



NINA TOTENBERG BIOGRAPHY



It has been said that among the most important decisions the new U.S. President will make during his term is his appointment(s) to the Supreme Court. Most analysts predict three, or perhaps four, Justices will retire in the next four to eight years; the new President's Supreme Court appointees will have a lasting impact for decades to come. To assist Public Forum audience members understand this pivotal aspect of America's political system, National Public Radio's award-winning legal affairs correspondent Nina Totenberg will lend her expertise to analyze the present, and future, of the Supreme Court and its impact on the lives of All Americans.

Nina Totenberg's reports air regularly on NPR's critically acclaimed newsmagazines, *All Things Considered*, *Morning Edition*, and *Weekend Edition* and her coverage of legal affairs and the Supreme Court has won her widespread recognition. *Newsweek* says, "The mainstays [of NPR] are *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*. But the *crème de la crème* is Nina Totenberg." She is also a regular panelist on *Inside Washington*, a weekly syndicated public affairs television program produced in the nation's capital.

In 1991, Totenberg's groundbreaking report about University of Oklahoma Law Professor Anita Hill's allegations of sexual harassment by Judge Clarence Thomas led the Senate Judiciary Committee to re-open Thomas's Supreme Court confirmation hearings to consider Hill's charges. NPR received the prestigious Peabody Award for its gavel-to-gavel coverage--anchored by Totenberg--of both the original hearings and the inquiry into Anita Hill's allegations, and for Totenberg's reports and exclusive interview with Hill.

That same coverage earned Totenberg additional awards, among them: the Long Island University George Polk Award for excellence in journalism; the Sigma Delta Chi Award from the Society of Professional Journalists for investigative reporting; and the prestigious Joan S. Barone Award for excellence in Washington-based national affairs/public policy reporting, which also acknowledged her coverage of Justice Thurgood Marshall's retirement.

In 1988, Totenberg won the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Silver Baton for her coverage of Supreme Court nominations. The jurors of the award stated, "Ms. Totenberg broke the story of Judge (Douglas) Ginsburg's use of marijuana, raising issues of changing social values and credibility with careful perspective under deadline pressure."

Nina Totenberg has also won every major journalism award in broadcasting, and is the only radio journalist to have won the National Press Foundation award for Broadcaster of the Year. She has been honored eight times by the

American Bar Association for continued excellence in legal reporting, and has received a number of honorary degrees. On a lighter note, in 1992 and 1988, Esquire magazine named her one of the "Women We Love."

A frequent contributor to major newspapers and periodicals, she has published articles in the New York Times Magazine, the Harvard Law Review, the Christian Science Monitor, Parade magazine, New York Magazine, and others. Before joining NPR in 1975, Totenberg served as Washington editor of New Times Magazine, and before that she was the legal affairs correspondent for the National Observer.

For more information please visit www.springfieldpublicforum.org.