

## **GFIC: Call for Student Papers**

Welcome, Students!

The Minnesota Supreme Court's Gender Fairness Implementation Committee (GFIC) is planning a conference on October 27, 2009 to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the Report of the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force for Gender Fairness in the Courts. (Download a copy at: <http://www.mncourts.gov/?page=1842> ).

We very much want students to actively participate. As you are writing papers for your seminars, fulfilling writing requirements, or writing for publication in law reviews, please consider writing a paper under the rubric of gender fairness and the courts. Should you undertake to write a paper on a gender fairness topic, do be in touch with us. We would be delighted to put you in touch with people on or known to members of the GFIC committee.

Justice Lorie Gildea

For more information, see below or contact our subcommittee via this email address: [info@polishyourstar.com](mailto:info@polishyourstar.com).

**Call for Student Papers**  
**Submission Address**  
**Deadline for Submission**  
**Questions**  
**Criteria for Judging**

### **Call for Student Papers:**

All law students are invited to submit articles or essays they have written on a topic involving Gender Fairness in Minnesota. Four student papers, one from each of the categories covered in the report, will be selected by a panel of three judges including Justice Lori Gildea, Magistrate Jill Prohofsky, and a representative from each of the participating law schools.

The winning selections will:

- Be honored at the 2009 Supreme Court Gender Fairness Report Commemoration event on October 27, 2009;
- Be recognized and published, based on topic, in the following journals in Spring 2010 (see restrictions below):
  1. Domestic Violence – Hamline Journal of Public Law and Policy
  2. Family Law – University of Minnesota Journal of Law and Inequality
  3. Civil and Criminal Law – St. Thomas Law Review
  4. Court Room Environment – William Mitchell Law Review.

Please limit your paper to no more than 20,000 words, including footnotes. Papers may be set within the context of national, international or local gender fairness topics but must include analysis of implications for Minnesota's judicial system.

Winners will have the opportunity for publication in the journal corresponding to the topic, contingent on the quality of the paper. The publishing journal may, at its own discretion, choose to work with the winning author to bring his or her paper up to publishable standards. In addition, the submissions may not be previously published or currently submitted to any other journal. This does not apply to students who concurrently submit their paper to their own law school journal to satisfy a long paper requirement and for consideration for publication. In this case, the competition retains the right of first refusal with respect to publishing.

**Sample Topics:**

Here is a sample list of topics, by no means exhaustive, that may be written or reported about:

- Allocating child custody to batterers,
- Mediation for divorce,
- Effectiveness of Minnesota's new child support law,
- Gender-based differences in tort awards,
- Efforts to increase the gender diversity of the judiciary,
- Effect of the felony strangulation laws on femicides,
- Implementation of sexual assault laws and policies,
- Trafficking and immigration,
- Transsexual legal issues and
- Gendered nature of certain areas of legal practice.

**Submission Address:**

Please submit your paper to Julie Moore Rapacki at [info@polishyourstar.com](mailto:info@polishyourstar.com).

To aid in judging, please:

- indicate the topic under which you would like your paper to be considered in the email Subject line (family law, domestic violence, civil/criminal law, court room environment, or new topic.)
- include your contact and any personally identifiable or law school affiliation on the cover page and email only.

**Deadline for Submission:** October 15, 2009

**Questions:** Julie Moore Rapacki at [info@polishyourstar.com](mailto:info@polishyourstar.com).

**Criteria for Judging:**

**Significance:** Does the work address an important legal and social issue related to gender fairness in the Minnesota State court system?

**Originality:** Does the work make an original contribution to the topic? For example, does it reinterpret an issue, offer new solutions to a problem, or suggest new connections between areas of analysis? Does it draw on materials that shed new light on a topic? Does it offer a new perspective, solution, or approach to an issue?

**Presentation:** Is the scholarship factually accurate? Is the paper well written? Does the author address the issue using appropriate methodology, well designed to serve the author's purpose? Does the paper display appropriate depth of research? Does the paper place its analysis appropriately in the scholarly field?

**Persuasiveness:** Does the paper present a cogent defense of the position taken? Does it give appropriate attention to competing views? Does the author's argument persuade the reader?

**Impact:** Does the work present ideas that are applicable in practical contexts? Are the ideas useful to the educated reader?