



October 6, 2021

Report of the NAWJ Judiciary Administrative Committee

Chairs: Honorable 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 2pmCT/3pmET/12pmPT. 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. We currently welcome 23 members to each committee meeting. 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 program at the 2021 NAWJ Annual Conference, entitled "Expecting the Unexpected: Managing Obstacles Involving Self Represented Litigants." Panelists include committee members Jennifer Gee, Theresa Timlin, and Emily Chafa.

The committee reviewed the many versions of a proposed ABA NCALJ resolution, initially per the request of the ABA NCALJ Chair and later due to our committee members' concerns with the resolution and accompanying report. We spent a considerable amount of time and energy at almost every monthly meeting on the topic, with many thoughtful discussions and substantive written responses. The committee's discussions focused on the need for judicial independence, while recognizing that different administrative jurisdictions may require different mechanisms to ensure independence because of the varied legal and regulatory environments in which administrative adjudicators operate. In October 2020, our committee asked the NAWJ Board to support our opposition to the ABA NCALJ resolution. The NAWJ Board voted unanimously to oppose the NCALJ resolution at its meeting on October 15, 2020, supporting the NAWJ Administrative Judiciary Committee's position. The NAWJ Administrative Judiciary Committee's position opposing the ABA NCALJ resolution never changed. In July 2021, this position was communicated to the NCALJ and JD leadership, and to the NAWJ ABA HOD delegate.

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. At many recent meetings, the committee discussed the still-pending resolution regarding site selection for future NAWJ national conferences. The majority of committee members support the LGBTQ Committee's resolution.



September 14, 2021

Report of the Awards Committee

Chairs: Honorable Ariane D. Vuono and Honorable Cindy Davis

Each year the Awards Committee requests nominations for the Honorable Joan Dempsey Klein Honoree of the Year Award and for the Florence K. Murray Award. We solicit nominations from our membership approximately three to four months in advance of the Annual Conference. Then, after consultation, the committee which consists of the Chairs, Judge Judy Chirlin and Cathy Winter, selects the honorees. This year the committee met in early August and reviewed many exceptional submissions. As previously announced, the Hon. Anna Blackburne Rigsby will receive the Joan Dempsey Klein award and Attorney Margaret Behm will receive the Florence K. Murray award. On behalf of the committee, the chairs wish to thank everyone who submitted a nomination, and we congratulate the honorees.



The National Association of Women Judges
Domestic Violence Committee Report

Chairs: Honorable Judge Tracey Flemings-Davillier & Honorable Amy Ronayne-Krause

The National Association of Women Judges Domestic Violence Committee respectfully submits the following report of our Committee's objectives and goals.

I. Meetings

The Committee met via Zoom on June 30, 2021, July 25, 2021 and August 25, 2021 and the following Committee members were able to attend:

Committee Meeting Participants - 6/30/2021:

- Hon. Tracey Flemings-Davillier - Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judge, New Orleans, Louisiana
- Hon. Doreen Boxer - Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner, Los Angeles, California
- Hon. Barbara Stalder - Domestic Violence Court Judge, 280th District Court, Houston, Texas
- Hon. Lori Dougherty- Bichsel - District Court Judge, Shawnee County, Kansas
- Hon. Ernestine Gray - Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Judge (Retired), New Orleans, Louisiana

Committee Meeting Participants - 7/25/2021:

- Hon. Tracey Flemings-Davillier - Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judge, New Orleans, Louisiana
- Hon. Doreen Boxer - Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner, Los Angeles, California
- Hon. Catherine Shaffer - King County Superior Court Judge, Seattle, Washington
- Hon. Lori Dougherty- Bichsel - District Court Judge, Shawnee County, Kansas
- Janel Mihoc, NAWJ Membership Coordinator

Committee Meeting Participants - 8/25/2021:

- Hon. Tracey Flemings-Davillier Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judge, New Orleans, Louisiana

- Hon. Doreen Boxer - Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner, Los Angeles, California
- Hon. Catherine Shaffer - King County Superior Court Judge, Seattle, Washington
- Hon. Barbara Stalder - Domestic Violence Court Judge, 280th District Court, Houston, Texas
- Hon. Ernestine Gray - Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Judge (Retired), New Orleans, Louisiana
- Ms. Lynn Schfran, Esq. - Director of the National Judicial Education Program at Legal Momentum

II. Meeting Discussions

A) Webinar

The DV Committee is in the process of planning a webinar that will be open to NAWJ members and any others who are interested in attending.

- Ms. Janel Mihoc, NAWJ Membership Coordinator, was present during the July 25th meeting and provided the Committee with webinar planning information.
- Taking into consideration that the National Conference is Wednesday, October 6 - Saturday, October 9, 2021, coupled with the NAWJ guidelines for scheduling webinars, the Committee intends to request authority to host the webinar in November 2021.
- We have been advised that the NAWJ's administrative fee for handling the technical, marketing and publicity aspects of the webinar is \$350.
 - It is our understanding that NAWJ has the ability to facilitate the webinar as a national event. NAWJ will send emails to members, host webinar, display event on website, disseminate zoom information to members (webinar topic/summary, registration, meeting ID, password) and follow-up after the event.
 - The Committee opted to have NAWJ assist with marketing/advertising and facilitating the webinar.
- The Committee discussed applying for a NAWJ grant and to research other sources to cover the webinar fee.

1) Webinar Topics

a) Disproportionate Impact on Women of Color

We want to discuss the disparate treatment in responses by law enforcement and district attorneys, as well as courts, etc..., and the effects of such disparate treatment.

b) Definition of “Consent”

The definition of “consent” as defined by the American Law Institute (ALI) and its potential revision of such.

- At this point, we know that there are discussions regarding either revision to the definition of “consent” or inclusion in the comment section that Judges should consider whether the victim verbally said “no” or anything to that effect and whether the victim resisted.

2) Presenters

(a) Disproportionate Impact on Women of Color

Ms. Amalfi Parker-Elder from Praxis International has advised that she can present and lead the discussion on Disproportionate Impact on Women of Color. Ms. Parker-Elder will present for 15 – 20 minutes and take questions for 10 minutes.

(b) Definition of “Consent”

Ms. Lynn Schfran, Esq., Director of the National Judicial Education Program at Legal Momentum, has advised that she can present and lead the discussion on the definition of “consent”. Ms. Schfran is working to confirm an additional presenter for this topic and to provide the Committee with information with respect to this topic. She will present for 30 minutes and lead Q&A for 15 minutes.

B) Position Statement

The Committee is in the process of obtaining additional information regarding possible revision to the definition of “consent” in the American Law Institute Model Penal Code. Based on the information received, the Committee will discuss and determine next steps as it relates to issuing a draft of a position statement to present to the NAWJ Board for review and consideration.

The Committee has discussed the following process:

- i. Research and discuss issue
- ii. Draft position statement
- iii. Circulate to Committee for comments/edits
- iv. Present draft to Judge Heidi Pasichow, Committee Liaison for presentation to the Board

It is our understanding that there is no timeline for the revision statement to be submitted, but we await receipt of information regarding any upcoming hearings in this regard.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judge Tracey Flemings-Davillier
September 14, 2021



September 7, 2021

Report of The Fairness and Access Committee

Chairs: Hon. Tamila Ipema; Hon. Nadia Keilani

Summary:

The NAWJ's Fairness and Access Committee held its first meeting in June of 2020. Following that meeting, a call for new members went out to the NAWJ community. The response was tremendous and the Committee's first nation-wide Zoom meeting took place on September 17, 2020. Since that first meeting, a restructuring of NAWJ's committees has taken place and the decision was made to have seven committees, all committed to increasing fairness and access to our justice system, work under the umbrella of the Fairness and Access Committee.

The Fairness and Access Committee now has a single shared calendar that will enable all committees to coordinate the timing and content of future programming. The calendar can be found here: <https://teamup.com/ksek7omu8rsb46r5kq>.

It is the plan and goal of the Fairness and Access Committee, through the different committees under its umbrella, to hold webinars for NAWJ members and supporters on a regular and continuance basis. By coordinating the efforts of the seven committees, we will eliminate repetition of programs, ensure collaboration where appropriate, and provide consistent calendar of events to our members.

Committees Operating Under Fairness and Access Umbrella:

A. ADA Compliance Committee [No report available at this time]

Judge Marilyn Paja, Chair

This committee has a total of 3 members.

B. Administrative Judiciary [Report at page 3]

Emily Chafa, Co-Chair

Susan Formaker, Co-Chair

This committee has a total of 22 members.

The Committee's report is attached.

C. Ensuring Racial Equity in the Justice System [Report at page 4]

Judge Terrie Roberts, Chair

This committee has a total of 37 members.

The Committee's report is attached.

D. LGBTQ [Report at pages 6]

Judge Kristin Rosi, Chair

This committee has a total of 31 members.

The Committee's report is attached.

E. Mothers in Court [Report at page 8]

Ms. Renee Stackhouse, Co-Chair

Judge Elizabeth Yablon, Co-Chair

This committee has a total of 14 members.

The Committee's report is attached.

F. Rural Courts [Report at page 9]

Judge Stephanie Davis, Chair

This committee has a total of 5 members.

The Committee's report is attached.

G. Self-Represented Litigants [Report at page 10]

Wilma Guzman, Co-Chair

Mary Sandak, Co-Chair

This committee has a total of 12 members.

Meetings:

The Fairness and Access Committee meets on a quarterly basis. The Committee has met twice since it was restructured in November, 2019. It meets next at the annual conference. The committees operating under the Fairness and Access umbrella meet at different intervals, with some meeting monthly and others meeting on a quarterly basis.

2021 Goals:

Through coordination between the seven Committees, the Fairness and Access Committee has conducted thought provoking, timely and relevant programs on a regular basis. We are currently actively exploring topics, including ones which can be covered collaboratively between multiple committees. One such venture was a collaboration between the Ensuring Racial Equity in the Justice System and the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare committees on a webinar entitled "Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline." A second installment of this highly commended program will be presented on November 18, 2021.

Administrative Judiciary Committee

Report for 2021 Annual Conference

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

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Ensuring Racial Equity Committee

Report for 2021 Annual Conference

Submitted by: Hon. Terrie Roberts, Chair

The Ensuring Racial Equity in the Justice System committee has presented three Webinars thus far under the umbrella of the Fairness and Access Committee. Our first Webinar occurred on November 10, 2020 and was entitled “Racial Injustice 101: The Law’s Historical Role in Establishing and Maintaining Racial Injustice.” This webinar focused on the history of the law as a tool for the protection and advancement of racism and racial discrimination. Our esteemed panelists, Dr. Michele Goodwin and Dr. Ariela Gross led a discussion about the law’s role in advancing racial injustice through the legalization of slavery, slave patrols, slave codes, and the Black Codes enacted during the Reconstruction period. Dr. Goodwin and Dr. Gross concluded by discussing why recognizing the law as a facilitator of racism and racial discrimination is urgent and necessary in dismantling the racism and racial discrimination that persists today. Because time limitations only allowed for a discussion of the Antebellum period through the Jim Crow period, our committee is planning a “part 2” to discuss the Jim Crow period through the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Our second Webinar occurred on February 22, 2021 and was entitled “Racial Equity in Our Justice System: What Does It Look Like and What Are We Doing to Ensure It.” This amazing Webinar was beautifully moderated by our own Commissioner Nadia Keilani! Our distinguished panelists were: Hon. Cheri Beasley, Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina; Hon. Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals; Hon. Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California; and Hon. Vanessa Ruiz, Senior Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. This Webinar highlighted the role of race and ethnicity in our justice system and focused on the ways in which race and ethnicity are interconnected with access to justice. The panelists discussed the social justice movement, which was re-energized by the death of Mr. George Floyd, and specific steps courts are taking to identify and remedy racial and ethnic inequity. We had a record number of people register for this outstanding Webinar.

Our third Webinar was presented on July 22, 2021, in conjunction with the NAWJ’s Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Committee. It was entitled “Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline.” The focus was on the overrepresentation of youth of color in our justice system. We combined this important topic with a discussion of data which shows that youth of color are disciplined and expelled at disproportionate rates, often leading to their introduction into the justice system. We had over 100 participants and our esteemed panelists included, the Hon. Darlene Byrne, Chief Justice, Third Court of Appeals of Texas, Dr. J. Luke Wood, Vice President of Student Affairs & Campus Diversity at San Diego State University and Mr. Jarrell Daniels, 2021 Truman Scholar at Columbia University and Founder of Justice Ambassador Youth Council Program. The Hon. Ernestine Steward Gray, Ret., served as our moderator.

We are currently working on the second installment of the “Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline” topic. This Webinar will take place on November 18, 2021, and will focus on solutions

to the problem of the school to prison pipeline and the resultant overrepresentation of youth of color in our justice system. We will give examples of programs nationwide, both in schools as well as in the courts, that have successfully disrupted the pipeline and ways parents can be empowered to advocate for their children through this process.

LGBTQ Committee

Report for 2021 Annual Conference

Submitted by: Hon. Kristin L. Rosi, Chair

Summary:

Re-formed only three years ago, the LGBTQ Committee has been working towards greater visibility, access and equality within the NAWJ. The LGBTQ Committee has spent the last year working towards the passage of a site selection resolution and pressing for greater leadership roles within NAWJ.

Committee Membership:

The LGBTQ Committee has significantly expanded its membership in the last year. While the committee had only five members last year, membership this year has swelled to 28 active members from 11 different states.

Committee Meetings:

The Committee meets on the 4th Friday of every month via the Zoom video conference platform. The Committee has held eight regular meetings in addition to multiple special meetings. The LGBTQ Committee posts its meetings on NAWJ's calendar and all are welcome. Minutes are taken at each meeting and shared with the member.

Issues:

- **Visibility within the NAWJ:**

The Committee notes that there are no openly LGBTQ members serving on NAWJ's Board of Directors either as District Directors or Members of the Executive Committee. Further, there are no openly LGBTQ members on NAWJ's Nominating Committee, Bylaws Committee or Resolutions Committee. The lack of LGBTQ members in leadership positions negatively impacts membership recruitment and member satisfaction within the NAWJ.

- **Anti-LGBTQ Discrimination:**

The Committee is extremely concerned with the significant uptick in anti-LGBTQ legislation around the country and NAWJ's continued silence on the issue. Members have faced anti-LGBTQ sentiments from NAWJ colleagues and the increase in demeaning rhetoric is concerning.

2020-2021 Actions:

- **Site Selection Resolution:** Adoption by NAWJ of Resolution restricting midyear and annual conferences to states that do not discriminate against the LGBTQ community. This Resolution received approval from the Resolutions Committee and was meant to be discussed at the mid-year meeting. However, NAWJ leadership permitted only two minutes

of discussion before postponing all discussion. NAWJ leadership will take up the matter at the annual meeting in Nashville.

- Special Meeting Request: The LGBTQ Committee led an effort to call for a special meeting pursuant to NAWJ's bylaws. After collecting more than 100 signatures from NAWJ members, at considerable time and effort, the NAWJ Board rejected the request for a special meeting.
- Visibility and Equity in Leadership: The LGBTQ Committee nominated two of its members for NAWJ leadership positions. Both candidates were exceptionally qualified, having served as Committee Chairs and as a District Director. Neither candidate was slated by the NAWJ Nominating Committee.
- Panel presentation at Annual Conference in Nashville on *LGBTQ Youth and the Juvenile Justice System*. This program has been approved by the Nashville Program Committee and is scheduled to be presented in October 2021.

Mothers in Court Committee

Report for 2021 Annual Conference

Submitted by: Hon. Elizabeth Yablon & Renee Stackhouse, Co-Chairs

1. Meetings:

The Sub-Committee met 13 July 2021 via Zoom. (Minutes attached). This was the third meeting of the year. MIC previously met January 29 and March 30. (Minutes provided in the April Report).

2. Brainstorming & Planning:

The sub-committee brainstormed different ways to further the topics of interest previously generated by the group. It was determined that we wanted to:

- a. Draft articles for the November 2021 CounterBalance magazine;
- b. Create a Google Groups for use as a listserv, a way to mentor, and a way to gather information to build resources;
- c. Create a databank of policies, ethics opinions, etc.
- d. Survey the membership on issues like lactation rooms, maternity leave policies, children in chambers policies, and ethics rules which exist related to mothers/children in court.

3. Action Taken:

Renee reached out to NAWJ to find out the deadlines for articles. Those deadlines were shared with the group. Renee also worked with Janelle Mihoc to create a Google Groups (NAWJ has all the administrative information so this can be passed to the next Co-Chairs) and added all MIC members to "test" the Google Group. Renee also spoke with Janelle and confirmed that NAWJ could send out surveys if we came up with the questions. The sub-committee was provided with all this information and asked for volunteers.

4. Action Pending:

- a. Drafting articles for CounterBalance
- b. Drafting survey questions
- c. Further implementing the Google Groups

Rural Courts Committee

Report for 2021 Annual Conference

Submitted by: Hon. Stephanie L. Davis, Chair

Summary:

The Rural Courts Committee is energized and working towards increasing its membership and presence within the NAWJ. The Committee desires to build a more inclusive and diverse NAWJ membership through recruiting other rural court judges across the nation. The Rural Courts Committee is committed to issues revolving around access to services in rural courts and has set a goal to present its findings and solutions at a panel at the 2022 NAWJ Annual Conference.

Committee Membership:

The Rural Courts Committee is currently a small committee. However, we are in the process of recruiting other members via a solicitation letter and by word of mouth from current members. We have been able to gain additional members via our efforts.

Committee Meetings:

The Committee is committed to meeting every other month via the Zoom video conference platform. This Committee has regular meetings and communicates via email. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, 2021 and everyone is welcome to attend.

Issues:

- *Access to Services in Rural Courts.*
 - Pro-se litigants in rural courts is on the rise. This Committee is interested in discovering what it can do to help create solutions in providing access to legal resources for pro-se individuals who appear before rural courts.
 - There is limited availability of support services in rural areas. Services such as counseling, etc. are many times available only in more urban areas. Transportation from rural areas to urban areas can be an issue for those who are unemployed or have no driver's license. Often, public transportation is not an available option in rural areas. This Committee is interested in exploring how we can bring the rural need for these services and urban availability together in a meaningful and productive way.

2020-2021 Goals:

- Increase membership of the Rural Courts Committee via recruitment of current members on the membership roster of the NAWJ that are from rural areas. Rural Court Committee members will also reach out and network with other rural court judges in their areas/state to increase membership.

2022 Goals:

- A panel presentation—along with another NAWJ committee—at the 2022 Annual Conference. The specific topic is still under consideration but will primarily deal with *Access to Justice in Rural Courts*.

Self-Represented Litigants Committee

Report for 2021 Annual Conference

Submitted by: Hon. Wilma Guzman & Hon. Mary Sandak, Co-Chairs

FOR THE JUDICIARY, THERE CAN BE NO HIGHER PRIORITY THAN ENSURING MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL PERSONS...” CHIEF JUDGE JANET DEFIORE

Committee Objective:

- To assist the judiciary with handling the ever- growing number of self-represented litigants throughout the court system and caseload management in a manner that promotes equity and removes barriers faced by racial and other minority litigants.
- Communication among the judiciary to share different ideas and suggestions to provide tools and techniques to assist judges to manage courtrooms effectively, maintain neutrality, comply with the law, and increase the public’s access to justice.

Committee Structure, Schedule, Programs:

- The committee meets monthly on the third Monday at 3 pm Eastern time by zoom. Attendance has been challenging due to member’s judicial responsibilities and time zone, but recorded zoom meetings should encourage broader participation.
- The committee had planned to participate on the Administrative Judiciary panel at the 2021 Annual meeting, “Expecting the Unexpected”, but concerns about Tennessee legislation and travel risks due to the state’s low vaccination rate resulted in unavailability of panelists from this committee.
- We continue to look forward to future collaboration with this and other committees in addition to the programs proposed in the April report. Finally, we note that the opportunity to attend other committee meetings has been informative.
- The committee is in the process of compiling state court commission reports regarding best practices to address the challenges faced both by the courts and the SRLs themselves, innovations implemented during this period and resulting changes as the judiciary and society move from the pandemic with particular attention to the impact on minority litigants’ access to courts. Survey information and other SRL sources will be used to work with other committees for a program next year.



October 6, 2021

Report of the Human Trafficking Committee

Chair(s): Honorable Ann Breen-Greco and Ms. Summer Stephan

Since its formation in 1979, the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) has inspired and led the American judiciary in achieving fairness and equality for vulnerable populations and in 2010 NAWJ adopted human trafficking as their worldwide priority issue. Under the leadership of Co-chairs **Judge Ann Breen-Greco, and San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan**, NAWJ's Human Trafficking Committee (HTC) had a very active and successful year in 2020, beginning with a very powerful and informative presentation by our Co-chair, San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan, at our midyear conference in New Orleans, followed up with three HTC webinars on May 19, 2020; August 27, 2020; and July 7, 2021.

Inspired by the highly informative and well received mid-year conference presentation by DA Stephan focusing on the enormity of the scope of human trafficking and the many challenges associated with addressing this global problem with local solutions in the United States, HTC began working on a series of webinars designed to explore these issues more deeply.

A link to our first webinar from May 19, 2020 – *NAWJ Webinar - Courtroom Tools for Addressing Human Trafficking, Domestic and Sexual Violence, and Child Exploitation in the Time of COVID-19*, focused on the nature and scope of the human trafficking crisis in the US and the increase in high risk factors in the context of COVID-19 to an already vulnerable population, can be found at <https://nationalassociationwomenjudges.z2systems.com/np/publicaccess/neonPage.do?pagelId=5&>. Panel members included Hon. Pamela Brown; Hon. Virginia M. Kendall; D.A. Summer Stephan; and Ms. Christi Wigle, CEO of United Against Slavery and was moderated by Hon. Elizabeth Finn. Co-sponsors included the ABA Judicial Division, ABA Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence and United Against Slavery.

At the conclusion of HTC's May 2020 webinar, it was observed that the systemic inequity and brutalization of African Americans and people of color in our nation presented additional high risk factors that should be identified and addressed- giving rise to HTC's second webinar on August 27, 2020 "Human Trafficking – A Focus on Inequity." Our esteemed panel members were invited back to share experiences and perspectives from the federal, state and local level with over 180 attendees to enhance our knowledge of the disproportionate impact of human trafficking on persons of color and vulnerable populations, including American Indians and Alaska Natives. DA Stephan provided essential tech support for this webinar through her office team member, James Kelly, who was kind enough to upload the video of this highly informative presentation for us on YouTube on 9/14/2020: <https://youtu.be/OzLuFo0h-M0>.

Based on the overwhelming positive response to HTC's webinars, a third webinar addressing "The intersection of human trafficking, immigration, and LGBTQ+ community" was presented on July 7, 2021. Panel members included HTC Co-Chairs Judge Ann Breen-Greco and San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan; Carmen G. Kcomt, Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Programs Director La Maestra Community Health Centers San Diego, California; Judge Chris Ann Kelley, Acting Supreme Court Justice Criminal Term, Felony Sex Offense Part Suffolk County; Jessica O'Connor, Assistant State Attorney Deputy Chief, Special Victims Unit State Attorney's Office, 13th Judicial Circuit Hillsborough County Florida; and Judge Bobbie J. McCartney, Chief Judge of the United States Department of Agriculture (ret.). Co-sponsors included the ABA Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, ABA Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, ABA Judicial Division, NAWJ Immigration Committee, NAWJ LGBTQ Committee, NAWJ District 8, National Judicial College, San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, and Tom Homann LGBT Law Association. This timely and highly informative webinar was attended by over 160 individual and 60 organization registrants, this webinar addressed current issues and we hope will soon be available for viewing on YouTube.



September 15, 2021

Report of the Immigration Committee

Chair: Honorable Joan Churchill

Membership

Membership on the NAWJ Immigration Committee includes active Immigration Judges, retired Immigration Judges, the current President of NAIJ [the National Association of Immigration Judges], two past presidents of NAIJ, two past presidents of NAWJ, and 3 state court judges who have handled immigration cases as lawyers or judges.

Meetings

The Committee has met 4 times so far during the 2020-2021 term:

December 3, 2020,
January 26, 2021
March 30, 2021.
June 29, 2021.

The past meetings this year were all zoom conference calls

Our next meeting is scheduled for an in person meeting on October 9, during the Annual Meeting in Nashville.

Activities

Committee members have engaged this year in a variety of immigration related activities.

1. Afghan Women Judges. During the past few weeks, members of our Committee have responded to requests from NAWJ Past President Vanessa Ruiz who is the Immediate Past President of IAWJ, as she has worked furiously to try to arrange the evacuation of Afghan women judges interested in leaving. Our members provided background information about U.S. immigration categories, and procedures, and news of relevant announcements from the Executive Branch. In addition to special immigrant and refugee visas and asylum, we shared that the Executive has authority to parole people into the country without status. Committee member/Past NAWJ President Tamila Ipema obtained assurances of assistance from her contacts at the Vatican. Judge Ruiz has been extraordinarily successful in bringing attention to the plight of Afghan women judges as a particularly vulnerable group. She has appeared on NPR. A letter on the matter sent to the White House by Maryland Senator Cardin was referenced in a lead editorial in the Washington Post during the evacuation period. Judge Ruiz mentioned on a webinar that 20 women judges had been able to leave with their families. It appears that efforts to assist the rest are continuing. The matter is particularly sensitive.
2. The Immigration Judiciary.
 - a. NAIJ & decertification: The Department of Justice, we understand, agreed to NAIJ's motion to reconsider and remand the matter to the Regional Director of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, where, last we heard, the matter remains pending.
 - b. NAIJ leadership : In a recent election, Committee Member/NAWJ Vice President for Publications Mimi Tsankov was elected President of NAIJ. Committee Member Ashley

- Tabaddor, who was serving as President, of NAIJ moved to a policy position at CIS, [the Citizenship & Immigration Services office at DHS] when the administration changed.
- c. Article I Legislation: We understand that a bill to create an independent Article I Immigration Court has been drafted by the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Immigration, chaired by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, and that introduction of the bill is expected soon.
3. Educational activities about immigration and the immigration judiciary.
 - a. Member Mimi Tsankov has organized webinars.
 - b. Member Dana Marks was interviewed on NPR on March 26 discussing how the Biden Administration can address the Immigration Court's enormous [currently 1.4 million cases] ever growing backlog. Her 7minute interview can be heard at <http://ow.ly/fhkp50E9sjw>
 - c. Chair Joan Churchill wrote two articles that have been published this summer about the proposal to create an Article I Immigration Court
 - i. *Momentum Mounting for an Article I Immigration Court* was published by the ABA International Law Section in its 2020 *Year in Review*. The article can be located in Vol. 55 at pages 461-470. The article can be accessed online at: https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/international_law/yir2021-v55.pdf
 - ii. *An Article I Immigration Court -An Idea that is Growing- A History of Efforts to Make it a Reality* was published in the Summer 2021 edition of CounterBalance, [Volume 35, Issue 2], at page 15. The article can be accessed online at: <https://www.nawj.org/static/216/counterbalance-summer-2021>
 - d. The winter edition of CounterBalance contains an article by member Bev Cutler on her work helping members of the U.S. military with naturalization applications. See CounterBalance [Volume 35, Issue 2], at p. 10. The article can be accessed online at: <https://www.nawj.org/static/197/counterbalance-winter-2021>
 4. We coordinate with other NAWJ committees whose mandate overlaps with immigration.
 - a. Member Tiffany Palmer met with the Juvenile Justice Committee to discuss treatment of noncitizen juveniles in the State courts, particularly Special Immigrant Juvenile cases.
 - b. We provided feedback to the Human Trafficking Committee and cosponsored their webinar which explored human trafficking concerns in relation to the current surge of migrants crossing our Southern border.
 - c. Member Carol King, on behalf of our Committee, shared information with the Racial Equity and Human Trafficking Committees about webinars being planned by each other.
 5. We coordinate with other NAWJ committees with an overlapping focus
 - a. We coordinate with the Administrative Judiciary Committee about matters that relate to the administrative judiciary in general
 - b. We coordinate with the the Human Trafficking Committee on matters concerning migrants
 - c. We coordinate with the Juvenile Justice Committee in connection with matters affecting juvenile immigrants, such as those who are seeking Special Immigrant Visa.
 6. Our members are engaged with a number of other organizations concerned about the immigration judiciary. They include:

- NAIJ [National Association of Immigration Judges] – Judge Mimi Tsankov is President
 - AILA [American Immigration Lawyers Association.]
 - ABA [American Bar Association]-
 - Judge Mimi Tsankov is Secretary of NCALJ [National Conference of the Administrative Law Judiciary]
 - Judges Tsankov & Churchill cochair the NCALJ Immigration Committee
 - Judge Churchill serves on the Steering Committee of the International Law Section's Immigration Committee
 - FBA [Federal Bar Association] – Judge Amenia Khan chairs the Immigration Law Section.
 - Round Table of Former Immigration Judges.
7. Members are exploring the idea of proposing a collaboration during our 2022 Annual Meeting with the Motus Theatre Project, which involves a theatrical reading of a personal essay of the experience of an undocumented noncitizen.



Judicial Independence Committee
October 6, 2021 Annual Report
Hon. Robin Hudson and Annette Pitts



Introduction

The Judicial Independence Committee of the National Association of Women Judges is co-chaired by Justice Robin Hudson, Supreme Court of North Carolina, and Justice Debra Stephens, Washington State Supreme Court. The committee provides leadership to the Informed Voters, Fair Judges Project, a public education and outreach initiative. The goals of the project are to strengthen public knowledge and understanding of the courts and the judiciary; heighten awareness of attempts to weaken the power of the judicial branch; and to build skills in evaluating and responding to unfair attacks on the judicial branch including political and other external influences. This reporting period has generated the release of a new jury education video for feedback and final updates; greater involvement in outreach and educational partnerships and presentations; and increased interest in committee activities.

Key messages of the NAWJ Informed Voters, Fair Judges Project include:

- Our courts should be the one branch of government free from politics.
- The courts need protection from special interests and political influences.
- We need to educate the public about the unique role of the judicial branch, judges, and juries in our constitutional design.
- The judicial branch is a coequal branch of government.
- Judges should make decisions based on the facts and the law. The judicial branch is not a representative or political entity.

The Judicial Independence Committee has actively pursued the development of educational programming, resources, and partnerships this period to impact public knowledge and understanding of the judicial branch and its role in our constitutional structure. Such programs emphasize how the judicial branch differs from the other branches of government; how judges make decisions; judicial selection processes; and the importance of maintaining a fair, impartial, and independent judiciary. Education resources and models for use and adaptation by all states are available through the Informed Voters, Fair Judges Project. These resources and current partnerships with ABOTA and ACTL have increased outreach, education, and involvement.

What We Do

IVP provides resources for educating the community and juries about the role of the judicial branch including:

- ✓ Educational nonpartisan materials for use with community presentations
- ✓ Jury assembly educational resources included an Emmy Award-Winning video
- ✓ Services for customizing materials and presentations on the judicial branch and judicial selection for your state

Informed Voters, Fair Judges Project Leadership

In addition to Judicial Independence Committee Co-Chairs Justice Robin Hudson (Supreme Court of North Carolina) and Justice Debra Stephens (Washington State Supreme Court), the leadership team of the Informed Voters, Fair Judges Project includes co-chairs Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, California Supreme Court, and attorney Linda Leali of Florida. Annette Boyd Pitts, Florida Southern College, serves as the National Education Chair for the Informed Voters, Fair Judges Project.

LEADERSHIP

Debra L. Stephens Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice Co-Chair, NAWJ Judicial Independence Committee	Robin Hudson North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Co-Chair, NAWJ Judicial Independence Committee	Tani Cantil-Sakauye California Supreme Court Chief Justice Co-Chair, NAWJ Judicial Independence Committee	Linda Leali, Esq. Shareholder, Linda Leali, P.A. NAWJ Executive Board Member	Annette Boyd Pitts Director, Justice Teaching Center for Girls Learning National Education Chair, Informed Voters, Fair Judges Project

IVP was the brainchild of Justice Joan Irion of California in 2012. Under Justice Irion's leadership, an Emmy Award-winning film (*Fair and Free*) was produced by Jonathan Shapiro. United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day

O'Connor (retired) narrated the film. Today the Informed Voters Project has evolved into a national education initiative providing a variety of resources and model initiatives to NAWJ members, courts, bar associations, and the public-at-large. A new public education video designed for use with juror orientation programs and civic education programming is under final review. Presentations have increased nationally with the assistance of new partnerships.

Educational Presentations and Resources

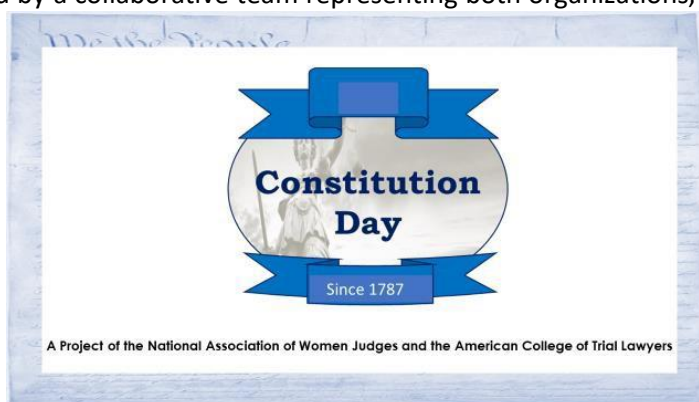
The National Association of Women Judges and the American College of Trial Lawyers are continuing their partnership throughout the country with targeted pilot states implementing educational presentations. The two organizations



executed a Memorandum of Understanding to set in motion a joint effort to educate the public about the important role of the American judiciary. Members of both organizations worked collaboratively to implement public education programs in California, Florida, North Carolina, and Washington, among other locations. New presentations for Law Week, Constitution Week, and other commemorative programs are under construction or updated annually. The working subcommittee has created presentations to use with face-to-face or remote programs, due to the pandemic. NAWJ and ACTL are working with civic organizations, libraries, colleges and universities, and

other public forums to host the educational programs. Created by a collaborative team representing both organizations, the Constitution Day programs received

positive feedback and engagement. Virginia Nelson and Kathleen Trafford, of the American College of Trial Lawyers worked with NAWJ Judicial Independence Committee members to create a forty-minute nonpartisan presentation to use in local communities. The materials include a PowerPoint presentation, handouts, presenter's guide, and a prerecorded training to assist with implementing the Constitution Day program locally. Most presentations have been adapted to a virtual environment.



The presentations are designed for use throughout the year with targeted public outreach and community events.

Teams consisting of an NAWJ/IVP member alongside an ACTL Fellow from each state conducted the presentation.



For example, in August 2021, Co-Chair Justice Robin Hudson and ACTL Fellow Brian Beverly presented a shortened Constitution Day slide program to a lunchtime Kiwanis Club meeting in Raleigh, NC. The hybrid program included Justice Hudson and Mr. Beverly appearing in person at the luncheon, while members of the Kiwanis Club had the option of joining live or on Zoom. Similar programs throughout the country target general public audiences (not legal professionals) as the collaboration expands and continues.

The National Association of Women Judges Judicial Independence Committee and Informed Voters, Fair Judges Project have remained active despite pandemic-related setbacks. A new video targets juror

education and public outreach programs. Funding from the ABOTA Foundation provided resources for the project to finalize production of videos for use in jury assembly

orientation programs nationwide as well as public education and community outreach initiatives. We have been very fortunate to be working with our Producer, long-time public

television producer Tom Earnhardt, who is also a 50-year attorney and law professor based in Raleigh, North Carolina. Justice Robin Hudson has been coordinating this initiative, which is nearly complete. A draft has been



ABOTA
FOUNDATION

released for review by the IVP Committee and the ABOTA team, and when finalized, will be added to the materials available to the public. IVP leadership expects to roll out the new video, “Liberty and Justice for All,” at the NAWJ Annual Conference in October 2021. With education about the role of the judicial branch at the forefront of the IVP mission, the videos will continue to serve a critical function in informing the public about the courts and the constitutional significance of judges and jurors. The videos will provide an important tone-setting backdrop and conversation starter for judicial independence education presentations.

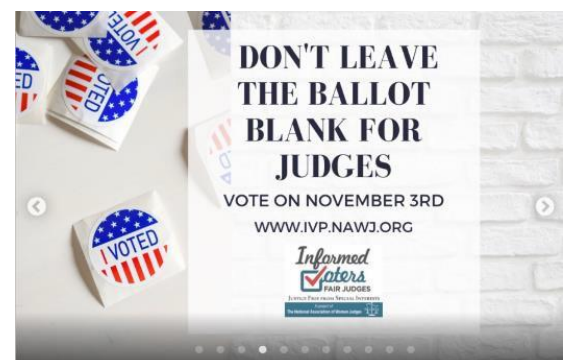
Additionally, with a lack of universal juror education programs nationwide, these videos will fill a critical need for content-based juror education initiatives about the judicial branch. A preliminary inventory of juror education programs throughout the country revealed inconsistent and sometimes nonexistent educational programming for jurors. Often juror information or education programs only provide logistical details about reporting for jury service including what to wear, where to park and other generic information. The promotion of this new video resource will be the Committee’s next priority within the NAWJ structure and network.

The use of the original Emmy Award-winning video *Fair and Free*, featuring retired United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor continues throughout the country in a variety of education and outreach venues. Shorter variations of the original film are available for special events such as Constitution Day. The JIC asks all members to research the inclusion of the video on their court or bar websites. The Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida has integrated the *Fair and Free* video in the content of its jury duty page at <https://www.ninthcircuit.org/jurors>. Use of the video is free and available to courts and bar associations upon request. Visit our webpage to view the videos at <https://ivp.nawj.org/fair-and-free-public-service-announcement-video/>.

An animation created by the NAWJ Judicial Independence Committee and Informed Voters Project is also available for use with education programs to teach about judicial selection methods. The three-minute innovative nonpartisan animation, (https://ivp.nawj.org/app/uploads/2016/06/NAWJ_YourVoiceMatters_Video_Small.mp4) is available for use with public presentations as well as on web-based platforms. *Your Voice Matters* is available at no cost upon request to courts, bar associations, and other entities.

The Judicial Independence Committee has proposed a new session for the next annual NAWJ conference. The presentation will address *Contemporary Challenges: Attacks on the Courts and the New Normal*. The 42nd annual conference is rescheduled for October 2021 due to the pandemic. The Committee will continue to work developing the panel discussion model for presentation in Nashville.

A social media campaign to alert voters not to leave the ballot blank for judges was available during the recent elections. The campaign used in Florida in previous years was updated in 2020 - 2021. During the 2016 elections, over 1.7 million voters left the ballot blank for judges in merit retention elections in Florida. After implementation of an organized education campaign, voter data documented the number of voters who left the ballot blank was reduced by over 600,000 votes during the 2018 elections. Print and digital resources were recycled for subsequent elections and are accessible to attorneys and judges throughout the country to utilize in public education and outreach. Contact our Committee for the use of these digital materials.



Website and Partnerships

The IVP website (ivp.nawj.org) houses information and resources to assist judges and attorneys with education and community outreach presentations in a variety of forums. The website provides a variety of programming models that can be adapted for specific state use. Certain materials have been designed for use exclusively at state or national conferences. These are not available through our website directly but can be requested individually by judges or

attorneys. IVP can also assist with designing content specific presentations for programming in specific states. Special events such as Law Day and Constitution Day as well as judicial selection resources are designed for use with public audiences.

Partnerships this year with the American Board of Trial Advocates and the American College of Trial Lawyers have enhanced the programming and outreach impact of the Informed Voters Project. These unique partnerships are

Juries and judges work together as partners in the administration of justice. Judges make legal rulings and juries decide factual issues in a trial.

"Jurors are judges of the facts and we are judges of the law."

-Judge Cymonie Rowe



assisting with our efforts to educate the public on the unique role of the judicial branch in our constitutional design and present day challenges to a fair and impartial judiciary. The partnership with ABOTA provides resources for the development of video resources for use in juror education and community outreach programs. The partnership with ACTL provides member volunteers to expand outreach to pilot states during Constitution Week, Law Week, and other times throughout the year. All materials provided are adaptable for use within any state or jurisdiction and are like a deck of cards with the flexibility to

remove or add slides pertinent to your audience and specific presentation. Judicial Independence Committee member Judge Cymonie Rowe of Florida has created a special *She the People* resource presentation highlighting the 19th Amendment. Special presentations at the University of Miami, Florida Atlantic University, and other venues are scheduled throughout Constitution month festivities and beyond.

Other Initiatives

Other initiatives underway this year include a Judicial Independence Literature Review. This project provides insight into areas for future research and publication. Annette Boyd Pitts has worked with multiple students to generate an annotated bibliography for use with the literature review on judicial independence. The product will examine patterns in scholarly approaches to the topic, practitioner and public feedback, gaps in articles and other forms of publications, and the identification of current needs, messaging, and publications to target for future outreach. These materials will be available to assist judges in educating the public about judicial independence and provide resources to respond to attacks on the judiciary. The materials will be updated annually to maintain current documentation.

Evaluating Judicial Candidates

How should I judge a judicial candidate?
Resources for an informed decision

Each year, voters make their voices heard on the ballot, selecting public officials to represent them and judges to serve on the bench to interpret and apply the law. And yet, millions of voters leave the ballot blank when it comes to judges. Many voters do not know what to look for in selecting judges or why they are on the ballot. Additionally, voters are not sure what resources exist to help them evaluate judicial candidates. To assist an informed vote, voters should consider how judges are different from other elected officials. Judges make decisions based on the facts and the law. They should not be swayed by public opinion, special interests, or political influences. What should you consider in voting for judicial candidates?

Over 90 percent of court cases in the United States are filed in our state courts. Almost 300 million criminal and civil cases come before nearly 30,000 state court judges each year. Each state has its own methods of selecting judges as outlined in its state constitution or state statute. The processes may differ even within a state between trial and appellate court judges. However, no matter how judges are selected in your state, it is important to remember that judges are different from other elected officials.

About Trial Court Judges
Trial court judges sit in courtroom and hear cases for the first time. Judges listen to witnesses, rule on evidence and objections, and in some cases, work in conjunction with a jury.

A project of
The National Association of Women Judges

What to Consider

- Experience**
What is the judicial candidate's background and legal experience? How many years has the candidate been a lawyer and/or judge? What type of law have they practiced? What is the jurisdiction of the court they seek to serve on and how will their experience prepare them for this position?
- Professional Competence**
What is the candidate viewed by others in the legal field? Has he/she received any professional certifications or recognitions? What specific type of law does the candidate practice? Evaluate the qualifications for judges in your state.
- Demeanor**
Is the judicial candidate respectful, fair, neutral, and professional in and out of the courtroom? Have they provided credible legal assistance in the community? What types of community service have they participated in? What boards or organizations are they affiliated with?
- Integrity**
Is the judicial candidate honest, impartial, and committed to the rule of law?
- Service**
Is the judicial candidate committed to public service and the administration of justice? What types of community service have they participated in? What boards or organizations are they affiliated with?
- Other important considerations:**
Who is supplying voter information materials for judicial candidates?

A project of
The National Association of Women Judges

Resources for Researching Judicial Candidates

- Review **profiles and bios** on court and bar association websites to gain information about a judicial candidate's education, background, and legal experience including areas of practice, years of experience, and types of cases they have experience with.
- Review **voter guides** prepared by state and local bar associations and/or nonpartisan organizations, which often provide resource links and provide answers to frequently asked questions.
- Seek out resources like **judicial performance evaluations and polls** conducted by local bar associations.
- Attend local **judicial candidate forums** sponsored by local bar associations or nonpartisan civic groups. Often these forums are videotaped.
- Examine the **eligibility requirements** and selection processes for state judges by looking in your state constitution or state statutes.
- Talk to **people in the community** or lawyers who may know the judge or judicial candidate.
- Review **nonpartisan resources, candidate voluntary self-disclosure forms, and other materials** to learn more about each candidate.
- Check your **state and local bar associations** for additional materials. Example: The Florida Bar has a page devoted on its website to judicial voter education (<https://www.floridabar.org/education/voter-education/>).
- Review and **analyze media communications** including news articles, social media posts, candidate websites, and campaign advertisements. Consider funding and publication sources for each media communication.

www.ivp.nawj.org

About the Informed Voters, Fair Judges Project
IVP provides critical resources for informing the public about the unique role of the judicial branch in our constitutional design.

- Interactive educational presentation materials and resources
- Jury assembly and community outreach videos and resources
- Emergency election-winning video featuring retired United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

"When a judge does, what is right according to the law, when a judge decides, each case strictly on the merits, when a judge gives every case and every person the same treatment, our courts are what they have always been and must always be... fair and free!"
- From "Fair and Free" featuring Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Ret.

A project of
The National Association of Women Judges

Recent Accomplishments and Highlights

- A new video, "Liberty and Justice for All," will be available for use with juror orientation and public outreach and 'education programs. The ABOTA Foundation funded the project.
- A partnership with the American College of Trial Lawyers has led to the creation of educational materials and presentations for Constitution Week and beyond. A Memorandum of Understanding was executed and members of the ACTL and the NAWJ have presented together in targeted states throughout the country.
- Judicial Independence Committee member Judge Cymonie Rowe created a *She the People* 19th Amendment presentation used at the University of Miami and Florida Atlantic University. The presentation is available for use by interested NAWJ members. Judge Rowe is the 2021 Palm Beach County FAWL (Florida Association of Women Lawyers) Jurist of the Year.
- Publications, print and digital media, animations, and social media resources are available for use.



Report of the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Committee

Chairs of the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Committee

Hon. Ernestine S. Gray, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Retired

Hon. Joy Cossich Lobrano, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, Louisiana

Members of the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Committee

Hon. Deitra Burney-Butler, Clayton County Juvenile Court, Georgia

Hon. Cole Dalton, Office of Administrative Hearings, California

Hon. Lori Dumas, Judge, Court of Common Pleas, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Hon. Maya Guerra Gamble, 459th District Court, Texas

Hon. Andrea Iannazzi, Rhode Island Family Court

Hon. Judith Kline, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Virginia

Commissioner Jennifer Lee, Contra Costa County Superior Court, California

Hon. Deborah McNabb, 17th Circuit Court, Kent County, Michigan

Hon. Amy Nechtem, Chief Justice Massachusetts Juvenile Court

Hon. Theresa Neo, Minnesota District Court

Hon. Edwina Mendelson, Court of Claims, New York

Hon. Cathy Hollenberg Serrette, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland

Hon. Kathleen Feeney, 17th Circuit Court, Kent County, Michigan

It has been a joy to fellowship and work alongside so many accomplished judges who share a passion for juvenile justice and child welfare. Over the past year our committee has successfully held meetings on a routine basis and has made great progress towards our committee goals. We welcome any NAWJ member who is interested in this work to join our committee.

During our first committee meeting of the year, held on February 25, 2021, members developed and soon after approved a mission statement and goals for 2021. We also heard from members of the Domestic Violence Committee and Immigration Committee and discussed potential overlap and collaboration opportunities. We began developing potential topics for a future committee sponsored webinar. We also discussed recruitment strategies for attracting new committee members.

Mission Statement

This committee's mission is to ensure that NAWJ is well-informed about court initiatives that improve the lives of children and families and increase access to justice in a fair, equitable, effective and timely manner; provide information on standards, practices, and efficacy of the nation's juvenile courts; explore, develop, and present educational programs related to the wide range of child welfare and juvenile justice issues in courts and communities; and provide NAWJ members with information from other national associations that address child welfare and juvenile justice initiatives including continuing education, data and research, publications, and technical assistance information.

2021 Committee Goals

- Collaborations with other associations that also address child welfare and juvenile initiatives, such as, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, American Bar Association Judicial Division's National Conference of Specialized Court Judges, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, and National Center for State Courts
- Hosting a webinar
- Publication of committee projects
- Committee Member Recruitment

During our second meeting, held on April 29, 2021, members heard a summary of all NAWJ committees' mid-year reports and discussed opportunities for collaboration. Hon. Ernestine Gray attended the Ensuring Racial Equity Committee meeting on April 27th and provided an update to members on that committee's webinar titled "Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline". Hon. Gray also volunteered to moderate the webinar. During this meeting, we continued discussions on a committee sponsored webinar and landed on the idea of presenting the Child Welfare Intervention Mapping Model. Lastly, Hon. Gray provided a summary of her collaboration meeting with Hon. Kristin Rosi, Chair of the LGBTQ Committee, in which she offered potential contacts for Hon. Rosi to use in her upcoming panel.

During our third meeting, held on June 24, 2021, we discussed the details for the committee sponsored webinar and determined the panel members, title, date, and time. We also approved a committee update to be included in the August NAWJ monthly newsletter:

The Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Committee is currently planning a webinar on the Child Welfare Mapping model to be held on Tuesday, November 9th. This model is being rolled out across Massachusetts as part of the state's Pathways initiative focused on differentiated case management and effective prevention and intervention strategies. The Mapping is the first of its kind in the nation and state leaders are collaborating with national partners to develop a blueprint and toolkit to be adapted in communities nationwide. The Child Welfare Mapping is based in public health and collective impact approaches, creating a community-based map of the local child welfare landscape to (1) identify resources and gaps in

practices, protocols, and programs, (2) collectively agree on priorities for change, and (3) develop an action plan to improve system and service-level responses. We look forward to the opportunity to share Massachusetts' work on this model with members of NAWJ.

During our most recent meeting, held on August 26, 2021, Hon. Gray reported that the Ensuring Racial Equity Committee webinar went very well and asked our members to identify successful programs that address school dropout rates to be used in part two of the School to Prison Pipeline webinar series. Hon. Gray also discussed the possibility of creating a congressional caucus for children, as there is none currently, which was met with agreement by all present members.

Respectfully Submitted, Co-Chairs

Hon. Ernestine Gray

Hon. Joy Cossich Lobrano



September 13, 2021
Report of the Law School Outreach Committee
Chair: Honorable MaryLou Muirhead

The mission of the committee is to the goals of the committee: to establish relationships with law schools to strengthen the pipeline of women law students to the bench, and to raise awareness of NAWJ's mission among both students and faculty; to reach out and connect with women at law schools so every school has access to women judges, while expanding the presence of NAWJ and to work with the judges planning the annual conference to present a Future Justice scholarship at the conference to a law student attending a local school.

I reached out to the members who asked to be part of the committee in October. My goal was to establish sub committees in each district to work with local law schools and do some outreach. We have met several times and attendance has been sparse to say the least. No one attended the last meeting.

There are some programs taking place in California, and judges from other districts are hoping to plan programs, but not many.

In District 1 Judges reached out to the alma maters and in conjunction with various faculty members and committee leaders have participated or are in the throes of participating in Zoom seminars, conferences and meetings with students. Everyone has enjoyed it and is willing to do it again.

While I am willing to continue to work with District 1, I am unwilling to remain as chair of the committee. My experience has taught me that this work needs to be done by the Districts.



September 28, 2021

Report of the Membership Committee

Chair(s): Honorable Julie Countiss, Honorable Maya Guerra Gamble, Honorable Kathy King

As the Membership Committee goal this year is to increase our membership, these updates below show the progress we made.

- Our committee met virtually on March 17, 2021 and set some goals around outreach and increasing numbers. We discovered that some of our creative ideas for reaching those goals overlapped with activity already happening on other committees. Ultimately, we found that the most immediate way to grow our membership was through the personal efforts of our committee members in reaching out to judges they know and new judges in their area to ask them to join. To be perfectly honest, our work on this committee was stalled a bit because NAWJ, until the upcoming annual conference, couldn't have any in-person events. The best way to recruit members is to bring them to our local NAWJ district events and that just wasn't possible. In light of that, I think our addition of 217 new members in 2021 is a solid outcome. But there is more work to do and plenty more judges out there to reach. I know in Texas we want to begin hosting local events in Houston, for example, and Austin, to include new judges and those who haven't joined NAWJ yet.
- These are the action items generated from our Membership Committee meetings back in March with some still in progress:
 - Beverly Cutler—compile list of military judges and immigration judges and/or identify how to get this information.
 - J. Wheat—connect with Janelle and Julie to create a more robust email template for recruiting members that highlights more reasons to join.
 - Michael Finkle—find out which states have offices like an Office of Court Administration or other agency where we might get lists and email info for judges in that state.
 - Co-chairs (Kathy King, Maya Guerra Gamble and Julie Countiss) will send email to all district directors advising them of our extra membership push this year and identifying ways they can help. We'll also meet with Janelle Mihoc (NAWJ staff) to obtain membership information for the whole organization and identify other tools the national office can provide.
 - Everyone: Please continue to recruit judges for membership by using your personal connections. We're open to all categories of judges from every type of agency or

court, including the military. The NAWJ Mid-Year Virtual Meeting is a good recruitment tool you could forward to potential new members.

• TOTAL MEMBERS*	1277
Sitting Judge Members-Voting	864
Lifetime Members-Voting	129
Retired Members - Voting	131
Amicus Judicii-Non-Voting	65
Associate Member – Non-Voting	29
Law Student-Non-Voting	27
Law Clerk – Non-Voting	4
Subscriber - Special	11
Resource Board Members	17

2021 New Members: 217

2021 Lapsed Members: 92



October 2021

Report of the MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS Committee
Chair(s): Honorable Kirsten Brunson and Honorable Linda Strite Murnane

The Military and Veterans Affairs Committee was unable to meet since our last report submitted in April 2021.

The Committee Co-Chairs were asked about the possibility of obtaining a list of current women serving as military judges. We responded to that request on May 3, 2021, advising that there has been a decrease in women being appointed as military judges since our members, Judge Tara Osborn, Denise Vowell, and former member Dawn Eflein retired from their roles as Chief Trial Judges for the Army and Air Force. Additionally, the military does not generally make its judicial appointments public by announcement, in part due to security issues.

We have worked to recruit more veterans into NAWJ as well as publicize our committee within NAWJ but are facing challenges with visibility on the website and with identifying new and potential committee members via the membership portal.

We noted that the NAWJ has seemed to focus more on issues relating to sexual assault and reform of the military justice system to address the reports of rape and sexual assault in the military. While this is certainly a matter of significant concern, the degree to which current members of the military are free to comment on legislative proposals is limited.

As such, as co-chairs, we have tried to focus the work of the committee on serving the specific needs of current military members serving as judges, as well as serving as an information portal for our colleagues who are not in the military but find these issues, particularly related to sexual assault and rape in the military, of interest.

It is clear that there will be changes coming in the military justice system, but the degree of those changes remains in the hands of legislators. Military judges, particularly those currently serving on active duty, in the Guard and Reserve, have specific constraints on how they are able to address those proposals and in what forums.

We published an article addressing inadequate military housing resulting from the privatization of military housing as well as other environmental hazards experienced by military families residing on military installations.

We have also been actively engaged with the Military Spouse JD Network in their efforts to assist spouses of military members to have temporary licensure under less strict guidelines while serving outside their licensed jurisdiction.

I have also been actively engaged with the International Association of Women Judges to support the efforts to evacuate women judges in Afghanistan, relying upon previous skills learned while in the military in conducting evacuation drills, as well as actual evacuation experience involving some prior military/civil service responsibilities.

We hope in the new year to be able to organize all our military, veteran and military spouse members to achieve an agenda that will meet the needs of the judges as well as to serve as an information clearing house for our colleagues who find the issues related to the military of interest.



October 6, 2021
Report of the Nominating Committee
Honorable Bernadette D'Souza

In our last Executive Committee Meeting, I reported the deadlines and the process for selecting the Slate of Officers for the NAWJ Board of Directors 2021-2022. On August 4th via Zoom, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, I conducted the meeting to select the slate of officers. We had a 100% participation of the Nominating Committee. I wish to thank the nominating committee for giving so much thought to our discussion in selecting the nominees. Following our meeting, I called each of the nominees, who gladly accepted their respective positions.

It is with great honor, I wish to announce the NAWJ Slate of Officers 2021-22.

President-Elect	Hon. Toni Clarke
Vice President for Districts	Hon. Pamela Washington
Vice President for Publications	Hon. Mimi Tsankov
Secretary	Hon. Linda Murnane
Treasurer	Hon. Karen Sage

Nomination for Director Position for 2021-22:

ABA Delegate	Hon. Ann Breen Greco
International Director	Hon. Lisa Walsh (will continue her 2 nd term)

I enjoyed the wonderful camaraderie of the nominating committee members and I am grateful for their support and guidance throughout this process.



August 24, 2021

Report of the Resolutions Committee re: Site Selection
Chair(s): Honorable Mary Schroeder

The Resolutions Committee has before it two proposed resolutions concerning site selection for national conferences.

The first was proposed last Spring by the LGBT Q+ Committee as an emergency resolution for consideration at the midyear meeting and is attached as **Exhibit 1**. That proposed resolution would bar the Association from meeting in states where the legislature has taken action which may encourage discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender preference or gender identity. The proposal attached as Appendix A, a list of such states as maintained by the Office of the California Attorney General. This Committee's April report on that proposal is attached as **Exhibit 2**.

At the Midyear meeting, however, the proposal was tabled for consideration at the October Conference. This report therefore attaches as **Exhibit 3**, a modified copy of the original LBGTQ+ proposal, with a date reflecting the October meeting and a new Appendix A that reflects the updated California Attorney General's list.

The second proposed resolution relating to site selection has been submitted by the NAWJ Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan Committee and is attached as **Exhibit 4**. That proposal would require the NAWJ, before contracting for an annual conference, to ensure the location will be safe, non-discriminatory and respectful.

To enable a full and orderly consideration and discussion of both proposals, the President has determined that they be distributed to the membership well in advance of the conference. This Committee stresses that

the NAWJ is a national organization committed to principles of equal treatment in our profession, our courts and in our membership and makes no formal recommendation as to the adoption of either proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

NAWJ Resolutions Committee

/s/ Mary M. Schroeder

Hon. Mary M. Schroeder, Chair

Hon. Sandra Ann Robinson

Hon. Karen Romano

Hon. Lisa Walsh

EXHIBIT 1

Emergency Resolution Barring Future NAWJ Conferences in Jurisdictions Where LGBTQ
Protections Are Repealed or Where Discriminatory LGBTQ Laws are Enacted

WHEREAS, since its formation in 1979, the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) has been a leader in the efforts to achieve fairness and equality for vulnerable populations, and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Women Judges prioritizes its mission to advance diversity and inclusion at all levels regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, economic status, and other diverse backgrounds, and

WHEREAS, our goal is to eliminate bias and enhance diversity and inclusion of traditionally excluded groups not only within the National Association of Women Judges, but in the legal profession in the United States and internationally, and

WHEREAS, multiple jurisdictions have enacted laws that void or repeal state or local protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, or have enacted laws that authorize or mandate, authorize or condone discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, including laws that create exemptions from anti-discrimination laws in order to permit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression,

THEREFORE, be it Resolved that the National Association of Women Judges will not sponsor or hold any mid-year or annual meetings or conferences in states that have voided or repealed state or local protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, or have enacted laws that authorize or mandate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. A current list of those states is attached as Appendix A. This list shall be updated as necessary and shall conform to the lists maintained by those states which track the enactment of such legislation, including, but not limited to, the State of California's Attorney General's office.

This Resolution shall take effect on November 1, 2021.

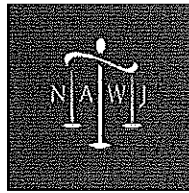
**Adopted by the National Association of Women Judges
on April 16, 2021**

**Honorable Karen Donohue
President, National Association of Women Judges**

APPENDIX A

1. Alabama
2. Idaho
3. Iowa
4. Kansas
5. Kentucky
6. Mississippi
7. North Carolina
8. Oklahoma
9. South Carolina
10. South Dakota
11. Tennessee
12. Texas

EXHIBIT 2



April 1, 2021
Report of the Resolutions Committee
Chair: Honorable Mary Schroeder

The Resolutions Committee received 2 proposed resolutions for consideration at the 2021 Midyear Meeting. Because they were not proposed for consideration at the Annual Meeting, the proponents requested each be treated as emergency resolutions, pursuant to Article XI Section 8 of the Bylaws. One deals with the subject of judicial security and the other with site selection for NAWJ meetings. The Resolutions Committee has determined that each satisfies the emergent requirements and should be presented to the membership. The Resolutions Committee recommends adoption of the *Resolution in Support of Judicial Security and Privacy Legislation* (hereinafter referred to as “Judicial Security Resolution”) as proposed, and adoption of the *Emergency Resolution Barring Future NAWJ Conferences in Jurisdictions Where LGBTQ+ Protections Are Repealed or Where Discriminatory LGBTQ+ Laws are Enacted* (hereinafter referred to as “Proposed Site Selection Resolution”) with one substantive change in text and corresponding change in the Title. We discuss each proposed resolution in turn.

Judicial Security Resolution

~~The Judicial Security Resolution, with accompanying report, is attached as Exhibit A to this Report. It was submitted by Mimi Tsankov on behalf of the Immigration Committee, and has been approved by the President, the Chair of this Committee and Director of District 4, Anita Josey-Herring. The Resolutions Committee agreed it is appropriate for emergency consideration because it deals with the critical and timely issue of judicial security. Increased public attention has been focused on the safety of judges in the wake of the attack on the family of Judge Salas in New Jersey that resulted in the death of her son and serious injury to her husband. Legislation is now pending in Congress and NAWJ needs to act now in order for its voice to be heard in this Session.~~

~~—The Judicial Security Resolution is adapted from a similar Resolution passed recently by the American Bar Association. As its accompanying Report explains, it is aimed at protecting judges' privacy and preventing the disclosure of their personally identifiable information. The Judicial Security Resolution also urges all bar associations and other entities that may collect personally identifiable information to take steps to protect the personal information of judges by not publishing home addresses or similar contact information. This Judicial Security Resolution concerns a matter of grave concern to all our judges as our occupations seem to become increasingly hazardous. The Resolutions Committee recommends its adoption.—~~

Proposed Site Selection Resolution

The Proposed Site Selection Resolution on conference site selection was submitted by Kristin Rosi and Marcy Kahn on behalf of the LGBTQ⁺ Committee. It, along with its accompanying report, is attached as **Exhibit B** to this report. The Proposed Site Selection Resolution as presented to the Resolutions Committee would bar the NAWJ from holding any annual or midyear conferences or meetings in states where legislatures have either enacted laws discriminating against LGBTQ⁺ or, repealed LGBTQ⁺ protections. The Proposed Site Selection Resolution's Appendix includes a list of 12 states that would be affected, including Tennessee where the 2021 meeting will be held, and Texas, where NAWJ has met in the past. The Proposed Site Selection Resolution states it would not be effective until after the Tennessee meeting.

The Resolutions Committee discussed whether it should consider the Proposed Site Selection Resolution sufficiently emergent to warrant consideration now as opposed to the Annual Meeting. Although emergency consideration had the requisite approval of the President, Resolutions Committee Chair and Judge Ann Breen-Greco, a District Director, the Resolutions Committee noted that the contract has already been signed for the 2022 meeting in Detroit, which is not in a listed state, so no site decision is currently pending. The Resolutions Committee is also aware, however, that site selection is a matter of ongoing discussions and concluded that, if we are to consider adopting a new policy on the subject, we should do so before the next site selection is ripe for decision at the Annual meeting. We therefore concluded the subject of the Proposed Site Selection Resolution should be considered before the Annual meeting and is therefore treated as emergent.

The impetus for the Proposed Site Selection Resolution, as explained in its accompanying report, is a California law which prohibits reimbursement for official travel by state employees to any of the listed states. Thus California state judges and administrative judges will no longer be able to claim reimbursement they have heretofore received for travel to NAWJ meetings, if the meeting is held in one of the listed states.

Before considering the merits of the Proposed Site Selection Resolution, the Resolutions Committee looked to the ABA for its relevant policy. The ABA position is that it not use any of the Association policies as a criterion for site selection, and that it neither supports nor opposes boycotts of meeting sites. (ABA Green Book, Chapter 12.) The Resolutions Committee found this unhelpful as guidance for our organization, because the NAWJ was founded with gender focused objectives and should not rule out gender related policies as a criterion for site selection.

Having determined the Proposed Site Selection Resolution is appropriate for emergency consideration and that its subject matter is appropriate for NAWJ policy, the Resolutions Committee looked to what its effect would be if adopted:

the NAWJ could not hold, and its members could not host, meetings in a dozen states on the basis of the actions of those state's legislatures. For a number of reasons the Resolutions Committee concluded it should not recommend adopting such a rigid policy. Instead, the Resolutions Committee recommends an amendment to the Proposed Site Selection Resolution. Rather than saying that the NAWJ "will not sponsor or hold any mid-year or annual meetings or conferences in states that have voided or repealed state or local protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, or have enacted laws that authorize or mandate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression," the amendment would say that the NAWJ "will not select any future site for an annual or midyear meeting without first taking into careful consideration whether the site is located in a jurisdiction that, contrary to the goals of the National Association of Women Judges, has voided or repealed protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, or have enacted laws that authorize or mandate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression." A modification of the Proposed Site Selection Resolution is attached as **Exhibit C**. We summarize the reasons as follows.

First, as a national organization, the NAWJ should treat all of its members similarly and should not prevent our members in some states from hosting conferences on account of their state's legislative action. Because of the way that many state legislatures are districted, they are not necessarily representative of the communities wishing to host our conferences and which have successfully hosted conferences in the past, including cities in Tennessee and Texas.

In selecting the sites for conferences, including geographic location, hotel facilities and accommodations, our host committees and site selection committee and local sponsoring allies strive to ensure that all our members are treated fairly. Having a permanent policy in place that disqualifies many sites from consideration deprives the NAWJ and its site selection committee of the ability to exercise the discretion they need in evaluating prospective locations. Regardless of what action state legislatures have taken, city and county ordinances may establish the applicable standards. For example, the legislature of the state of Arizona is not likely to enact LGBTQ⁺ protections, but the City of Scottsdale, where we met some years ago, is currently considering them. See **Exhibit D**. It is the situation on the ground and not the enactments of state legislatures that should govern where we meet.

Finally the Resolutions Committee agreed that a good argument can be made that if we are welcomed by a prospective host city in a state with regressive laws, we should meet there and make a statement about why the state needs to change its law. In any event, we should not adopt a policy that would forbid that.

At the same time we must recognize that the laws of any state where we consider meeting can become relevant to our decision, and certainly regressive state LGBTQ⁺ policies should be taken into account. At the present time we have no policy on the subject and we should. It is compelled by the situation in which our valued members in California find themselves. The Resolutions Committee therefore recommends that the NAWJ adopt the Proposed Site Selection Resolution with a modification of the last paragraph to provide, in effect, that discriminatory action on the part of a legislature must be given careful consideration, but does not *require* us to boycott the state. This will provide policy guidance while enabling the site selection committee to evaluate the situation in the prospective host city itself, consistent with the NAWJ principles of diversity and inclusion.

We understand that proponents of the Proposed Site Selection Resolution may view this modification as removing the teeth from the Proposed Site Selection Resolution. Given the current absence of any NAWJ policy on this subject, however, and in light of the ABA position effectively barring any consideration of discriminatory state action, the Resolutions Committee believes the Proposed Site Selection Resolution as modified makes a strong policy statement. Discriminatory action on the part of a state legislature aimed at the LGBTQ⁺ community should not necessarily disqualify that state from consideration as the site of a national NAWJ meeting, but it should be a negative factor.

The Proposed Site Selection Resolution as originally proposed is thorough and well written. We recommend its adoption with only an amendment to the concluding paragraph and a corresponding change to the Title.

Respectfully submitted,

NAWJ Resolutions Committee

/s/ **Mary M. Schroeder**

Hon. Mary M. Schroeder, Chair

Hon. Sandra Ann Robinson

Hon. Karen Romano

Hon. Lisa Walsh

EXHIBIT 3

Emergency Resolution Barring Future NAWJ Conferences in Jurisdictions Where LGBTQ
Protections Are Repealed or Where Discriminatory LGBTQ Laws are Enacted

WHEREAS, since its formation in 1979, the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) has been a leader in the efforts to achieve fairness and equality for vulnerable populations, and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Women Judges prioritizes its mission to advance diversity and inclusion at all levels regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, economic status, and other diverse backgrounds, and

WHEREAS, our goal is to eliminate bias and enhance diversity and inclusion of traditionally excluded groups not only within the National Association of Women Judges, but in the legal profession in the United States and internationally, and

WHEREAS, multiple jurisdictions have enacted laws that void or repeal state or local protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, or have enacted laws that authorize or mandate, authorize or condone discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, including laws that create exemptions from anti-discrimination laws in order to permit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression,

THEREFORE, be it Resolved that the National Association of Women Judges will not sponsor or hold any mid-year or annual meetings or conferences in states that have voided or repealed state or local protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, or have enacted laws that authorize or mandate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. A current list of those states is attached as Appendix A. This list shall be updated as necessary and shall conform to the lists maintained by those states which track the enactment of such legislation, including, but not limited to, the State of California's Attorney General's office.

This Resolution shall take effect on November 1, 2021.

Adopted by the National Association of Women Judges
on October 9, 2021

Honorable Karen Donohue
President, National Association of Women Judges

APPENDIX A

1. Alabama
2. Arkansas
3. Florida
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5. Iowa
6. Kansas
7. Kentucky
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9. Montana
10. North Carolina
11. North Dakota
12. Oklahoma
13. South Carolina
14. South Dakota
15. Tennessee
16. Texas
17. West Virginia

EXHIBIT 4

NAWJ RESOLUTION ENSURING SAFE AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY VENUES FOR NAWJ CONFERENCE SITES

WHEREAS, since its formation in 1979, the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) has been a leader in the efforts to achieve fairness and equality for vulnerable populations, and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Women Judges prioritizes its mission to advance diversity and inclusion at all levels regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, economic status, and other diverse backgrounds, and

WHEREAS, our goal is to eliminate bias and enhance diversity and inclusion of traditionally excluded groups not only within the National Association of Women Judges, but in the legal profession in the United States and internationally, and

WHEREAS, NAWJ also is committed to ensure the protection of, inclusion of and prevention of discrimination against its members during NAWJ conferences held in venues around the country, and

WHEREAS, because of the passage or repeal of laws which result in discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, our members and the populations we serve in such locales may be subjected to discrimination, arrest, or maltreatment, and

WHEREAS, the NAWJ LGBTQ+ Under-Committee within the Committee on Access and Fairness has brought to bear the issue of requiring members to travel to locations where they might be exposed to discrimination or their safety or wellness compromised, and

WHEREAS, NAWJ members serve in all jurisdictions, including all states and administrative and military tribunals, making the NAWJ a truly national and inclusive organization with a goal of ensuring all its members are able to participate fully in all programs and initiatives of the organization, including the hosting of its annual conference, and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of NAWJ's mission, the 2019-20 Executive Committee of NAWJ formulated a committee to develop a Diversity/Inclusion Action Plan. That plan was approved by the 2020-21 Executive Committee at its July meeting with recommendation to adopt at the Annual Board Meeting in Nashville. That plan provides for a Standing Committee on Diversity & Inclusion,

said committee to coordinate and monitor NAWJ's operations and programs to make sure all diverse members, including LGBTQ+ members have opportunities for leadership positions, on committees and on panels during our programs; and

WHEREAS, NAWJ's site selection committee, even without a mandate from the Executive Committee or Board, has done its own due diligence to research and confirm that proposed locations for our Annual Meeting would in fact be safe, healthy and nondiscriminatory sites before submitting the site for approval first by the Executive Committee and finally by the Board at the Annual Meeting;

THEREFORE, be it Resolved that before contracting to hold a NAWJ conference in a geographic location, the location will be determined to be in an environment that is safe, healthy, non-discriminatory and that respects the dignity of all persons.

Hon. Karen Donohue
President, NAWJ
November 1, 2021



September 13, 2021

Report of the Retired/Senior Judges Committee
for the 2021 Annual Conference Board Meeting
Chair: Honorable Joan Churchill, Immigration Judge, retired

The NAWJ Retired/Senior Judges Committee is a large, vibrant committee, with about 30 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, trial and appellate, administrative courts both state and Federal, a state Supreme Court. Several NAWJ Past Presidents are on the Committee.

Meetings

We meet quarterly. Attendance at our meetings is robust. We met this year on: January 6, March 25, and June 24, with our next meeting scheduled for September 23..

CounterBalance

We provide articles for CounterBalance, making sure we have at least one article each issue for the *Life After the Bench* column.

- The 2021 Winter Issue carried an article by Judge Beverly Cutler of Alaska which provided an engaging description of her pro bono work assisting members of the U.S. military with their naturalization applications, and related immigration issues.
- The 2021 Summer Issue contained an article by Hon. Ellen Rosenbaum, who was elected Attorney General of Oregon shortly after retiring from the bench. Last November she was reelected to a 3rd term. Her article describes her role as Attorney General.
- The 2021 Summer Issue also contained an article by Chair Joan Churchill entitled: "An Article I Immigration Court — An Idea that is Growing -- *A History of Efforts to make it a Reality.*"
- 2022 Spring Issue – Emily Chafa has obtained permission to contribute 2 articles she authored that previously appeared in ABA publications.
- 2022 Fall Issue - Cynthia Baldwin committed to write an article about serving as a Fulbright teacher.

ABA 2021 Margaret Brent Award

Our Committee collected **\$610** in honor of our two retired sisters who were recipients of this year's prestigious ABA 2021 Margaret Brent Award:

- Hon. Irma Gonzalez, United States District Judge, Retired; San Diego CA, and
- Hon. Ellen Rosenblum, retired from the Oregon Court of Appeals; Oregon's currently Oregon's Attorney General

We used \$500 of the funds we collected to buy a Tribute Ad in the ABA 2021 Brent Award Program book on behalf of NAWJ. We donated the balance of \$110 to NAWJ in honor of the two award recipients. There were 25 contributions of varying amounts. The ceremony was held virtually. Links to view the videos shown at the ceremony and their acceptance remarks are available on YouTube at::

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVB_vbT5rZw for Irma Gonzalez and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQsKQkWYQ5g> for Ellen Rosenblum.

Conferences

Nashville 2021

- Committee Member Emily Chafa Emily has organized and will participate, along with Member Jennifer Gee, in a session on behalf of the NAWJ Administrative Judiciary Committee on: *Expect the Unexpected*, which will focus primarily on unrepresented litigants.
- We have arranged a social get together during one of the hospitality suite evenings for all the retired/senior judges in attendance at the conference.
- Several members of our committee plan to attend the conference.

Detroit 2022

Committee Member Susan Moiseev is on the conference planning committee for the 2022 Annual Meeting in Detroit. She is planning to include a panel on *Life After the Bench*, adopting an idea of our committee for a conference program.



October 6, 2021

Report of the NAWJ Women in Prison Committee

Chairs: Honorable Brenda Murray and Honorable Cheryl Gonzales, Co-Chairs

In 2021, the Women in Prison Committee continued to do what it has done since it was founded in about 1992, work to improve the status of incarcerated women.

The committee has about 35 members. Everyone was invited to participate in a Zoomcall on February 8 to discuss what issues we should address.

The committee approached the Director of the federal Bureau of Prisons, Michael Carvajal, and on March 31, members of the committee engaged the Director in a Zoomsession. The WIP committee set the agenda and the Director answered the questions posed to him.

The Committee requested Senator Jean Shaheen, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for DOJ, to make sure funds for women's programs was included in the DOJ budget.

The Committee wrote to the DOJ Deputy Attorney General and her chief of staff urging action to improve the BOP's treatment of incarcerated women

At the committee's suggestion and following up on her intended action, NAWJ President Karen Donohue, wrote to the White House Council on Gender Policy describing NAWJ's work and offering NAWJ's expertise on the issues facing the Council. One committee member communicated support with a personal message to a Committee Co-Chair.

In June, the New Jersey Governor announced he was closing New Jersey's only women's prison, the Edna Mahan Correctional facility for Women, based on long standing horrible conditions at the facility. Press reports identified the American Friends' Service Committee, Prison Watch as an organization assisting the women. The Committee contacted the Prison Watch committee and had a meeting about how we could help. As a result, NAWJ President Karen Donohue wrote to Governor Murphy complimenting the new people he put in charge. The Committee will communicate with Victoria Kuhn, the new Acting Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Corrections, to inquire if NAWJ can assist her rehabilitation efforts.

The Committee is trying to invite the Warden of the Tennessee Prison for Women in Nashville, to attend the WIP Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting on October 8.