



National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc.
Southern New Jersey Chapter
P O Box 4
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May 25, 2007

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the members of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Southern New Jersey Chapter, I am writing you to express our disappointment after reading an article by Michael Booth, published in the New Jersey Law Journal, May 14, 2007.

According to the article, the New Jersey Senate declined to grant tenure to Judge M. Christine Allen-Jackson, a Superior Court judge in Cumberland County, due to concerns raised about her competency.

In the article, Booth states that according to Senator Gerald Cardinale, R-Bergen County, "Judge Allen-Jackson scored poorly in each of five subject areas studied for internal reviews by a panel of Appellate Division judges." The Senate Judiciary Committee had been apprised of the contents of the review, which should have remained confidential. Based on the contents of the review, Senator Cardinale raised the same objection at a committee hearing previously, but the panel, nevertheless, recommended tenure.

Other senators voiced concerns about Allen-Jackson's poor ratings and there did not appear to be, among the senators present on Monday, the necessary 21 votes to confirm her re-nomination. As a result, Committee Chairman John Adler, D-Camden, withdrew Judge Allen-Jackson's name for consideration and said he would invite her before the committee for a supplementary hearing in the near future.

As residents and registered voters residing throughout Southern New Jersey, we urge you take action to encourage support of the only African American female judge in her vicinage. We believe that in order for our courts to truly represent truth and justice for its citizens, it must have representation that reflects the racial composition of the community. We have waited far too long to have a judge with Ms. Allen-Jackson's qualifications, particularly her lack of bias based on race and ethnicity. She is also known for courtesy towards attorneys and litigants who come before her. This, according to the article, merited her a score higher than eight on a scale of one to ten.

Our members pledge to monitor and speak out on any future proceedings of the Senate hearings regarding Judge Allen-Jackson, and we hope that you will encourage your colleagues in the Senate to grant her tenure.

Sincerely,

Lillie Wilson

President