

NAWJ Vice President of Districts 2015-2016 Annual Report



National Association of Women Judges

The Honorable Tamila E. Ipema, San Diego County Superior Court
NAWJ Vice President of Districts

2015-2016 Annual Report to the NAWJ Executive Board

Fourteen outstanding District Directors have worked really hard in 2015-2016 to make NAWJ shine in the nation. Judge Ipema thanks all of NAWJ outstanding District Directors for their time commitment, dedication, and great work.

The NAWJ Vice President of Districts, Judge Tamila E. Ipema, provided the District Directors with a copy of the amended by-laws, a PowerPoint with suggestions as how to increase membership and retain the members we have that was prepared jointly with Judge Paja as co-chairs of the membership committee. The District Directors also received a detailed job description regarding their positions as well as a copy of the Board of Directors Duties and Responsibilities manual. The June 2016 monthly meeting was exclusively dedicated to training the District Directors as to their job and brainstorming on the issues of increasing membership. The following suggestions were reiterated on a monthly basis at the monthly meetings to encourage the District Directors to increase membership in their districts.

- 1) Each District to sponsor a social event in their district in February or March 2016 (with your own District Money) to promote the Biennial Conference and NAWJ membership. You may invite all your judges from all courts and they do not have to be NAWJ members. It could be simply a wine and cheese or coffee and cake gathering; and use your jury room or local bar center for the event for free. You may also team up with your local bar to host the event.
- 2) Take steps for Membership Increase and Retention and share your success stories with us so that we could all learn from your ideas.
- 3) It is important to send monthly E-Blasts to our members to keep them connected to NAWJ.
- 4) Each District to present at least one new NAWJ program in the coming year; color of justice and mentor jet is the easiest ones besides the book club for incarcerated women or for juvenile detainees. We will give you the kit for these programs for either to chair it yourself or encourage someone in your

district to chair the program or co-chair it with you. IVP; “success inside & out” for incarcerated women; from the bar to the bench; etc.

The following are the highlights of the reports provided by the District Directors in the past year. Please also refer to separate annual reports provided by our District Directors for their own Districts.

DISTRICT 1

No monthly written Reports were provided.

DISTRICT 2

Hon. Cheryl Gonzales District 2 Director

On January 29, 2016, the NY NAWJ chapter held its annual meeting at the New York Hilton during the New State Bar conference. The meeting was well attended. NY State Bar President, David Miranda and President Elect, Claire Gutekunst addressed the group. Kathy King, NAWJ NY chapter president, reported that last year was a productive year. Highlights from 2015, included the production of the play Anne & Emmitt in New York, and the passage of the anti-shackling bill which was supported by the NY Women in Prison Committee.

Former NY NAWJ President, Darcel Clark was sworn in as the first female District Attorney in Bronx County and the first African American female District Attorney in the New York State on January 16, 2016.

We mourn the passing of former New York State Chief Judge, Judith Kaye, who passed away on January 7, 2016. Judge Kaye was the first woman to be appointed to the NY Court of Appeals, the state’s highest court, in 1983. She was also the first woman to be appointed Chief Judge. Judge Kaye retired in 2008 after serving as chief judge of for 15 years. Judge Kaye was an active member of NAWJ.

Janet DiFiore, who is the second woman to be appointed as Chief Judge, was sworn in on February 8, 2016 as the new Chief Judge of the State of New York. We look forward to working with Judge DiFiore.

The NY chapter is planning a joint program with the Women’s Bar Association of New York on how to become judge which is scheduled for late spring 2016 in the Albany region on a date to be announced.

Judge Shillingford is coordinating a Color of Justice program in Brooklyn to hold in the spring.

New York Women in Prison members, Betty Williams, Marcy Kahn and myself will meet with NY Assemblyman O’Donnell, chair of the prison committee on February 26, 2016 to

discuss the women who were “temporarily” moved in 2013 from Danbury federal prison in Connecticut to the Metropolitan Detention Center in New York.

The Women in Prison committee scheduled a parole workshop on March 11, 2016.

Judge Ruth Shillingford has organized a Color of Justice Program on March 18, 2016. We expect 50 students.

The New York Women in Prison Committee (“NAWJ WIP”) organized a parole workshop for women on March 11, 2016, at the Taconic Correctional Facility for Women. Approximately 100 inmates attended the workshop conducted by volunteer parole attorneys, Donna Sullivan and Edward Hammock. Judges Cheryl J. Gonzales and Betty J. Williams attended the workshop.

The Family Court Committee met on March 16, 2016. Family Court Judge Ann E. O’Shea advised committee members, Judges Susan S. Danoff, Cheryl J. Gonzales, Emily Olshansky and Betty J. Williams, that the final draft of “You Don’t Stop Being a Parent When You Are Incarcerated” was approved for printing by Family Court Supervising Judge Jeanette Ruiz.

The National Association of Women Judges, New York Chapter, in conjunction with the Bedford Stuyvesant YMCA (“YMCA”), held its annual The Color of Justice/ Mentor Jet program on March 18, 2016, at the Supreme Court Kings County Criminal Term building in Brooklyn.

The Women in Prison Committee is working on scheduling another visit to Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn to assess the changes made from our last visit a year ago. At that time, the sentenced women who were transferred from the Danbury facility in Connecticut and placed in the detention center were living under less than ideal conditions. Our report cited issues including the fact that all the women’s daily activities take place in one room, the lack of exposure to natural light, and the lack of focus on preparation for release.

Color of Justice: Queens County Judiciary and attorneys collaborate to empower Queens High School Students; May 9, 2016

The Women in Prison Committee has scheduled a follow up visit on June 4, 2016 to Metropolitan Detention Center where the women who were transferred from Danbury Correctional facility in 2013 are still being held.

The NY Chapter of NAWJ will host its annual dinner on June 29, 2016 at Giando on the Water in Brooklyn.

Congratulations to Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix who was presented with the Patricia Lynn Outstanding Service Award by the Association of Black Women Attorneys on April 15, 2016. The award was presented by the Hon. L. Priscilla Hall.

Congratulations to Judge Dora Irizarry who was sworn in as Chief Judge of the Eastern District of New York on April 23, 2016. Judge Irizarry is the first Latino Chief Judge in the Eastern District.

Congratulations to the Hon. L. Priscilla Hall who was presented with the Sister of the Year Award by the Brooklyn Community Church on April 25, 2016.

Since New York State enacted perhaps the nation's strongest anti human trafficking statute in 2007, there have been 425 arrests statewide for sex and labor trafficking. However, all but 80 of those arrests have been in New York City. In the Third Judicial District, which includes the counties of Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster, there have been only nine arrests. Is the upstate region virtually devoid of the trafficking problem that plagues the rest of the nation, or is the potent and powerful 2007 law under-utilized?

This issue will be addressed in a program on Human Trafficking scheduled for June 16, 2016 at Albany Law School which is co-sponsored by the New York NAWJ chapter, New York State Bar Association, the Judicial Council and the Capital District Women's Bar among others.

On June 1, 2016, Judge Betty J. Williams, and NAWJ members, Rhonda Tomlinson, Esq, and Jaya Vasandani, Esq., facilitated a forum at Brown Memorial Baptist Church "How to Organize a Women in Prison Project".

On June 29, 2016, the New York Chapter of District 2 hosted its annual dinner which was attended by more than 130 guests, including NAWJ Executive Director, Marie Komisar. Darcel Clark, Bronx District Attorney and former Director of the New York Chapter, NYS Chief Judge, Janet Di Fiore, and Leslie Stein, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals were honored at the dinner (see photos attached).

District 3

Hon. Barbara McDermott, District 3 Director

Hon. McDermott, our new District 3 Director was present during the telephonic meeting of District Directors on May 13, 2016. She indicated that she plans to attend the Board meeting in DC on May 26th. We thank Judge McDermott and thank her for her commitment to NAWJ and for her traveling to DC with such a short notice. Judge McDermott indicated that exciting things are happening in her district and she will provide a written report for her District in June. Here are the highlights:

Delaware Chapter was involved in the 4th Sisters in Success Conference at Baylor Women's Correctional Institution earlier this month. Dr Jill Biden presented the keynote address. The theme for this year's conference was "What Inspires You?" The conference brought together a team of criminal justice professional women from the local community designed to empower women within the Delaware justice system. This year, for the first time, inmates were included on the planning committee. I'm not sure if it is too late to include this in your report but I wanted to make sure that you knew about it.

Judge McDermott reported on the upcoming PA State Trial Judges Conference that she plans to attend and recruit members for NAWJ in spring 2016. She indicated that judges from across the state both trial and appellate judges as well as Supreme Court Justices will be in attendance.

Pennsylvania members of District 3 attended a reception on July 28, 2016 at the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges' Annual Conference in Hershey. Members welcomed the newest member of Pennsylvania's Supreme Court, Justice Sallie Updyke Mundy, as well as the President Judge of Superior Court, Susan Peikes Gantman, and newly appointed Superior Court Judge Lillian H. Ransom. They were joined by Judge Alice Dubow of Superior Court, Senior Judge Rochelle S. Friedman of Commonwealth Court, and numerous judges from the Pennsylvania Courts of Common Pleas. All were delighted to hear from District Director Barbara McDermott, long standing NAWJ member, Judge Doris Pechurow, and Judge Lisette Shirdan-Harris, our newly elected Director representing the United States on the Board of the International Association of Women Judges. Suggestions were made to make the reception a part of the annual conference.

As mentioned in other parts of this newsletter, members were saddened by the death of one of our heroes, U.S. Eastern District of Pennsylvania Judge Norma L. Shapiro.

DISTRICT 4

Hon. Heidi Pasichow, District 4 Director

Hon. Pasichow reported on a leadership conference in October in her district that energized the members. Also, Judge Warren submitted an E-Blast in December 2015 to the members that was very detailed; and she hopes to do more in 2016. 2015 ended in a positive note reinvigorating our membership.

Hon. Pasichow stated that she hoped to find a way to reinvigorate our seniors and retired judges to return as members and assist us. There are a variety of reasons why retired judges leave NAWJ. There is a need to do a survey to find out how many are not leaving and why.

Hon. Pasichow reported her efforts in trying to increase membership. She is looking for ways to identify the target group. She is looking for a list of all administrative judges

and military judges in D.C., Virginia, and Maryland area to connect with them and invite them to join NAWJ. She is also looking for a list of retired judges to encourage them to return to NAWJ. She intends to send out letters and emails and ask NAWJ members who have not renewed their membership and encourage them to renew. She is working with the planning committee for the international conference to promote the District at the conference. Judge Murray and Judge Holland have been working on tours in DC for the IAWJ Conference.

Hon. Pasichow is looking for a DC chapter judge to assist her. She plans to partner with the other women bar organizations. She does not have a calendar of events for the coming months at this time but hopes to have one soon.

Judge Paja informed the district directors that Federal Administrative Law Judges has already been compiled by retired Judge Joan Churchill (former NAWJ President) and a copy could be obtained from her. Judge Paja will reach out to the military judges to compile a list.

Judge Paja also indicated that we already get the list of all members, renewals, purged and dropped members on monthly basis. Once a member purged, Judge Paja is not sure whether such records are kept by the National Center for State Courts.

District of Columbia Chapter News:

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.

On March 29, 2016 NAWJ District Four Director, DC Superior Court Judge Heidi M. Pasich and Mr. Willie Agosto, Director of the Domestic Violence Unit, hosted a delegation of women prosecutors from Panjab, the most populous of Pakistan's four provinces. The visitors focus the discussion on how to address the reluctance that many victims of domestic violence have participating in the court's civil or criminal enforcement process and how to encourage participation through victim and witness protection programs.

The Women's Bar Association Foundation's Seventh Annual Grant Awards Reception is scheduled for April 14, 2016 featuring keynote speaker Mary Margaret Farren, Domestic Violence survivor and Advocate. The grant recipients are:

Ayuda, Bread for the City, DC Law Students in Court, DC Volunteer Lawyer's Project, Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project, First Shift Justice Project, Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia and Legal Counsel for the Elderly.

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 Caribbean, 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 News:

Improving the future prospects of female offenders, both juvenile and adult, remains a top priority for the Maryland Chapter. Through dialogue with the Maryland Women Legislators Caucus, we explore needed legislative change. In partnership with the Maryland Women's Bar Association, Prince George's County Chapter, we dedicate Women's History Month in March to weekend activities for our younger offenders. And we join with other community organizations to sponsor an annual conference for women offenders nearing the end of their terms of incarceration.

On March 16, 2016, the Maryland Chapter, together with the Maryland Women Legislators Caucus, held their 22nd annual Judge Irma Raker Dinner at the Maryland Court of Appeals. Under the leadership of Maryland Chapter's founding chair, Judge Irma Raker and current Chair, Judge Sherrie Krauser, more than 40 women gathered at the Maryland Court of Appeals to honor the newest member of that court, our own Judge Michele D. Hotten. Judges and legislators exchanged information about current legislative proposals and NAWJ activities and welcomed new NAWJ members Judge Kendra Ausby, Judge Dorothy Engel, Judge Jane Cairns Murray, Judge Katina Steuart, Judge Ann Wagner Stewart and Magistrate Lara Weathersbee. The women legislators explained their concerns about juvenile offender laws and other issues, discussed options for reform with the judges, and expressed their support for our NAWJ programs and initiatives.

During the month of March, NAWJ supported and participated in the Thomas J.S. Waxter Children's Center program organized by the WBA PG Chapter. Over the

course of three Saturdays, the attorneys and judges gathered with the girls and discussed the Maryland Criminal Justice 101 and overcoming adversity. We concluded the program by playing card games, painting each other's nails, and providing lunch for the girls. NAWJ participants included Judges Dorothy Engel, Cathy Serrette, and Caryn Hines.

See photograph attached. From left to right are: Sonya Gomes, Laura Fuggitti, Phi Thi Tach, Laurie Wiesner, Caryn Hines, Jo Anne Stewart, Durriyah Rose, Lauren Miller, Ashley McFarland, Bridgette Grier and Elsa Smith"

On Saturday, April 23, 2016, the Maryland Chapter, partnering with the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women, will hold its 9th Women Moving Forward Pre-Release Conference for women inmates within nine months of release. The Conference, chaired by Judge Julia Weatherly, helps women prepare for living and working healthy, lawful lives after incarceration with guidance in applying for and obtaining employment. Workshops will develop skills in writing a resume' or job application, answering questions in a job interview, and other life skills. This year's entertainment will be a talent show featuring the inmates themselves. We anticipate that this year's Conference will be the best yet!

Virginia Chapter News:

On March 24th members of NAWJ and VWAA (Virginia Women's Attorney Association) participated in the Annual Judges Panel at George Mason University School of Law. Judge Joan Churchill, former NAWJ President and retired Immigration Court Judge, Judge Penney Azcarate of the Fairfax Circuit Court, Judge Constance Frogale, former President of the NAWJ Virginia Chapter and Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Judge, Judge Helen Leiner of the Fairfax Juvenile and Domestic Relations 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.

The Circuit Court members of the Virginia chapter will meet during their mandatory judicial conference for breakfast on May 12th in Williamsburg. The District Court members will meet during their mandatory conference for breakfast on September 20 in Norfolk.

Current officers of the Virginia Chapter are: President – Judge Judith Kline, Vice-President – Judge Marilyn Goss, Secretary – Judge Georgia Sutton, Treasurer- Judge Mary Jane Hall.

Judge Teena Grodner, a past President of the Virginia Chapter, is retiring after 18 years of service on the Fairfax Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court. Her colleagues are holding a retirement celebration on April 15 from 4:30-6:30 pm at the Atrium, Fairfax Courthouse.

Judge Julia Weatherly submits the following update:

The Women Moving Forward Conference was held on Saturday, April 23 and was a success. Our keynote speaker, Aisha Saulsburg, spoke about the impact of trauma on people, and how awareness of that impact allows us to make other choices than those to which we seem driven. We offered 13 workshops on a variety of topics. Those that addressed reunification of families were especially popular, an indication of the importance to the women who are heading home. In addition there were workshops of finance, employment, the need to establish support networks to address addictions, health issues, and others. The women appreciated the treats from the conference -- conference bags, journals, thumb drives, and a goodie bag filled with mini products and candy. The Kenwood Garden Club came out a day before the conference and worked with inmate volunteers to make beautiful floral arrangements for all the tables. Another garden club gave us boxes of small flower arrangements which were placed throughout the classrooms and given to the speakers. Biddle Street Deli brought in lunch, which is a treat for the women. We have given up on healthy options and just ordered fried chicken which is overwhelming the favorite each year. We tried something new this year for a luncheon program. Instead of a fashion show, we put on a talent show. The talent came from the women at MCIW -- singers, dancers, poets, and a comedian. They rehearsed several times a week to pull it together, and it was a hit. At the end of the day, Tom Lane, a renowned speaker from Toastmasters, and a former inmate, gave a heartfelt speech about success after prison. It was a perfect note to end on. One of the financial contributors to the event was NAWJ's District 4.

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DISTRICT 5

Hon. Diana S. Eagon, District 5 Director

A Color of Justice program is planned for March in Savannah, GA.

Florida: Hon Myriam Lehr, State Chair

Georgia: Prof Rebecca Davis, State Chair

North Carolina: Justice Robin Hudson, State Chair

Nothing to report

South Carolina No Chair. I am looking for volunteers.

Florida Supreme Court Justices Barbara Pariente and Peggy Quince, NC Supreme Court Justice Robin Hudson, and Washington Supreme Court Justice Debra Stevens participated in a Symposium at Florida State College of Law in Tallahassee Florida entitled "Preserving a Fair and Impartial Judiciary. A conversation with State Supreme Court Justices." The justices spoke with a room full of law students, lawyers, and judges

exploring the principle that judges must be evaluated on their integrity, competency, and ethics not politics. A full report will be in our monthly NAWJ newsletter.

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Nothing to report

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FLORIDA

Judge Myriam Lehr, State Chair

On February 3 Florida Supreme Court Justices Barbara Pariente and Peggy Quince, North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Robin Hudson and Washington Supreme Court Justice Debra Stevens participated in a Symposium at Florida State College of Law in Tallahassee, Florida entitled "Preserving a Fair and Impartial Judiciary. A Conversation with State Supreme Court Justices" The justices spoke with a room full of law students, lawyers, and judges exploring the principle that judges must be evaluated on their integrity, competency, and ethics, not politics. The program was in conjunction with the IVP project and was well attended. The participants enjoyed a lively discussion.

On February 19, 2016, NAWJ State Chair, Myriam Lehr, along with Associate Administrative Judge Linda Singer Stein presented a Color of Justice Program to the students from the Law Academy of the Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School. The Presidents of the Cuban American Bar Association, Anna Marie Hernandez and the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Bar Association, Loreal Arscott, were the featured speakers. They each presented their own personal stories and backgrounds of their road to a successful career in the law. Specifically, they spoke about African American and Hispanic Minority Women having paved the way for young attorneys. The students were very engaged, asked many questions to the speakers and showed that they were very inspired in the study of law.

GEORGIA

Professor Rebecca Davis, State Chair

Justice Carol Hunstein and Judge Sara Doyle are busy with the planning of 2017 NAWJ Annual Meeting in Atlanta. A Color of Justice program is planned for Savannah in March.

NORTH CAROLINA

Justice Robin Huston, State Chair

Justice Scalia's unexpected death has thrown a certain amount of uncertainty into some pending matters, especially redistricting. The day before he died a 3-judge panel of federal judges declared NC congressional districts 1 and 12 unconstitutional as racial gerrymanders. The NC supreme court had previously ruled the new districts (state and congress) were constitutional. Many observers expected the US Supreme Court to take both cases and hopefully resolve the conflict. Now there is uncertainty as to the outcome.

Also this year for the first time the state Supreme Court election was proceeding as a non-partisan vote, due to a legislative change in 2015. A 3 judge panel of state court judges announced last week that it was going to find that election change unconstitutional under the state constitution. The order has not yet been entered. Only one justice is up in 2016, and that is Justice Robert Edmunds.

The Court of Appeals elections in 2016 are still contested, with partisan labels again (after being non-partisan for more than a decade). Judges Linda Stephens, Valerie Zachary, Robert Hunter, Jr., and Richard Dietz are up for re-election and all have opponents. The intersection of politics and the judiciary in North Carolina is very evident.

SOUTH CAROLINA

A judicial Symposium on Economics and Law of Public Pension Reform will take place in Charleston on March 20 to 22. It will discuss looming financial and structural crisis facing state pension systems throughout the country. The program will outline underlying structure of pension systems, address differences public and private, and discuss unfunded liabilities and potential bankruptcy issues.

Florida Judge Myriam Lehr State Representative

Florida is planning a wonderful program to celebrate Constitution Day at the North Dade Justice center on September 9. Federal Magistrate Judge Chris M. McAliley is the featured speaker.

Georgia Professor Rebecca Davis State Representative

Judge Wendy L Shooch was named Best Judge by the Atlanta Jewish Times readers in its 2016 Best of Jewish Atlanta reader survey.

A Constitution Day program accompanied by a Constitution day Poster Competition is planned for September at Georgia southern University. Professor Rebecca Davis in Georgia is the contact person for the Constitution Day Program in Georgia.

Work continues on the Atlanta NAWJ annual conference for 2017.

North Carolina Justice Robin Hudson State Representative

Justice Hudson is putting together a reception in conjunction with the Southeast Regional Judges conference in September with the aim of NAWJ recruiting and distribution of IVP materials

FLORIDA Hon. Myriam Lehr, State Chair

On October 2, 2015 at Akerman LLP Miami, the NAWJ joined by the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association, the Florida Association for women Lawyers, the Dade County Bar Association and the Cuban American Bar Association, hosted "Strength in Diversity: Faces of Justice in Florida's Courts" The program featured Judge Tanya Kennedy, NAWJ Treasurer and New York Supreme Court Judge, Judge Marcia Cook, US District Court Judge for the Southern District of Florida, and Judge Lisa Walsh, NAWJ President and was moderated by Loreal Arscott, GSCBWL president and Brendalyn Edwards GSCBWL president-elect. They were joined by key members of the community to work on a strategic action plan to increase racial diversity in Miami's circuit court, where no woman of color has been appointed or elected in 24 years. They left with specific tasks to implement, including placing a diversity initiative on the agenda of business and civic organizations, voluntary bar associations publishing a commitment to the diversity principle on their websites, developing better relationships in social organizations such as sororities, fraternities, and churches, and better marketing strategies for candidates to use for success. NAWJ is most grateful to the continued support and generosity of the Akerman firm, especially to NAWJ Resource Board Member Elizabeth Hernandez and to Carol Faber for promoting and supporting this initiative and supporting all the work of NAWJ.

In October Justice Barbara J. Pariente and Annette Boyd Pitts created and produced three new video clips for NAWJ's IVP-Fair Judges Project

On November 6, 2015 NAWJ President, Judge Lisa Walsh, was the keynote speaker at the Palm Beach Florida Association for Women Lawyers in Palm Beach Florida.

President Walsh also spoke on the topic "Securing the Future for Women and Girls at the Miami-Dade Florida Association for Miami History Museum in Miami, Florida, on November 1, 2015

In February a Color of Justice Program was given by Judge Myriam Lehr and Judge Linda Singer Stein to the students of the Law Academy of Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School. Presidents of the Cuban American Bar Assn., Anna Marie Hernandez, and the Gwen S Cherry Black Women Lawyers Bar, Loreal Arscott were featured speakers. Each presented personal stories describing their backgrounds and paths to successful careers in the law, highlighting the stories of African American and Hispanic women who paved the way for young attorneys the engaged students asked many questions reflecting an inspiration to study law.

A full report including pictures were included in the March Newsletter.

FSU College of Law hosted a symposium on February 3 to discuss the issue of political attacks against judges which are based on misunderstanding the 3branch system of government designed by our founding Fathers. The symposium featured four

distinguished State Supreme court Justices--Justices Peggy Quince and Barbara Pariente of the Florida Supreme Court, Justice Debra Stephens of the Washington State Supreme Court and Justice Robin Hudson of the North Carolina Supreme Court--who discussed the importance of informed voters in judiciary elections and fairness in the judiciary. The event was endorsed by the National Association of Women Judges, the IVP, the ABOTA, the FAWL, and the Florida Bar YLD. The esteemed panel, moderated by FSU Assistant Dean Janeia Daniels-Ingram, addressed law students, judges, attorneys, and general public.

The panelists explained the judicial selection process in their respective states and the pros and cons of the different selection systems, ranging from the engagement of citizens to the minimization of political influence. Justice Hudson noted that thirty-nine states currently use some form of an election system for selecting judges, some elections are even partisan, requiring judicial candidates to explicitly align with a political party.

The panelists also described their personal experiences of being attacked and undermined as members of the judiciary when their names appeared on the ballot. The panelists explained that special interests are using direct attacks, often funded by untraceable "dark money" to encourage voters to select judges on the basis of politics, instead of competence and integrity. In many jurisdiction, high production value television & print advertisements directly target a particular incumbent judges urging voters to remove the judge because of an unpopular but legally sound result.

The discussion also included other topics that underlie the overarching concern of swayed elections and attacks on the judiciary. The Justices discussed legislative funding of the judiciary and the challenges that are created by a judiciary that relies on the legislature which may act against the judiciary for a disfavored opinion.

The justices were unanimous in their message: the solution to combatting politics infiltrating the judiciary is education and understanding. Justice Quince stated that those in the legal community must be able to explain the system to laypeople to combat politics in judicial selection. Justice Pariente emphasized that complacency with a system is not the answer. Justice Hudson commented that young lawyers and law students are the stewards of the system going forward and must therefore lead the education.

Educating the public on judicial selection processes and how judges must be evaluated - their integrity, competence and ethics-not politics-is the keystone of the IVP initiative.

GEORGIA, Prof. Rebecca Davis, State Chair

Professor Davis's book "Justice Leah Ward Sears: Seizing Serendipity" will be published by the University of Georgia press in the spring of 2017.

Professor Davis's online Judicial Process course at Georgia Southern University devoted a week to the study of judicial selection featuring NAWJ's informed voters, Fair Judges video.

Georgia Supreme Court Justice, Carol Hunstein, and Court of Appeals Judge, Sara Doyle, are involved in the planning of the NAWJ annual meeting for Atlanta in 2017

NORTH CAROLINA, Justice Robin Hudson, State Chair

Justice Robin Hudson participated in the program "Preserving a Fair and Impartial Judiciary: A Conversation with State Supreme Court Justices " on February 3, 2016. (The report of the program is included in the Florida summary.)

North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Robin Hudson and NAWJ President Lisa Walsh attended the Roundtable, a group of leaders of organizations related to civil justice. NAWJ has been invited the last 2 years to present the IVP program to the participants. Justice Hudson co-chair of the Independence of the Judiciary committee did an exceptional presentation of the state of merit retention elections nationwide and asked the participating organizations to consider partnering with the IVP to share links to our website, use our materials or invite members to speak at their conferences.

A NC three judge panel declared unconstitutional under the NC constitution the new retention election legislation passed in 2015. This was appealed to the state supreme court. Justice Robert Edmunds, the only justice up for election recused himself and the remaining justices were divided 3-3 leaving the lower court order standing. As a result, Justice "Edmunds faces 3 challenges in the June statewide primary.

NC Bar Association Young Lawyers Division bestowed its highest award, the Liberty Bell Award on recently retired Judge Beth Kleeever. She had been a judge in Fayetteville for thirty years.

Most recently Justice Robin Hudson spoke, to Lawyers from Attorney Generals offices all over the country about appellate practice. The seminar was sponsored by the National association of Attorney General, Training Institute, Washington D.C.

Justice Hudson will be representing District 5 at the IAWJ Biannual, and the NAWJ midyear in Washington DC

South Carolina

A judicial symposium on Economics and Law of Public Pension Reform took place in Charleston. It discussed looming financial and structural crisis facing pension systems throughout the country

DISTRICT 6

Hon. Bernadette D'Sousa District 6 Director

Judge D'Sousa reported that there are no NAWJ members in Tennessee and they are making every effort to reach out to judges there and also get retired judges involved. Tulane law school has an internship program and Judge D'Sousa is trying to reach out and have students help her with her E-Blasts. Judge D'Sousa contacted the members who had not paid their dues and they are all current now. Judge D'Sousa intend to increase membership in Dist. 6. The annual meeting for Louisiana Judicial College is set for after IAWJ conference and Jude D'Sousa hopes to increase membership. Judge D'Sousa intends to send her E-Blast out soon encouraging people to attend the IAWJ conference in DC.

Judge D'Sousa plans to have use the local funds for district 6 to have a wine and cheese event with Hon. Joy Lobrano of the Appellate Court.

Judge D'Sousa plans to reach out to the bar leaders to co-host a reception with them and bring in women judges in conjunction with the three day of judicial college for judges from across the state in Louisiana.

Judge D'Sousa has been trying to find NAWJ members from Tennessee and Alabama to serve as state chairs. The only member NAWJ has is a retired judge that Judge D'Sousa has contacted with no response.

Judge Walsh kindly agreed to reach out to the retired judge and ask her to accept to be the state chair.

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DISTRICT 7

Hon. Katherine Hansen, District 7 Director

Hon. Henson reported that they plan to have a color of justice program in her district next spring. She also reported that she is engaged with Div. Director in State Bar and they collaborate with NAWJ on different programs.

The previous idea about a membership event isn't practical for Michigan given several considerations.

Judge Rowlands has agreed to be our state chair for Ohio.

We welcome our State Director, Judge Mary Margaret Rowlands

From Michigan: MentorJet at Cooley's Grand Rapids campus will take place on 3/24. The Faces of Justice team continues to meet to discuss pilot programming for Lansing high school youth in the fall. Members of the Faces of Justice team include Greg Conyers, State Bar Director of Diversity, Members of the State Bar Law Related Public Education & Outreach and Equal Access Initiative Committees. We envision including judges, practitioners, and law enforcement in the programming.

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Hon. Hansen is considering giving a scholarship from her district to a law student and she had a conference call with Michigan Chair and Ohio chair about it (New Ohio chair, Judge Mary Margaret Rowlands).

[Judge Paja kindly volunteered to assist Dist. 7 with the student scholarship process and to share her work products such as scholarship application that was created by Dist. 13 with Dist. 7 and other districts. Judge Paja also encouraged the District Directors to take advantage of the scholarships available to law students in their districts and also turn the scholarship event into a membership development event as well in order to also increase NAWJ membership.

Judge Ipema asked permission from Judge Paja to send the two forms that Judge Paja had previously shared with Judge Ipema about scholarships with the rest of the District Directors and Judge Paja kindly agreed. Judge Ipema sent out the forms to all the District Directors on March 14, 2016.]

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The Michigan Chair reported about Michigan supreme Court Press Release about mentor jet program. See article attached please. There are quotations from two Supreme Court Justices about this wonderful NAWJ program. Dist. 7 intends to have two more mentor jet programs before the end of the year.

Hon. Michelle Rick, District 7 Director

NAWJ projects in Michigan.

MENTORJET ACTIVITIES CONTINUE AT MICHIGAN'S LAW SCHOOL CAMPUSES: An evening of MentorJet took place at Western Michigan University (WMU), Cooley Law School Grand Rapids campus on March 24, 2016. The event was attended by students, judges, and practitioners. (Photos are attached.) On June 9, 2016, WMU, Cooley Law School Auburn Hills campus will host an evening of MentorJet. Mentors and students

alike are currently being enlisted, and the law firm of Dickinson Wright is compiling a program (provided for at each law school MentorJet event) that will include photos and biographies of the mentors in attendance. MentorJet activities have been scheduled at the University of Detroit Mercy law school campus in September, and at the University of Michigan Law School in October. Dates have yet to be scheduled for MentorJet at other state law school campuses, but it is expected that the program will be held in the late fall at Michigan State University and WMU, Cooley Law School in Lansing, and in the winter 2017 at WMU, Cooley Law School in Grand Rapids.

FACES OF JUSTICE PILOT PROGRAM: NAWJ Michigan is pleased to announce that on October 25, 2016, it will pilot a Faces of Justice program (based on NAWJ's Colors of Justice flagship program). The half day event is being planned and sponsored in partnership with Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridgette McCormack, the State Bar of Michigan (SBM) Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, the SBM Equal Justice Initiative, and the SBM Law Related Education and Public Outreach Committee. It was the consensus of all stakeholders that the Michigan Color of Justice program be renamed "Faces of Justice" to reflect that the concept of diversity encompasses race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender and gender identification, and persons with disabilities. The Faces of Justice Pilot program will include 30 – 60 high school students from the Lansing Public Schools. The program will be held at Michigan's the Hall of Justice in Lansing. Planned activities include MentorJet sessions, a panel discussion, and a tour of the Hall of Justice Learning Center.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE SCHOLARSHIP: Plans are underway to award the Access to Justice Scholarship to a student attending a Michigan Law School in the fall 2016. The scholarship will be awarded to a student attending an Ohio Law School in the fall 2017.

Judge Rick reported that mentor jet program was held in Dist. 7 in June 2016 and there are other mentor jet programs are being planned in Ohio, West Virginia, and Virginia.

NAWJ activities in Michigan for the remainder of 2016:

1. MentorJet:

The law schools in Michigan have fully embraced MentorJet. They are excited to host this annual event. The event is also well-received by the practitioners and judges who attend.

Future MentorJet events are scheduled as follows:

September 27: University of Detroit Mercy Law School

October 6: University of Michigan Law School

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

November 15: Michigan State University Law School

2. Faces of Justice program co-sponsored by the State Bar of Michigan:

Date of Event: October 25

Venue: Michigan Supreme Court Hall of Justice

Schools: Lansing Eastern, Lansing Sexton, Lansing Everitt

We are in the final planning stages of the first event in Michigan. We are glad to partner with the Michigan State Bar and we greatly appreciate the support of the Michigan Supreme Court, and Justice Bridgette McCormack, in particular. We are in the process of securing panelists and mentors to participate in this pilot, and hopefully, annual event at the Hall of Justice in Lansing, Michigan.

DISTRICT 8

Hon. Jane Craney, District 8 Director

Hon. Craney is the co-chair of the IAWJ Conference in DC in 2016 and she has been working tirelessly on various conference related issues. Conference planning is coming along beautifully and Judge Craney invited all district directors to please register and attend the conference.

I have 2 things to report on behalf of Dist. 8. 60 Holiday sacks containing candy canes and personal hygiene items were distributed (by me) on 12/22/15 to all of the female inmates at the Morgan County Jail (my jurisdiction--I've been saving for years!) as part of NAWJ's Women in Prison Project. This was done with cooperation of the Morgan County Sheriff Robert Downey and Jail Commander David Rogers. The women were very grateful, tears were shed, some hugs exchanged and several inmates have written thank you notes with the specific requests that I let NAWJ know how much it brightened their spirits over the holidays.

Dist 8 is also co-sponsoring a program in Chicago, IL concerning the gun violence in Chicago. Former NAWJ President Sophia Hall is participating as a speaker on her Restorative Justice Program. The program is during the week of January 23rd, 2016.

NAWJ District 8 will be co-sponsoring a second Police & Community Relations Seminar with the Chicago Bar Association on 9/7/16 from noon until 1:30 pm at the Chicago Bar Association. Judge Sophia Hall, former NAWJ President and pioneer of restorative justice programs in Chicago, will again participate in the Seminar as she did in the first Seminar held earlier this year. NAWJ Board member Ann Breen-Greco helped develop and implement these educational seminars.

The IVP Panel was moderated by Circuit Judge Sophia H. Hall, past President of the NAW, J and Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Appellate Justice Michael Hyman, and Associate Judges Nancy Katz and Laguina Clay-Herron completed the Panel. It was held at the Law firm of Chapman Cutler in Chicago and aired to its other offices. Since the audience was composed of lawyers, the program departed from basic information about the role of the justice system in our form of government. The panelists discussed the manner in which judges are selected in Cook County, Illinois. Often most lawyers are not aware of how judges are selected in their jurisdictions. The panelists also discussed limitations on campaign fundraising and speech by judicial candidates in elections. The panel additionally covered the issues of judicial fairness and how judges on the bench manage their responsibility to be fair in cases involving sensitive issues or difficult litigants. The audience asked searching questions. The question of the best system for the selection of judges was explored, but not resolved.

DISTRICT 9

Hon. Ellen Levy Siwak, District 9 Director

District 9 just put on the "Girl's Summit" we with the University of Missouri - St. Louis for middle school girls (a new program similar to Color of Justice) which was very successful. Dist. 9 Director, Hon. Siwak will provide more information about this program at our next meeting.

ST. LOUIS GIRLS' SUMMIT

On November 20, 2015 the St. Louis Chapter of NAWJ co-sponsored the Girls' Summit at the University of Missouri St. Louis in conjunction with the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life. The day long program for middle school girls featured women judges sharing personal stories of success and acting as resources for the students. Additional speakers included a program director from Girls on the Run, teen advocates from a transitional shelter organization, and several group activities including a program on healthy futures and careers, a yoga session for building healthy minds and healthy bodies, and team building activities.

WOMEN JUDGES ON THE MOVE IN MISSOURI

Former Eastern District Court of Appeals Judge Patricia Cohen was recently appointed Magistrate for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. Jefferson County Circuit Judge Lisa Page and St. Louis County Circuit Judge Colleen Dolan were recently appointed by Governor Jay Nixon to join the Eastern District Court of Appeals, increasing the number of women judges serving on the Court to an all-time high of 6 out of 14. Nancy Watkins was recently appointed to the Circuit Court bench in St. Louis County and Heather Cunningham was appointed as a Family Court Commissioner.

Susan Block, Retired Circuit Judge, St. Louis County, Missouri, was recently recognized for her service of 6 years on the Missouri Children's Trust Fund board. Block was appointed to this position by Governor Nixon as the lawyer representative to provide guidance to CTF in preventing child abuse and neglect. She continues to serve on the boards of Caring for Kids and HomeWorks! organizations that seek to meet the urgent needs of children. Block is a principal at the law firm of Paule Camazine & Blumenthal in Clayton, Missouri, where she focuses on all issues concerning children and families.

IOWA BOOK CLUB FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN

Judge Donna L. Paulsen reported that the Iowa Book Club has read 24 books and has had some wonderful discussions in Session III of the Book Club project. A great accomplishment since 25% of American adults did not read a single book last year and only 24% have read 11 or more books in a year. Volunteers facilitated discussions on the depth of understanding about themes, character analysis and relating the stories to our everyday lives. The Book Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. No particular background or educational level is needed. The books are provided to participants at no cost. The Book Club has over twenty volunteers and judges that facilitate the program at the prison every two weeks. Up to 15 offenders have participated each session and we have now read 24 books that we have donated to the prison for each of the 15 offenders. The 360 books remain in the prison library for others to enjoy. The volunteer judges and lawyers learn from the offenders and appreciate hearing their insights into the themes and characters and how they relate to life. The Book Club is sponsored by The National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), The Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys (IOWA), Polk County Women Attorneys (PCWA), and friends.

WISCONSIN ELECTION RESULTS

Justice Rebecca Bradley recently won the right to retain her seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court in a highly contested election. Justice Bradley was appointed by Governor [Scott Walker](#) in October 2015 to fill the vacancy and successfully ran in the contested election to retain her seat. She previously served on as a Judge on the Wisconsin Court of Appeals District I and a Judge on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

WISCONSIN WOMEN JUDGES' NIGHT

Women Judges' Night, recently held on March 10, 2016, is the Wisconsin Association for Women Lawyers' premiere annual event in its 36th year and recognizes women who serve on the bench. The keynote speaker this year was the Honorable Barbara Crabb, U.S. District Court Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin. Each year, Women Judges' Night features a speaker who shares her unique perspective on the law and how women have changed not only the landscape of the rules and regulations, but the landscape of the practice in general. They bring with them a history of how their own

career has been shaped by being a woman in the legal profession. Women Judges' Night not only celebrates women judges; it is also a forum for encouraging young women to pursue a career in the law and provides four scholarships to current Marquette University and University of Wisconsin law students.

DISTRICT 10

The previous District Director did not provide any written reports.

Judge Cheryl Rios is a newly appointed District Director who is doing a fantastic job already and has big plans for her district.

DISTRICT 11

Hon. Rebeca Martinez, District 11 Director

Justice Martinez discussed her preparation for the NAWJ 2018 San Antonio Annual Conference. Justice Martinez and the site selection committee have selected Hyatt Regency hotel on the water front (River-Walk) in San Antonio, Texas as the site for Oct. 2018 NAWJ Annual Conference. Hon. Martinez reported that prominent attorneys have been selected to chair the Friends Committee. Also three interns from local law schools will be assisting with the conference preparation.

Hon. Martinez indicated that Color of Justice and Mentor Jet program area on-going programs in Texas with local law students and also large universities in Texas and also various bar organizations collaborate with NAWJ on these programs. Texas Women Lawyers Association is collaborating with NAWJ to have a reception early this year on January 22, 2016. Hon. Martinez has been invited to be on a judicial panel and she constantly promotes NAWJ in an effort to increase membership.

Hon. Martinez is hopeful to start an IVP program in El Paso and Dallas, Texas.

Dist. 11 has three state chairs who are all committed to coordinate all these upcoming programs.

President Walsh suggested to have maybe a spring kick off reception for the 2018 conference in San Antonio that she could attend and welcome the new members. She also encouraged the District 11 Director to bring in more members into NAWJ to assist with the conference as a way to increase membership and introduce judges in Texas to NAWJ.

Marie Komisar knows a prominent Texan who is a NAWJ supporter and his wife is also an attorney and she would talk to him and see whether he would host a reception in his home for NAWJ to promote the conference in Texas.

Justice Martinez discussed her preparation for the NAWJ 2018 San Antonio Annual Conference. Justice Martinez and the site selection committee have selected Hyatt Regency hotel on the water front (River-Walk) in San Antonio, Texas as the site for Oct. 2018 NAWJ Annual Conference. Hon. Martinez indicated that Color of Justice and

Mentor Jet program area on-going programs in Texas with local law students and also large universities in Texas and also various bar organizations collaborate with NAWJ on these programs. Hon. Martinez is hopeful to start an IVP program in El Paso and Dallas, Texas. Dist. 11 has three state chairs who are all committed to coordinate all these upcoming programs. District 11 E-Blast goes out soon.

The NAWJ Annual Conference in San Antonio is coming along beautifully. See y'all in 2018!!!

We have Four Color of Justice programs, one Informed Voter and a Texas Female Judges' Day recognition in April in the works.

We had success in reaching out to local bar associations and delegate some of the responsibilities to them by collaborating on color of justice programs with NAWJ. The Color of Justice program will be incorporated into the Law Week program in May; and also in October it will be incorporated into the celebration of the constitution Day. They will be able to assist and also provide resources to NAWJ for this program. We currently have color of justice programs in Austin, El Paso and Loreto, TX, and we are looking into having one in San Antonio. Two federal judges are on the panel and bar associations and Women's bar groups are involved.

Justice Martinez indicated that the Texas district is so large that she would need three state chairs just for TX. She is also going to appoint state chairs in other states in district 11 extending the leadership opportunities and find potential District Director for the next round.

The NAWJ Annual Conference in San Antonio is coming along beautifully. The 2018 Annual conference in San Antonio is during the tri-centennial event there celebrating 300 years of history. The conference Chair is planning a reception in San Antonio for the Friends and Justice Martinez hopes that the NAWJ President Lisa would attend the reception in San Antonio and welcome the friends and NAWJ members there.

Justice Martinez reported that ABOTA (American Board of Trial Advocates) has raised a great deal (\$5,000) to help fund the reception and the money will also be used to hold color of justice programs. In addition the court reporting agency donated bags to the color of justice and video-taped and photographed the event.

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Bar to Bench Event will be held this summer in Texas. Various women's bar Associations are co-sponsoring the event. We are recruiting members for the conference and doing marketing for October 2018 conference. There is also Texas Judges Annual Conference

which will be held in September 2016. We will use this conference as a big push for membership drive and kick off for 2018 conference. President Walsh is invited to go to Texas and participate in the kick off reception and welcome NAWJ members and sponsors.

Hon. Martinez reported that the 2018 conference in San Antonio is coming together beautifully and all the committees are formed and operating.

She reported that she has planned for a NAWJ kick off reception for the 2018 annual conference in San Antonio, Texas, during the week that all the Texas Judges will be attending their annual judicial conference in San Antonio. She stated that President Lisa Walsh has kindly agreed to deliver a keynote speech at this event, possibly with a PowerPoint presentation of all NAWJ programs, committees, and events across the country.

DISTRICT 12

No written reports were provided. There was no participation by Dist. 12 Director in any of the monthly meetings.

DISTRICT 13

Hon. Marilyn Paja, District 13 Director

Judge Paja reported that the Seattle conference is coming along beautifully and the save the date is on the NAWJ web page. She requested the district directors to encourage their members to register for the conference. The conference dates are Oct. 5-9, 2016 and the early bird registration amount is still available. Judge Paja reported that President Walsh attend two kick off receptions for the Seattle conference in Washington state. The educational programs for the conference are almost completed. There is going to be a session on aging parents and a section of that on elder law and how it affects all of us (not limited to guardianships). There is also some academic research in the field concerning issues relating to poor and diverse population and the challenges they face. Ferguson and other issues will also be discussed. Judge Paja reported that the conference chairs have been working hard and all 5 women Supreme Court Justices are all on board. There will be an educational session on transgender issues; some of the challenges women judges face as implicit bias is concerned, particularly as it relates to women of color; military justice; labor trafficking; rape on college campuses; etc. There are also going to be fun events. Hotel is great and is located in downtown area walking to shopping district and theater district. They will be scheduling optional tours the day before or after the conference; winery tours; chocolate tours. Bring your walking shoes.

Judge Paja did a membership celebration in Seattle invited local members and all judges in Washington state to attend.

NAWJ Equal Justice Scholarship was given to a law student. Dist. 13 membership drive will be conducted in Portland in spring sometime in March or April 2016. Judge Paja intends to give one more NAWJ scholarship to a law student partnering with one of the women lawyer organizations.

Judge Paja reported that the Seattle conference is coming along nicely and the save the date is on the NAWJ web page. She encouraged all the District Directors to register for the Seattle Conference before the Early Bird Deadline of March 24, 2016. She also requested the district directors to encourage their members to register for the conference. The conference dates are Oct. 5-9, 2016 and the early bird registration amount is extended and is still available until March 24, 2016. The educational programs for the conference are almost completed.

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The Friends Committee is working hard and Alaska Airline and Starbucks and others are on board.

There is a gathering in Washington State in Seattle in early May and the speaker is Northwest Justice Project funded by lawyers trust account and they do outreach on DV, Women in Prison, and Civil Legal Aid issues and other issues. Interestingly there is no internet access for women in minimum security prison but there is one for women in maximum security.

There is also going to be an event in Oregon.

Judge Paja reported that the Seattle conference is coming along nicely and the early bird registration is now expired but regular registration is still open. She encouraged all the District Directors to register for the Seattle Conference. She also requested the district directors to encourage their members to register for the conference. The conference dates are Oct. 5-9, 2016. The educational programs for the conference are almost completed with groundbreaking issues such as transgender issues and judges dealing

with transgender population in their courts. Judge Paja suggested to arrive a day earlier to take advantage of wonderful alternative and fun programs designed in advance of the conference. There will be a glass blowing making class for three hours (DIY), wine-tasting, and Gates Foundation Museum world-wide efforts in health care and eliminating poverty. There will also be traditional touristy activities. There is also a guided neighborhood shopping tour and chocolatier tours. Seattle Municipal Court Tour, Suquamish Tribal Museum (Includes Ferry ride and casino stop), Starbucks tour, and Pike Place Market tour.

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The Friends Committee is working hard and Alaska Airline and Starbucks and others are on board.

There was a gathering in Washington State in Seattle in early May and the speaker was Northwest Justice Project funded by lawyers trust account and they do outreach on DV, Women in Prison, and Civil Legal Aid issues and other issues. There is also going to be an event in Oregon.

There will be a follow up to the 4-year participation in "Success inside & out" that many attended. There are two women's prisons in Washington State. This re-entry program is designed for women who have 4 years or less left on their sentence.

Pro-tem training: State bar provides marketing through minority bar associations and judges arrange for speakers and moderate panels. This approximately 2-day pipeline program is designed to educate minority attorneys about how they can transition to the bench. It is like a baby judge college and courses such as judicial ethics, how to use judicial information services, state interpreter use, and mock trials using interpreters were presented.

There are also special judicial diversity programs at the local universities. There is one program that is one year long and meets on a Saturday once a month. It is only open to diverse candidates and people have to compete to get in since there are only 30 seats available.

Judge PaJa reported that she has done outreach in Idaho where there are very few women judges. The only Federal woman judge in Idaho, Judge Dale has agreed to establish Idaho women Judges Organization and has agreed to be the NAWJ State Chair for Idaho. Great Job Judge Paja!

Judge Paja reported that the planning for the 2016 Annual Conference in Seattle is in full force and everything is coming together beautifully. Judge Paja reported on the timing of the meetings of the District Directors (Wed. morning at 11 am old board meets, Friday afternoon immediately after the educational programs District Directors will meet with their New members and new Vice President of Districts, and on Saturday the new Board meets). It was also emphasized that all District Directors are required to attend the Annual conference and the meetings that are planned. She also requested the district directors to encourage their members to register for the conference. The

conference dates are Oct. 5-9, 2016. The educational programs for the conference are almost completed with groundbreaking issues such as transgender issues and judges dealing with transgender population in their courts. Rape on college campuses, due process and administrative hearings will be discussed from both social and legal angles during one of the educational programs at the conference which is a hot topic right now.

Judge Paja suggested to arrive a day earlier to take advantage of wonderful alternative and fun programs designed in advance of the conference. There will be a glass blowing making class for three hours (DIY), wine-tasting, and Gates Foundation Museum world-wide efforts in health care and eliminating poverty. There will also be traditional touristy activities. There is also a guided neighborhood shopping tour and chocolatier tours. Seattle Municipal Court Tour, Suquamish Tribal Museum (Includes Ferry ride and casino stop), Starbucks tour, and Pike Place Market tour. These tours are set on Wed. Morning and unfortunately the Directors will be in a meeting all morning and won't be able to attend, but they should encourage all their members to participate in these wonderful tours.

There will be a follow up to the 4-year participation in "Success inside & out" that many attended. There are two women's prisons in Washington State. This re-entry program is designed for women who have 4 years or less left on their sentence.

DISTRICT 14

Hon. Anita Santos, District 14 Director

Judge Santos reported that her most recent E-Blast (Feb. 2016) was recently sent out for Dist. 14 and Judge Santos is working on the March 2016 E-Blast. Judge Santos reported that our own Judge Elizabeth Lee is the recipient of the prestigious rose Bird Award in Northern California by the California Women Lawyers organization. Judge Santos reported about the Bar to Bench event scheduled in San Francisco on May 20, 2016 and NAWJ and the bar association will be hosting that event in the Federal Courthouse where California Governor's Secretary of Appointments Mr. Josh Groban will be in attendance to discuss the process of becoming a judge in California Superior Court. Also, many judges both state and federal will be in attendance or on the panel to discuss the process. Both Judge Diana Becton and Judge Anita Santos will be presenters at this event. Judge Becton volunteered to speak to Marie Komisar and the Resource Board Chairs about this event and send out invitations to the San Francisco Firms to join NAWJ Resource Board.

Judge Santos reported that the second NAWJ member has joined our organization from Contra Costa (In Addition to Judge Santos) and they have both registered for the IAWJ Conference in Washington D.C.

Judge Ipema is chairing a "Success Inside & Out" Program in San Diego for the very first time and more than 15 NAWJ members in San Diego are involved in the planning of this event at the Las Colinas Women's Detention facility in San Diego that will be held on June 3, 2016.

Judge Ipema is also planning to chair another Color of Justice and Mentor Jet Program November 2016 at the Hall of Justice in downtown San Diego.

Judge Patricia Garcia has also volunteered to chair a Color of Justice and Mentor Jet Program for the Chula Vista Courthouse in San Diego sometime in April or May 2016.

Judge Santos reported that Judge Diana Becton, our President-elect is being honored by CA Association of Black Lawyers at their annual conference on April 30, 2016. She will be receiving the Community Service Award and Judge of the Year Award. Judge Santos plans to attend and will take pictures and will report in the May District 14 E-Blast as to the event.

Judge Santos reported that our own Judge Elizabeth Lee is the recipient of the prestigious rose Bird Award in Northern California by the California Women Lawyers organization. Judge Santos participated in the event and provided Judge Lee with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of NAWJ.

Judge Santos reported about the Bar to Bench event scheduled in San Francisco on May 20, 2016 and NAWJ and the bar association will be hosting that event in the Federal Courthouse where California Governor's Secretary of Appointments Mr. Josh Groban will be in attendance to discuss the process of becoming a judge in California Superior Court. Also, many judges both state and federal will be in attendance or on the panel to discuss the process. Both Judge Diana Becton and Judge Anita Santos will be presenters at this event.

SAN Diego NEWS:

Judge Ipema is chairing a "Success Inside & Out" Program in San Diego for the very first time and more than 15 NAWJ members in San Diego are involved in the planning of this event at the Las Colinas Women's Detention facility in San Diego that will be held on June 3, 2016.

Judge Ipema is also planning to chair another Color of Justice and Mentor Jet Program November 2016 at the Hall of Justice in downtown San Diego.

Judge Patricia Garcia has also volunteered to chair a Color of Justice and Mentor Jet Program for the Chula Vista Courthouse in San Diego sometime in April or May of 2017.

Lawyers Club of San Diego celebrated International Women of Color Day on March 29, 2016 at 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, 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.

Judge Tamila E. Ipema will be receiving the "Outstanding Jurist Award" from San Diego County Bar Association on May 6, 2016. This award is given to an exemplary jurist who provides outstanding community service above and beyond just service to the legal profession.

Tom Homann LGBT Law Association will be honoring Judge Tamila E. Ipema with the "Friend of the Community Award" on April 14, 2016.

San Diego is honored to host the International Women of Courage Awardee, Nisha Ayub from Malaysia on April 5, 2016 at San Diego Superior Court. NAWJ Member, Judge Theodore Weathers and NAWJ Vice President of Districts, Judge Tamila E. Ipema met with Nisha Ayub from Malaysia. Nisha Ayub is the leading advocate for transgender rights in Malaysia. She is the co-founder of two NGOs; 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.

The Book Drive for the Las Colinas Women's Detention Facility Is Going Strong! The NAWJ members (from right to left), Hon. Pennie McLaughlin, Hon. Tamila E. Ipema, and Hon. Terrie Roberts posing with the books they gathered from the San Diego Superior Court judicial officers for the La Colinas Women's Detention Facility new library.

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Safora Nowrouzi, a law student from California Western School of Law, was the recipient of NAWJ's 2016 Access to Justice Scholarship in Dist. 14.

Judge Elizabeth Lee received the 2016 Rose Bird Memorial Award from California Women Lawyers Association on April 8, 2016.

NAWJ joins in celebrating Justice Judith McConnell for her work in Civic Education. Congratulations Justice McConnell for your outstanding work!

On April 20, 2016, the California association of Black Lawyer's selected Contra Cost County Superior Court Judge Diana Becton as their Bernard S. Jefferson Judge of the year for her continued and long-standing commitment to serving the community. The Honorable Tamila E. Ipema is the recipient of the San Diego County Bar Association's 2016 Outstanding Jurist Award which was awarded at the Law Week luncheon in May 2016.

Judge Ipema is also planning to chair another Color of Justice and Mentor Jet Program October 2016 at the Hall of Justice in downtown San Diego.

Judge Patricia Garcia has also volunteered to chair a Color of Justice and Mentor Jet Program for the Chula Vista Courthouse in San Diego sometime in April or May of 2017.

The San Diego NAWJ Members make a difference with the "Success Inside and Out" Program which was held at Las Colinas Women's Detention and Reentry Facility in San Diego on June 3, 2016. Seventeen passionate NAWJ members in San Diego got together and formed a committee, chaired by Judge Tamila E. Ipema, to bring the first "Success Inside and Out" Program to San Diego. This program was held at the newly built and impressive Las Colinas Women's Detention and Reentry Facility in Santee which resembles a beautiful college campus. The San Diego NAWJ "Success Team" plans to hold this conference on annual basis.
