

### Janet Napolitano – Secretary of Homeland Security

Janet Napolitano was born in 1957. She received her undergraduate degree from Santa Clara University, and her law degree from the University of Virginia. After a clerkship under Judge Mary Schroeder of the Ninth Circuit court of appeals, she joined the Phoenix law firm Lewis and Roca (Lewis and Roca is most known for representing Ernesto Miranda, of *Miranda v. Arizona* fame).

In 1991, Napolitano gained national fame as one of Anita Hill's attorneys during the confirmation hearings of Clarence Thomas. Two years later, President Clinton nominated her to be the U.S. attorney for the district of Arizona. In 1998, she was elected attorney general of Arizona, the first woman ever elected to that post. Napolitano also survived a bout of breast cancer during this tenure, an experience about which she spoke at the 2000 Democratic National Convention.

In 2002, Napolitano was elected governor of Arizona, and she was re-elected in 2006 (the first Democrat to be re-elected Arizona governor in a quarter-century). She is strongly pro-choice. Among her various policy initiatives that have become law:

- Universal, full-day kindergarten.
- \$100 million pay raise for K-12 teachers, reached via compromise with Republican legislators that also resulted in a \$5 million private school voucher program for special-ed students.
- Signed an anti-immigration bill that imposes stiff penalties on employers who hire undocumented workers.
- Expanded the number of shelters and beds available to survivors of domestic violence.

In 2005, Time Magazine named Napolitano one of the nation's Top 5 Governors. From 2006-2007, she served as chair of the National Governors Association, the first woman governor to hold that post.

Most controversially, Napolitano was the first governor to call for National Guard troops to secure the southern border of the United States. Additionally, as state attorney general, she defended the Arizona death penalty system in front of the Supreme Court, which later ruled that death sentences could no longer be issued by the state unless jury trials were utilized.

Sources:

Dana Goldstein, *Janet Napolitano and the New Third Way*, THE AMERICAN PROSPECT, July 7, 2008.

Spencer Hsu, *Ariz. Governor Said to be Pick for Homeland Security Post*, THE WASHINGTON POST, Nov. 20, 2008.