Kagan joins Supreme Court bench

Almost exactly one year to the day after Justice Sonia Sotomayor was approved by the Senate to join the Supreme Court, Solicitor General Elena Kagan won confirmation by a 63-37 vote.

Kagan replaces Justice John Paul Stevens, who retired. At 50, she is the youngest member of the court in addition to being the third woman, joining Justices Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

Prior to her confirmation, Kagan served as U.S. Solicitor General, the first woman to hold the post. One of the country’s top constitutional and administrative law scholars, Kagan earned an A.B. in history from Princeton University in 1981. She received a Sachs scholarship and earned a master of philosophy at Oxford, before graduating from Harvard Law School, where she became supervising editor of the Harvard Law Review and clerked for the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. She later served as a professor at Harvard and became Dean of the Law School in 2003.

Kagan also taught at the University of (Continued on page 5)

Women candidates fare well in primary:
Republican women poised to make gains

If the number of women in the Missouri House increases in November, it will likely be due to gains by Republican women.

Fourteen Republican women House candidates are well-positioned for the General Election: Five are unopposed, three are incumbents seeking re-election, and six are running in open seats that are currently held by the GOP. If all of them win, the number of Republican women in the House will increase by four, to 14.

As many as 18 Republican women served in the House in the late 1990’s, when the party breakdown of female House members was even. But the number of Republican women has been declining steadily (dipping to nine in 2007 and 2009), even as the Republican party gained in strength, winning a majority in the House in 2001 and maintaining it ever since. This year, Republican women have an opportunity to increase their representation within the GOP delegation. If they succeed, it could also boost women’s representation overall.

Meanwhile the number of Democratic women has increased, peaking at 26 in 2006 and again in 2009. With women comprising over one-third of the Democratic delegation, they may make a case for leadership in their delegation. This situation is also true for the 12 Senate Democrats, if there are five women in the caucus. This increase in Democratic women’s representation coincides with declining party share for Democrats, making women a higher percentage of the Democratic delegation.

Overall, 65 of the 86 women running for state representative in the Aug. 3 Primary Election won their races and will advance to the General Election in November, a winning percentage of over 75 percent.

Of the 65, 22 were women incumbents seeking re-election (16 D/6 R). Five women won contested primaries for open seats but face no opposition in November (3 D/2 R). (Continued on page 3)
**NAMES IN THE NEWS**

**Trinidad and Tobago join list of countries with women heads of state**

In May, Kamla Persad-Bissessar became the first woman prime minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. An attorney, Persad-Bissessar leads the five-party People’s Partnership coalition. She is a former attorney general and interim prime minister, and was the first woman in each role.

**Hardwick elected chief judge**

Judge Lisa White Hardwick has been elected by her peers to serve a two-year term as chief judge of the Missouri Court of Appeals-Western District. Hardwick was appointed to the Court of Appeals in May 2001 after serving for a year on the trial court in Jackson County. Prior to joining the bench, she practiced law for 15 years and served seven years on the Jackson County Legislature. As presiding judge she will also serve as chair of the 6th, 7th and 16th judicial circuit commissions.

**Alabama set to elect state’s first female congresswoman**

Birmingham attorney and first-time candidate Terri Sewell, who won the July 13 Democratic runoff for the 7th Congressional District, is poised to become Alabama’s first black congresswoman. Sewell is the odds-on favorite to win the general election in the heavily Democratic district. A victory in November would make her only the second woman in Alabama elected to the U.S. House of Representatives: The first, Elizabeth Andrews, won a special election in 1971 to complete the term of her late husband but did not seek re-election in ’72.

**Long becomes first woman to lead a major U.S. intelligence agency**

Letitia A. Long became the first woman to lead one of the nation’s 16 intelligence agencies when she took her post as director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) on Aug. 9. Long is a former deputy director of Naval Intelligence, deputy undersecretary of defense for intelligence and, most recently, second in command at the Defense Intelligence Agency.

**Schweitzer upsets incumbent, elected circuit clerk**

St. Louis attorney Jane Schweitzer defeated a three term incumbent to be elected circuit clerk in the City of St. Louis. Winning the primary assures her the job as no Republican has filed for the November General Election.

Are you a woman in public life with news to share? Please e-mail dstock@umsl.edu or fax 314.516.6621.

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**Women Walk Before They Run: Sept. 12**

**Honorary Co-Chairs:** U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill & Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson

Join women and men from around the state on Sun., Sept. 12 as the Institute teams up with the Missouri Municipal League to show support for women’s leadership and the importance of civic engagement. Meet women elected officials, learn about opportunities to get involved in your community, exercise your body and your mind!

**Saturday, Sept. 12**

2:00 p.m. start
(check-in begins at 1:15)

Frontier Park, St. Charles

$20 registration ($25 after 9/3)
$15 youth

Proceeds will underwrite the 21st Century Leadership Academy, a week-long leadership program for college students focused on women’s leadership.

To register, visit [www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/forms/Walk-Registration2.html](http://www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/forms/Walk-Registration2.html)
Two women – both Democrats – overcame incumbents and are likewise unopposed.

The seven women without a November contest are obviously assured a victory. If history is any indication, the 22 women incumbents – who have the benefit of name recognition and a track record with voters - will be re-elected as well. Therefore, it is likely that at least 29 women will be sworn-in to the House in January (21 D/8 R), an estimate seven shy of the current number of 36 (26 D/10 R).

The “wildcards,” so to speak, are the open seats: seats where there is no incumbent seeking re-election. In open seat primaries contests, 12 women won to become their party’s nominee in seats currently held by their party: six are Democrats and six are Republicans. If they win their open seat contests, the number of women House members would total 41, topping the record of 40 set in 2001. The number of Democratic women in the House would increase by one, to 27, and the ranks of Republican women would swell to 14.

Will all 12 women win their open seat contests? Without a crystal ball, no one really knows, but the odds are in their favor assuming their party has a solid majority in the district.

Redistricting has the potential to impact the Senate as well, where primary results determined that the number of women will decrease by at least one in November. Kansas City Sen. Jolie Justus (D) won re-election and is without major party opposition in the General Election. Unfortunately, however, there were no women candidates to replace District 30’s term-limited Sen. Norma Champion, who succeeded Roseanne Bentley eight years ago.

In two contested St. Louis area races, the primary election confirmed the tendency for voters to continue to select women candidates when replacing a term-limited female incumbent. In the 14th Senate District, Rep. Maria Chappelle-Nadal (D) was chosen over 3 male competitors to succeed Sen. Rita Days (D). She is unopposed in November. In the 24th, term-limited Sen. Joan Bray (D), who succeeded two-term Senator Betty Sims (R) in 2002, may well be replaced by Democratic nominee Barbara Fraser. A win by Fraser will result in seven women Senators, down from the current number of eight (6 D/2 R).

At the federal level, Missouri Secretary of State Robin Carnahan won a three-way Democratic primary for the United States Senate. U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R) won her primary handily, and Republicans Robyn Hamlin and Vicky Hartzler won their party’s nomination to challenge incumbents in the 1st and 8th districts, respectively. In the only state-wide office on the ballot, Democrat Susan Montee won her primary contest while seeking re-election as Auditor in November.

For a complete list of women candidates running in November, visit: www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/cand_elections/2010General.html

Shear Fellows run for the legislature

Two graduates of the Institute’s 21st Century Leadership Academy were among the 86 women on the August Primary Election ballot.

Churie Spreng, a 2009 Shear Fellow from the University of Missouri–St. Louis, is the first Academy graduate elected to the State Legislature. She was unopposed in the Democratic primary for state representative of the 76th District (St. Louis County) and is unopposed in the General Election. Spreng succeeds her husband, Mike Spreng, who was term-limited out this year.

On the western side of the state, 2003 Shear Fellow and 2007 Amethyst Award winner Chyanne Lockhart-Cardarella garnered over 41 percent of the vote but came up short in her bid for state representative in the 52nd District. Chyanne is a past president of the League of Women Voters of Kansas City/Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties, and is a team leader in the Records Management Department for Pro Bono, Corporate and Business Litigation at Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP, a Kansas City law firm.

The first Shear Fellow to run for the legislature, Stephanie Bell, was defeated in the Republican Primary in 2006.

Two other Kansas Citians with Institute connections were successful in the Primary: Sue Shear Institute Board member and former Kansas City staffer Jean Peters-Baker was elected state representative in the 39th District. Like Spreng, Peters-Baker was unopposed in the Democratic primary and is unopposed in November. Also, Pipeline to Public Office alum Crystal Williams defeated the chair of the Jackson County Legislature to represent the 2nd District-at-Large.
In each newsletter, we will list women who have been recently appointed to public policy positions. Please let us know of other women who have joined the public policy process since April 2010.

Serving on a public board or commission is an excellent way to put your talents to use in public service without running for office.

If you are interested in serving on a board or commission, contact the Institute at (314) 516-4727 in St. Louis or (816) 235-1409 in Kansas City and visit our website at www.umsl.edu/~iwpl to complete a “Public Service Personal Profile” on-line.

For a list of boards and commissions in Missouri, visit the Governor’s website at http://governor.mo.gov/boards/.

Visit www.umsl.edu/~iwpl and click on “Talent Bank” to complete a Public Service Personal Profile and be added to the Talent Bank database, the Institute’s resource for appointment officials at the state and local levels.
FALL 2010 SHORT COURSE: WOMEN, GENDER AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Wednesdays, 7:00—8:15 p.m.
Student Government Chamber
Millennium Student Center (MSC)
University of Missouri—St. Louis

Taught by a diverse faculty of women political scientists, this five-part Wednesday night lecture series will explore various aspects of women’s political participation in the U.S. and abroad.

Sept. 15  “Quotas for Women in Politics”
Mona Lena Krook, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Washington University

Joyce Mushaben, Professor of Political Science, UM—St. Louis

Oct. 13  “The Impact of Identity on the Representation of Black Women Legislators”
Nadia Brown, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Saint Louis University

Nov. 10  “Voice Without Power: Women in Latin American Legislatures”
Leslie Schwindt-Bayer, Associate Professor of Political Science, Univ. of Missouri—Columbia

Dec. 1  “Women Presidents and Prime Ministers—A Global Perspective”
Farida Jalalzai, Assistant Professor of Political Science, UM—St. Louis

Fees: There is no cost to attend individual lectures. Enrollment in the short course is $50. Students will receive a packet of readings to coincide with each week, a parking permit, and a Provost’s Certificate at the conclusion of the semester. To register, visit: www.umsl.edu/~iwpl. For more info, call 314-516-6623.

(Continued from page 1)

Chicago, worked on Michael Dukakis’ 1988 presidential campaign, and was a legal and policy adviser in the Clinton White House. She was nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit in 1999, but never got a hearing in the Judiciary Committee.

Among the cases she will hear when the Court convenes on Oct. 4: Disputes over protests at military funerals, state bans on violent video games, and the death penalty.

Kagan’s nomination is one of the latest and highest profile judicial appointments made by the president. Overall, 46 percent of his judicial appointees have been women, including St. Louisan Audrey Fleissig who was nominated to serve on the United States District Court in the Eastern District.

Fleissig was unanimously confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 90-0 on June 7, 2010. Prior to her appointment to the U.S. District Court, Fleissig was a magistrate judge for the Eastern District of Missouri for nine years.

In addition to her judicial service, she was a federal prosecutor in the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District, and served as the Senate-confirmed United States Attorney for approximately one year.

Fleissig’s appointment puts her among the roughly 20 percent of federal judicial posts held by women. According to The American Bench: Judges of the Nation, a new report by Forster-Long Inc, women compose 26 percent of state judicialities, compared with 22 percent of the federal judiciary. The US Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit, based in St. Louis, is the least diverse in the country with only one woman judge (of 11).

At least 25 states have more women on the state bench than the federal bench in their state. Twenty states across the nation now have a woman serving as chief justice on their highest court. Five states have three or more women on their high court, including Missouri.

To learn more about the state of state judicialities, visit our website for a link to “Tipping the Scales,” written by Mark Curriden and featured in the July 2010 issue of the ABA Journal. 

Information for this story was obtained from various sources including cnn.com, abajournal.com and whitehouse.gov.
It is always exciting to receive “progress reports” from Leadership Academy alums, and we are proud to share their accomplishments with you! (Note: The number in parenthesis represents year of participation in the Leadership Academy.)

♦ Lisa Althoff  
Lincoln University (’99)  
Lisa was recently appointed by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon to serve as executive director of the Missouri Women’s Council.

♦ Caroline Erickson  
University of Missouri–Columbia (’07)  
Caroline graduated with her B.A., summa cum laude, in Political Science with a minor in Women and Gender Studies in May. She recently joined the Peace Corps staff as a rural community health advisor in Benin, Africa. She anticipates entering a graduate program in the U.S. when she returns in 2012.

♦ Holley Hansen  
Truman State University (’99)  
Holley is starting a one-year position as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Politics and Government at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. For the 2009-2010 academic year, Holley was a Visiting Professor of Political Science at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, PA, where she also served as the Director of the Women’s Studies Program.

♦ Paula Hodges  
Truman State University (’05)  
Paula recently left her position as statewide political director for America Votes-Missouri to become the Political Director for MO National Education Association.

♦ Maria Iliakova  
University of Missouri–Kansas City (’09)  
Maria has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Barcelona, Spain in the laboratory of Dr. Johannes Jaeger at the EMBL Centre de Regulación Genómica (EMBL/CRG).

♦ Debbie Irwin  
University of Missouri–St. Louis (’99)  
Debbie recently started a new job as Community Development Director in the Initiatives Division of the United Way of Greater St. Louis. She was previously the Foreclosure Intervention Taskforce Coordinator for Beyond Housing.

♦ Mary Virginia Moore Johnson, PhD  
Advisor, Southeast Missouri State University  
Dr. Johnson, a professor of business law at Southeast, has been appointed as the first faculty fellow for the Supreme Court of Missouri, a position she developed and proposed to the Court. Dr. Johnson is on sabbatical leave from SEMO.

♦ Paula Mihalcik, PhD  
Missouri University of Science and Technology (’00)  
Paula just accepted a new job as a program analyst for the National Guard Bureau in Washington, DC.

♦ Kelley Robinson  
University of Missouri–Columbia (’07)  
Kelley is living in Washington DC and working with Choice USA - a non-profit that promotes reproductive justice through youth based and community organizing.

♦ Churie Spreng  
University of Missouri–St. Louis (’09)  
Churie won the Democratic Primary for state representative in the 76th District and does not have a General Election opponent. For more about Churie and the election, see page 3.

♦ Heather Lasher Todd  
Truman State University (’01)  
Heather recently relocated back to the Washington, D.C. area, where she started a new position as Public Information Officer for the American Medical Association.

♦ Rachel Waldemer  
University of Missouri–Kansas City (’09)  
Rachel was one of 60 students awarded a Fellowship worth $5,000 by The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. She graduated in May with a bachelor of science degree with majors in Biology, Chemistry and Spanish. This fall she is starting the MD-PhD program at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign.

For more good news about Shear Fellows, their accomplishments and activities, visit umsl.edu/~iwpl/leadership/fellow-updates.html
For some, Leadership Academy becomes a family affair

You won’t find a more enthusiastic supporter of the 21st Century Leadership Academy than 2005 Shear Fellow Ann Chisholm. Except, perhaps, her granddaughter Jessie Chisholm.

Jessie was one of 35 Shear Fellows who participated in the 2010 program, held May 23-28, at UMSL. She is a junior political science major at UMSL, where she is also pursuing a certificate in Gender Studies.

Jessie’s Academy experience included discussions with women leaders, including a panel discussion entitled, “Women’s Empowerment in a Global Context” that featured two program graduates, 2008 Fellow Nabihah Maqbool and 2009 Fellow Lynn Mwaniki.

The Fellows also attended dinner parties hosted by Institute advisory board members and friends where they met women leaders in their fields, and debated HB 1613 related to the Safe Place for Newborns Act during a mock legislative session on the House Floor.

Always a highlight of the week, the Fellows joined community members at the Saint Louis Woman’s Club for a networking reception followed by dinner and keynote address by New York City Commissioner of Correction, Dora Schriro. This year’s dinner drew the largest crowd yet, with over 110 people in attendance.

Ann and Jessie are the first grandmother-granddaughter pair to go through the Academy, but they are not the only relatives to share the experience. Two sets of sisters have completed the program:

Grads pursue public interest work with help of new fund

Graduates of the 21st Century Leadership Academy can dream a little bigger with the help of the newly-created Nancy Siteman Fellows’ Fund.

Made possible by a generous gift from Nancy Siteman, the Fellows’ Fund provides limited stipends for Shear Fellows wishing to pursue public interest internships or activities that may be otherwise prohibitive because of cost.

Three Fellows were awarded stipends in June to help defray the costs of summer internships. 2010 Fellow Allison Coffelt (Truman State University) was one of 20 (out of 600 applicants) awarded a highly competitive unpaid internship with “Partners in Health,” a non-governmental organization in Boston, MA, that provides medical care and initiates community programs that promote education, prevention, agriculture and other tools to break the cycle of poverty; 2009 Fellow Rebecca Husney (Missouri State University), interned with Magnet Schools of America in Washington, DC; and 2009 Fellow Judith Rowland (Missouri State University), was a summer intern with Organizing For America, which encourages community organizing.

“The Academy gave me the tools I needed to hone my leadership abilities and to place my life experiences and education in the context of my future career in the public sector,” Rowland said. “I am very grateful both for the experience of the Leadership Academy and for the gift from the Nancy Siteman Fellows’ Fund."

We couldn’t have said it any better ourselves.

Shear Fellows and Advisors 2010

For complete bios of the 2010 Fellows, visit the Institute’s website at: www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/leadership/10-Fellows-Bios.html

Lincoln University
Marilyn Richardson, Advisor; Rhoda Bryan, Jessica Naugles, Brittany Stegeman, Ruth Turner

Missouri State University
Nora Cox, Advisor; Camielle Famous, Rachel Hassani, Ashley Moore, Lauren Terry

Southeast Missouri State University
Dr. Mary Johnson, Advisor; Sarah Ahmad, Megan Cripps, Brittany Gholson, Katherine Granger

Truman State University
Dr. Julie Lochbaum, Advisor; Vianey Beltran, Allison Coffelt, Ki’ara Cross, Jenny Johnson

University of Central Missouri
Dr. Shari Bax, Advisor; Emily Elam, Cassie Hayes, Amanda Sasek, Ali Weinel

University of Missouri-Columbia
Vicky Riback Wilson, Advisor; Nuzhat Chowdhury, Elizabeth Fracica, Bethany Henry, Ashleigh Bartlett, Amy Williams

University of Missouri-Kansas City
Brenda Bethman, Advisor; Amy Kuchar, Eve Lothhus, Jessica Mattingly, Kristen McMillen

Missouri Univ. of Science & Technology
Dr. Patti Fleck, Advisor; Lacey Ahlemeyer, Erica Shannon

University of Missouri-St. Louis
Dr. Farida Jalalzai, Advisor; Jessica Chisholm, Maria Gonzalez, Alexandra Tran, Rachel Watson

Faculty in Residence
Hon. Sue Schoemehl

Interns
Susan Jones
University of Missouri-St. Louis
Makita Abraham
Truman State University
Yes, I want to support the Institute’s mission in helping women participate fully in public policy decision making arenas. Please place me on your mail list for notice of upcoming events and to receive the Woman Watch newsletter.

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