

# *Attorney General of the United States Janet Reno*

*Washington, DC*

Her personal and professional profile suddenly raised to national dimensions, Attorney General Janet Reno, the first female U.S. Attorney General, reflects the new prominence of women. "I hope I do the women of America proud," she said after her unanimous confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

When she raised her hand to lead the nation in the Pledge of Allegiance at the 1993 Independence Day celebration, she had already become a familiar face and voice to America.

Janet Reno has frequently faced microphones and cameras to address local, national, and international audiences. She is opening both the physical and symbolic doors to her office in a forthright, direct, and ethical manner earning the praise of the harshest critics. The nation has met a woman determined to confront problems head-on, at their source, particularly those of families and children.

President Bill Clinton appointed Janet Reno the Attorney General in March 1993, commenting, "She has devoted her life to making her community safer, keeping children out of trouble, reducing domestic violence, and helping families." In her keynote before

the ABA Segal Invitational Conference in April 1993, she stated, "I support passage of the Equal Remedies Act, to lift the damage caps for women, people with disabilities and religious minorities, in workplace discrimination cases ... passage of the Violence Against Women Act, which would extend the protections of the federal Hate Crimes Act to gender-motivated crimes .... We must all revitalize the Equal Pay Act and shatter the glass ceiling in employment ... Gender discrimination is another area that will require early attention." From 1978 to this appointment, Ms. Reno served as the State's Attorney for Dade County in Miami, Florida, appointed first by the Governor of Florida and re-elected to the office five times. A former partner in Miami-based law firm of Steel, Hector & Davis (1976-78), she is a former assistant state's attorney (1973-76) and Staff Director of the Florida House of Representatives Judiciary Committee (1971-72). She began her legal career in private practice in 1963.

Ms. Reno is the past president of the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association (1984-85) and former member of the American Bar Association Special Committee on Criminal Justice in a Free Society (1986-88) and ABA Task Force on Minorities and the Justice System (1992).

Attorney General Reno earned her A.B. in chemistry from Cornell University (1960), her LL.B. from Harvard University (1963).



ABA/Lauren Shay