

Dear Members,

Our total LAF Branch giving for the year 2006 was (insert). Our giving in 2005 was (insert). As you can see our donations have (increased, substantially stayed the same, or decreased.)What does this indicate?

For those branches that have increased: KUDOS to our branch. You have understood the mission and have been willing to support it generously. I appreciate the time, talent and resources you lent to making our LAF year the success that it was. We have many new plans in place for fund raisers this year. I am looking forward to your continued enthusiasm in making this year as successful as 2006.

For those branches that are substantially the same: GREAT JOB! You worked every bit as hard this year as last. I appreciate it immensely. I look forward to your continued support. Perhaps this year we will even be able to increase our giving by 5%.

For those branches that have decreased: Have we lost our dedication to the mission of Legal Advocacy Fund? If so, why? Do we understand the mission of LAF? Do we believe in it? If not, why not? Let's have a program highlighting LAF so that we can all learn about it. AAUW is all about education throughout our lifetime. Let's educate ourselves about LAF. Then we can decide how much our branch should be committed to supporting it. While awaiting our branch program, each of us can learn more about LAF by going to aauw.org/laf or aauw-nys.org.

For all branches:

The New Year has begun. As it is the time for making resolutions, let's resolve to learn more about AAUW LAF. As we learn, we will understand why it is important to give in support of its mission. I thought you might be interested in the following facts. While many cases have more than one key case issue, it is interesting to know the number of cases addressing specific issues. We have supported 44 litigants involving denial of tenure and promotion, 4 cases involving discrimination in the hiring process, 28 involving pay equity, 2 about pregnancy discrimination, 47 where retaliation was an issue, 25 cases of sexual harassment, 2 concerning terms and conditions of employment, 19 involving Title IX violations, 7 wrongful terminations, and 11 cases where discrimination claims were in addition to gender.

I often hear you ask about the cases within New York State. Ten colleges and universities in New York have had AAUW litigant supported cases. They are: Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, Columbia University (Two cases), Cornell University, Fordham University, Fulton-Montgomery Community College, Marist College, Mohawk Valley Community College, New York University, State University of New York at Buffalo (three cases), and Vassar. Interestingly enough the university with the greatest number of AAUW supported cases is the University of California at Davis with six cases. Stanford University in California is in second place with four cases.

This is just one area that your LAF dollar supports. Your money supports the Campus Outreach Program also. If you specifically designate the Evvie Currie Giving Circle, the funds remain in New York State for Campus Outreach Programs. LAF also awards the Progress in Equity Award. AAUW recognizes a college or university program that has resulted in significant progress for women on campus. March 15, 2007 is the deadline for this year's application.

A Second Choice:

The latest case to be adopted by AAUW LAF is the Potera-Haskins V. Gamble, Montana State University, et al. Robin Potera-Haskins was the former head coach of the women's basketball program since 2001. During her time there she transformed the team into a winning program. They became conference championships while maintaining a GBPA of 3.0 or higher. However, she was treated differently than the male coaches in the department. She was paid approximately 70% less than similarly situated male coaches. She was so compensated at a rate significantly less for media-related work. The male coaches were provided cell phones and cars for professional and personal use. She was not provided a cell phone for over a year. Two years elapsed before she was provided a car, and then it was only on a part time basis.

Throughout her time as head coach, she brought the unequal treatment between the men's and women's basketball teams including access to sponsorships, weight-training facilities, athletic trainers, and financial resources to the attention of senior officials.

She was given less autonomy over her team. The athletic director interfered with the schedule and structure of practices. He also pressured Potera-Haskins to place his daughter on the basketball team and provide her with an athletic scholarship even though she lacked the skills and qualifications to play at the Division I level.

Potera-Haskins objected and took her concerns to the president and vice president of student affairs. They took no action in regards to her complaint. She says that they told her to lower her expectations. Winning was not a high priority for the women's basketball team. Eventually the vice president told her that the athletic director would no longer interfere with any decision she made about his daughter. Five weeks later the daughter and wife of the athletic director complained to the vice president. In February 2004, the university officials considered the complaints without informing Potera-Haskins and decided to terminate her. She was replaced by a less qualified male coach.

July 1, 2005 she filed a lawsuit. AAUW LAF adopted her case in November 2006. To date, LAF has contributed \$5,000.