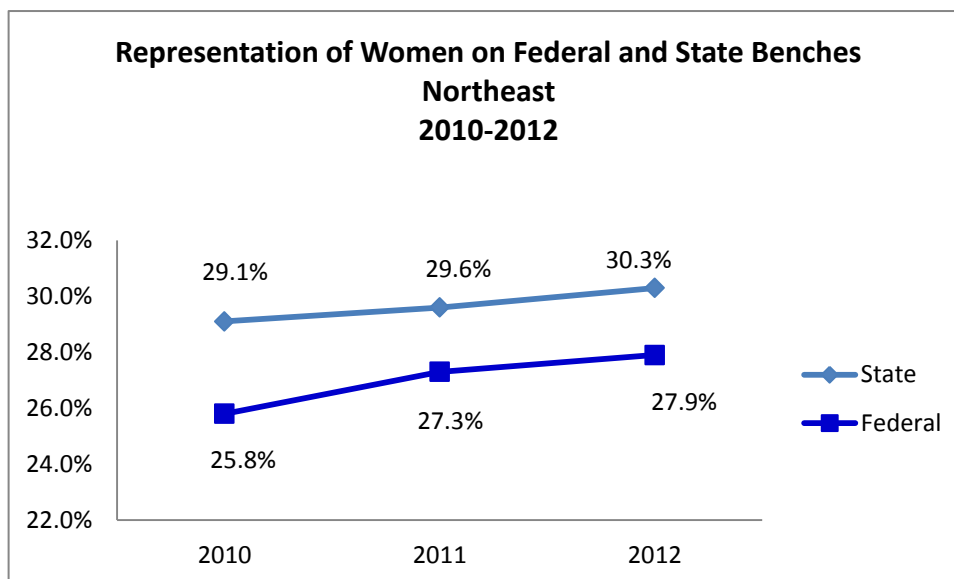
The overall rate of change in the Northwest in the last 2 years was a gain of 3.6% for State judgeships and 1% for federal judgeships.

Alaska experienced an increase of 8.7% in federal female judgeships from 2010, followed by Washington which gained 2.3% in female federal judgeships. Although ranked first in terms of having the highest percentage of female judges on the nation’s state benches, Montana had no federal judges since 2010. All other states in the Northwest experienced a decline in federal judgeships since 2010. In Idaho, the rate of the decline was 17%, while in Wyoming and Oregon, it was 5.7% and 2% respectively. At 24.3%, Washington State ranked first scoring the highest percentage of women federal judges in the region, followed by Oregon (24%) and Alaska at 15.4%

As for State female judgeships, the picture looks much better with all states experiencing growth in percentage with the exception of Alaska which lost 1.4% of its female state judgeships. In Oregon, the growth rate was 6.6%, followed by Montana at 6.5%, Washington at 3.6%, Wyoming at 2.1% and Idaho at 0.6%. Montana ranked first regionally with 42.5% of its state judgeships occupied by women, followed by Oregon (39.6%) and Washington (34.6%).

## 2. The Northeast

Vermont, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Delaware, and Connecticut



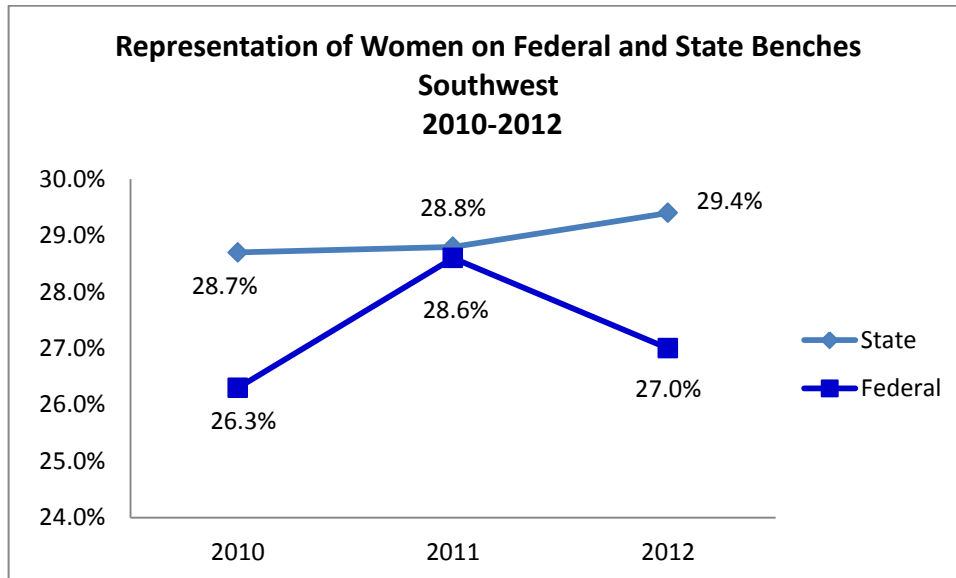
The overall rate of change in the Northeast in the last 2 years was 1.2% for State judgeships and 2.1% for federal judgeships.

New Hampshire and Vermont had the largest increase in federal female judgeships from 2010-2012, with 20% and 15%, respectively. They are followed by the District of Columbia (6.8%) and Massachusetts (6%). All other states in the Northeast experienced growth in its female federal judgeships. The growth in Delaware was at 3%; Maryland (2.7%); New York (0.9%); Pennsylvania (0.9%); Maine (0.5%); New Jersey (0.4%); Connecticut (0.1%) and Rhode Island (0.1%). At 44.4% New Jersey ranked first regionally in the representation of women on the federal bench, followed by Vermont (40%), and Connecticut (38.1%).

In state judgeships, Maryland experienced a 3.4% growth, followed by Maine and the District of Columbia with an increase of 2.9% and 2.3% respectively. The growth in Connecticut was 1.7%; Massachusetts (1.3%); New York (1.1%); New Jersey (1.1%); Pennsylvania (0.9%); New Hampshire (0.7%); and Delaware (0.5%). Rhode Island and Vermont experienced a decrease in state female judgeships of 1.6% and 0.5% respectively. At 39.5%, Vermont ranks first regionally in terms of its female representation on state benches; followed by the District of Columbia and Massachusetts at 38.3% and 36.3% respectively.

### 3. The Southwest

California, Hawaii, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico



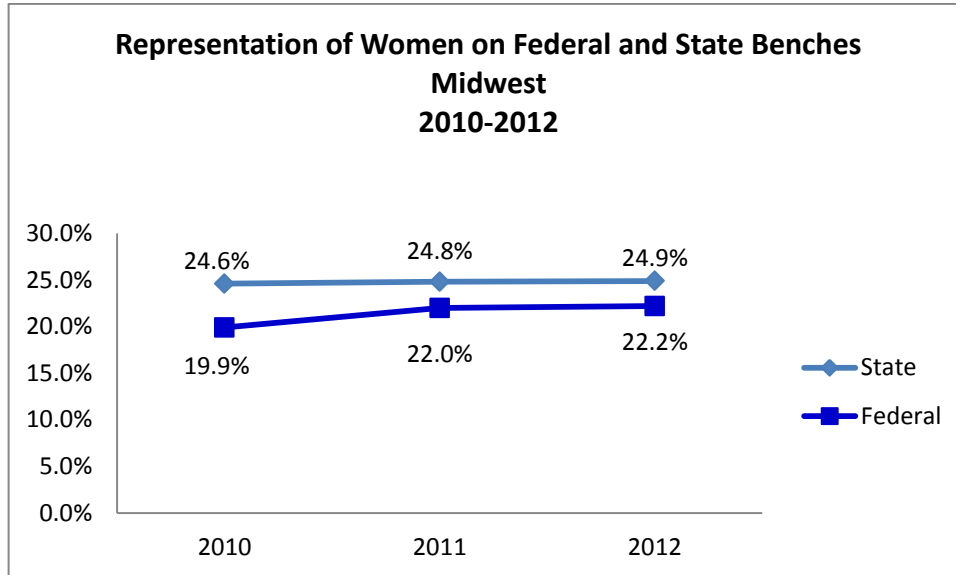
The overall rate of change in the Southwest in the last 2 years was a gain of 0.7 for female-occupied state and federal judgeships.

Utah experienced the largest drop in levels of representation of female judges on federal benches with 11.7% decrease from 2010-2012. Similarly, Arizona experienced a decrease of 1.7%. On a positive note, Nevada, California and New Mexico recorded increases of 4%, 2.4% and 2.2% respectively. Hawaii and Colorado also experienced increases of 0.3% and 0.1%. At 29.4%, California occupied first place regionally for the highest representation of female judges on federal benches, followed by New Mexico at 29.2% and Hawaii at 27.3%.

In state judgeships, Hawaii experienced a decrease of 6.1%, followed by Arizona and Utah with a decrease of 2.9% and 0.5% respectively. On the positive side, New Mexico gained in state female judgeship, while California and Colorado recorded modest gains of 1.9% and 0.7%. There has been no change in women's representation on state benches in Nevada in the last 2 years. Nevada ranked first regionally with 32.0% of its state judgeships occupied by women, while California and Colorado occupied second and third place at 29.9% and 29.7% respectively.

#### 4. Midwest

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Kentucky



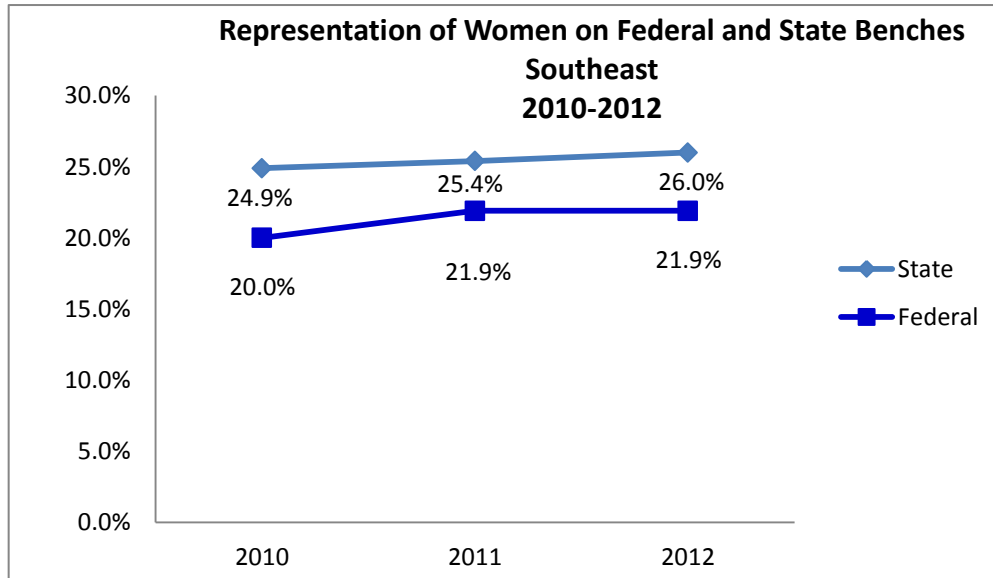
The overall rate of change in the Midwest in the last 2 years was 0.3% for State judgeships and 2.3% for federal judgeships.

North Dakota experienced a loss of 8.3% of seats on federal benches, while Minnesota lost 0.8% points from 2010. Nebraska gained a total of 12.2% percentage points, followed by Kentucky (6.1%), Indiana (5.6%), Kansas (3.8%), Iowa (3%), and Illinois (2.3%). Modest gains were experienced in other states in the region; Ohio (1.8%), South Dakota (0.3%), Wisconsin (0.6%), and Missouri (1.7%). The levels of women’s representation on federal benches in Michigan stayed at the same levels they were in 2010. Based on the share of women in federal judgeships in the Midwest, Minnesota ranked first with 29.2% of seats occupied by women. Minnesota was followed by Wisconsin at 28.6% and Illinois at 25.3%.

In state judgeships, 5 states in the Midwest recorded loses in the percentage of women; Iowa (-2.7%); Kentucky (-2.1%); Wisconsin (-0.9%); Indiana (-0.7%); and Illinois (-0.3%). On the positive side, Minnesota and Missouri both experienced a gain of 2.4% each. Kansas and North Dakota gained 1.8 and 1.7 percentage points respectively. Modest gains of 0.9% were recorded in Ohio and South Dakota, while Nebraska and Michigan recorded gains of 0.2% and 0.7% respectively. At 33.4%, Minnesota ranked first regionally with highest levels of representation of women on state benches, followed by Kentucky (31.9%) and Michigan (28.2%).

## 5. Southeast

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia



The overall rate of change in the Southeast in the last 2 years was 1.1% for State judgeships and 1.9% for federal judgeships.

South Carolina experienced the largest increase in federal female judgeships with 9.9%, followed by Oklahoma (7.8%); West Virginia (5.6%); Tennessee (4%); North Carolina (3.1%); Florida (2.3%); Alabama (2%); Arkansas (1.7%); Virginia (1.6%); and Texas (1.6%). Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi experienced losses in federal female judgeships. The largest loss of 4.1% points was recorded in Mississippi, while Louisiana lost 1.5% and Georgia lost 0.2%. In this region, the largest percentage of women on federal benches (27.5%) was recorded in Louisiana. In second and third place came South Carolina and Texas with 26.9% and 26.2% respectively.

In state female judgeships, Arkansas and Mississippi had the largest gains, with 3.1% and 2.4% respectively. Florida recorded an increase of 1.6%, while 1% gains in female state judgeships were recorded in both Louisiana and Texas, 1.9% in Oklahoma, and 1.7% in North Carolina. Modest gains were experienced in South Carolina (0.9%); Tennessee (0.8%); Georgia (0.5%); and Alabama (0.4%). West Virginia remained at its 2010 levels, and a modest loss of 0.1% was experienced in Virginia. With 32.9% of state judgeships occupied by women, South Carolina ranked first regionally, followed by Florida (30.6%) and Georgia (29.5%).



## About the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society

The Center for Women in Government & Civil Society (CWGCS) is part of the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, at the University at Albany, State University of New York. CWGCS is a cornerstone of women's leadership development, an academic research center, and a policy think tank, that generates knowledge and provides analysis on issues facing women.

**Statement of Purpose:** CWGCS advances excellence in public service; facilitates balanced leadership; and promotes gender-responsive public policy that is shaped by women's perspectives. The Center utilizes research, teaching, training and public education to accomplish its mission.



**ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE**  
**OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & POLICY**  
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY  
State University of New York

Center for Women in Government & Civil Society  
Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy  
University at Albany, SUNY  
Draper Hall, Room 302  
135 Western Avenue Albany, NY 12222

P: 518.442.3900 | F: 518.442.3877  
email: [cwgcs@albany.edu](mailto:cwgcs@albany.edu)  
[www.albany.edu/womeningov](http://www.albany.edu/womeningov)

