

## Annual Conference Report for District 7 (Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia)

September 26, 2016

### Michigan:

#### 1. MentorJet:

Michigan law schools eagerly host annual MentorJet events. The event is well-received by the law students, practitioners, and judges who attend. NAWJ and the law schools appreciate the electronic brochure that is prepared for each event, courtesy of the law firm Dickinson, Wright, PLLC.

MentorJet events are scheduled as follows through year end 2016:

September 27: University of Detroit Mercy Law School, Detroit.

Approximately 20 mentors (including Michigan Supreme Court Justice Brian Zahra) and 20 students will meet for a fun night of jet-mentoring.

October 6: University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor.

Mentors and law students are currently being assembled.

November 3: Western Michigan University Cooley Law School, Lansing.

November 15: Michigan State University Law School, East Lansing.

#### 2. Faces of Justice:

This pilot event is planned for Tuesday, October 25. It is sponsored by NAWJ Michigan and the State Bar of Michigan. It will take place at the Michigan Supreme Court Hall of Justice in Lansing, Michigan. Forty to sixty high school students from 3 Lansing public schools will participate in a morning program that includes a welcome from Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridgette McCormack, a panel discussion, jet-mentoring with approximately 20 judges, lawyers, and law enforcement officers, a tour of the Hall of Justice interactive center, and a tour of the Court of Appeals courtroom, courtesy of Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Kurtis Wilder. The program will conclude with lunch at noon for all participants.

#### 3. Human Trafficking Conference:

On Thursday, September 29, the Human Trafficking Commission is hosting a statewide, court-centered conference on the topic of Human Trafficking. NAWJ District 7 Director Michelle Rick is a member of the Human Trafficking Commission, and is the chair of this

event. The planning of this conference was made possible, in part, due to NAWJ's comprehensive materials related to planning a human trafficking conference. 200 attendees, including judges, court staff, law enforcement, prosecutors, human services caseworkers, and victim advocates will attend this day-long event in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

4. NAWJ Recruitment event:

Preliminary planning is underway to host a recruitment event in January 2017 to enhance NAWJ's Michigan membership.

Ohio:

NAWJ 2016 Scholarship:

The NAWJ, through its Access to Justice Scholarship Program in District 7, will provide a \$500 scholarship to a deserving law student from Judge Mary Margaret Rowlands' class at the University of Akron School of Law Summer Trial Academy. Judge Rowlands is NAWJ's Ohio state chair and is a principle architect of the Trial Academy, which she affectionately refers to as "Trial Lawyer Boot Camp." The program is a two week intensive course that enlists 30 leading trial lawyers and judges from around the region to instruct, guide and mentor the 24 enrolled students in the art of trial advocacy. The course culminates in jury trials before sitting judges in real courtrooms and involves the entire entering first year class as witnesses and jurors as part of their law school orientation.

Judge Rowlands is dedicated to diversity and equality in the legal profession, protecting individual rights, fairness and equality in the courts, and equal access to justice. Stemming from her pre-judicial career as a trial lawyer, she worked with Professor Dana Cole and others to create the Summer Trial Academy in 2015. The 2016 participants exemplify the ideals and mission of NAWJ and Judge Rowlands is proud to offer them the opportunity to apply for the District 7 scholarship.

West Virginia:

No report.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Michelle M. Rick  
Director, District 7