For Release: [DATE]   Contact: [NAME/EMAIL/PHONE]

Education critical to maintaining fair and impartial courts

[CITY] - A groundbreaking civics education campaign led by the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) addresses what organizers see as a growing gap in civic literacy in our nation. The "Informed Voters – Fair Judges" project highlights the role of courts in American society with a goal of helping voters understand their role in ensuring fairness and justice for all who enter the legal system.

The voter information campaign video "Fair and Free" features former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman appointed to our nation's high court and a leading advocate for civics education. Video available at: https://vimeo.com/84244168.

"In America, courts exist to protect people, resolve disputes and ensure fairness and justice for those who enter the legal system," Justice O'Connor explains in the video. "When voters support candidates based solely on the popularity of their past decisions, or how they might decide cases in the future, they create an atmosphere that undermines fairness, equality, and impartiality."

"A judge must stand apart from political and partisan ideas, and ensure each litigant's case receives a fair and impartial hearing, with a resolution based on the law. That is the foundation of the public's trust and confidence in the courts," said Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, a judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in Washington, DC and NAWJ President.

The 'Informed Voters – Fair Judges' project is a non-partisan voter education project developed to increase public awareness about the judicial system, to inform voters that politics and special interest attacks have no place in the courts, and to give voters the tools they need to exercise an informed vote in favor of fair and impartial courts.

Visit ivp.nawj.org to learn more about the Informed Voters Project or attend the presentation [INSERT INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL EVENT, INCLUDING CHAPTER, SPEAKER(S), LOCATION, DATE, TIME].

###

[SUBMIT A HEADSHOT OF THE SPEAKER]