

July 2009

New Information

AAUW National Convention

Lilly Ledbetter, the face of pay equity, joined AAUW members for the entire 2009 AAUW National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, where she raised more than \$5,000 for the Legal Advocacy Fund by spending hours giving autographs. Not only did she sign hundreds of copies of the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* article about her life and the national convention, she also signed everything else members brought to her—from AAUW magazines to napkins. It was wonderful for members to get to know her personally and to learn of her commitment to AAUW, in particular to our work to protect women in the workplace.

Amicus Briefs

- **New Ruling:** On June 29, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a 5–4 opinion in favor of the firefighters in *Ricci v. DeStefano*. AAUW joined the National Women’s Law Center, in conjunction with the National Partnership for Women and Families, in signing an amicus brief in support of the city of New Haven, Connecticut. The case involved a firefighter promotion test that the city feared had a disparate impact on minority firefighters, so no promotions were made. A group of 20 white firefighters and one Hispanic firefighter sued New Haven for violating their Title VII employment rights. Read more on [AAUW Dialog](#).
- **New Case:** Also on June 29, AAUW joined the National Partnership for Women and Families and the National Employment Lawyer’s Association on an amicus brief for [Reeves v. C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc.](#), in support of plaintiff Ingrid Reeves. Reeves experienced daily instances of sexual harassment at C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc., where she was only one of two female employees at a branch in Birmingham, Alabama. Reeves complained several times about the harassment, but her grievances were ignored. She filed suit against her employer for hostile work environment sexual harassment under Title VII. The district court granted summary judgment to the employer, but the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals will rehear the case following a panel decision that reversed summary judgment.

Reminders

Sexual Assault on Campus Project: LAF is crafting a manual and a Program in a Box focused on campus sexual assault policies in collaboration with the AAUW Research Department, Harvard University law professor and Title IX expert Diane Rosenfeld, her students, and Students Active for Ending Rape. The materials will be released in fall 2009.

Title IX in High School Athletics Project: In collaboration with the AAUW Research Department and the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco, LAF plans to release a new tool kit and Program in a Box in the fall on Title IX enforcement in high school athletics.

Case Support: If you would like to make a case recommendation, please contact laf@aauw.org. Recommendation forms are accepted on a rolling basis.

Campus Outreach: If you would like to receive funding for an LAF Campus Outreach Program in your community, please fill out the form on the [campus outreach page](#) and send it to laf@aauw.org.

Online: For the latest LAF news, visit the AAUW website and [AAUW Dialog](#). The [LAF landing page](#) is updated several times a week to include links to news articles on relevant LAF issues.

Please consider making a [tax-deductible donation to LAF](#) to help balance the scales of justice for women.