

National Association of Women Judges District Four Annual Report 2015 – 2016

This submission was inspired, in part by the words of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in remarks that she made at an NAWJ dinner on October 9, 2003.

“In 1776, Abigail Adams admonished her husband John to ‘remember the ladies’ in the new nation’s code of laws. Today, women need not depend on men’s memories. In our courts, conference rooms, and classrooms, in ever-increasing numbers, women are speaking for themselves, and doing their part, along with *sympathetique* brothers-in-law, to help create a better world. This audience is Abigail’s dream come true. Women will of course be remembered, for we are everywhere.

In NAWJ President Walsh’s Message in Counterbalance, Winter 2016, Volume 31, Issue 10, she references NAWJ’s extensive programs and projects and our involvement with the global judiciary. President Walsh acknowledged that our Association members as exceptional in their drive to advance justice and fairness for the future of women and girls.

Referencing the remarks of Justice Ginsburg and NAWJ President Walsh, we have tried expand our report to acknowledge some of our exceptional Fourth District members by including their NAWJ sponsored and non NAWJ sponsored but related activities, honors and achievements. We are everywhere and will continue to contribute to the advancement of justice and fairness for women and children. There are many more members that we could highlight but these submissions were received by our members with much “nagging for bragging.”

District of Columbia Chapter

First and foremost we acknowledge with much gratitude two of our District of Columbia Chapter members U.S. Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor. We have been honored by their participation in and support of NAWJ.

Judge Diane Brenneman, Superior Court of the District of Columbia. In December 2015 Judge Brenneman was recognized as Judge of the Year at the Bar Association of the District of Columbia’s annual banquet. The BADC is one of the oldest bar associations in the country. The first awardee was Thurgood Marshall. Others through the years were Sandra Day O’Connor, Chief Judges Ugast, King and Satterfield. She is the first D.C. Superior Court magistrate judge ever selected for this award. In October 2015, Lexis-Nexis published the 14th edition and update of the Domestic Relations Manual for the District of Columbia co-authored by Judge Brenneman and Linda Ravdin. Judge Brenneman is a member of the Centennial Committee for the Women’s Bar Association of the District of Columbia, preparing for our centennial celebration in May 2017.

Judge Ann Blackburne-Rigsby, District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Judge Blackburne-Rigsby, former President of the NAWJ, was elected President/Moderator of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts (NCREFC) in May, 2016. She has been a speaker on the Access to Justice and Importance of Fairness and Diversity of Court Appointments of Counsel, Receivers and Monitors, ABA Business Law Section Conference and

on the Getting to the First Chair , The Role of the Judiciary in Ensuring Fairness, Access, and Diversity in Appointments of Counsel, ABA TIPS Section Conference.

Judge Judith Boggs, Benefits Review Board. Judge Boggs, past Chair of the National Conference of Administrative Law Judiciary (NCALJ), a conference of the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association, was elected Vice Chair of the ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice at the American Bar Association Annual Meeting. Judge Boggs is also liaison to the Administrative Conference of the United States for the NCALJ, a conference of the Judicial Division of the ABA.

Judge Ann O'Regan Keary, Superior Court for the District of Columbia. Having taken Senior status in 2015, Judge Keary was invited, in late 2015, to participate in Montgomery County, Maryland's undertaking to develop a Mental Health Court for their county. Given Judge Keary's experience as one of the developers of the thriving Mental Health Court diversion program in the District of Columbia, she was invited to share her experience and knowledge to assist in the development of a similar court in Montgomery County. She is currently serving as a senior judge, along with other senior judges, presiding over the DC Superior Court's Mental Health Community Court through the end of 2016.

Judge Lynn Leibovitz, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, was appointed Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division in 2016.

Judge Cheryl Long, Senior Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Senior Judge since 2010, Judge Long is working in the private sector in the world of alternative dispute resolution (ADR). She was appointed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to be a member of the Foreign Service Grievance Board, an independent entity that adjudicates employee appeals from grievances denied by the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development and other federal agencies whose employees work overseas. This year, Secretary John Kerry nominated her for another term. Judge Long is a lifetime member of NAWJ.

Judge Peg Mangan, Administrative Law Judge, D.C. Office of Administrative Hearings. On May 25 and 26, 2016, ALJs at DC OAH welcomed judges from Kosovo and Germany before the IAWJ conference began. A panel of ALJs and attorneys (Chief Adams, ALJs Little, Yahner, Pierson, Cobbs, Figueroa, Handy, Goodie, Crichlow, Beatty-Arthur, Mangan, and Attorneys Natale and Neal) explained administrative law in the United States to our guests, described how OAH operates, and gave them a tour of the facilities.

Judge Brenda Murray, Chief Administrative Law Judge, U.S. Security and Exchange Commission. Judge Murray received the L'Oreal Paris Woman of Worth award in 2009.. Judge Murray's effort as co-chair of the Women in Prison Project began over 25 years ago. Judge Murray continues to impact the lives of hundreds of women in prison by empowering women in prison to educate themselves while incarcerated through accessibility to books, classes, career counseling and placement opportunities. Judge Murray also led the coordination efforts for court visits of D.C. courthouses for international judges attending the IAWJ Conference in Washington, D.C. in May.

Judge Heidi M. Pasichow, Superior Court for the District of Columbia. Judge Pasichow is NAWJ's District Four Director. In August, 2016, Judge Pasichow became Co-Director of the National Association for Trial Advocacy, D.C. Advanced Advocates Program. She also teaches trial advocacy as an Adjunct Professor at the Georgetown School of Law. Judge Pasichow and Mr. Willie Agosto, Director of the D.C. Superior Court's Domestic Violence Unit, have hosted a number of delegations of women prosecutors from Panjab, the most populous of Pakistan's four provinces, Korea and elsewhere to introduce the visitors to the organization and process of the court's civil and criminal domestic violence dockets. The visitors also focused the discussion on how to address the reluctance that many victims of domestic violence have in participating in the court's civil or criminal enforcement process and how to encourage participation through victim and witness protection programs.

The Honorable Vanessa Ruiz, Senior Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Judge Ruiz has been elected as the President Elect of the International Association of Women Judges, to serve as its President in 2018 – 2020. She has been an active member of IAWJ, attending its international conferences and serving on the IAWJ Board of Managerial Trustees, which provides oversight of the finances, administration, and resource development for the organization. Judge Ruiz is a past President of NAWJ (2006) and has also served on the Board of Trustees for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. She has been recognized by the NAWJ, the ABA, and numerous local bar associations for her work for access to justice for members of the community. Remember the next IAWJ Conference is in Buenos Aires in 2018.

Judge Fern Flanagan Saddler, Superior Court for the District of Columbia. Received the 2016 Charlotte E. Ray Award, in recognition of her strong commitment to mentorship, outstanding leadership, dedication to the advancement of female attorneys, and overall excellence in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. community. Since 1989, the Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association (GWAC) and GWAC Foundation have annually recognized one outstanding African-American woman from our local bar in honor of Charlotte E. Ray – the first woman admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia and the first African-American woman certified as a lawyer in the United States. Judge Saddler also has served as the Chair of the Judicial Council Division of the Washington Bar Association for the past two years. This year, under Judge Saddler's leadership, the Judicial Council Division organized and successfully executed its two signature programs: the Summer Judicial Internship Program and the Annual Spring Symposium.

Resource Board Member Christina Guerola Sarchio. Ms. Sarchio is a member of Orrick's Board of Directors and chair of Orrick's Class Action Strike Team, has received national recognition for both her legal skills and business acumen. Ms. Sarchio was named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Washington, D.C. and has received a number of awards (including the 2015 Military Spouse JD Network Professional Excellence Award), been profiled by *Law360*, *Powerful Latinas* and the Minority Corporate Counsel Association, and has been recognized by numerous publications. Ms. Sarchio has been named as one of "20 Elite Women" by *Hispanic Business Magazine*, a "Top Washington Lawyer" by the *Washington Business Journal*, and one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics" by *Hispanic Business Magazine*.

Judge J.E. Sullivan, U.S. Administrative Law Judge for the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Office of Hearings. Judge Sullivan presides over hearings throughout the United States and its territories (e.g., the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam). The majority of cases that she adjudicates are filed and prosecuted by the Federal Aviation Administration. Judge Sullivan is a plenary or session speaker for the ABA, FALJC, and the FBA.

Erin Masson Wirth, Administrative Law Judge, the Federal Maritime Commission. Judge Wirth served as the President of the Federal Administrative Law Judges Conference (FALJC) from June 2015 to June 2016 and was the first woman elected to the position in over a decade. FALJC, established in 1947, is dedicated to improving the administrative judicial process, presenting educational programs, and representing the concerns of federal Administrative Law Judges. Their primary focus last year was protecting judicial independence, which continues to be an on-going challenge for federal Administrative Law Judges. Judge Wirth continues to mentor military spouse attorneys and served on the Advisory Board of the US Chamber of Commerce Hiring Our Heroes Military Spouse eMentor program. Ms. JD recently interviewed her and the article can be found at: <http://ms-jd.org/blog/article/5-things-i-learned-from-my-interview-with-judge-erin-wirth>

Judge Patricia Wald, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. At the May, 2016, IAWJ Conference Judge Wald was awarded the Human Rights Award for her lifetime work on civil rights, human rights and international law. Prior to assuming the bench Judge Wald served as Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs. After retiring from the bench Judge Wald was appointed to the Iraq Intelligence Commission, served on The Constitution Project's Guantanamo Task Force, confirmed as a member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

IAWJ Conference May in DC District 4 Committee Members:

Opening Ceremony Committee Co-chairs

Hon. Gladys Kessler, U.S. District Court, District of Columbia (DC)

Hon. Vanessa Ruiz, District of Columbia Court of Appeals (DC)

Hospitality Suite Committee Chair

Hon. Julia Weatherly, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland (MD)

Security Committee Chair

Hon. Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, District of Columbia Court of Appeals (DC)

Tours Committee Chair

Hon. Brenda Murray, United States Securities and Exchange Commission (DC)

Volunteers Committee Chair

Hon. Erin Wirth, Federal Maritime Commission (DC)

Tour Committee Assistance
Hon. Peg Mangan, Office of Administrative Hearings (DC)

Other Goings On

On March 25, 2016 at the law offices of Covington & Burling, LLP, The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs (<http://www.washlaw.org/about-us/staff>) released its fourth in a series of reports focusing on criminal justice reform and civil rights issues. The report is entitled: "D.C. Women in Prison: Continuing Problems and Recommendations for Change." Lawyers at the law firm of Covington & Burling, LLP, in Washington, DC, worked pro bono on the report and NAWJ members acknowledged for their contribution are **Judges Julie Frantz, Brenda Murray, Vanessa Ruiz and Anna Blackburne-Rigsby.**

D.C. Superior Court News

The Superior Court for the District of Columbia Court schedules judicial training throughout the year. Included in a recent training for juvenile judges in particular was a presentation by Elizabeth Scaife, the Director of Training for Shared Hope International on the topic of responding to minor sex trafficking victims. For further information contact her at Elizabeth@sharedhope.org.

An international delegation from South America, the Carribean , Canada, Spain and various U.S. territories visited the DC Superior Court of the District of Columbia problem-solving court's drug intervention program (SCDIP). Since 1993 it has been a model for drug court programs in the United States and globally as well. Observing the program contributed to further understanding alternatives to incarceration for drug-related offenses.

Maryland Chapter

Maryland Chapter has been very busy in this period. Many of our members led programs during the Joint Maryland State Bar Association-Maryland Judiciary Conference in June in Ocean City, Maryland. Shortly after the conference, we elected new officers:
President - Sherrie Krauser, Circuit Court-Prince Georges County, Retired;
Vice President - Sharon Burrell, Circuit Court-Montgomery County;
Secretary - Mary Kramer, Circuit Court-Howard County; and
Treasurer - Kendra Ausby, Circuit Court - Baltimore City.

Our members have used the supposedly lazy days of summer to great effect, representing NAWJ-Maryland in a wide variety of important contributions to the legal and wider community.

Judge Claudia Barber, Administrative Law Judge, D.C. Office of Administrative Hearings. Judge Barber is former District 4 Director. She attended the Maryland Juvenile Service Center in Laurel, MD on September 11, 2016. Judge Barber was an invited guest speaker for the NAACP, to teach juvenile inmates about character, accountability, and respect. NAACP member Tracina Ellis Johnson conducts the mentoring session at the center with juvenile inmates on the first Sundays of each month.

Marielsa A. Bernard, Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Judge Bernard initiated the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) Storybook Project in the Jessup, Maryland Correctional Institution for Women, assisting incarcerated mothers in reading and recording stories for their children, which are later sent to the children along with the book and a tape recorder so that the bond between mother and child can be maintained. She has been recognized in the past for her outstanding leadership on this project.

Judge Toni E. Clarke, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, MD. Judge Clarke is formerly 4th District Director, Chair of the Maryland Chapter, and currently NAWJ's Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates. Judges Clarke, Sherri Krauser and Marcella Holland organized District 4's Leadership conference in Cambridge, Maryland, described further below (see Krauser). The conference included sessions on elder care, featuring the **Honorable Patricia Banks**, Presiding Judge of the Elder Law Division of the Cook County Circuit Court. The program was so highly praised that it will be further explored and expanded at NAWJ's Seattle conference in October.

After the American Bar Association's Annual Meeting in San Francisco in August, the ABA's Judicial Division leadership will look very familiar to members of the NAWJ as all three current and incoming chairs are members of our association. **Colonel Linda S. Murname**, who sits on the **Special Tribunal for Lebanon**, is the current Chair of the Judicial Division bringing her unique experience as a presiding judge for international tribunals. **Judge Ann Breen-Greco** is an **Administrative Law Judge** presiding in the City of Chicago IL Administrative Hearings Department, and is the JD Chair-Elect. **Judge Toni E. Clarke, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, MD** and immediate Past Chair of NAWJ District 4 and a prior Chair of the Maryland Chapter, joins the line-up as the JD Vice-Chair. All three are active members of the NAWJ and will bring a sustained opportunity to build a bridge between the NAWJ and the ABA.

Judge Marcella A. Holland, Chief Administrative Judge of the Baltimore City Circuit Court, Retired. Judge Holland is an active member of NAWJ. She is the immediate past Treasurer of the NAWJ, has many responsibilities and wears many hats. She is Chair of the Beyond Bars Advisory Committee for the Maryland Girl Scouts. The Girls Scouts in Maryland worked with NAWJ to establish and support a Girl Scout Troop for girls whose mothers were incarcerated in the Maryland women's prison. This troop of scouts hold meetings inside the prison and beyond bars in their community. Overnight campouts at the prison have been held. The girls and the women judges put on a mock trial of State v. Goldilocks at the Baltimore City

Circuit Court. One year the girl scouts and their mothers participated as Mother-Daughter fashion show for the NAWJ re-entry conference's luncheon.

Judge Sherri L. Krauser, JAMS, Greenbelt, MD. Judge Krauser is the President of NAWJ's Maryland Chapter. Judge Krauser has been an active member and officer of NAWJ. On October 30-31, 2015, the Maryland Chapter hosted District 4's 2015 Leadership Conference at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, Maryland under the planning and leadership of **Judge Krauser** who headed the planning committee, together with **Judge Marcella Holland, and Judge Toni Clarke**, immediate past District 4 Director. Sponsors of the conference included JAMS, Dianne C. Bristow, Esquire; M. Celeste Bruce, Esquire, the Women's Bar Association of Maryland, and the Virginia Women Attorneys Association. The Conference included the presentation of the Edna Parker Award to the Honorable Barbara M. Keenan of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, for outstanding leadership, service and commitment to improving or furthering the cause of justice. Educational programs focused on Trauma and the Law and Elder Law. In a parallel program, the **Honorable Patricia Banks**, Presiding Judge of the Elder Law Division of the Cook County Circuit Court; Karren Pope-Onwukwe, Esquire, a prominent Maryland elder law and disability rights attorney; and Stacy L. Rodgers, Chief of Staff, Office of the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration presented a panel discussion on elder law, and navigating the medicare, medicaid and Social Security systems. The Conference ended with a dramatic luncheon speaker: Tonier Cain, a trauma survivor and world-renowned advocate for appropriate intervention and assistance for trauma victims.

Beverly Sherman Nash, D.C. Office of Administrative Hearings, Retired. Judge Nash is former president of the Maryland Chapter of District 4. She retired this year and works with women prisoners and their families to mend bridges before the inmate returns home through a mediation group in Anne Arundel County.

Judge Arline Pacht, National Labor Relations Board, Retired, was recognized and honored as the founding mother of the International Association of Women Judges at its 12th biennial conference in Washington, D.C. in May as the organization celebrated its 25th anniversary. Judge Pacht chaired the original committee in 1989 when NAWJ decided to establish an international sister organization. At the time she was an Administrative Law Judge for the National Labor Relations Board. In 1998 she retired from the NLRB to become President and Executive Director of IAWJ. For the next 12 years, she fostered the growth of IAWJ, developing the structure of the flagship program "Towards a Jurisprudence of Equality". During her presidency, IAWJ grew from 850 judges in 15 counties to 4,000 members in 77 countries. Judge Pacht attends all the biennial conference around the world, and encourages the NAWJ and the IAWJ to do meaningful work to promote gender and equal justice in the courts throughout the world.

Judge Tracey Louise Parker-Warren, Office of Administrative Hearings, Hunt Valley, Maryland: District 4 officer, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan appointed Judge Parker-Warren to the Worker's Compensation Commission.

Judge Cathy H. Serrette, Circuit Court for Prince George's County. There are a limited number of judges that the State Department calls upon when they need a judicial expert with

international custody disputes. One of those judges is Judge Cathy H. Serrette.. Having been trained in international custody law at the Hague, she has participated in trainings for other courts. Most recently she traveled in July 2016 to Guyana for a Hague conference on International Family Law, Legal Cooperation and Commerce, Promoting Human Rights and Cross-Border Trade. There she joined judges, lawyers, and prosecutors from the Caribbean for training on handling international custody matters. She brings back to the Maryland courts unique perspectives from other judicial systems and their handling of perplexing legal disputes.

Judge Julia B. Weatherly, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Retired. Judge Weatherly is the co-chair (with Dr. Shawn Flower) of the Women Moving Forward Conference. NAWJ's District 4 and the Maryland Chapter sponsored the 8th annual Women Moving Forward, a re-entry conference at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCIWo). The conference, held at the women's prison on April 23, 2016, presented workshops and speakers to help guide women soon to return to the community advice and support for a successful reentry. This year offered a new luncheon program, a talent show starring women at MCIW who sang, danced, shared their poetry, comedy and obvious talents with the 160 participants. Partnering with non-profits and religious organizations who provide programs and support to incarcerated women, NAWJ considers this prison outreach to be one of their best community programs.

NAWJ and ABA

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Virginia Chapter

Our members in Fairfax and Hampton Roads continue to participate in the Color of Justice program. Many of us have participated in Moot Court competitions. **Judge Jan Brodie** of Fairfax Circuit Court has high school students shadow her to learn about a judge's work day. Regent Law School in Virginia Beach has a Judicial Intern Program. Many NAWJ members in our area participate and host one or more student interns during the summer.

Judge Angela Edwards Roberts, Retired. Richmond Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court. Judge Roberts participates in Justices in the Classrooms program through the John Marshall Foundation. Judges go into middle and high schools in the Richmond area to discuss the Rule of Law with a focus on the life of the great Chief Justice John Marshall of Virginia. The presentation is tied to the Virginia Standards of Learning. Judge Roberts and the

Richmond J&DR Court have sponsored an annual Oliver Hill Day essay competition. The late Oliver White Hill, after whom the Richmond J&DR Court is named, was a renowned civil rights attorney from Virginia involved in the Brown v. Board of Education case before the U.S. Supreme Court. The essay competition occurs in conjunction with the ABA's Law Day theme around May 1st, and asks students to relate the Law Day theme to the life of Attorney Oliver Hill.

On March 24, 2016, members of NAWJ and VAWJ District Four participated in the Annual Judges Panel at George Mason University Law School. **Judge Joan Churchill, former President of NAWJ and retired Immigration Court Judge, Judge Penney Azcarate of the Fairfax Circuit Court, Judge Constance Frogale, former President of VAWJ, and Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations Judge, Judge Helen Leiner of the Fairfax J&DR Court, and Judge Jennifer Bisk, judge of the Patent Court participated as panelists.** The panel discussion was moderated by Judge Karen Henenberg, retired judge of the Arlington General District Court, and adjunct professor of law at the law school. The event was sponsored by the Women's Law Association of GMUSL. The panelists discussed the benefits of a judicial career and the different paths to becoming a judge. They also offered advice to law students and attorneys interested in a judicial career and candidly answered questions about the appointment process for state courts in Virginia and for the Immigration and Patent Courts.

NAWJ members in Virginia have continued to work collaboratively with the Virginia Women Attorneys Association. The VWAA "You Be the Judge" program has helped many of us on our road to the bench. Current and former NAWJ members are speakers for the VWAA Anniversary Celebration and Fall Conference in Charlottesville.

The Circuit and Appellate members of the Virginia Chapter met on May 14 in Williamsburg. The District Court judges meet during our statewide conference in Norfolk on Sept. 21. This year we are hoping to initiate a new NAWJ program with our law schools, using the Mentor Jet model.