## Dear Magistrato Lendaro,

I am sending this e-mail first to introduce myself for we have not met yet: I am a retired judge who in 1992 founded the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), served as its first president and then as the Association's Executive Director. You may know that the IAWJ will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary in Washington, D.C. at its biennial conference from May 26 through 29, 2016, with more than 700 members already registered to attend. I am especially eager to have you and other members of the Associazione Donne Magistrato Italiane attend for your organization was one of the first to form when the IAWJ was founded and in fact, hosted the second and highly successful biennial conference in Rome. I worked closely with Justice Luccioli in those early days, and for a number of years thereafter, finding that under her leadership, ADMI clearly was one of the IAWJ's most active and successful members.

You will recall that several months ago you submitted an updated historical account of ADMI's activities during the past five years for a revised version of the IAWJ's history to be entitled, Twentyfive Years of Judging for Equality. As a co-editor, with New Zealand Supreme Court Justice Suzanne Glazebrook, I reviewed a number of histories provided by various national associations, but was especially impressed by ADMI's account of continued activity and success in bringing about change benefitting women judges. Because of ADMI's initiatives, determination and courage, I am convinced that you and your colleagues can make a unique contribution to the IAWJ's 25th anniversary celebration by inspiring others to seek changes that may alter not only the lives of women judges but all women in society. At every biennial conference, time is set aside

so that members from each continent can meet in caucuses to exchange ideas and discuss current problems. That is where I believe ADMI can make a great contribution.

I have missed seeing a number of my ADMI friends over the past few years, and hope that you and they will attend this conference to seize this opportunity to have a meaningful impact on women judges worldwide.

With all best wishes,

## **Arline Pacht**

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PS Please send my warmest greetings to Magistrada Luccioli.