



## **NAWJ President-Elect**

### **Annual Report**

#### **October 2015-September 2016**

**Respectfully submitted by Hon. Diana Becton**

It was my distinct honor and privilege to serve this great organization under the leadership of President Lisa Walsh. Here are the highlights of my activity.

**The American Civil Trial Bar Roundtable:** The meeting took place in Williamsburg, Virginia, September 9-10, 2016. The proposed resolution on Diversity in Trial Court Appointments was considered and unanimously adopted by the Roundtable. All of the attendees, including ABOTA, AAJ, and Defense Trial Attorneys, will take the resolution to their respective organizations and recommend adoption.

Justice Robin E. Hudson, NAWJ Co-Chair, Judicial Independence Committee, gave an overview of the IVP Program.

**NAWJ 2017 Conference in Atlanta:** The Atlanta conference committee, is led by Co-chairs Justice Carol Hunstein and Judge Sara Doyle. Planning is on track and they have excellent ideas for the 2017 conference, which will be held October 11-15, 2017 at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel. The theme is Access to Justice: Past, Present & Future. Plans are underway for a kick-off reception in January 2017, which will be coordinated with the State Bar Annual meeting, and a reception honoring the out-going and incoming Chief Justices. The August 25, 2016 meeting, included a discussion with the Friends Committee in order to provide early notice of conference fundraising expectations.

**NAWJ 2017 Midyear Conference:** Initiated discussions about possible sites for the 2017 Midyear conference. Also exploring ideas centered less on educational programs and more on meetings, with the board, committee chairs and others to strategizing about NAWJ's future. We will also consider a gala fundraiser.

## **Connection with Future VAWA Office**

Together with Marie Komisar and Judge Mary Schroeder, NAWJ has maintained its relationship with Carrie Bettinger-Lopez, the head of Vice-President Biden's Violence Against Women Act office in the White House. Accordingly, we had a phone conference with Rachel Vogelstein, who is very enthusiastic about NAWJ's continued relationship with VAWA. The VAWA Act will be up for reenactment in the next two years and steps should be taken in the coming year to ensure its reenactment.

**NAWJ Budget:** Participated in meetings to review, discuss and revise a draft NAWJ budget for 2016-17, with a goal of achieving a balanced budget that will be presented to the board for consideration.

**Site Selection Committee Meeting:** Chair, Hon. Jennifer Gee. We have confirmed the 2019 annual meeting will be held in Nashville. 2018 in San Antonio, and 2017 in Atlanta.

**Conference of Chief Judges:** Attended the Conference of Chief Judges in July 2016 in Jackson Hole, WY. Presented and recommended adoption of the Resolution on Diversity in Trial Court Appointments. The CCJ Access & Fairness Committee unanimously approved and recommended the resolution, which was adopted by the CCJ Board.

**NAWJ Friends Committee:** Participated in monthly conference calls.

**NAWJ District Directors:** The work in the District s is impressive! Our District Directors are doing a great job of capturing the activity in our districts which include programs such as a symposium to preserve a fair and impartial judiciary, the Color of Justice, Bar to Bench, Mentor Jet, Speed Mentoring, Women in Prison, and new member recruitment. Keep up the great work!

**Board of Prisons:** Under the leadership of President Lisa Walsh, set up a meeting with Director Feather. The goal is to ensure that women returning to Dansbury are appropriately handled, have suitable facilities, adequate programming.

**Guest Speaker:** Our very own, Elizabeth Lee (Chair, Human Trafficking), was honored by California Women Lawyers, receiving the Rose Bird Award. The program was held on April 8, 2016. I was a guest speaker, and District 14 Director, Anita Santos was on hand to present flowers on behalf of NAWJ.

**Bench to Bar Program:**

Participated on planning committee for this event that was conference call on held on May 20, 2016, and co-sponsored by California Women Lawyers, and National Association of Women Judges.

**Bangkok, Thailand** - On September 25, 2015, Judges Diana Becton and Marguerite Downing of the National Association of Women Judges and State Bar Council on Access and Fairness, participated in a presentation to the Supreme Court of Thailand on state court systems in the United States. As part of their talk on issues affecting the judiciary in California, Judges Becton and Downing presented on the issue of Judicial Diversity.

At an informal meeting with the court prior to the presentation, Judge Becton spoke to the court about ongoing NAWJ programs, specifically related to Human Trafficking, and referred the court to the NAWJ website for additional details. Judge Downing also provided information about issues of children in the Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency who are victims of human trafficking.

In addition to the numerous questions posed by the Thai judges generally, NAWJ and COAF received special kudos from the female judges in attendance for our efforts to increase gender diversity.