

## In Case of Terrorism

AS JUDGE IN THE "20TH HIJACKER" TRIAL, THIS DOUGLASS ALUMNA HAS HAD HER HANDS FULL.

J.S. district court judge Leonie M. Brinkema (DC'66) has felt the glare of the national spotlight in the months leading up to this fall's conspiracy trial of Zacarias Moussaoui—the suspected "20th hijacker" and the first individual to be charged directly in connection with the September 11 terrorist attacks.

A former federal prosecutor, Brinkema was appointed by President Clinton in 1993 to the federal bench in the eastern district of Virginia. Brinkema, known to her classmates as Dee Dee, graduated with a B.A. in philosophy and went on to earn a master's of library and information science degree from SCIS in 1970 and a law degree from Cornell in 1976.

Brinkema has already made several pretrial rulings in the case. In July, she refused to accept Moussaoui's initial guilty plea, saying he was clearly "not admitting to the essential elements of these conspiracies." A week

later, he changed his mind and withdrew the plea. In June, she rejected a change-of-venue request and Moussaoui's request to plead no contest, entering a not guilty plea for him instead. Earlier, she turned down requests by

Four of the six criminal counts Moussaoui is charged with carry the death penalty.

Court TV and C-Span to televise the trial, citing security concerns.

Two of her other high profile cases include a 1998 case in which she struck down a county decision to filter Internet access for both adults and children in public libraries. In the same year, she ruled that Virginia could not prevent

state employees from viewing sexually explicit Web sites at work on taxpayer-owned computers.

BRINKEMA WAS INDUCTED INTO THE DOUGLASS SOCIETY IN 1989 FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION.