

President  
**Karen S. Morris**  
San Antonio, TX

President-Elect  
**Jennifer A. Champlin**  
St. Louis, MO

Vice President  
**DeAnna D. Allen**  
Washington, DC

Treasurer  
**Peggy Steif Abram**  
Minneapolis, MN

Secretary  
**Kristin L. Bauer**  
Dallas, TX

Assistant Secretary  
**Gigi Rollini**  
Tallahassee, FL

Immediate Past President  
**Kristin D. Sostowski**  
Newark, NJ

Members-at-Large  
**April Boyer**  
Miami, FL

**Mary Card-Mina**  
Washington, D.C.

**Lindsay G. Carlson**  
Los Angeles, CA

**Cyndie M. Chang**  
Los Angeles, CA

**Kelly Clark**  
Northbrook, IL

**Paula Hinton**  
Houston, TX

**Elizabeth A. Levy**  
Cambridge, MA

**Leslie D. Minier**  
Chicago, IL

**Concepcion A. Montoya**  
New York, NY

**Sheila M. Murphy**  
New York, NY

**Sima Sarrafan**  
Redmond, WA

**Elizabeth Pagel Serebransky**  
New York, NY

**Julia Simon**  
Dallas, TX

**Eva M. Spahn**  
Miami, FL

**Mary-Christine Sungaila**  
Costa Mesa, CA

**Deborah K. Wright**  
Dallas, TX

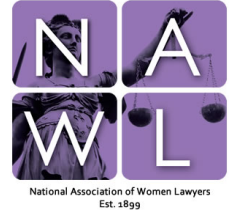
**Sandra S. Yamate**  
Chicago, IL

Executive Director  
**Karen M. Richardson**  
Chicago, IL

September 29, 2020

**Via United Parcel Service**

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510



Re: U.S. Supreme Court Nominee Judge Amy C. Barrett Hearings Timeframe

Dear Chairman Graham, Ranking Member Feinstein, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Founded in 1899, the National Association of Women Lawyers ("NAWL") is the nation's oldest professional organization devoted to the interests and progress of women lawyers and women's legal rights. As the voice for women in the legal profession and for the equality of women under the law, our history prompts us to express our objections to the timeframe that has been established for the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the nomination of Hon. Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Since 2005, NAWL's Supreme Court Committee has conducted a comprehensive review and evaluation of the qualifications of each nominee to the United States Supreme Court, with a specific focus on laws and decisions regarding women's rights or that have a special impact on women. At the conclusion of this process, the Committee publicly issues a summary evaluation, which includes a conclusion as to whether the nominee is Well Qualified, Qualified or Not Qualified. The opportunity to ensure that every nominee is accorded fair consideration is of the utmost importance. Following the nomination of Judge Barrett, NAWL's Committee immediately commenced its non-partisan evaluation process, which will proceed as expeditiously as possible, consistent with a thorough and fair review.

As we commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment establishing women's right to vote, we remain ever mindful of a history in which women's voices were not heard and their concerns were ignored. The Senate advice and consent process must allow sufficient time for thorough, unhurried, and unbiased consideration, and for a diverse variety of voices to be heard. This process is vital to the public's perception of the federal judiciary as a fair and independent arbiter of justice, and must not be rushed by political expediency, particularly where a lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court is at stake. We urge the members of the Senate to establish a timeframe consistent with prior nominations for the United States Supreme Court, which necessarily must be sufficient to allow for a complete evaluation of the nominee's background and credentials. Without doing so, the Senate cannot be properly and completely informed when fulfilling its critical responsibility to provide advice and consent.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Karen M. Richardson  
Executive Director, National Association of Women Lawyers

*The mission of NAWL is to provide leadership, a collective voice, and essential resources to advance women in the legal profession and advocate for the equality of women under the law. Since 1899, NAWL has been empowering women in the legal profession, cultivating a diverse membership dedicated to equality, mutual support, and collective success.*