

District 13 Report to NAWJ Board Meeting (Seattle)
October 2016
Judge Marilyn Paja, District 13 Director

Seattle 2016 NAWJ Annual Conference: *Faces of Justice!*

Washington State activities during the past year have focused on the Annual Conference. Under the terrific leadership of Washington Supreme Court Justice Susan Owens, the Conference is coming together nicely (today is September 8th, so we are working on hundreds of details). Justice Owens is joined on the Planning Committee by all of six women members of our State Supreme Court: Chief Justice Barbara Madsen, Justice Sheryl Gordon-McCloud, Justice Mary Fairhurst, Justice Deborah Stephens, and our newest NAWJ member Justice Mary Yu. Judge Karen Donohue and Judge Maggie Ross chair the Education Committee which has put together a fabulous program with ideas and assistance from everyone. Friends co-chairs are Nancy Isserlis from Spokane and Ellen Dial from Seattle. We are very happy with the assistance that we have received from the national office, including Marie Komisar, Mary-Kathleen Todd, Lavinia Cousin, and our newest Conference Planner Barbara Hutchison.

In the lead-up to the Annual Conference, the Washington NAWJ members have joyously participated in several kick-off and NAWJ scholarship events in Spokane and Seattle, as well as a membership drive in Seattle. Washington State Chair Karen Donohue also organized a wonderful CLE event on issues surrounding the challenges faced by incarcerated women in our State and elsewhere.

The Washington State Gender & Justice Commission, in partnership with NAWJ members including myself, have an active Incarcerated Women Committee. Due to conflicts with timing related to the NAWJ Conference, we were unfortunately unable to assist with Success Inside & Out in 2016 (having been a key partner for the preceding three years); however we are planning a meeting with Department of Corrections leadership to discuss issues relating to internet access for offenders, and telephonic access for court hearings. NAWJ Friend Ms. Cathy Winter of Court Call will be involved with us in this endeavor. We expect to announce a long-term gender bias study during the NAWJ Conference, and hope that, as we did decades ago, there will be a great partnership established in this regard.

The Washington State Minority & Justice Commission, in partnership with NAWJ members including myself, has a project "Washington State Youth and Law" focused on diverse youth interested in law related careers. The project involves generating a document to collate all programs within our state that meet the mission. Color of Justice developed by the NAWJ is the first program on the list. The project is also intended to create a model evaluation process, that might be of assistance to all organizations that provide this kind of activity.

In Washington, since 2010, the District & Municipal Court Judges Association (DMCJA) has co-sponsored with the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) and the NAWJ to present a 1-1/2 day training program for lawyers interested in service as judges pro tem. The program is presented biennially. In August 2016 the fourth presentation involved about 100 lawyers from around the state. The WSBA awarded two full scholarships to members of minority bar associations. The goal of the training is to develop a pool of well-qualified lawyers who reflect the diversity of their communities. The WSBA marketing plan for this event has a focus on minority/diverse attorneys; however any WSBA member may attend. The focus of the training is on judicial role, ethics, and conflicts, use of interpreters, and

working with court staff. Among many others, NAWJ members Judge Mary Logan, Ms. Cynthia Delostrinos and myself were all involved in this project.

Strong Interest from Idaho. I was contacted by US District Court Judge Candy Dale (the only federal woman judge in that State) this summer about starting an NAWJ Chapter in that State (previously inactive for several years). We have had several long discussions by phone and email. Judge Dale asked her extern to speak with me as well about the work of NAWJ. Chief Justice Barbara Madsen and long-time NAWJ member retired-Judge Sara Derr are planning to meet with Judge Dale in Spokane WA or Couer d'Alene ID in late September, so I hope we will soon report an event for Idaho.

Alaska NAWJ members are always busy and collegial. A core group lead by recently retired Supreme Court Justice Dana Fabe (and former NAWJ President) and Judge Beverly Cutler recently participated in their iconic Success Inside and Out as well as a multi-day Color of Justice program, reported in the recent and outstanding issue of CounterBalance.