



The National Association of Women Judges
(Administrative Judiciary Committee)
(April 3, 2023)

Chair: Honorable Susan L. Formaker

Vice-Chair: Honorable Theresa C. Timlin

The Administrative Judiciary Committee continues to have well-attended monthly meetings. Most recently, our focus has been on planning and scheduling possible NAWJ Administrative Judiciary Committee programs. We are exploring presenting a session on Commercial Drivers Licenses and Human Trafficking in 2024 in San Diego at the NAWJ annual conference – we are reaching out to the Human Trafficking committee to gauge their interest in co-sponsoring this session. Alternatively, we are looking into presenting a program in San Diego on the science of credibility. The Committee also wishes to reprise our highly successful webinar from 2022 on “Paths to the Administrative Judiciary” and has started planning that event. Additionally, we have been working on presenting either a program on appropriately addressing people in the courtroom with the NAWJ LGBTQ+ committee and/or co-developing a bench card for judges to use.

Member Joan Churchill co-presented an excellent Continuing Legal Education program on March 17 with the ABA Judicial Division, which was also co-sponsored by NAWJ, entitled, “Adjudicatory Independence: Are Immigration Judges a Warning or a Model?” The Administrative Judiciary Committee continues to monitor legislative, executive action, and case law developments impacting judicial independence in administrative law.

The committee would welcome member involvement in other presentations at NAWJ annual conferences to help ensure that the perspective of the administrative judiciary is considered in presentations to the general membership.



The National Association of Women Judges
Site Selection Committee
April 4, 2023

Chairs: Honorable Marcella Holland and Marguerite Downing

The Site Selection Committee held a conference call meeting today. The committee is waiting to see if any proposals come in by the April 7, 2023 deadline for submission of proposals for the 2025 Annual Conference.

Presently, there are no proposals pending so the committee is considering efforts to reach out to members in approved states to consider hosting an annual conference.



The National Association of Women Judges
Diversity & Inclusion Committee
March 30, 2023

Co-Chair: Honorable Francine L. Applewhite

Co-Chair: Honorable Elizabeth M. Welch

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee's new co-chairs began their work in January 2023. In January, the D&I Committee met over zoom and reviewed the NAWJ Diversity and Inclusion Plan ("Plan") adopted by the Board in 2021. The Plan set forth details on the following:

- (1) Maintaining and increasing diversity in NAWJ Leadership and each district.*
- (2) Maintaining and increasing diversity in NAWJ committees.*
- (3) Fostering diversity in NAWJ's membership.*
- (4) Utilizing educational programs to promote diversity.*
- (5) Stressing importance of diversity through publications.*

While other groups are primarily responsible for programming, the group noted that D&I is the entity responsible for tracking NAWJ's progress towards full adherence to the Plan. We discussed that core elements of the plan require training, outreach, guidance, and monitoring.

The group divided into two short-term work groups to (1) ensure the D&I Plan is disseminated to other committees and that those committees understand our work; and (2) create a form that can be used for programming to assess diversity. The need for further work groups related to training, outreach, and guidance will be assessed as we move forward.

The Committee's standing meeting is the second Thursday of each month (but took March off given a light agenda).

Other topics the group will consider, which all require working in tandem with existing committees, include membership outreach, how we review or measure progress, webinars on D&I topics, and website input. We also have reviewed ABA Resolutions proposed for its meetings to determine if appropriate to recommend NAWJ support.



The National Association of Women Judges
(Domestic Violence Committee)
(April 3, 2023)

Co- Chair: Honorable Catherine Shaffer

Co-Chair: Honorable Annette Karem

The NAWJ Domestic Violence Committee is comprised of 14 enthusiastic members. The first meeting for the new year was held on February 28, 2023. The committee engaged in a robust discussion regarding prioritizing projects for this year. Following the discussion, the members are currently identifying the suggestions they believe will be most beneficial for the members at large. The suggestions include:

CLE PROPOSALS

- 1) The impact of the Supreme Court decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*
 - Organizing two possible webinar/training presentations for NAWJ members on the impact of the Supreme Court decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*.
 - o The first CLE, opening a discussion among members regarding the decision itself. In that decision, Justice Thomas for the court wrote that law-abiding citizens have the right “to carry handguns publicly for their self-defense.” He allowed that right might be restricted, but said any rules had to be justified with analogies to regulations that were in place in early American history. This ruling potentially has major implications for firearms restrictions in domestic violence cases. Last month the Fifth Circuit in *US v. Rahimi* ruled that, in light of the *Bruen* decision, the federal law banning people subject to domestic violence restraining orders from owning guns is unconstitutional and was in fact an “outlier that our ancestors would never have accepted.”
 - o The second CLE might be a listening session, perhaps cosponsored by the NCFJCJ, on how to deal with cases where victims’ and children’s safety is at issue because of firearms.
- 2) Handling Non-violent Parents in Dependency Cases involving DV
 - In general, our legal system still has a tendency to blame non-violent parents who are victimized for “allowing” their children to be exposed to domestic violence, and that is an enormous disservice to children. We need to make sure our members are educated on, and responsive to, this critical topic.

3) Holding Batterers Accountable via Review Hearings

- For many judges who have handled domestic violence cases, status/review hearings are very effective in getting perpetrators to complete treatment services, and thus both improving public safety and the personal lives of the perpetrators, many of whom have traumatic personal histories. It would likely be very helpful for NAWJ members to learn why to consider conducting such reviews, and how to do it, perhaps from a panel of judges with review experience. Tentatively this CLE might be titled: "How to Not Get Played: Holding Batterers Accountable in a Therapeutic Court setting."

4) Strangulation in DV Cases

- a presentation by a medical expert on strangulation. 77% of mass shooting perpetrators have been charged in the past with strangulation. It is a very significant form of domestic violence, often with lasting physical effects. Yet many still refer to it as "choking" and do not take it seriously, and many states do not specifically designate strangulation as a crime.

5) Teen Domestic Violence

- Popular culture still minimizes or glamorizes domestic violence and teens have some fairly unique barriers to recognizing or getting help for this issue. Because they are much more connected to their peer group than, for example, parents or other authority figures, effectively treating both batterers and survivors can be challenging.

AMICUS BRIEF

- Co-chairs intend to suggest the NAWJ Board file an amicus brief, or join in one, in the appeal of the ruling that the 2nd Amendment bars firearm prohibitions in domestic violence protective orders.

SURVEY OF NAWJ MEMBERS AT LARGE

- Sexual Assault Knowledge
 - o Understanding what knowledge, the judiciary had prior to handling sexual assault cases
 - o What judges *wish* they had known prior to handling sexual assault cases

The second remote meeting of the year is scheduled for April 11, 2023.



The National Association of Women Judges
Ensuring Racial Equity in the Justice System
March 20, 2023

Co-Chair: Honorable Sherry Thompson-Taylor

Co-Chair: Honorable Nadia Keilani

The Ensuring Racial Equity Committee has been very busy, and our meetings have been well-attended. We started the year with our first meeting on January 11, 2023. We began by discussing our previous programming from 2021 & 2022 which helped us determine our trajectory for 2023. We thanked last year's co-chairs, Hon. Terrie Roberts & Honorable Maria Puente-Porras, for their work in moving the committee forward and giving us a strong foundation to build upon. Our prior programming included:

1. Racial Equity in our Justice System – February 22, 2021
2. Racial Disparity in the Courts – January 26, 2022
3. Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline (Part 1) - July 22, 2021
4. Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline (Part 2) – November 18, 2021
5. Bias Within the Child Welfare System (Part 1) – July 28, 2022
6. Bias Within the Child Welfare System (Part 2) – November 15, 2022

We then began brainstorming new ideas and directions for 2023. We came up with the following webinar ideas:

1. Jury Selection
 - a. Discussing Gender and Race Barriers to Jury Service.
 - b. Discussing Washington's Innovative Approach to Jury Selection
 - c. Discussing California's Progressive Strategy to Jury Selection
2. Microaggressions in Court
 - a. Discuss specific examples of microaggression towards judicial officers, litigants, staff, etc.
3. Racial Disparity in Sentencing
4. Prepare a video or webinar for our judicial officers, justice partners and possible the public.

As a committee, we also thought we could incorporate other outreach ideas into this year's agenda including Judges in the Classroom – California Former Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, ABA program – Educating for American Democracy and the Law and supporting local career day opportunities.

At our next meeting on February 8, 2023, our goals continued to crystalize. We agreed to start the year with a program regarding Microaggressions in Court. Proposed dates included April 26 or 27, 2023. April 27th was preferred because April 26th is Administrative Professionals Day. Several committee members volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to plan the program. (Hon. Arose Nielsen, Patricia Taitano-Valdivinos, and Hon. Latrice Westbrooks.) The program will discuss specific examples of microaggression towards judicial officers, litigants, staff, etc. It was suggested our members review the Harvard Study on Microaggressions which suggested that microaggressions “might make people die sooner” and the National Review video/article, entitled “I, Too, Am Harvard”.

Our second program will focus on Jury Selection and will be sometime in July. Several members volunteered to serve on a subcommittee. (Hon. Julia Campins, Hon. Vickie Henry, and Hon. Mindy Walker).

Our third program of year will focus on Racial Disparity in Sentencing. We hope to schedule it sometime in October.

At our meeting on March 8, 2023, Attorney Patricia Taitano updated our committee on the work of the subcommittee working on our microaggressions panel. Our webinar will focus on creating awareness around microaggressions, the impact of microaggressions and the best practices when confronted by microaggressions. We moved the date of the webinar to **June 15, 2023**. Subcommittee members now include Hon. Arose Nielsen, Hon. Vickie Henry, Attorney Patricia Taitano-Valdivinos, and Hon. Latrice Westbrooks.

In addition, we've confirmed Dr. Brigitte Baldwin of Western New England University as a speaker at the event. Other possible speakers include Justice Steven Gonzalez, Former Judge Bernice Bouie Donald, Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero, and Former Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

The co-chairs will seek approval of tentative date of June 15, 2023. Once date is approved, we can create a “Save the Date” for the NAWJ membership. The subcommittee will continue working to confirm speakers and update at the next meeting.

Since we moved our first panel to June, we agreed to move our second panel to August or September. Although we subsequently learned that only July and November are available for committee events. Therefore, we hope to host the Jury Selection panel in late July. Our subcommittee includes Hon. Vickie Henry, Hon. Julia Campins, Hon. Mindy Walker and Hon. Lisa Martin.

Our third program of the year- Racial Disparity in Sentencing was previously scheduled for October, but we will push the program to November given the re-scheduling of the earlier panels. Subcommittee members are Hon. Ann Breen-Greco and Attorney Renee Stackhouse. Ret. Judge Ernestine Gray suggested we consider addressing Racial Disparity as it relates to “Emerging Adults 18-25 years old”. Much more interest was generated by narrowing the topic. Additional subcommittee members now include Judge David Keenan and Justice Elizabeth Welch.

We will firm up our Microaggressions panel for June 15, 2023. We will be co-presenting this panel with the NAWJ Fairness and Access committee. We are preparing a reservation form for a date in July for our Jury Selection Panel, and we will do the same for our Racial Disparity in sentencing panel in November 2023.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2023.

Attendees – January 11, 2023

Hon. Nadia Kelani
(Co-Chair/ California)
Hon. Sherry Thompson-Taylor
(Co-Chair/California)
Hon. Vivian Anderson (Virginia)
Hon. Ann Breen-Greco (California)
Hon. Vickie Henry (Massachusetts)
Hon. Sandra Carina Jenkins
(Louisiana)
Hon. Dave Keenan (Washington)
Hon. Lisa Martin (Michigan)
Hon. Audrey Moorehead (Texas)
Hon. A. Nielsen (Massachusetts)
Hon. Lisa Paglisotti (Washington)
Janelle Price (Attorney/California)
Hon. Maria Puente-Porras
(California)
Renee Stackhouse
(Attorney/California)
Patricia Taitano Valdivinos
(Attorney/California)
Hon. Mindy Walker (Washington)

Attendees – February 8, 2023

Hon. Nadia Keilani
(Co-Chair/ California)
Hon. Sherry Thompson-Taylor
(Co-Chair/California)
Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres (New York)
Hon. Sharon Burrell (Maryland)
Hon. Julia Campins (California)
Hon. Ernestine Gray (Louisiana)
Hon. Vivian Henderson (Virginia)
Hon. Vickie Henry (Massachusetts)
Sally Kader (New York)
Hon. Arose Nielsen (Massachusetts)
Hon. Lisa Paglisotti (Washington)
Janelle Price (Attorney/California)
Hon. Maria Puente-Porras
(California)
Hon. Terrie Roberts (California)
Renee Stackhouse
(Attorney/California)
Hon. Soma Syed (New York)
Patricia Taitano-Valdivinos
(Attorney/California)
Hon. Mindy Walker (Washington)
Hon. Latrice Westbrook
(Mississippi)

Attendees – March 8, 2023

Hon. Nadia Keilani
(Co-Chair/ California)
Hon. Sherry Thompson-Taylor
(Co-Chair/California)
Hon. Ann Breen-Greco (California)
Hon. Sharon Burrell (Maryland)
Hon. Sandra Cabrera Jenkins
(Louisiana)
Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres (New York)
Hon. Yadhira Gonzalez-Taylor
(New York)
Hon. Ernestine Gray (Louisiana)
Hon. Vivian Henderson (Virginia)
Hon. Vickie Henry (Massachusetts)
Attorney Sally Kader (New York)
Hon. David Keenan (Washington)
Hon. Lisa Martin (Michigan)
Hon. Arose Nielsen (Massachusetts)
Attorney Renee Stackhouse
(California)
Attorney Patricia Taitano-Valdivinos (California)
Hon. Elisabeth Welch (Michigan)



The National Association of Women Judges
Fairness & Access Committee
20 March 2023

Chair: Honorable Nadia J. Keilani

Co-Chair: Renee N.G. Stackhouse, Esq.

1. **Meetings:** The first meeting of the Fairness & Access Committee was held on January 17, 2023 at noon PST. It was determined by the Committee all subsequent meetings would take place on the third Friday of each month at noon PST, with the next meeting to be an exception due to conflict with the Midyear Conference. As such, the April meeting will take place on April 19, 2023, at noon PST in conjunction with the Ensuring Racial Equity Committee as the two Committees are working on a joint program scheduled for June. The Zoom information for all meetings has been sent to Ms. Mihoc to be added to the NAWJ Master Calendar.
2. **Brainstorming and Planning for 2023:** The first meeting of the Committee focused on identifying topics of interest for the year. After the meeting a survey was sent out to the Committee members to help prioritize topics. Based on those poll results, the Committee determined its programming initiatives for the year.
3. **Programming for 2023:**
 - a. Microaggressions, June 15, 2023
 - i. To be held in conjunction with the Ensuring Racial Equity Committee
 - ii. The panel meets the requirements of the Diversity Plan
 - b. Understanding Invisible Barriers (Neurodivergence), Date TBD
 - i. One speaker, Dr. Martha Rogers
4. **Action Pending:**
 - a. Finalize and advertise the June program;
 - b. Committee members will take a survey created by Dr. Rogers to help provide feedback to be used in her program; and
 - c. Secure a date for the Invisible Barrier webinar.



The National Association of Women Judges
(Committee)
(Date)

Chair: Honorable Bobbie J. McCartney

Co-Chair: District Attorney Summer Stephan

NAWJ's Human Trafficking Committee, under the leadership and direction of our Co-Chair DA Summer Stephan, District Attorney for San Diego County, and her wonderful staff, is preparing a short human trafficking judicial education video (about 29 minutes) that is compatible with any judicial assignment to bring awareness that human trafficking cases can intersect directly or indirectly in the courtrooms. The video will be aimed at helping judges and lawyers identify red flags that may indicate a possible human trafficking victim in their own regular calendar, such as domestic violence cases, immigration cases, labor cases, or even in such seemingly mundane situations such as traffic cases or shoplifting. In addition, **cases** involving juvenile and delinquency matters such as cases arising in the protective services system enhancement, family preservation, adolescent health and other child protective legal issues, would benefit from this video. The hope is that with the brief nature of this video that has many judge voices, prosecutor, public defender and probation officer, and victim/survivor voices, victim service provider NGO that it will help elevate the understanding of the nature of human trafficking and thus afford protections to victims. We are delighted that NAWJ's President, Judge Toni Clarke, has agreed to add her voice on behalf of NAWJ as part of the introduction of the video which we hope will be ready for distribution soon.

During the January 2023 HTC meeting, **Judge McCartney** provided an overview/summary of the White House report on human trafficking with a link to the report for review and discussion: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/National-Action-Plan-to-Combat-Human-Trafficking.pdf>

Lynn Hecht Schafran, Senior Vice President and Director, National Judicial Education Program, provided us with an update of the status of her ongoing survey project:

Judges Tell: What I Wish I Had Known Before I Presided in an Adult Victim Sexual Assault Case. It is now over ten years since NJEP circulated the survey that became *Judge Tell*. NJEP is again asking judges to anonymously answer that question. Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/xHyHLht13EZ6LjQ39>. Although the survey has only one question, Judges were encouraged to provide as many answers as they wished. Lynn is also asking that we please forward this survey to any Judges that might find it interesting for the widest distribution possible.

At each of our meetings, **Judge Breen-Greco** provides us with a status update of the developing program ideas for the annual NAWJ conference to be held in Indianapolis, October 4-7, 2023. As proposed by **Judge Joan Churchill** on human trafficking and immigration, it is our belief that a panel presentation which would include the human trafficking judicial education video in partnership with a compatible program topic proposed by a sister NAWJ committee would be a great way for us to share this wonderful project.

Judge Breen-Greco is communicating with Judge Gwen D'Souza, both of whom are on the Administrative Judiciary Committee, regarding her idea of a program on commercial driver licenses and human trafficking to discuss the possibility of collaboration between our two committees for such a program for the NAWJ 2024 annual conference in SD.

Judge McCartney is working with Col. Linda Murnane on potential guest speakers for HTC, including **Frank P. Cervone** with [Support Center for Child Advocates](#). *Child Advocates* is currently in a major three-year Department of Justice-Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) juvenile court-centric grant focused on improving the court system's response to trafficked youth. More information on this program will be provided later.

During the course of our March HTC meeting, **Co-Chair DA Summer Stephan** facilitated an informative discussion of California [SB 14, State Senator Shannon Grove's proposal to define human trafficking as 'serious' under California law](#) (for the Three Strikes law to apply). Sarah Butler, U.S. Program Director, said: "This bill will protect victims and increase the prosecution of those who buy and sell human beings." Many of our members were shocked to find that in most jurisdictions it is not!



2022 Annual Report of the Immigration Committee
Prepared April 7, 2023 by
Chair: Honorable Joan Churchill, Immigration Judge (ret)

Membership

Membership on the NAWJ Immigration Committee includes active and retired Immigration Judges, the President of NAIJ [the National Association of Immigration Judges], two past presidents of NAIJ, state court judges who have handled immigration cases as lawyers or judges and a retired judge who handles immigration cases pro bono for members of the U.S. military.

Meetings

Since our last report to the Board, the Committee has met 3 times. We met in person during the Annual Meeting in Detroit, on March 21, 2022. That meeting was held jointly with the Retired/Senior Judges Committee, as both are chaired by Judge Joan Churchill. We met by zoom video conference calls on January 19 and March 3. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 2, via zoom.

WEBINARS

1. ABA Webinar on Adjudicatory Independence Issues facing Immigration Judges

Much of the focus of the committee so far this year has been the ABA Webinar on March 17, which was organized and moderated by our Chair, Judge Churchill, in her role as Committee Chair of the ABA, Judicial Division's National Conference of the Administrative Law Judiciary. NAWJ cosponsored the webinar at the request of the NAWJ Immigration and Administrative Law Judiciary committees. The Webinar was very well received. A recording of it is available on the ABA Website.

Entitled Adjudicatory Independence: Are Immigration Judges a Warning or a Model? the panel touched on independence issues facing administrative adjudicators in general. Three former immigration Judges were on the panel, including Judge Churchill who served as moderator, Judge William Greene who currently holds senior status on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, an Article I Court, and Judge Steven Morley. Prof. Jill Family, chair of the ABA Administrative Law Section, whose field of specialization is the intersection of immigration and administrative law, Karen Grisez, Esq. former Chair of the ABA Commission on Immigration, and Jeremy Grayboys, Acting Research Director at the Administrative Conference of the United States, rounded out the panel. Many Thanks to NAWJ for its support with co-sponsorship.

2. Special Immigrant Juveniles – The Immigration Committee is planning a webinar on Special Immigrant Juveniles & Judicial Findings: Intersection of State Courts and

Immigration Status. The purpose of the webinar is to introduce state court members who may be unaware of their responsibilities under the Immigration & Nationality Act, a Federal law, to make findings in cases of juvenile migrants seeking special immigrant juvenile status.

The webinar was the idea of Judge Tiffany Palmer, a state judge on the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Judge Palmer is taking the lead on the planning. Judge Palmer's docket includes many cases involving requests for state findings related to Federal special immigrant visa status.

We are particularly fortunate to have Judge Ernestine Gray as a member of our committee. Judge Gray, a retired judge of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Chair of the ABA Judicial Division, and cochair of the NAWJ Juvenile Justice Committee, has agreed to help with the planning and with arranging cosponsors.

Article I Immigration Court

We are informed that the Real Courts, Rule of Law Act of 2022 to establish an Article I Immigration Court has not yet been reintroduced in the new Congress.

NAIJ

We understand that litigation is continuing regarding the Federal Labor Relations Authority [FLRA] order decertifying the collective bargaining status of the National Association of Immigration Judges [NAIJ]. Meanwhile, NAIJ is planning to file a new petition for certification after a new FLRA member is nominated and confirmed for a vacancy.

Afghan Women Judges

We continue to focus on the plight of sister members of the International Association of Women Judges who were dismissed from their positions by the new Taliban leadership in Afghanistan and who feel at risk in their home country. Past President Vanessa Ruiz who is the Immediate Past President of IAWJ, has kept us up to date on the progress of helping those who wish to leave evacuate from Afghanistan and relocate elsewhere. Only a handful have arrived in the U.S. so far, though more continue to arrive.

In addition we are keeping in touch with Judge Lisa Walsh, NAWJ International Director, on initiatives that have been developed to assist the Afghan judges to adjust to the USA, and ways we can help. Judge Beverly Cutler of our committee is mentoring one of the Afghan Women Judges located in Virginia, and has been leading one of the teams set up around the country to help meet their needs. Judge Cutler has kept us abreast of opportunities to be of assistance.



The National Association of Women Judges
International Director
International Outreach Committee
April 4, 2023

Chair: Honorable Lisa Walsh

Vice-Chair: Honorable Delissa A. Ridgway

The International Director serves as a member of the Executive Committee. She also chairs the International Outreach Committee. She is also a Director of the International Association of Women Judges.

This report serves as the Report of the Committee Chair for International Outreach as well as the International Director's Report.

Afghanistan Resettlement Activity and Related Programs

In August 2021, the Taliban swept through Afghanistan, retaking the country without much resistance. The international community watched in horror, aware that the fallout would affect women disproportionately – especially professional and educated women. International organizations and governments began rescue attempts of different groups of Afghans. The Afghan women judges comprised “AWJA,” the Association of Women Judges of Afghanistan, a chapter of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). Soon after taking control of the country, the Taliban began making death threats against the women judges because they worked with Americans and because they worked for the Afghan Government. The Taliban considered women judges to be anathema to Islamic principles. Many of the men upon whom Afghan judges had imposed sentences were released from prisons by the Taliban and began hunting the judges. “Night letters” (written, signed death threats) were delivered to the homes of the judges. The Taliban seized their biometric information. They made televised threats. The women judges’ security details relayed threats being delivered to the women judges’ courthouses. A core group of IAWJ leaders and members worked to help secure

the rescue and evacuation of over 200 Afghan women judges and their families. To this day, this small group, which includes Judge Vanessa Ruiz and Judge Patricia Whalen, continue to work daily attending to a host of issues affecting the women judges, including immigration barriers, visa processing, and safe houses, as well as interfacing with funding entities. Over 200 Afghan women judges are spread across the world, in countries of refuge, or in third countries of temporary refuge. About 50 remain in Afghanistan.

Now, 25 of these brave women judges are in the United States. They are resettled in multiple locations across the country. Some have been lucky to obtain temporary positions at universities as visiting scholars. Some are working menial jobs. Two are employed in jobs associated with the courts, one in DC and another in Queens, New York. The majority are still unemployed and trying to find work. Federal refugee benefits are expiring.

For those who are able-bodied, many organizations and individuals are working hard to help them secure employment and educational opportunities. I have reached out to NAWJ members across the country where the Afghan women judges have been resettled and have formed “mentor teams” in most locations where the Afghan judges are living. This network ensures that our Afghan judges have local friends, networking opportunities, advisors and mentors. Our NAWJ mentors have done incredible things, donated their time, furniture, taken our judges to lawyer events, given them speaking opportunities and set up visitation schedules. Other NGOs, donors, and organizations have helped meet needs – like free online English classes, laptops, job retraining, and resume building. The ABA International Law Section established a pilot project to help support those Afghan legal professionals who are able to qualify to undertake LLM studies at law schools in the US and to sit for bar exams. I serve as a liaison to the ABA project and will be speaking at a program on this subject at the ABA International Law Section’s Annual Conference in New York in early May.

NAWJ members now lead mentor teams in 13 locations. These groups take different forms of organization and involvement, depending upon the population, geography and number of interested mentors in each area. California, for example, has broken down its large mentor team into separate pods responsible for each Afghan judge living in California. District 4 encompasses 3 regions but operates as a single team. Following are a list of teams and team leaders:

California Hon. Nadia Keilani, Hon. Doreen Boxer, organizer: Mytili Bala
Dallas, Texas: Hon. Deborah Hankinson
Denver, Colorado: Hon. Colleen Clark

District 4: Hon. Bev Cutler
Houston, Texas: Hon. April Farris
Maine: Hon. Rae Ann French
Miami: Hon. Lisa Walsh
Michigan: Hon. Elizabeth Welch
New Hampshire: Justice Anna Barbara Hantz Marconi
New York: Hon. Kathy King
North Carolina: Hon. Robin Hudson
San Antonio, Texas: Hon. Rebeca Martinez
Washington State: Hon. Lisa Paglisotti
Vermont: Hon. Patti Whalen

There have been other NAWJ leaders who have proven invaluable to this effort. For example, bridging her time in Northern California and Michigan, Hon. Carol King is trying to figure out how to create partnerships to assist with fundraising. Likewise, Past-President Hon. Elizabeth White is working on developing a partnership with a private entity to provide grants for emergency funding. Past-President of the South Asian Bar Association in San Diego, Mytili Bala, has developed relationships with many of the Afghan judges, and has triaged issues and problems and found solutions, from helping one judge overcome obstacles to entering an LLM program to dealing with health insurance to helping a disabled judge obtain access to emergency services. Our team leader in District 4, Hon. Bev Cutler, is devoted to the judges in her area and has helped with every aspect of the multi-faceted process in putting together a life here.

Our team leaders have done an incredible and selfless job in trying to help acclimate our Afghan sisters to a new life in the US.

The Afghan women judges are still, for the most part, not yet employed and not yet proficient enough in English to enter law school LLM programs. Those who have adjusted well have been hosted in universities or colleges and been given the chance to acclimate academically. Their English has progressed the quickest.

International Day of the Endangered Lawyer

Since 2010, January 24th has been recognized as the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer. Each year, an international coalition of bar associations, law societies, and human rights organizations identifies a “focus

country” for the year’s commemoration. The coalition then researches and drafts a report on the situation in the focus country, and loosely coordinates activities in locations around the globe on January 24th. For 2023, the focus country was Afghanistan. Our Co-Chair, Hon. Delissa Ridgway, was a co-author on the 2023 report. Traditionally, the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer (including the report) has focused solely on the risks to lawyers in the focus country (to the exclusion of the country’s prosecutors and judges). However, in light of the extraordinary circumstances in Afghanistan – where those at greatest risk are Afghan prosecutors and judges, especially those who are women – the international coalition was persuaded to include prosecutors and judges in the report and in the observances for the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer for 2023. The NAWJ was among the many organizations worldwide that officially signed on to the coalition report.

The leadership of the International Outreach Committee was involved in two programs on January 24th. Judge Ridgway organized a program presented by the American Bar Association – International Law Section (co-sponsored by the Section’s International Human Rights Committee, Middle East Committee, and U.N. & International Organizations Committee), which featured a panel including: Symone Gaasbeek-Wielinga & Hans Gaasbeek, Gaasbeek en Gaasbeek Advocaten, The Netherlands, Co-Founders of the Day of the Endangered Lawyer; Professor Margaret Satterthwaite, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges & Lawyers; Judge Lisa S. Walsh, International Director, NAWJ; Hena’a Salehi, a former lawyer from Afghanistan, who has earned an LL.M. in the U.S.; and Michael Pates, Director, ABA Center for Human Rights, in Washington, DC.

The panelists discussed the history of the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer, the protections afforded lawyers, prosecutors, and judges at risk under the UN system, and how the fall of Afghanistan has affected the lives and work of Afghan lawyers and judges. The inaugural edition of the UN Special Rapporteur’s e-newsletter (released in March 2023) highlights the ABA International Law Section program and is available at:

<https://mailchi.mp/3f07b022ec85/newsletter-of-the-un-special-rapporteur-on-the-independence-of-judges-and-lawyers?e=cedbaf24c0>

In addition, Judge Ridgway introduced NAWJ’s own program marking the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer, which featured Judge Vanessa Ruiz, Past-President of the IAWJ and NAWJ; Judge Lisa S. Walsh, International Director, NAWJ; and Afghan Judge Lida Kharooty. The speakers

discussed the aftermath of the fall of Afghanistan, the threats against Afghan women judges, the harrowing evacuation to other countries around the world, and the needs of Afghan judges who have landed in the US. A recap of the NAWJ's program and a link to the international coalition's report on the plight of Afghan judges, prosecutors, and lawyers are available at:

<https://www.nawj.org/blog/newsroom/news/2023-international-day-of-the-endangered-lawyer-report>

We are grateful to Judge Ridgway for shedding a light on the plight of the Afghan lawyers and judges and ensuring that the world does not forget those who remain under great threat.

Planning for International Judges Programming at Annual Conference in Indianapolis

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the International Outreach Committee – Judge Walsh and Judge Ridgway, respectively – are far along planning for the influx of international judges at our annual conference in Indianapolis. The US State Department Division of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (“INL”) has begun meeting with us as well as our Executive Director Laurie Denham. INL is sending invitations to outposts around the world inviting international judges to apply for a stipend from INL to register and attend the conference. The local International Judges Committee for the Indianapolis Conference is chaired by Judge Kim Dowling, Judge Jennifer DeGroote, and Justice Steven David. The Indiana Chairs will arrange for court visits for our visitors. The Conference will feature a session of “International Tea and Ethics,” and will welcome our guests with a special reception in their honor. Traditionally, we have solicited NAWJ members to act as mentors and matched mentors with international judge mentees to make them feel more welcome.

IAWJ Biennial Conference in Marrakech, Morocco

From May 11-14, 2023, the IAWJ Biennial Conference will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, hosted by the Union of Moroccan Women Judges under the theme: “Women Judges, Achievements and Challenges.” The Conference will be held at the Kenzie Rose Gardens Hotel.

To register for the conference, click here:

<https://www.iawj2023marrakesh.com/registration/registration/>

For lodging information, click here:

<https://iawj2023morocco.com/hotelreservations/>

Conference registration is still open. There are two post-conference add-on

trips being privately provided. For more information, email lisasharonwalsh@gmail.com.



The National Association of Women Judges
Judicial Education & Academic Advisory Committee

April 7, 2023

Chair: Honorable Marian E. Perkins
Circuit Court of Cook County – Chicago, IL

Vice-Chair: Director, Justice Teaching Center
Southern College - Lakeland, FL

**NAWJ Judicial Education and Academic Advisory Committee Meeting was held via Zoom on
January 30, 2023**

Hon. Marian E. Perkins presided at the committee meeting

Recording Secretary: Hon. Tracy Catapano-Fox, Judge, New York Supreme Court, 11th Judicial District

The NAWJ Judicial Education & Academic Advisory Committee discussed the following:

- A. Support and registration to attend the NAWJ Heritage Program in Honor of Black History Month - "Full Truth" by the Hon. Paul B. Handy, Principal Administrative Law Judge, D.C. Office of Administrative Hearings
- B. Suggested topics for upcoming webinars:
 - Ethics and Implicit Bias in the Courtroom Setting
 - Families with Children on the Autism Spectrum
 - Mindfulness: Health & Wellness Seminar for Lawyers & Judges
 - Human Trafficking
 - Support of the NAWJ Mentoring Jet Program
 - Annual Convention Judicial Education Program

NAWJ Heritage Program in Honor of Black History Month – February 15, 2023

"Full Truth" – presented February 15, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

(A play written by Hon. Paul B. Handy, Principal Administrative Law Judge, D.C. Office of Administrative Hearings, and set in December 1952, featuring Thurgood Marshall, Special Counsel for the N.A.A.C.P Legal Defense Fund.) The cast consisted of state trial court judges, magistrate judges, and administrative law judges in the United States who played the roles, listed below:

- Thurgood Marshall: Hon. Fred Carney, Administrative Law Judge, D.C. Department of Employment Services;
- Walter White: Hon. Cymonie Rowe Hinkel, Judge, 15th Circuit Court for Palm Beach County, Florida;
- Spotswood Robinson; Hon. Jeri Summers, Judge, U.S. Civilian Contract Board of Contract Appeals (Ret.);
- Robert L. Carter: Hon. Gwenlynn D' Souza, Administrative Law Judge, D.C. Department of Employment Services;
- Vivian "Buster" Burey Marshall: Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, First Department, Supreme Court of the State of New York;
- John W. Davis: Hon. Paul B. Handy, Principal Administrative Law Judge, D.C. Office of Administrative Hearings;
- Admissions Officer, University of Maryland: Hon. Tanya M. Jones-Bosier, Magistrate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia; and
- Voices of the U.S. Supreme Court: Hon. Vivian Henderson, Presiding Judge, Virginia Beach General District Court.

NAWJ and Research Projects

Annette Pitts, Director of the Justice Teaching Center at Florida Southern College, and Vice-Chair of the NAWJ Judicial Education & Academic Advisory Committee, will spearhead the distribution of a survey to our committee members to seek feedback on the types of research projects we may seek to explore, as well as the funding of said research. Annett Pitts, as a member of the NAWJ Judicial Independence Committee, will also spearhead the collaboration of the NAWJ Judicial Education & Academic Advisory Committee and NAWJ Judicial Independence Committee on educational projects and programs.

NAWJ Quarterly Meeting with Committee Liaisons – April 7, 2023

Hon. Marian E. Perkins attended the NAWJ Quarterly Meeting with the Committee Liaisons held April 7, 2023, from 11:00a.m. – 11:45 a.m. via Zoom. She took notes on the reports of the committee chairs and liaisons present and presented a summary of the activities of the NAWJ Judicial Education & Academic Advisory Committee.



The National Association of Women Judges
Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare
April 03, 2023

Chair: Hon. Ernestine Gray and Hon. Joy Cossich Lobrano

The Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare (“JJCW”) Committee established the following five 2023 committee goals:

1. ***JJCW committee will focus on four designated juvenile justice issues. The focused topics for 2023 are as follows: a) “Racial Disparity in Juvenile Justice System” b) “Children of Incarcerated Parents”, c) “Runaways, Survival Sex, and Early Intervention”, d) “Girls in the System”***
2. ***JJCW committee’s 2023 Goals include to continue collaboration with other national associations regarding juvenile justice and child welfare with a 2023 focus on the following three organizations:***
 - a) National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges;
 - b) American Bar Association, Judicial Division, ABA Center on Children and the Law and ABA Youth at Risk Commission.
 - c) National Center for State Courts.
3. ***2023 Coordinated Community Volunteering***
4. ***Develop a process for juvenile justice resource distribution*** in which committee members can be provided with resources and information on innovative child welfare practices throughout the country & provide links to those resources.
5. ***Hosting a webinar(s)*** on Girls in the System with a focus on Foster Care, Survival Sex and Human Trafficking, and Girls with Incarcerated Parents in the fall of 2023.

The committee is currently focusing on researching and developing a webinar on “Girls in the System”. Committee members are sharing and familiarizing themselves with resources that pertain to the overarching focus topic of “Girls in the System”, including the vulnerability that girls experience after aging out of the foster care system, human trafficking, and girls with incarcerated parents. Committee members are also focusing on the best practices of

organizations that are committed to making change within these systems, so that they may share not just information and data on “Girls in the System”, but also practical solutions to enable change during the upcoming webinar.

The upcoming JJCW Zoom committee meeting will be held at 11am CST on May 23rd, 2023.



The National Association of Women Judges
Membership Outreach and Retention Committee
April 7, 2023

Co-Chair: Honorable Beverly Cutler

Co-Chair: Honorable Doreen Boxer

The Membership Outreach and Retention Committee meets via Zoom approximately every six weeks.

We offer the following recommendations to the NAWJ Board:

1. All members of NAWJ should be polled about what sort of organization the members want. In particular, members should be asked whether they want a more private, retreat-atmosphere where they can truly relax with their “sisters-in-law” while attending educational events, or a more public-facing organization which holds events with non-judicial professionals such as receptions with local bars and law deans, affinity organizations and the like. We recommend this poll ask responders to identify their status as retired or active, their age range, and approximate number of years on the bench to help NAWJ better understand the demographics of the current active membership.
2. NAWJ should clarify and upgrade its data collection and membership outreach data structure. Apparently NAWJ has mostly had ad hoc or piecemeal practices of collecting information about potential new judicial members. Our committee has found that, while tasked to do so, the District Directors are not uniformly, or even sometimes at all, reaching out to all potential members (or dropped members) in their areas. Our committee thought the organization expected them to do so. It would be very helpful to our committee to know how many women jurists there are in the United States to whom to reach out, comparing this to the number the organization tried to approach when only 10-20 years old, and figure out how best to capture potential members currently.
3. With regard to attracting new members, we recommend considering the structure of NAWJ’s annual Midyear Meeting, as to whether it is primarily a planning meeting for the Board, or a conference for all members. We heard this year’s Midyear Meeting was not as attractive to new members as last year’s where more programming was offered, disappointing some new members. If NAWJ wants to maintain a “conference” format theme for some midyear meetings but sometimes keep the midyear meetings a private event for the board and district directors (as it was originally) should NAWJ develop a fixed and announced pattern which members (including new members and lapsed members) could rely on, including as to announced locations and types of programming offered.
4. Now that Covid shutdowns have ended, we recommend District Directors (or State Chairs, where they exist) immediately and conscientiously hold in-person/possibly hybrid events in their districts at least once each quarter that new members can attend. Such events need not be a mini-conference or even specifically programmed but should be social gatherings like dinners at a restaurant or gathering for

outdoor activity.

Our previous website recommendations persist, gratefully acknowledging that some of these suggestions are in progress:

- A. NAWJ should improve its website content and functionality: The website content does not fully align with NAWJ's Strategic Plan.
 1. For example, the website articulates "Who We Are" as follows: "NAWJ is a dynamic gathering of women judges who are dedicated to preserving judicial independence to women, minorities and other historically disfavored groups while increasing the number and advancement of women judges and providing cutting edge judicial education." Meanwhile, on page 6 of the Strategic Plan, NAWJ is described as follows: "Promote the judicial role of protecting the rights of individuals under the rule of law through strong, committed, diverse judicial leadership, fairness and equality in the courts, and equal access to justice." Thus, the Strategic Plan says that NAWJ strives to be gender-neutral and to ensure equal justice under the rule of law, while the website indicates the organization is a women-only "gathering" and does not appear particularly concerned with equal justice as long as the needs of "historically disfavored groups" are met.
 2. The website has some old content and, as to some of the information, it is unclear why no more recent information is posted. Unnecessary/old information can prompt concerns about our organization. For example, on the "About NAWJ" page, under "Financials," the website includes IRS Form 990 from 2018 and 2019, but no recent filings. This may cause someone to question NAWJ's recent finances, which is not helpful to anyone. It is unclear why NAWJ posts this information publicly, and why these old forms are still available to the public. In any case, if NAWJ has decided to post this information, then NAWJ should also post the updated information; but, if there is no need to continue to post the 2018 or 2019 tax information, then NAWJ should consider removing it.
 3. The website design does not afford easy navigation to a potential new member looking to learn about NAWJ's mission and value or to an unengaged existing member. The website does not brightly communicate what NAWJ offers to new or existing members or whom to contact to access a particular benefit or offering. It was not even easy these past few months to see the existence of the Midyear Conference and its details.
 4. NAWJ should emphasize our value to web visitors, rather than display a large slideshow of photographs from past meetings which currently dominates the first page.
 5. NAWJ should emphasize three offerings listed below that are unique to NAWJ and, we believe, are of interest to potential new member/existing unengaged member visitors to the website. On the website each of these listed values/offerings should have a live hyperlink to navigate to a page that explains each offering/value/benefit as it relates to NAWJ. Selecting the hyperlink should also prompt display of a list of contacts so the potential new member or unengaged existing member can learn how to connect with the offering/value. The offering/values we recommend are:

- Cutting Edge [“Innovative”] Education
- Mentorship/Fellowship with Judicial Officers
- Opportunities for National Service and Leadership

- B. NAWJ should insert a search widget on the front page of the website so that visitors could easily answer, “What can I do near me right now with NAWJ?” or “How can I connect with my local NAWJ district group?”
1. The widget should allow the visitor to search for upcoming events in the visitor’s location or zip code and should generate a printable list of upcoming events in the website visitor’s geographic area, as well as any national webinars or conferences.
 2. The widget should automatically give the visitor the contact information for someone with NAWJ (preferably a District Director or someone in the national office) whom the visitor may contact and who will contact the visitor (within “X” number of days). The widget should generate an email to the District Director for the relevant district, and/or to someone at national HQ, to answer any questions and proceed with further outreach.



The National Association of Women Judges
(Military and Veterans Committee)
(March 21, 2023)

Chair: Honorable Kirsten Brunson, Colonel, US Army (Ret)

Vice-Chair: Honorable Linda S Murnane, Col, USAF, Ret

The Military and Veterans Committee, with expanded mission, has had new members join the Committee.

We have continued our focus on concerns related to military sexual assault and military sexual trauma and will detail some specific involvement in those areas later in our report. However, we have also expanded our mission to address issues less well known to the NAWJ membership.

We have proposed programming for the Annual Meeting to be held in Indianapolis as well as the Annual Meeting to be held in San Diego addressing two specific areas that should be of interest to more of the members of NAWJ as it speaks across committees to the activities of others within NAWJ.

First, we have proposed a program to address the ongoing challenges facing LGBTQ+ member of the armed forces. Following the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” era during the Clinton Administration, those LGBTQ+ members serving in our armed forces have faced dramatic changes in policies with respect to their eligibility to serve, their assignment eligibility, their promotion opportunities, and their access to healthcare. The latter has been specifically challenging for those who are transgender seeking to transition.

Second, we have proposed a program to address the collateral and sometimes severe consequences of driving offenses impacting military members who are facing charges in state court. Whether it is speeding or DUI/DWI, or other offenses, some locations and some service branches are engaged in dual punishment of service members whose cases are pending in state courts. Although dual punishment for the same offense of DUI has been held to be unconstitutional before a federal magistrate in Virginia, Marine Corps commanders at Quantico continue to pursue nonjudicial punishment of Marine Corps servicemembers, imposing loss of grade, reductions in pay and setting its members up for inability to pay fines and fees routinely included as a punishment in state court proceedings. Additionally, in order to do this, the Marine Corps is requiring servicemembers to make their election before their state court case comes to trial, including making any statements they wish to make – raising 5th Amendment implications.

Additional issues which are of major concern in the Military and Veterans Community on which we have been sending updates through the NAWJ’s monthly updates have included:

1. *Continued efforts and successes to obtain licensing accommodations for military spouses holding J.D. degrees who accompany their military spouse outside of their licensed jurisdiction.*

Some members of the NAWJ Military and Veterans Committee are also members of the Military Spouse J.D. Network

2. *Unsafe drinking water in military housing. This issue has been in the news in multiple jurisdictions across the United States. Water contamination is impacting military housing residents in Hawaii, Ohio, North Carolina, Alabama and elsewhere.*
3. *Unsafe living quarters. An ongoing challenge with privatized housing, including cases that have resulted in criminal prosecutions of some privatized housing contractors at military housing facilities, continue to plague those installations that contracted out their military housing operations. Problems have largely been related to mold, animal and rodent infestation and inadequate maintenance and repair.*

The important area of Military Sexual Assault and Military Sexual Trauma has been central in changes being implemented to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Under the UCMJ, cases involving sexual assault and rape, and a handful of other very serious offenses, will no longer be sent to the Convening Authority to decide whether to prosecute the cases. Instead, the cases will be reviewed through a Special Prosecutor. The Special Victim Counsel program has also been refined and improved. Individuals convicted of any crime under the UCMJ will now be sentenced by a military judge rather than by a jury.

NAWJ Military and Veterans Committee Chair, The Honorable (Colonel, US Army, Ret) Kirsten Brunson serves as an appointed member of the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces (DAC-IPAD). She has been providing input and assistance in drafting guidelines for the role of the Special Prosecutor, as well as advice and guidance for commanders, first sergeants, and Special Victims Counsel engaged in the revised process.

Vice Chair Linda S. Murnane participated in the United Nations' 66th Commission on the Status of Women as a panel member on an NGO CSW program addressing challenges of judges working in rural judges. Colonel (Ret) Murnane shared some of her experiences from the bench where she now serves in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The Committee last met on April 4, 2023.



Judge Miriam Perry, Judge Violet Palikena-Chiapo (Malawi High Court), Judge Linda Strite Murnane, USAF, Ret., Judge Fiona Mwale (High Court of Malawi) and Judge Kirsten Brunson, USA, Ret. Attending the NAWJ Detroit Annual Meeting



April 2, 2023

Report of the Resolutions Committee

Chair: Honorable Mary M. Schroeder

No emergency or other resolutions have been submitted for consideration at the midyear. Members at the midyear should be reminded of Article XII of the Bylaws that states:

“No resolution shall be submitted to the Annual Meeting which has not been filed with the chair of the Resolutions Committee **thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting.** All resolutions shall be distributed to the membership prior to the first business session of the Annual Meeting., Adoption of a resolution requires a majority vote of those NAWJ voting members in good standing who constitute a quorum.”



Report of the Retired/Senior Judges Committee
for the 2023 Midyear Conference Board Meeting
prepared on April 7, 2023 by
Chair: Honorable Joan Churchill, Immigration Judge, retired

The NAWJ Retired/Senior Judges Committee is a large, vibrant committee, with 33 members. Our mission is to assure that retired/senior judges continue to feel involved and connected to NAWJ.

Membership

Our membership spans the USA, with members from Florida to Alaska, from East Coast to West Coast, and from many states in the heartland. Our membership includes state and federal judges, who have served on a variety of types and levels of courts: Federal and State, administrative, Military, trial and appellate, including a state Supreme Court. Several NAWJ Past Presidents are on the Committee.

Meetings

We meet quarterly. Attendance at our meetings is robust. Since our last report, prepared for the 2022 Annual Meeting, we have met twice. We met in person at the Annual conference in Detroit on October 21, 2022, jointly with the Immigration Committee (chaired by the same Chairwoman, Joan Churchill. We met by conference call via zoom on January 18, 2023. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 12, in advance of the midyear meeting scheduled for Annapolis later in April.

Upcoming conferences

The following members of the Committee are planning to attend

Midyear – April 20-22 Annapolis:

Bev Cutler, Bev Nash, Jamoa, Joan, Susan, , Kitty, and Julia.

IAWJ Biennial - May 11 – 14 Marrakech, Morocco:

Joan, Bev Nash, Doris, Kitty, and Emily Shattil.

Our subcommittee on Biennial side trips, chaired by Justice Baldwin and Judge Schild has been active in finding both a 6 day pre conference and a 9 day post conference tour on which several NAWJ members attending the Biennial have registered. Judge Pechkurow has taken the lead in making the arrangements for the pre conference tour.

CounterBalance

The recent Winter/Spring issue – 2023 contains an article submitted by our Committee for the *Life After the Bench* column, written by Col Linda Murnane, USAF, Ret. Entitled “*FINDING FULFILLMENT IN SECOND CHAPTERS OF A JUDICIAL CAREER*,” Col. Murnane’s article reviews her career in the military and her extraordinary activities involved with international courts since retiring from the U.S. Air Force for which she served as a military judge. It can be accessed at: <https://www.nawj.org/static/258/counterbalance-winter-2023>

Future Articles

1. Judge Beverly Cutler has offered to write an article a future issue about mentoring Afghan Women Judges who were part of the evacuation from Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban.

2. Col. Murnane, who has left retirement and returned to active service as a judge, took her seat as an Associate Justice on the High Court of the Republic of the Marshall Islands a couple weeks after our 2022 annual conference. Given that returning to the bench full time after retirement is an unusual post retirement activity, Judge Murnane has promised to write another article for our Life after the Bench column that describes her latest career move.

Afghan Women Judges

Members of the committee have been active in assisting and brainstorming about ways to help our Afghan sister colleagues now located in the USA, who left Afghanistan due to the Taliban takeover. Judge Cutler shared her experience mentoring one family and leading a team in the area to brainstorm about professional opportunities and financial resources to help our sister judges adjust to life in the U.S. They need help locating a suitable position and obtaining a degree to qualify for a legal position in this country. Judge Cutler reported that *pro bono* legal help is available to help with their immigration cases, such as filing asylum applications. She told us that a recent Webinar put on jointly by NAWJ and IAWJ about the needs and ways to help our Afghan sisters may be available on tape

Program or Webinar Idea

Co Chair, Judge Ramona See, recommended and agreed to take the lead in developing a program to meet the specific needs of retired judges and/or judges contemplating retirement, focused on things retired people wish they knew before they retired. Judges McGovern, Moberly, Moiseev, Nash, Schild, and Weatherly expressed interest in working on this idea with Judge See.