



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES DISTRICT 14 (CALIFORNIA & NEVADA) ANNUAL REPORT

District 14 ANNUAL REPORT

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2016**



We had a fabulous 2015-2016 in California and Nevada with many events and honors received. Below is a summary of our year and the annual report. Thank you from the West Coast!

Anita Santos, Contra Costa County Superior Court

## 2015-2016 DISTRICT 14 EVENTS



Judge Diana Becton, Contra Costa County Superior Court & Judge Marguerite Downing, Los Angeles County Superior Court

Presentation to the Supreme Court of Thailand in Bangkok, Thailand, regarding state court systems and issues affecting the judiciary in the United States.



In October 2015, Judge Pennie McLaughlin of San Diego County Superior Court started the first NAWJ “Freedom Through Words” Book Club for incarcerated women at the Las Colinas Detention Center in San Diego.

and



Throughout 2015-2016, Judge Becton, Contra Costa County & Judge Downing, Los Angeles County, in conjunction with the State Bar's Council on Access Fairness, traveled the state as part of their commitment to insure access and diversity on the California bench.

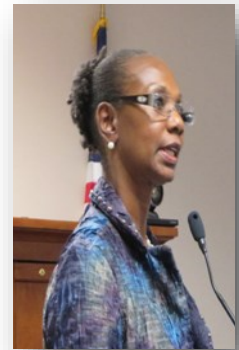
The 2015-2016 San Diego county book drive was a huge success. The books were piling up from the first annual book drive by NAWJ members of the San Diego County Superior Court bench. The local women's county jail opened a new library in January, 2016. Shown in the photo are San Diego bench officers Terrie Roberts, Tamila Ipema and Pennie McLaughlin.



On February 16, 2016, in conjunction with Black History Month, NAWJ members (seated left to right) Judge Sharon Majors Lewis, Judge Tina Littlejohn, Ret., Judge Elizabeth Riggs, Ret., Judge Tilisha Martin, and Judge Randa Trapp, (not pictured) were panelists in the Journey to Justice Speaker Series: "Achieving Judicial Diversity in San Diego." The event was held at the Institute of the Americas at University of California, at San Diego. The event honored the legacies of the first African

-American U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Judge Earl B. Gilliam, San Diego's first African-American Superior Court Judge and first District Court Judge, and NAWJ member Judge Elizabeth Riggs, Ret., San Diego's first African American woman judge.





On November 4, 2015, Judge Tamila Ipema chaired

the sixth Color of Justice and Mentor Jet Program in San Diego on November 4, 2015 in collaboration with the San Diego Superior Court, Iranian-American Bar Association and the Pan-Asian Bar Association of San Diego. The participation of more than 45 Judicial Officers and attorneys as mentors made this program a huge success. The 35 students (grades 9 to 12) were from Crawford High School Law Academy. The program is designed to encourage high school students to consider pursuing careers in the law and to inspire and excite them about the study of law. Experienced judges and lawyers of diverse backgrounds came together to share their experiences and challenges and to answer questions on a one to one basis.



On May 20, 2016, California Women Lawyers and NAWJ co-hosted a forum on the judicial appointment process at the Milton Marks Conference Center in San Francisco. Josh Groban, Senior Judicial Appointment Advisor to the Governor, along with a host of sitting jurists, participated in the forum. The event was well attended by over 60 potential applicants who received invaluable information and advice regarding the appointment process. *The organizing committee was CWL's Audra Ibarra, Esq., and NAWJ Judges Diana Becton, Elizabeth Lee, and Anita Santos.*



Seventeen passionate NAWJ members in San Diego formed a committee to bring the first “Success Inside and Out” Program to San Diego. This program was held at the Las Colinas Women’s Detention and Reentry Facility in Santee on June 3, 2016. The NAWJ’s “Success Inside and Out” program is a re-entry program that was created by a former NAWJ President, Justice Dana Fabe of Alaska Supreme Court (ret.) This program is designed to assist incarcerated women who are about to be released from detention. More than 200 incarcerated women participated and there were over 30 presenters and moderators.



*The planning committee, comprised of 13 judicial officers and 4 attorneys: Tamila E. Ipema, Conference*



*Chair, Judith McConnell, Margaret McKeown, Susan Finlay (ret.), Pennie McLaughlin, Lisa Rodriguez, Terrie Roberts, Marian Gaston, Cynthia Bashant, Carolyn Caietti, Stephanie Sontag, Tilisha Martin, Pamela Parker, Nadia Keilani, Jerrilyn Malana, Jamie Quient, and Patricia Hollenbeck.*

## 2015-2016 DISTRICT 14 HONORS AND AWARDS

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On September 24, 2015, the Honorable Debre Katz Weintraub of Los Angeles County Superior Court, was honored with the CRF's "James A. Cobey Judge of the Year" Award in Los Angeles.

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On November 1, Judge Vallera Johnson, coordinated a celebration of Seven of the First Women Judges of Color in San Diego county in La Jolla, CA Judge Johnson is the founder and President of Women of Color in Law. There were over 200 attendees.

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On December 3, 2015, Judge Marla Anderson was honored as the recipient of the Lady Justice Award by the Monterey County Women Lawyers Association.

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On February 6, 2016, Judge Joan Weber of San Diego Superior Court was selected by the American Bar Association Torts and Insurance Practice Section to receive the Pursuit of Justice Award. This prestigious award recognizes lawyers and judges who have shown outstanding merit and who excel in providing access to justice for all.

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The Honorable Darlene White was **the recipient of the San Diego Family Law Bar Judge of the year award in November 2015**. The purpose of the award is to recognize a Family Law Judge for their contribution to the Family Law community.



Jerrilyn Malana, Esq, was awarded the 2016 Community Legacy Award. The award is presented to an outstanding individual who exemplifies service and leadership, and whose contributions have made a substantial impact to the legacy of the Pacific Arts Movement in the San Diego region. She is a shareholder at Littler: Employment & Labor Law Solutions Worldwide, and a NAWJ member. Ms. Malana was also the co-chair of the Friends Committee for the NAWJ 2014 Annual Conference in San Diego that was a huge success.



On January 29, 2016, Justice McKeown of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals gave the Justice Ronald George memorial lecture in San Francisco in a conversation moderated by Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuellar. Justice McKeown highlighted how the Ninth Circuit sees some of the most significant technology related cases and how evolving technology challenges the existing law.

Each year, the NAWJ through its *Access to Justice Scholarship Program*, provides one \$500.00 scholarship to each of our 14 Districts. The scholarship is for a law student who has demonstrated a commitment to diversity and equal opportunity and access in the justice system. District 14 selected Safora Nowrouzi, a third-year law student at *California Western School of Law* in San Diego.





The *Lawyers Club of San Diego* celebrated *International Women of Color Day* on March 29, 2016 at the firm of *Higgs Fletcher & Mack, LLP*. March was women's history month and a time to honor the many contributions that women have made to shape history and society. *International Women's Day* marks a time to recognize the struggles, as well as honor the acts of courage and achievements, made by women of color. This year, the *Lawyers Club* honored Judge Elizabeth A. Riggs (Ret.). Judge Riggs served on the bench from 1979-2001. She was the first African-American female Judge in San Diego County.

The *California Women Lawyers' Association* (CWL) honored San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Lee with the *Rose Bird Memorial Award* on April 8, 2016. CWL commented,



"Judge Lee exemplifies the qualities of compassion and courage in a field that is, still, largely dominated by men. She has worked with purpose to improve the legal process and profession, and has become not only a role model to female attorneys and judges, but also an asset to the community due to her outstanding service."



On April 14, 2016 Judge Tamila Ipema was the recipient of the *Friend of the Community Award* from the LBG7 Law Association. This award is given to an exemplary jurist who provides outstanding community service, above and beyond service to the legal profession.



Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye has selected Administrative Presiding Justice Judith D. McConnell, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, for the *Chief Justice's Award for Exemplary Service and Leadership* for her outstanding work in civic learning. The award honors those deserving of special recognition for outstanding service to the judicial branch.



In May 2016, NAWJ recognized Nisha Ayub as the leading advocate for transgender rights in Malaysia. She is the co-founder of *The SEED Foundation*, which provides support to transgender individuals

and other marginalized communities, and *Justice for Sisters*, which provides legal aid to transgender individuals and seeks to end persecution of LGBT people.



On April 30, 2016, the California Association of Black Lawyer 's selected Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge Diana Becton as their *Bernard S. Jefferson Judge of the Year* for her continuous and long-standing commitment to serving the community.



The Distinguished Service Award is the highest award presented by the Judicial Council of California and on July 29, 2016, it was awarded to NAWJ Judge Maria Hernandez, Orange County Superior Court. The award honors California judicial branch members, justice partners, or individuals for their extraordinary dedication, outstanding leadership, and significant contributions to advancing the council's strategic goals for the judicial branch.





For her excellence as a jurist and her longstanding vigorous service and inspiration to the women lawyers of California, Judge Fujie was honored by California Women Lawyers (CWL) with the Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award on June 10, 2016, at CWL's 23rd Annual Southern California Judicial Reception, at the Los Angeles Athletic Club.



NAWJ's Judge Fumiko Hachiya Wasserman was honored by The Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance (APAWLA) on May 13, 2016 with a public service award at the Los Angeles Music Center. Judge Wasserman is also a past recipient of the Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award.



*Judge Ipema, NAWJ's very own Vice-President of Districts, received the Outstanding Jurist Award from the San Diego County Bar Association on May 6, 2016. This award is given to an exemplary jurist who provides outstanding community service beyond just service to the legal profession.*

Respectfully Submitted,

*Anita Santos*, Contra Costa County Superior Court

District 14 Director