



# EMPOWERED VOICES

Women Democrats of Sacramento County

Volume 1, Issue 2 – Second Edition

April - June 2023



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER OF OUR "NAME OUR NEWSLETTER" CONTEST!

**LEE MILLER**

Lee has been a member of Women Dems for two years. She serves as a CA Democratic Party Delegate for Assembly District 10 and she is on the board of directors for the Solar Rights Alliance. Lee has lots of interests and pursuits to keep herself busy. One of them has been working on changing fireworks policies for the city and county of Sacramento. Congratulations Lee on submitting our Newsletter title: "*Empowered Voices!*"

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Women Democrats of Sacramento County

P.O. Box 161944 ■ Sacramento, CA 95814

[www.sacramentowomendems.org](http://www.sacramentowomendems.org)



## A Year After Dobbs, California Leads in Protecting Women's Reproductive Health

By Eric Wiesenthal

On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down *Roe v. Wade* and 50 years of constitutional protection for the right to an abortion in its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson*.

At the time of the Court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*, 30 states prohibited abortions. In the wake of the *Dobbs* decision, 14 states now ban abortion with very limited exemptions.

See <https://states.guttmacher.org/policies/abortion-policies>.

California has reacted forcefully to protect women's rights in health care and specifically reproductive freedom. In response to questions to the Newsom administration, Julia Spiegel, who serves as Senior Advisor for Reproductive Rights issued the following statement:

"Governor Newsom has long championed reproductive rights. In the last year alone, the Governor launched an Alliance of 22 governors to protect reproductive freedom across the country, helped enshrine the right to abortion in the state constitution, and signed into law more than a dozen bills expanding access to care and protecting those who provide, access, and support that care.

The right to reproductive freedom is not bound by borders. That's why the Governor signed several laws aimed at ensuring anyone in California who needs reproductive health care can get it. And California is protecting medical and other data so that other states cannot reach into ours to try to prosecute those who come here to lawfully access reproductive health care."

One of the state's most important efforts is The Reproductive Health Initiative managed by the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI). Shelley Rouillard, who heads the program, is the former director of the Department of Managed Health Care.

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## Cynthia Baker:

### A Lifetime of Civic Responsibility

By Sandra Hazel

In a recent interview, Cynthia Baker recounted her mother's participation in the historic lunch counter sit-ins at Woolworth's and other department stores. In 1960, Baker, who was then a college student in her hometown of Savannah, GA, knew her mother was a civil rights activist joining others across the South, openly defying Jim Crow laws, including those banning Blacks from eating at the same places as white customers.



Her mother's commitment to community service and political activism was reinforced by teachers at the segregated junior high school Cynthia attended. It was there that she learned about the importance of voter registration. That same year, she witnessed a white store clerk refuse to help a Black man fill out a money order. Cynthia said she stepped in and helped the man complete the money order. In the mid-1950's, as a high school student, she also helped Black citizens register to vote – an act that cost some civil rights workers their lives.

Cynthia furthered her education at Savannah State College, studying to become a teacher. As a sophomore, she joined the Student National Education Association which focused on improving the education of Black students in the public schools. In her senior year, she was elected the state president of the Association and traveled to many cities speaking with state legislators in support of bills supporting public education.

After graduating college, Cynthia started teaching in Ft. Walton Beach, FL. After the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr in 1968, she moved to Sacramento with her husband and daughter. Baker taught in the San Juan School District for 26 years and was a member of the San Juan Teachers Association serving one term as its vice president. She played a key role in lobbying for public education and served as a contact for Congressman Vic Fazio and Senator Alan Cranston, both national leaders in the Democratic Party. She traveled to Washington, D.C. over 20 times to lobby in support of federal funds for education.

After retiring in 1996, Cynthia participated in several Democratic Party clubs in the Sacramento area, including the Town and Country Democrats. She has been a member of the Women Democrats of Sacramento County since 2017.



## SACRAMENTO WOMEN DEMOCRATS

### OUR INTERNS

#### Krystal Prasad

Hi! My name is Krystal Prasad and I'm one of the Social Media and Marketing interns for Women Dems. I currently attend Sacramento State as a general communications major with plans to graduate in Spring 2024. While I plan to work in the area of political and government communications, I would like to gain experience with nonprofit organizations before starting my career.

Since I was a child, I've always been interested in politics thanks to my parents. I learned about the Women Dems from my fellow interns. I had a warm welcome when I began interning and have felt like I'm a part of a team. I enjoy the contributions we make to the club and the experience we are gaining. I'm born and raised in Sacramento and live with my family. I have a dog named Pluto and like to get out in nature and hang out with my friends when I'm not busy with school or working.



Both Photos: (L-R)  
Krystal Prasad & Pendar Salemi

#### Pendar Salemi

I'm Pendar, a first-generation Iranian American from the Bay Area. I'm finishing my senior year at UC Davis as a political science major with a minor in English. I also work part-time for the California Department of Justice in their Press Office. In the fall, I'll be attending UC Davis Law School as part of the class of 2026. I'm hoping to achieve my goal of becoming a prosecutor addressing white-collar crime to ensure accountability in the corporate world.

As a minority immigrant woman, my interest in politics was sparked by my experiences and shaped by the patriarchal expectations and norms enforced by my culture. Witnessing the limitations imposed upon women within my community inspired me to pursue political advocacy for personal freedoms as a means to challenge and overcome these barriers.

By joining the Women Dems, I discovered a powerful organization where I can actively contribute to women's empowerment. It provides me with the opportunity to drive meaningful change, dismantle oppressive structures, and foster an inclusive and equitable society. I strive to create a future where everyone, especially women and minorities, have a voice. Let's work together towards a more equitable society. ❖

## A Year after Dobbs, California Leads in Protecting Women's Reproductive Health

Continued from page 1



Gov. Gavin Newsom talks at a news conference with workers and volunteers at a Planned Parenthood office near downtown Los Angeles in May. (Michael R. Blood / Associated Press)

The \$120 million initiative is part of a package signed into law in 2022 and is composed of five programs.

### Clinical Infrastructure (\$20 million)

HCAI is establishing and administering clinical infrastructure scholarship and loan repayment programs to expand the number of healthcare providers offering abortions, abortion-related care and reproductive health services.

Rouillard said, "These funds will go to health care professionals and students who agree to practice in reproductive health for between one to three years depending on the program. Its physicians, nurses, nurse midwives, licensed vocational nurses, registered nurses, and community health workers--the whole range of providers," she added.

### Capital Infrastructure (\$20 million)

This grant program will focus on enhancing physical and digital security infrastructure for health care facilities and reproductive health care practitioners who provide abortion-related care and reproductive health services in California.

### Uncompensated Care Fund and Abortion Practical Support Fund (\$60 million)

- The Uncompensated Care Fund (\$40 million) will provide grants to health care providers who deliver abortion and abortion-related care to very low-income individuals and do not have coverage for such services.

## Message FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Ms. Sandra Hazel

This edition of the Women Dems newsletter is dedicated to women's lives and our fight for reproductive rights! The "War on Women" is appalling. Laws are being enacted by states with reckless disregard for the wellbeing of women. How can anyone say they are "Pro Life" when that means a woman is likely to die of medical complications caused by a non-viable pregnancy? How is it acceptable laws are being created without sufficient input from medical experts while tying the hands of physicians providing care to their patients?



Roughly half the states across the country are throwing everything into laws banning abortion including murder charges, travel restrictions preventing women from going out of state for counseling or procedures, and bringing charges against physicians performing abortions while threatening to suspend their licenses. And keep in mind, the federal judge in Texas who ruled the Food and Drug Administration's approval of Mifepristone--one of two drugs necessary for medical abortions--was improperly approved and advocates the end of it being prescribed in the United States.

While we live in a relatively safe and sane state, we must not stand idle and remain silent as we witness what is happening to women across the nation. ❖

- The Abortion Practical Support Fund (\$20 million) will provide grants to non-profit organizations to help individuals seeking abortion care with the supports necessary to access abortion-related care. The fund covers people traveling within California and those from out of state. Practical support can include travel, lodging, childcare, food, etc.

### CA Reproductive Health Services Corps (\$20 million)

The Corps aims to recruit, train, retain, and financially support a diverse workforce of health care professionals who commit to providing reproductive health services, including abortion care, for at least three years.

Its focus will be on physicians who aren't trained in performing abortions or abortion-related care, such as those in family practice and internal medicine.

###

# TOWN HALL

## WITH REP. KATIE PORTER

Hosted by the Women Democrats of Sacramento County



By Linda Reed-Nikkel

Congresswoman Katie Porter, one of three candidates running to succeed retiring U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, was the featured speaker at a town hall meeting organized by the Women Dems on June 10.

More than 100 people gathered in the middle of Pride Weekend to be introduced to and ask questions of Porter, who won a very tough re-election campaign in Orange County.

As one of the more astute members of the House Oversight Committee, Congresswoman Porter often uses a whiteboard in committee hearings in her opening statements or questioning of witnesses. She was introduced by our President, Sandra Hazel using a whiteboard to highlight Porter's accomplishments as an attorney and a member of Congress

She spoke first about the challenges of being the only single mother with children in Congress. Porter also reflected on her current campaign and was gracious in her comments about Congressman Adam Schiff from Los Angeles and Congresswoman Barbara Lee from Oakland with whom she is competing for the Senate seat.

Porter also focused on her concerns about the lending practices and stability of financial institutions and a number of issues concerning large corporations, some of the key issues she has addressed as a member of the Oversight Committee.

Porter kept her remarks brief to allow more time for the question-and-answer session. Adults and students asked questions ranging from immigration and homelessness to environmental protection and climate change.

The event took place at St. Andrew's AME Church, the oldest African American church west of the Rockies, established in 1850.

Special thanks to Anna Ioakimedes, our Political Affairs Director, for working with the Porter campaign to organize the town hall. The Women Dems are working to arrange town hall meetings with the other candidates running for the Senate seat.

###

# Sacramento Women Dems Speaker's Series 2023



**Dr. Elizabeth Sherrell-Davis**  
Coordinator of Speakers Series  
Vice President of the Women Democrats of Sacramento County



## April

Our Speaker Series for April focused on Autism Awareness Month. Our guests were Dave Gaines, CEO of Sacramento Autistic Spectrum & Special Needs Alliance (SASSNA), and Christine and Dale Baquiran, parents of a child with autism.

Gaines described the services his organization provides to children and their families through case management, advocacy, social and recreational events, and resource assistance. He works with families assisting them to ensure their children receive educational services, government services, employment services and meeting other needs. You can visit their website: [SASSNA.org](http://SASSNA.org) to learn more about this organization.

Christine and Dale Baquiran provided a glimpse of their life as parents of a daughter who is on the autistic spectrum. As both a registered nurse and public health nurse, Christine recognized early indicators that their daughter's behavior might be autistic. Dale and she had to become advocates to be heard by doctors in addition to pushing to get the correct testing needed to properly diagnose their daughter. They shared not only some of the daily challenges that come with having a child with autism but also some of their greatest rewards as parents.



## May

Gun violence was our May Speaker Series topic. Our guests were Dr. Bill Durston, co-founder and President of Americans against Gun Violence, and Cynthia Shallit, member of Moms Demand Action and a member of Women Dems.

After retirement, Cynthia Shallit became interested in national politics in the aftermath of the Parkland high school shooting in February 2018. She became active in grassroots organizing and lobbying as the national chapters of Moms Demand Action focused on strengthening gun safety laws developed and enacted by state legislatures. The organization also supports candidates who advocate tougher gun laws and it petitions schools to educate parents on the proper storage of weapons in the home. For more information and action that you can take, go to their website: [momsdemandaction.org/act](http://momsdemandaction.org/act).

Dr. Bill Durston is a board-certified emergency physician who has treated innumerable civilian gunshot victims during a medical career spanning more than 40 years. Before becoming a physician, Dr. Durston served in combat with the U.S. Marine Corps during the height of the Vietnam War.

Continued on page 6



Cynthia Shallit



Bill Durston

## Speaker Series Cont'.

Dr. Durston's organization, Americans against Gun Violence advocates the following:

1. The enactment of stringent gun control regulations in the U.S., comparable to longstanding laws and regulations enforced in every other high income democratic country in the world, and
2. To overturn the 2008 Supreme Court's decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. The "Heller Decision" stated Washington D.C.'s partial handgun ban violated an individual's right to gun ownership according to interpretations of the Second Amendment. *Heller* was the first Supreme Court case to decide whether the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to bear arms for self-defense or whether the right is solely intended to service a "well-regulated militia."

For more information on Americans against Gun Violence, go to their website: [aagunv.org](http://aagunv.org)

## June

The June speaker series met with last minute cancellations of both speakers. The planned topics were Juneteenth and the impact of book banning and canceling diversity, equity, and inclusion and gender studies in schools. We hope to schedule this discussion in the near future.

We used our extra time to write postcards to young, democratic-leaning women in Ohio encouraging them to vote "NO" on Issue 1. This ballot initiative would change the threshold for approval of constitutional amendments from a simple majority to 60 percent of those voting. It would make it more difficult for future citizen-led amendments on issues including abortion access to pass. A total of 82 postcards were completed by approximately 24 attendees.

Great work everyone!!



Our "Ice Cream Social with a Glass 2023" was a terrific success! We had more than 65 people in attendance and Women Dems grossed just over \$10,000. These funds will assist with our mission of supporting local candidates. This was our most successful Ice Cream Social in the last five years and probably ever! And we can't say enough about the services of Rich's Ice Cream Catering. The tantalizing smell of those fresh waffle cones were hard to resist and the ice cream was so creamy and delicious.

Sandra Hazel, Women Dems President, welcomed the group, including local elected officials and candidates. Sacramento City Councilwoman Katie Valenzuela was our guest speaker and spoke from the heart sharing her vision of more love and unity in politics.

We had so many wonderful items for the silent auction, including Heidi Sanborn's Tahoe House Getaway, a subscription for two to the Sacramento Speakers Series, beautiful pictures of Yosemite National Park, Annette's fabulous French Dinner, and so much more. Thank you to our members and our event committee for getting these amazing items for the silent auction and thank you to everyone who bid on and won these items.

Thank you Pam Dominisse (Fundraising Director) and to the Ice Cream Social Committee: Anna, Dena, Linda, and Sandra and of course, Annette, who technically was not on the committee this year, but worked as though she was! A special thanks to Steve Reed and Bryan Stafford who helped with setting up and breaking down the event.

Thank you!  
TO OUR SPONSORS



## Women Democrats of Sacramento County is seeking volunteers to join our 2024 Endorsement Committee!

Endorsement Committee members have the opportunity to meet with candidates for local and state elected office and help determine which candidates Women Dems supports in the upcoming election.

The Endorsement Committee will review candidate questionnaires and participate in short Zoom interviews with candidates, including candidates for Sacramento City Mayor and the Assembly District 7 seat currently held by Republican Josh Hoover. This will be a very interesting opportunity to get involved!

In order to make endorsements and provide campaign contributions ahead of the primary, the Endorsement Committee will interview candidates and make recommendations to the club's Executive Committee in August and September of this year.

**CALIFORNIA'S  
PRIMARY ELECTION  
IS SCHEDULED FOR  
MARCH 5, 2024**



**JOIN OUR ENDORSEMENTS COMMITTEE**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, OR WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION, REACH OUT TO POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

**ANNA IOAKIMEDES AT  
ANNAIOAK@GMAIL.COM**

### The Historic Federal Climate Bills and You

By Edith Thatcher and Lisa Howard

Members, Sacramento/Roseville Chapter of the Citizen's Climate Lobby.  
CCL is a nonpartisan, non-profit, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change.

In 2021 and 2022, Congress passed significant climate change legislation and dedicated more dollars to fighting climate change than at any point in U.S. history. More than \$500 billion to counter climate change was included in three bills: the CHIPS and Science Act, the Infrastructure and Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The 2030 deadline imposed by these new laws could cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent from what their levels were in 2005.

Projects funded by this new legislation include building a system of nationwide charging stations for electric vehicles and incentives to encourage utilities to use non-fossil fuel energy sources. The new laws also will spur domestic "green manufacturing" leading to development and production of new technologies to capture alternative energy sources (wind, solar, etc.). There also are incentives for consumers to make their homes more energy efficient and subsidies for the purchase of electric vehicles.

There is still work to be done in Congress concerning permitting reform. Some concessions likely will have to be made to energy companies for new exploration. At the same time, however, the federal permitting process must be streamlined for construction of faster and more efficient transmission lines to bring electricity to where it is needed. There already are signs the three bills have begun stimulating economic growth and creation of good, well-paying jobs. The efficient use of electricity in private homes will help us achieve our climate goals. And permitting reform will enable a modernized and upgraded national power grid allowing the U.S. to move toward a healthier future assisted by renewable energy.

Contact your member of Congress or Senator urging them to support permitting reform and to complete funding for the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

- To learn more about the incentives included in IRA, use the calculator at [Rewiring America](#).
- To learn more about incentives for electric vehicles, go to: [Plug Star](#).
- To learn about the wide range of energy conservation and other consumer-oriented climate change measures, go to: <https://climateaction.ca.gov/>.



Photo: President Joe Biden signed Democrats' landmark climate change and health care bill into law in Wash., DC in April 2022. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

# The Republican War to Topple Female Freedom State-by-State

By Pat Lynch

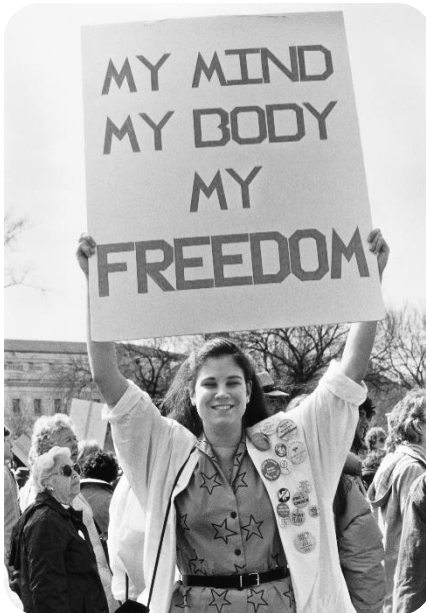
A good friend of mine, who moved from Sacramento to Missouri, has said that the 2018 election of Josh Hawley to the U.S. Senate was “a sign of the GOP anti-woman agenda.” We all remember Hawley saluting the noose-bearing insurrectionists on Jan 6th. Now Hawley’s book, *Manhood, Masculine Virtues America Needs*, displays his assertion that courage, independence, loyalty, and boldness are chiefly male attributes. Slated to speak in May at a conservative church “Manstravaganza” (where monster trucks and bull riding would be on display), Hawley likely was not queried about the video of him running away from the mayhem inside the Capitol on the very day he saluted it.

Another GOP manhood aficionado is Tucker Carlson, recently canned by Fox News. Carlson, who at one point complained about the ‘masculine’ appearance of the shoes worn by Disney’s Minnie Mouse, is marching in the GOP manhood crusade. He once invited a bizarre physical therapist to his show to promote a testicle tanning device. This was predicated on the belief that bronzed testicles are more manly. Nothing is too frivolous, possibly unhealthy, or weird for the Republican manhood cult.

While these comic cosmetic occurrences were ongoing, the GOP began its real work—obliterating female reproductive freedom. Abortion is now completely banned with very limited exceptions in Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

These states will be joined by others. While the GOP manhood doctrine thrives, women’s real reproductive rights and freedoms are being extinguished. In these states, female citizens are now subject to fascist dictums. These Americans can no longer make their own most deeply personal reproductive choices and punishments await those who try. Though they might be easily identified via DNA, no retribution awaits the men who participated in forced birth pregnancies.

Another anti-woman GOP crusade is the burgeoning war against no-fault divorce. Right wing podcaster Steven Crowder, who recently and publicly chastised his 8 months pregnant wife for not doing “wifely things,” leads this movement to make it harder for a woman to escape an oppressive marriage. Remember, no-fault divorce adoption led to “dramatic drops in the rates of female suicide and domestic violence, as well as decreased “spousal homicide” of women. (Tessa Stuart, “The Next Front in the GOP’s War on Women,” *Rolling Stone*, May 2023).



Finally, we have scowling Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida. Besides cruelly shipping immigrants to Washington D.C (as “a joke”), DeSantis is waging cultural war on what he calls the “woke mob”—gays, transgender citizens, and education itself. He doesn’t want a school system that performs well. He also doesn’t want Florida to turn out graduates who know the plain truth about history, sexism, structural racism, income inequality, threats to democracy, and forced religious observation. When you see a loutish, armed crowd raging outside a small library because it carries a copy of *The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison, you’re seeing DeSantis voters.

My friend in Missouri says, “You should care about this in California. The whole country’s at risk.” So, what we have here with “mansplaining” Josh Hawley, Tucker Carlson, Steven Crowder and Ron DeSantis is the Republican scheme to topple female freedom state-by-state.

They’re easy to ridicule now, but one day a right-wing Republican who frets about Minnie Mouse’s footwear could put your daughter in jail.

Pat Lynch lives in Sacramento and is an award-winning essayist. She also is a recognized author of short stories that have been published in four different anthologies. Her feature writing and numerous short essays also have appeared in *Parent Magazine* and the *Sacramento News and Review*.





# JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP



WOMEN DEMOCRATS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY



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WDSC General Meetings are held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Email for location.

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**Women Democrats of  
Sacramento County  
Executive Committee**

The Women Dems' elected officers, directors and members-at-large are committed to enhancing the cause of democracy within the County of Sacramento and beyond. They are hardworking volunteers and share a passion to enhance the WDSO organization and mission.

**Officers**

- President – Sandra Hazel
- Vice President – Dr. Elizabeth Sherrell -Davis
- Treasurer – Julie Chapman
- Secretary – Debbie Richardson

**Directors**

- Annette Emery, Membership Director
- Anna Ioakimedes, Political Affairs Director
- Pamela Dominisse, Fundraising Director

**Members at Large**

- Linda Reed
- Eric Wiesenthal

**Past President**

- Kate Van Buren

**Newsletter Committee**

- Debbie Richardson, Editor-in-Chief
- Eric Wiesenthal, Content Editor
- Sandra Hazel, President

WDSO has an email for the purpose of hearing from you. If you have any questions, suggestions, concerns or would like to be invited to any of our meetings, please feel free to notify us at: [sacramentowomendems@gmail.com](mailto:sacramentowomendems@gmail.com). Interested in writing an article for possible submission? Email [wdsocnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wdsocnewsletter@gmail.com).



Please join the  
**Women Democrats of Sacramento County**

***Not a Member? JOIN NOW!***

General Membership - \$35 per year  
Students and Seniors: \$30 per year  
VIP Membership - \$50

*Be a part of Sacramento's oldest political club!*

**WOMEN DEMOCRATS  
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

**The Women Democrats  
of Sacramento County:**

**★ Celebrating 70 years! ★**

Plans are underway for our 70th Anniversary Celebration in 2023 that will honor the organization's legacy as the oldest registered Democratic Club in Sacramento County! WDSO will also honor local elected officials, dedicated Members of the Legislature, key community partners, and trailblazing women. Details will be revealed soon; sponsorship is available. Email [sacramentowomendems@gmail.com](mailto:sacramentowomendems@gmail.com).



By Susan Holbrook

## Summer Reading Picks for Women's Rights



### **I Swear: Politics is Messier than My Minivan**

by U.S. Representative Katie Porter  
(Available on: Audible, Kindle, and Hardcover)

This book is written in lively style reflecting both funny and serious times in Congresswoman Porter's life. First elected in 2018 in a very conservative district in Orange County, she also highlights the fact she is the only single mother with small children serving in Congress. Porter often is chided for her progressive values by other House members, but has established herself by holding powerful men accountable in congressional hearings and other settings.

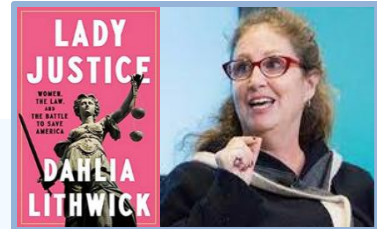
Porter has been an attorney and professor of law and is a native of Fort Dodge, Iowa. She currently is one of three House members campaigning to succeed Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who has announced her retirement set for the end of 2024.

### **Lady Justice: Women, the Law, and the Battle to Save America**

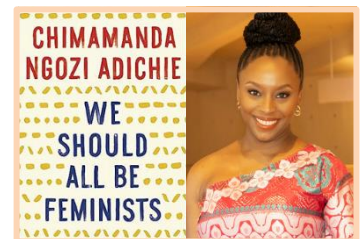
by Dahlia Lithwick  
(Available on: Audible, Kindle, and Hardcover)

Lithwick tells the gripping story of the women, who as attorneys, fought the racism, sexism, and xenophobia of Donald Trump's presidency – and won. It is a celebration of the tireless efforts, legal ingenuity, and indefatigable spirit of the women whose work all too often went unrecognized at the time.

She has been a legal commentator on MSNBC and brings her sense of humor to her writing while focusing the reader's attention on the federal court system, human rights, and specifically women's rights.



Dahlia Lithwick was born in 1968 in Ottawa, Canada. She is an attorney, writer, and journalist. Lithwick currently is a contributing editor at *Newsweek* and senior editor at *Slate*. She holds a bachelor's degree from Yale University, graduated from Stanford University, and was a clerk to one of the justices on the U.S. Court of Appeals – Ninth Circuit.



### **"We Should All Be Feminists" by Chiamanda Ngozi Adichie**

This Ted<sup>x</sup> Talk, available on YouTube, is about Women and Society. It was later published as an essay.

Adichie was born in the City of Enugu in Nigeria, Africa to an Igbo family. Her father, worked as a professor of Statistics at the University of Nigeria in Ugbu State. Adichie's education includes Eastern Connecticut University, Yale University and Johns Hopkins University. Her work includes novels, short stories and non-fiction.

In the Ted<sup>x</sup> Talk, Ms Adichie explains what the word "Feminist" means to her and how we all can use the lesson that standing up for oneself can actually make modern society better. Her message was, "We teach girls that they can have ambition, but not too much... to be successful, but not too successful, or they'll threaten men." In this absolutely brilliant and classic talk that started a worldwide conversation about feminism, Adichie asks that we begin to dream about and plan for a different, fairer world -- of happier men and women who are truer to themselves.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is an internationally acclaimed, best-selling author. Her novel, *Half of a Yellow Sun*, about the Nigerian Civil War, won the Bailey's Women's Prize, one of the world's most prestigious prizes for fiction. She also is a recipient of a MacArthur Foundation fellowship.

Susan Holbrook is a member of the Women Democrats of Sacramento County and National Women's Political Caucus. Ms. Holbrook is a retired freelance writer whose articles were nationally syndicated and also were published in major daily newspapers in California and Oregon. She also wrote for business and other magazines in both states, including Sacramento Magazine and San Francisco Magazine.