



**AMAL** | THE ASSOCIATION OF  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

We at the Association of Muslim American Lawyers (“AMAL”) are shell-shocked by the sudden loss of the Honorable Sheila E. Abdus-Salaam on April 12, 2017. Judge Abdus-Salam was the first in many categories—most notably the first African American female, and first Muslim, Judge to sit on New York State’s highest court. In addition, Judge Abdus Salam became the first female Muslim Judge in the United States when she began serving on the New York State Supreme Court in 1994. By all accounts, she was as intelligent a jurist, as she was graceful a person. Ally Hack, Esq., an AMAL officer, recalls: “I remember conversing with Judge Abdus-Salam just this past December at a function organized by the New York County Lawyers Association. The event was crowded and loud, and I made a fundamental misstatement. We both knew I misspoke, but Her Honor's dignity and grace stopped her from embarrassing me.”

We echo the sentiments of former Chief Justice of the New York Court of Appeals, Hon. Jonathan Lippman, who said about her: “She was a superb jurist and an even more superb human being . . . I’ve known her in all her different roles in the court. It’s just so shocking. She was a very genteel, lovely lady and judge. If you ask anyone about her, people would say only the most wonderful things. That’s why it makes it even more difficult to understand.” Her integrity and wisdom will forever be memorialized in the many Decisions and Orders that issued forth from her Chambers.

Judge Abdus-Salam’s loss is a blow to New York’s legal community. As Omar Mohammedi, President of AMAL, stated: “Jurists of Abdus-Salam’s caliber do not come around often. When gone, they are missed dearly.” She is truly missed. We are from God and to Him we shall return!