

For Immediate Release:

Judge Jose Cabranes to Speak at Gala

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FAIRFIELD – Judge Jose Cabranes, mentor to recently confirmed Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, will be the featured speaker at the Women’s Auxiliary of The Jewish Home for the Elderly Annual Fall Gala on Thursday, 10/29/09, at the Water’s Edge in Darien. Judge Cabranes will be appearing as a friend of the honorees, the Honorable Alan and Mrs. Janet Nevas, of Westport, dedicated members of The Jewish Home family.

The evening will also include bestowing posthumously the Louis Lotstein Award for Distinguished Service to Dr. William Grayson Covey, the beloved Medical Director of The Jewish Home from 2005 to the time of his unexpected death in May 2009.

“This year’s Gala will truly be an outstanding event on many levels,” said Andrea Gottschall, of Trumbull, Chair of the event. “Honoring Alan and Janet, remembering Dr. Covey, and hearing Judge Cabranes speak will all combine to make this a very memorable night.”

Judge Nevas, a Stamford native and resident of Westport since 1954, began the practice of law after service in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Judge Nevas practiced at the firm of Nevas & Nevas until 1981 when he was appointed U.S. Attorney for Connecticut by President Ronald Reagan. In 1985, President Reagan appointed him as a U.S. District Judge. While United States Attorney, he served on the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee of United States Attorneys. Judge Nevas was an Associate Partner with the firm of Nevas, Nevas and Rubin, a member of the Connecticut General Assembly, and a member of the State Elections Commission. Judge Nevas is a member of the Connecticut Bar Association, has served as a member of the Board of Governors of the Connecticut Bar Association and as Chairman of its Legislative Liaison Committee. He is a past President of the Federal Judges Association.

Judge Nevas joined The Jewish Home Board of Directors in 1979, served until 1982 then rejoined in 1999. During those years, Judge Nevas served in many key committee positions including on both the Executive and Admissions Committees. In addition, he has served as Secretary of the Board. Currently Judge Nevas is on the Executive Committee and is Chairperson of the Board Development Committee.

Janet Nevas' career with the Hall-Brooke Foundation, Westport, began in 1982 as their Director of Volunteer Services and continued through the 1990's the Director of Community Relations. Prior to her work with Hall-Brooke, Janet volunteered with Bridgeport's YWCA Shelter Services for Abused Women. Her additional community activities include leadership positions with the National Council of Jewish Women, Westport Chapter, Temple Israel, Westport, and the Women's Division of United Jewish Appeal of Westport-Weston-Wilton. Janet has served on the Advisory Boards of public radio station WSHU and the Norwalk Superior Court System Community Service Outreach Program.

Janet has been a member of the Home's Board of Directors since 1987, was Vice Chairperson from 1995 through 1998. She has served on the Executive Committee, on several Nominating Committees, on the Ethics Committee and as Chairperson of the Professional Services Committee. Currently, she is the Chairperson of the Advisory Council and a member of the Professional Services, Community Relations and Employee Relations Committees.

Judge Cabranes is on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. His relationship with the newest member of the Supreme Court, Justice Sotomayor, dates back to 1976, shortly after her admission to Yale Law School. Twelve years later, Judge Cabranes swore her in to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and, as quoted in the New York Times, recalls saying, "'I was present at the creation.'

Music performed by the Hank Lane Orchestra will assure the perfect ambiance for this elegant evening dedicated to supporting the important work of the Women's Auxiliary. Funds raised at past Galas have supported The Jewish Home's Osteoarthritis Program of Excellence, pet therapy program and music enrichment series.

For more information about the Gala or opportunities to recognize the honorees in the 2009 Commemorative Journal, please contact Dayna Hayden at 203-365-6409 or dhayden@jhe.org.

Caption: Judge Jose Cabranes, mentor to recently confirmed Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and friend of the 2009 Gala honorees, Judge Alan and Mrs. Janet Nevas of Westport, will be the featured speaker on 10/29/09.

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