

Advocacy Update

March 7 – March 11, 2011

Former FGCU Provost, Yegidis, seeks new trial (March 7) – Bonnie Yegidis, the former Provost at FGCU, filed suit in 2007 after she was forced to resign for, what she claimed, was raising concerns about sex discrimination at the school. In early February, a jury found in favor of FGCU. This week, Yegidis filed a motion for a new trial claiming that key testimony was disallowed in the previous trial. More information on the previous trial and verdict can be found in the [February 4th advocacy update](#). [Read more](#).

Economy not recovering for women (March 7) – Statistics are showing that since the U.S. economy started recovering in June 2009, men have been the beneficiary of job gains, while women continue to lose jobs. Since June 2009, men have gained 503,000 private-sector jobs while women have lost 141,000 jobs. Women also hold more state and local jobs that are being cut in efforts to reduce public spending and shore up state budgets. [Read more](#).

Gender equity is lacking in academe (March 9) – A recent study conducted by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley looked at gender equity in academe. Researchers measured equity on three levels: representation on the faculty, pay, and family formation. Although women receive more than 50% of the Ph.D.'s in the United States, women account for only 38% of faculty members. Additionally, women only receive 81% of the wages that their male counterparts make. Disturbingly, this percentage remains the same as it was in 1975-76. The study also revealed that among women who are tenured professors only 44% are married with children; 77% of male tenured professors are married with children. Researchers pointed to these numbers as a potential indication that, in order to achieve high levels of success in academe, women must sacrifice family life, while men do not. [Read more](#).

Richmond Community Schools, Franklin County, Union County and Fayette County schools being sued for gender discrimination (March 9) – In 2009, Franklin County girls basketball coach, Amber Parker filed suit against the school for allegedly discriminating against the girls basketball team in relation to the scheduling of games. Parker claims that the school and its opponents disproportionately scheduled the girls' games on weeknights when the boys' games on weekend nights thereby making it more difficult for the girls to complete homework assignments and maintain good grades. The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear the case. [Read more](#).