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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chief Justice Abrahamson elected to lead nation's chief justices

Madison, Wis. (Sept. 1, 2003) – Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson, who has served on the Wisconsin Supreme Court since 1976 and has been chief justice of the seven-member court since 1996, is president-elect of the national Conference of Chief Justices. She will begin her one-year term as president in August 2004.

“I am delighted that my fellow chief justices selected me to serve as one of their leaders,” Abrahamson said. “The Wisconsin court system is, in many ways, a model for the nation and this honor recognizes the commitment of all the judges and court staff around the state who work on innovative solutions to the challenges that we face in providing justice for all people.”

The Conference of Chief Justices is a national organization that represents the top judicial officers of the 50 states and U.S. territories. Through the conference, the nation's chief justices share information and ideas, develop educational programs, and address issues such as improving services to people who choose to represent themselves in court. Abrahamson's election will raise the profile of some of Wisconsin's successful programs, including its initiatives to train and certify courtroom interpreters, improve access to court for people without attorneys, and enhance court-related education in high schools.

Abrahamson is well established as a national judicial leader. She serves on the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts and was chair of the National Institute of Justice's National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence.

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