

Greetings,

Hello one and all! I am happy to report that NAWJ has experienced quite an exciting, busy and productive year. One of our jewels, and one of a kind event included a very successful IAWJ Biennial Conference hosted by NAWJ in May. We had over 900 attendees representing 81 countries. The ground swell of interest in this event far exceeded our wildest expectations and we are so delighted that we could host all of the attendees in D.C. with its many significant monuments filled with our country's important history. It was very fitting that IAWJ chose Washington D.C. as the site for its 25th anniversary celebration. After all, it was here, in 1989 that the idea that became IAWJ was born. It is my great pleasure and honor to have served as the NAWJ Executive Director during this significant time to learn from our international attendees and together enjoy the rich experiences that our unique meetings bring to us.

NAWJ's leadership is grateful to the vast number of individuals who were responsible for the success of the Biennial Conference. We are thankful to all those who served as conference chairs under the leadership of the Biennial Conference Co-Chairs and Biennial Advisory Counsel. We are appreciative for all of the hard work of the volunteers and IAWJ and NAWJ staff members who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the success of this conference.

In June NAWJ hosted its 11th Annual Meeting between the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and the National Association of Women Judges. This year's topic included sexual assault on the military and college campuses.

Speakers included Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen and Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri. A panel discussion following the speakers included: Laura Dunn, Esq. Founder and Executive Director of SurvJustice, Professor of Law Suzanne B. Goldberg, Executive Vice President for University Life, Columbia University; and NAWJ Judge (Retired) Carolyn Temin, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia, P.A. This annual event gives judges and congresswomen a unique opportunity to discuss issues of mutual concern which affect all women and children and to learn from each other.

In July, we were so pleased to have launched our newly updated and improved NAWJ website. We have many individuals to thank who have worked so hard on this 3-year project. With our profound thanks those included are: Judge Karen Donohue; Judge Sheri Roman; CourtCall Director of Corporate Development Cathy Winter; Webmaster Jenn Fedin; Communications Consultant Paola Tejada Lalinde; Law Clerk to Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby David Guo; and Efelle Creative, the company selected to develop and design the website and its content management system. Their hard work will allow NAWJ to update and improve the flow of information from NAWJ to members.

At the present time we are putting the finishing touches on the NAWJ Annual Conference being held in Seattle and I hope to see most of you at the conference.

Looking ahead, I am anticipating a very successful 2017 and look forward to working with the newly elected NAWJ Board of Directors to help them achieve their goals for fiscal year 2017. We always welcome suggestions and new ideas to move NAWJ forward. Feel free to contact us and we will try our best to accommodate our membership with quick responses delivered with a smile.