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**American Civil Liberties Union president coming to UMM**

*Summary:*

(February 15, 2005)-Nadine Strossen, president of the American Civil Liberties Union, will discuss the topic, “Current Challenges to Civil Liberties,” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, in Edson Auditorium of the Student Center at the University of Minnesota, Morris. This event is part of the Women’s Week celebration at UMM as well as a Campus Activities Council Convocations Series lecture.

Elected in 1991, Strossen became the first woman and the youngest person ever to lead the American Civil Liberties Union as its president. A law professor at the New York School of Law since 1989, Strossen has received acclaim for her extensive writing, lecturing, and practice in the areas of constitutional law, civil liberties, and international human rights. She is known for her staunch beliefs in the First Amendment right to free speech as the greatest protection of women’s rights and liberties. She is the author of two books: *Defending Pornography: Free Speech, Sex and the Fight for Women’s Rights* and *Speaking of Race, Speaking of Sex: Hate Speech, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties*.

The National Law Journal has twice named Strossen one of “The 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America.” In 1996, Working Woman Magazine listed her among the “350 Women Who Changed the World 1976-1996.” In 1998, Vanity Fair Magazine included Strossen in “America’s 200 Most Influential Women.” In 1999, Ladies Home Journal included Strossen in “America’s 100 Most Important Women.”

Strossen was a regular guest on ABC’s “Politically Incorrect” with Bill Maher, and has been a monthly columnist for two Web-zines as well as a weekly commentator on the Talk America Radio Network. In October 2001, Strossen made her professional theater debut as the guest star in Eve Ensler’s award-winning play, “The Vagina Monolog,” during a week-long run at the National Theatre in Washington, D.C.

This event is co-sponsored by the Campus Activities Council, the Women’s Resource Center and the Commission on Women, all of UMM.

The views expressed by the visiting speakers of the UMM Convocations Series do not necessarily reflect the views of the regents of the University of Minnesota, University of Minnesota, Morris students, staff or faculty, or the UMM Convocations Committee.

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