

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

contact: Marcia McBrien | (313) 972-3219 or (517) 373-0129

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUDGE HILDA GAGE ELECTED TO NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LANSING, MI, August 30, 2002 – Hilda R. Gage, a judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), the Michigan Supreme Court announced today. The judge will serve a three-year term on the NCSC board.

The election results were released recently by the NCSC. NCSC directors are elected by the Council of State Court Representatives, which is composed of members of the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators. Founded in 1971 by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, the NCSC is a nonprofit organization that promotes justice through leadership and service to the state courts.

“Judge Gage’s election shows the high esteem in which she is held, not only in Michigan, but throughout the country,” said Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura Corrigan. “She is a recognized and respected leader of the national legal community.”

Gage said she was honored by the election. “Every day, the National Center for State Courts contributes to the pursuit of justice in our country,” Gage said. “I feel privileged to have been elected by my peers, and I hope my service on the Board of Directors will contribute to the Center’s mission.”

Gage has been active in the NCSC for over a decade. In 1998, she served on the editorial board of the NCSC’s Justice System Journal. From 1989-1994, she was a member of the Coordinating Council on Life-Sustaining Treatment Decisionmaking, which published legal guidelines for giving or withholding life-sustaining medical treatment. She has also served on various NCSC judicial education committees. In addition, Gage has been active in the American Bar Association, serving in the ABA House of Delegates and on a number of committees. In 1986, she became the first woman to chair the National Conference of State Trial Judges. She was also the first woman chair of the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission and the first woman president of the Michigan Judges Association. She has served as a faculty member and lecturer of the Michigan Judicial Institute, the Institute for Continuing Legal Education, and the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada.

Gage was a judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court from 1978 to 1998. From 1994 to 1996, she served as Chief Judge of that court. She was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals in 1997 by Gov. John Engler and was elected to the Court of Appeals in 1998 and 2000.

The judge, who has bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan, graduated magna cum laude from Wayne State University Law School. She has received numerous professional and community service awards, including the Roberts P. Hudson Award, the highest honor conferred by the State Bar of Michigan. In 1996, The Detroit News named her "Michiganiaan of the Year." Most recently, she was named to Corp! Magazine's list of "Michigan's 95 Most Powerful Women." Her community activities include serving on the Executive Board of Children's Hospital of Michigan, the Michigan Opera Theater Board of Trustees, and the Board of Directors of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (Michigan chapter).

Other new members elected to the NCSC Board of Directors include Judge Charles Riley Cloud of Norfolk, Virginia; court administrator Zelda M. DeBoyes of Aurora, Colorado; and Thomas A. Gottschalk, General Motors Executive Vice-President and General Counsel, of Detroit.

– MSC –

