



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW PROGRAM
ON LAW AND GOVERNMENT

PRESENTS

**Taking the Heat:
How Brenda Berkman Used the Courts to
Open Fire Fighting Opportunities to Women and
in the Process Altered Government Policy**

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

12:00 am – 2:00 pm

**American University Washington College of Law
4801 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Room 603**

In 1979, Brenda Berkman sued to become a New York City fire fighter. As a result of the litigation, she became one of the first female fire fighters in New York City. Captain (ret.) Berkman's pioneering effort resulted in fire fighting opportunities to countless qualified women throughout the United States and help shape policy at all levels of government. In this session, Captain Berkman will discuss the case that bears her name and its effect upon her and for other women. Panelists also will explore how the Berkman litigation changed the U.S. Department of Justice's policy on women in fire fighting; affected the role of unions that represent fire fighters, caused employers voluntarily to reassess their position on the employment of women as fire fighters, and discuss the progress that has been made and what the future holds.

General Registration – no charge but please register at

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