



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, New York State marks the 36<sup>th</sup> annual nationwide observance of Women's History Month, celebrated throughout March, and takes this opportunity to recognize extraordinary women who have made history, setting new standards and precedents through impressive accomplishments within their respective areas of professional, social, political, or cultural endeavor; and

**Whereas**, in New York State, we celebrate Women's History Month 2016 with a special display in the State Capitol which focuses on "Women in the Law," highlighting the contributions of women in our legal and judicial systems; countless women justices, private attorneys, prosecutors, public defenders, academics, and other legal professionals serve communities across New York State, exemplifying a proud tradition of responsible jurisprudence, driven by their intellect and by their desire to strengthen our society; their efforts have provided, and continue to provide, a basis for our civil society, protecting individual rights and liberties, and improving the quality of life for people in our state and nation; and

**Whereas**, many New York State women in law have made history as trailblazers who broke glass ceilings and overcame obstacles of discrimination and bias to become the "first" among others to follow; we respectfully remember and pay tribute to *Mary M. Lilly* – first woman attorney elected to the State Legislature; *Jane Matilda Bolin* – first black woman judge in the United States; *Florence Perlow Shientag* – first woman federal prosecutor in New York State; *Shirley Adelson Siegel* – head of the first Civil Rights bureau in the New York State Office of the Attorney General and New York Solicitor General; *Constance Baker Motley* – key civil rights lawyer and first black woman federal judge; *Charlotte Smallwood-Cook* – first woman district attorney in New York State; *Maryann Saccomando Freedman* – first woman president of the New York State Bar Association; *Geraldine Anne Ferraro* – United States Congresswoman and first woman nominated for United States Vice President by a major party; *Judith S. Kaye* – first woman appointed to the New York Court of Appeals and first woman Chief Judge of the State of New York; and

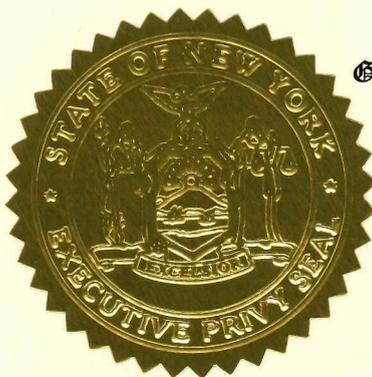
**Whereas**, we proudly recognize the three women Associate Justices serving on the United States Supreme Court – Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan – each born in New York State – and we honor all other women in law who serve in various capacities in communities across this state, offering guidance and counsel to the underprivileged and underserved, and ensuring their right to justice; and

**Whereas**, New York State remains committed to achieving equality for women and to ensuring their rights, freedoms, economic strength, and opportunities for advancement in the workplace; as we remember women of the past and present who have influenced, thrived, and succeeded in the legal profession and in all areas of professional endeavor, we proudly join to recognize the many who have made historic contributions to our state and nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 2016 as

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

in the Empire State.



**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany on this twenty-ninth day of February in the year two thousand sixteen.

Governor

*William J. Minahan*  
Secretary to the Governor