

**Strategies to Combat Racial Inequality in
the Courts and Criminal Justice System,
sponsored by the State Justice Institute**

**Friday, October 21, 2022
10:30 – 11:45 AM**



As a next step in the NAWJ Racial Bias training series, this session will focus on strategies for judges to use in their local communities. We will demonstrate best practice strategies using examples from judges in states that have taken steps to transform their justice systems. We will also introduce a pilot of the online training program we are developing with funding from the State Justice Institute.

At the end of the session, participants should be able to:

1. How to encourage communication across players in all decision points in the court system
2. Examine what works at one decision point and why it may work at another.
3. Gain an understanding of the NAWJ online Racial Bias training.

Speakers:

Hon. Maria Puente-Porras, Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court



Judge Puente-Porras was appointed on June 27, 2018. She served as Commissioner for the Los Angeles Superior Court since April 2015. She is currently assigned at Whittier Courthouse and is the site judge. Whittier Courthouse is the only family law hub for Los Angeles County. She has always sat in a family law assignment.

Prior to her election as a Commissioner, she practiced Family Law, representing all parties and served as appointed minor’s counsel. In the contested adoption forum at Edelman Children’s Court, she was appointed on behalf of parties or to serve as minor’s counsel. Her practice also included Criminal Defense and Civil litigation. For 10 years she served on the Board of Trustees for the Southeast District Bar Association and was President in 2010. Her pro bono work included serving as a Daily Settlement Officer for the Los Angeles Superior Court [Family Law], the Alliance for Children’s Rights, Los Angeles and the Public Law Center in Santa Ana. Judge Puente-Porras was in private practice for 17 years until being elected to the Bench as a Commissioner. She is a graduate of Western State University College of Law, Fullerton.

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Hon. Terrie Roberts, Judge, San Diego Superior Court



Judge Terrie E. Roberts was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the San Diego Superior Court on October 25, 2019. Prior to her appointment, she served as a Superior Court Commissioner on behalf of the San Diego Superior Court since May of 2008, making history by becoming the first African American woman to be appointed as a Commissioner in San Diego County. Judge Roberts currently presides over a Family I/C calendar and previously presided over a civil restraining order calendar and various other calendars including, family support, misdemeanor arraignments, traffic arraignments, small claims, and unlawful detainer matters.

Prior to her appointment as a Commissioner, Judge Roberts served as a San Diego County Deputy District Attorney from 2001 to 2008, and also worked as a Deputy Public Defender for the San Diego County Public Defender’s Office from 1992 to 1995.

Judge Roberts is very active in her community and in teaching locally and state-wide. In 2014, she was awarded President Barack Obama’s Call to Service Award for her continuous service to the San Diego community and in 2008, she was the recipient of the San Diego County Bar Association’s Outstanding Service by a Public Attorney Award.

Since 2009, Judge Roberts has taught Bench Conduct and Demeanor for Temporary Judges on behalf of the San Diego County Superior Court, and since 2015, she has taught newly appointed judicial officers from across the state ethics and implicit bias. Judge Roberts not only teaches on behalf of judicial branch, but also has served as an adjunct professor on behalf of Sandra Day O’Connor’s College of Law’s MLS Program, where she teaches Criminal Procedure. She was recently awarded the Outstanding J.D. Award from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law’s Alumni Association.

Judge Roberts is married and has two amazing daughters, ages 21 and 20.

Hon. Pamela Washington, Judge, Anchorage District Court



Pamela Scott Washington was appointed to the Anchorage District Court on August 9, 2010. She manages high-volume criminal and civil cases and serves as the presiding judge of Anchorage’s Coordinated Resource Project also known as the Mental Health Court. Judge Washington co-chairs the Alaska Supreme Court’s Fairness, Diversity & Equality Commission and Cultural Competency Committee. Judge Washington has been a catalyst for increasing diversity on the bench, ensuring implicit bias training for judicial officers, and championing efforts to make implicit bias and diversity inclusion education mandatory for all members of the Alaska Bar

Association.

Judge Washington has been a member of the National Association of Women Judges for twelve years and currently serves as Vice President of Districts and member of the International Outreach Committee. She is the Anchorage Chair of NAWJ’s Color of Justice and Mentor Jet programs. Judge

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Washington also serves in the US Chapter of the Pan American Commission of Judges on Social Justice, and is a member of the National Center for State Court Blueprint for Racial Justice working group. In 2021, Judge Washington received NAWJ's Justice Vaino Spencer Leadership Award for her service and leadership.

Judge Washington is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana but has called Alaska home since 1975. She received a BS in Telecommunication at Northern Arizona University in 1984 and a Juris Doctor from Arizona State University in 1991.

Hon. Pennie McLaughlin, Judge, San Diego Superior Court



After over 18 years as a Superior Court Commissioner in San Diego, CA, Judge McLaughlin was appointed as a Judge this past August and currently sits as a Superior Court Judge in San Diego. She is awaiting her new assignment. Prior to being appointed as a Judge, Commissioner McLaughlin presided over a busy family support court, where many litigants appeared without legal representation. Her past assignments include other high volume courts, including misdemeanor arraignments, felony drug court, traffic, small claims and unlawful detainers. Commissioner McLaughlin has a keen awareness of the hardships faced by many of the litigants who come before her on a daily basis. As a new lawyer and graduate of Boston University School of Law, Ms. McLaughlin traveled across the country to become a deputy public defender in one of the largest and finest offices in the United States. She was determined to seek justice on behalf of indigent defendants and spent 13 years doing this work.

After handling virtually every type of criminal case, Judge McLaughlin served for four years as an Assistant United States Attorney in San Diego and was known as a prosecutor with a honed sense of justice, fairness, and equity. Judge McLaughlin has always been active in her community and served as her local community's governing body's president for many years. During this time, she also edited the community newsletter and transformed it into a publication that went to every household in the neighborhood and included articles on restaurants, shops, residents and opportunities to become involved. This community, Bird Rock, La Jolla, was transformed in these years by a very active group of citizens who collectively made the difference working together.

Through the NAWJ, Judge McLaughlin is currently serving as the District 14 Director and as Chair of the Women in Prison Committee. She believes that the NAWJ can have a much larger presence in legal communities in every state through the wonderful projects that help lift up the lives of many. She has started several programs in the San Diego community along with many others and was honored by the San Diego County Bar Association in 2020 as the Service Award recipient, by the California Judges Association with the Alba Witkin Humanitarian Award that same year and was honored in 2021 with an award for Commissioner of the Year in California. NAWJ honored Judge McLaughlin with the Norma Wickler award in 2021 for outstanding contributions to the community.

On a personal note, Judge McLaughlin is married to Joseph Keith, and is the parent of a daughter who recently graduated from Notre Dame Law School, a stepson who graduated from Cal State Monterey

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and is working in San Diego and a stepdaughter who continues her studies while living and working in San Diego. Cooking and baking make up a large part of her down time, along with trail running with her dogs.

Alison Ashe-Card, Associate Director of Diversity & Inclusion, Office of Career and Professional Development at Wake Forest University School of Law



Alison Ashe-Card serves as the Associate Director of Diversity & Inclusion in the Office of Career and Professional Development at Wake Forest University School of Law. In this role, she leads the development and implementation of the office’s educational programs as well as developing and guiding schoolwide diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives with an emphasis on strategic thinking and planning. Prior to joining the staff at the law school, her practice focused on high profile product liability cases in federal and state courts nation-wide.

Alison devotes countless hours every year to community and pro bono service. She currently serves on the boards of the North Carolina Bar Association, North Carolina Bar Foundation, National Association for Law Placement, Inc. (NALP), Piedmont Federal Savings Bank, The Winston-Salem Foundation and the Novant Health Clemmons Medical Center Foundation. Alison’s devotion to career and community was recognized in 2012, when she was selected as the recipient of the Lifetime Community Service Award from DRI, the Voice of the Defense Bar. This award is given annually to one attorney nationally for public service. She is the first North Carolina attorney to receive this award. Alison was recognized by the North Carolina Bar Association as a Citizen-Lawyer Award winner and she has also been recognized as a North Carolina Pro Bono Honor Society member for several years.

Alison received her JD from American University – Washington College of Law. She is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Spelman College where she earned a BA in Political Science.