

# Willens, Siemer thru Post-Concon

THE Pre-Convention Subcommittee on Legal Matters chaired by Dr. Carlos S. Camacho has selected a highly experienced team of lawyers from Washington D.C. to staff the Third Commonwealth Constitutional Convention including the Post-Convention.

Howard P. Willens and Deanna C. Siemer will be lead counsel during the Convention and have been working with the Pre-Con Committee doing research in preparation for the 60-day convention which begins June 5th.

To date, the husband and wife legal team has provided two briefing sessions to the 27 delegates on what issues are best left to the Legislature and what issues might be addressed in the Constitution.

Willens and Siemer are no strangers to the Northern Marianas.

Willens came from a prestigious law firm of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering in Washington D.C. and was the lead counsel to the Marianas Political Status Commission which negotiated the Covenant with the United States that defines the political relationship between the two Governments.

Willens and Siemer also served as lead counsel during the First Constitutional Convention in 1976 and have done other legal work on behalf of the Northern Marianas Government.

Willens graduated with high honors from Yale Law School, one of the most prestigious law schools in the United States, in 1956. While at Yale, Willens was an Editor of the Yale Law Journal and received awards in labor law and international law.

From 1961-65, Willens served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he assisted the head of that division in enforcing the criminal laws of the U.S. through a staff of about 150 lawyers in Washington D.C. and more than 90 U.S. attorney offices throughout the U.S.

He served as Assistant Counsel, President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy from 1963-64, and served as Executive Director, President's Commission on Crime in the District of Columbia, from 1965-66.

Willens also represented two former Secretaries of State, George Schultz, for his role in the Iran-Contra controversy, and Jim Baker on the celebrated passport case of candidate Bill Clinton which became a campaign issue during the 1992 U.S. Presidential elections. Both cases were resolved favorably to his clients.

Willens' trial practice included numerous complex litigation in federal and state courts and agencies, including the following:

- \* violations of U.S. anti-trust laws involving the development and installation of automotive emission control devices, the merger of competing companies in the automotive after market, and the refusal to sell lists of students taking standardized tests in

the U.S.;

- \* violations of U.S. securities and related laws involving illegal payments to foreign officials by U.S. corporations;

- \* violations of U.S. consumer protection laws involving the manufacture and distribution of All-Terrain Vehicles;

- \* claims under the Freedom of Information Act against the Department of Justice, State, Defense, the National Security Council and other agencies;

- \* defense malpractice claims against law firms;

- \* compliance with U.S. laws regulating automotive omissions in the U.S.;

- \* violations of U.S. anti-discrimination laws and constitutional provisions arising from the use of standardized tests by licensing agencies, educational institutions and employers and test security violations by test takers;

- \* violations of U.S. copyright laws arising from unauthorized use of tests questions by test coaching schools;

- \* violations of U.S. patent and import laws arising from the unauthorized importation of a product patented by a U.S. concern.

Siemer, on the other hand, received her law degree with honors at Harvard Law School, considered one of the most prestigious law schools in the United States, in 1968. She became the General Counsel for the Department of Defense in Washington D.C. from 1977-79 which had, at that time, over 5,200 lawyers including military officers and civilians that staff the Office of the Secretary of Defense, military services and Defense agencies.

She also served as Special Assistant to the Secretary and Deputy

Secretary, Department of Energy from 1979-80; Special Counsel to the President Jimmy Carter in 1980 when the Senate investigated the President's brother's contacts with Libya; and also served as an Economist, Office of Management and Budget in Washington D.C. from 1964-67.

Siemer's trial practice included complex litigation in federal and state courts, including:

- \* business contract disputes and tort claims about construction of a biomass energy plant, sales of franchises, advertising under a franchise agreement, termination of a franchise, a food service concession at a government facility, construction of waste to energy plant, liability for injuries to railroad passengers, ownership of one of the largest private hospitals, conformance to specifications of about \$50 million in concrete products, pirating of employers and confidential business information by competitors in the stock brokerage business;

- \* loan agreement claims against individuals in a partnership borrower;
- \* patent infringement claims against an automobile manufacturer

- \* antitrust and Robinson Patman Act claims involving automobile manufacturers and rental car companies;

- \* product liability claims in automobile field;

- \* litigation of Freedom of Information Act claims against the Department of Justice, State, Labor, Defense, Interior, the National Security Council and other agencies; litigation of Rule II and malpractice claims on behalf of defendant law firms; injunction action with respect to bribery allegations against the judges of an appellate court; tort claims against a sitting state court judge.

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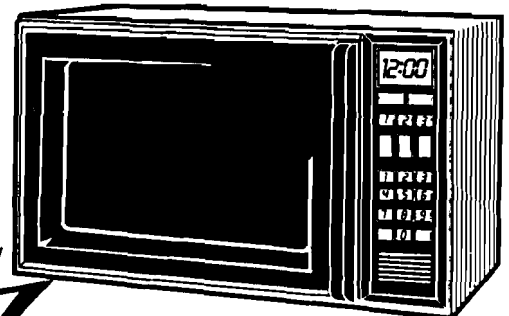
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