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## 2011-12 International Women Judges Graduate Fellow Announced

Lisa Lomba

*Golden Gate University School of Law*, [llomba@ggu.edu](mailto:llomba@ggu.edu)

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**Media Contacts:**

Drucilla Ramey, Dean  
Lisa Lomba, Communications  
Golden Gate University School of Law  
Tel. 415.442.6600  
Email: dramey@ggu.edu or llomba@ggu.edu

Joan Winship, Executive Director  
International Association of Women Judges  
Tel. 202.223.4455  
Email: jwinship@iawj.org

## 2011-12 International Women Judges Graduate Fellow Announced

*Golden Gate University School of Law and the International Association of Women Judges  
Help Advance International Women's Rights through Landmark Fellowship Program*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Golden Gate University School of Law and the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) proudly announce the selection of their second annual International Women Judges Graduate Fellow, Ms. Njeri Thuku of Kenya. The International Women Judges Graduate Fellowship was created to advance issues involving international women's rights and the role of women in justice systems around the world. Each year, a woman jurist from a developing country is selected to pursue an individualized course of study and earn a graduate law degree at Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco. For the academic year 2011-12 GGU Law and IAWJ welcome Graduate Fellow and Resident Magistrate Njeri Thuku of Kenya.

The program is sponsored by Golden Gate University School of Law in partnership with the International Association of Women Judges, with generous financial support from attorneys Elizabeth Cabraser, of Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP and Robert Kaufman, former president of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and a partner at Proskauer Rose LLP.

"The Law School welcomes Magistrate Thuku and we look forward to learning about the Kenyan justice system from her and creating opportunities to link her into the Bay Area's international law and judicial community," says Drucilla Ramey, Dean at Golden Gate University School of Law.

Golden Gate Law and the IAWJ initiated this program in 2010 to advance international women's rights issues as well as women's roles in the judiciary by building strong, reciprocal relationships among women judges internationally. Each year, Golden Gate Law provides a selected woman judge with a full tuition scholarship as well as living expenses to earn a graduate degree. The IAWJ, which has vast experience and expertise in bringing international women judges to the U.S. for various kinds of educational programs and in conducting judicial education programs around the world, serves as a key partner in recruitment and networking efforts.

"The IAWJ is delighted to be partnering with Golden Gate Law School in this program. This is a wonderful opportunity for outstanding women judges from developing countries to earn an LLM degree and to network with women judges and the entire legal community in San Francisco and beyond." says Joan Winship, IAWJ Executive Director.

This year's Fellow, Magistrate Njeri Thuku of Kenya, begins a nine-month program of individualized coursework this month at GGU Law. Ms. Thuku is a Resident Magistrate in Kisii in southwest Kenya where she also serves in one of three Children's Courts. She received her Bachelor of Laws with a minor in Economics from Keele University-U.K., a Diploma in Law from Kenya School of Law, an Advanced Diploma in Human Resource Management from TEC Institute-Kenya (an affiliate of the Association of Business Executives, U.K.) and a Certificate in Mediation and Arbitration from the International Law Institute (in collaboration with Georgetown University-Washington, D.C). From 2002 to 2005 she interned at firms, gaining experience in civil litigation, company law and family law. In July 2005, she joined the bar and she joined the Kenyan Judiciary in July 2009. Her mantra is "the Judiciary is changing and I am a part of that change." Magistrate Thuku currently serves as editor and publisher for professional magazines and newsletters targeted to the judiciary. Passionate about giving a voice to the voiceless, she has helped train judicial officers in the Kenya Women Judges Association (KWJA) Jurisprudence Equality Program. In partnership with two other judges and a magistrate, Ms. Thuku prepared and presented a paper on 'Juvenile Justice' at the 6th Biennial Conference of the Africa Region of the International Association of Women Judges Conference held in Livingstone, Zambia in April 2011.

"Magistrate Thuku has a promising future in Kenya's judicial system. We are delighted with what she brings to the program, and optimistic about what the program might help her accomplish in the future," says Jon Sylvester, Professor and Associate Dean for Graduate Programs at Golden Gate Law.

As part of her coursework, Magistrate Thuku will participate in events related to her area of concentration as well as events to highlight the role of women in transforming the judiciary. Golden Gate Law will host small events to engage and educate the GGU Law community and local legal communities in a series of programs. Golden Gate Law and IAWJ will also provide ample networking and professional opportunities for Magistrate Thuku with the San Francisco legal community, state and federal courts, and with Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services (JAMS).

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