

NAWJ Administrative Judiciary Committee
2022 Midyear Report

Submitted by: Emily Chafa and Susan Formaker, Co-Chairs (since October 2019)

The NAWJ Administrative Judiciary Committee meets every month on the 3rd Friday of the month at 2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. PT. We use a co-chair's personal Zoom account to avoid schedule conflicts with other NAWJ meetings.

We are active or retired administrative adjudicators (ALJ/AJ/IJ, other job titles) at the federal, state and local levels. We handle or handled a wide variety of dockets involving appeals of administrative actions taken by governmental agencies. We currently welcome 18 members to each committee meeting, including two judges who serve in state courts, not administrative tribunals. Others are always welcome and encouraged to join us.

The committee thoughtfully and respectfully discusses various topics and issues of interest to the administrative judiciary at each meeting. Through these conversations, we learn about the diversity of our experiences, jurisdictions, hiring processes, and agency hierarchy.

The committee will present a webinar on April 21, 2022, with panelists describing their paths to the administrative judiciary. This program will include judges in federal, state and local administrative tribunals. We're seeking co-sponsorship from other affinity bars to help us spread the word on the webinar and promote attendance. The NAWJ Immigration Committee is co-sponsoring this program.

The committee will present a program at the 2022 NAWJ Annual Conference, focusing on commercial truck drivers and new laws relating to human trafficking and driving while impaired for CDL (Commercial Drivers License) holders. This program is entitled: "Mastering Masking: Understanding CDL Licensing Implications of Impaired Driving and Human Trafficking" – 2-hour course with an intended audience of judges and legal professionals. These criminal charges and corresponding administrative sanctions involve judges with criminal dockets and administrative law judges in state and local tribunals. Gwen D'Souza is planning this program. The NAWJ Human Trafficking Committee is co-sponsoring this program.

The committee continues to monitor and discuss the ABA JD NCALJ conversations, programs, and actions relating to a proposed federal central panel resolution. Several of our NAWJ Administrative Judiciary Committee members are also involved in ABA Judicial Division NCALJ leadership.

The committee discussed the proposed independent immigration court, receiving updates from a committee member familiar with the congressional process.

The committee continues to discuss timely topics of interest to the administrative judiciary at each meeting. Our agendas are flexible, to allow us to address the most important issues facing our members.