



March 7, 2025

Mid-Year Report of the Administrative Judiciary Committee
Co-Chairs: Honorable Susan Formaker and Honorable Theresa Timlin

The NAWJ Administrative Judiciary Committee meets every month on the second Friday of the month at 12 p.m. PT/2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET.

We are active or retired administrative adjudicators (ALJ/AJ/IJ, other job titles) at the federal and state levels. We handle or handled a wide variety of dockets involving appeals of administrative actions taken by governmental agencies. We currently welcome approximately 10 members to each committee meeting. The committee has had new members join this year as a result of outreach to the NAWJ membership.

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, as well as the challenges facing our members.

The Committee's program at the 2024 Annual Conference: "Don't Believe Everything You See: Reading People and Judging Credibility," was a great success. Included on the panel were two members of our committee (Hon. Francine Applewhite as moderator and Hon. Susan Formaker as panelist). Others on the panel were Nadia Bermudez, Esq., a labor attorney and partner at Meyers Nave, who has experience as a workplace investigator, Wendy Patrick, Esq., a prosecutor in the San Diego District Attorney's Office who has written books and articles on factors affecting credibility, and Manny Tau, a clinical and forensic psychologist and Certified Threat Manager, who presents on assessing veracity in multiple contexts. The committee is considering how, in the future, it might present a follow-up program; the packed room reflected the high level of interest NAWJ's members have in making reliable, well-supported credibility determinations.

The Administrative Judiciary Committee also co-sponsored, along with the NAWJ Human Trafficking, Immigration, and Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Committees and the ABA Judicial Division, a free webinar, "He was only 12 – Judges and Migrant Child Labor, on January 16, 2025. The program was extremely informative and very well-received. The webinar also demonstrated the synergies involved in having NAWJ committees jointly present and sponsor programs that span the specialty areas and perspectives of different NAWJ committees.

To help educate NAWJ members on the impact of recent Supreme Court decisions affecting the

administrative judiciary, Co-Chair Administrative Law Judge Timlin worked with three law students, Isabel Thornton, Haleigh Purich, and Hillary Shah, to prepare an article for NAWJ's *Counterbalance* publication. The article, "Changes in the Administrative State—Implications for the Federal and Administrative Judiciary," was published in the Winter 2025 volume of *Counterbalance*. This article was especially timely, given the changes taking place in the federal government.

The committee is in the planning stages for an educational webinar that would be focused on discussing the current state of reproductive choice after the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case. In particular, and because of the committee's focus on administrative actions, the plan is for the program to focus on various areas of administrative and criminal law where issues pertaining to reproductive choice, and potential clashes with medical ethics, are involved. For example, one potential area for discussion is with respect to some states' pursuing criminal action against physicians in other states for providing abortion services or prescriptions, where the other states' laws shield the physicians from such action or from licensing issues arising from such actions. Another area is how threats of licensing actions against health care providers is impacting the provision of reproductive healthcare. The committee has reached out to two speakers who have tentatively agreed to participate in the webinar.

The committee continues to discuss timely topics of interest to the administrative judiciary at each meeting.



March 7, 2025

Report of the Standing Committee on Diversity and Inclusion
Co-Chairs: Honorable Francine L. Applewhite and Honorable Lisa Martin

The focus of the Standing Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (“SCDI”) is to assist the NAWJ leadership and members in promoting “diversity and inclusion within the organization and its programming by requiring full and equal participation of lawyers and judges across the spectrum of race, color, age, gender, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, and disability status.” The SCDI relies upon the NAWJ Diversity and Inclusion Plan (“Plan”) adopted in 2021 in further defining its goals and establishing the ongoing training, outreach, guidance and monitoring necessary to support the members in their compliance to the Plan.

The SCDI monitors adherence to the Plan through the NAWJ Program Certification Form (“Form”) that encourages program chairs to be mindful of the value of having a diversity of speakers, program content and localities for NAWJ programming and encouraging engagement with specialty bar associations through social events and joint programming. A goal of the SCDI is to have the Form as a fillable document on the NAWJ website and require the completion and submission of the Form for all NAWJ programs and conferences.

The SCDI is available to partner with other NAWJ committees to review or measure progress with Plan adherence and develop programming/webinars.

The SCDI standing meeting is the first Monday of each month at 3:00pm ET.



March 6, 2025

Report of the Ensuring Racial Equity in the Justice System Committee

Chairs: Honorable Vickie L. Henry and Attorney Patricia M. Taitano-Valdovinos

- Monthly meetings: [Third (3rd) Tuesday of the month @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST]
 - July 16, 2024 @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST – 9 committee members in attendance
 - September 17, 2025 @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST – 11 committee members in attendance
 - October 19, 2024 @ National Conference – 5 committee members in attendance
 - November 20, 2024 @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST – 11 committee members in attendance
 - December 17, 2024 @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST – 9 committee members in attendance
 - January 21, 2025 @ @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST – 11 committee members in attendance
 - February 18, 2025 @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST – 9 committee members in attendance

Next scheduled meeting:

March 18, 2025 @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST

- NAWJ Webinars and Program Subcommittees

The committee offered 2 webinars, one in June 2024 and one in January 2025.

 - Citing Slavery Cases: Why Acknowledgment Matters

Co-sponsor w/ Fairness and Access

Subcommittee members:

 - WA Justice David Keenan
 - CA Judge Renee Stackhouse
 - Atty (now ALJ) Janelle Price

Program aired: June 20, 2024 @ 12:30 PST.

Moderator and panelists:

 - Attorney Janelle Price, moderator
 - Justin Simard, professor at Michigan State University College of Law + students

Program topic/description/2-3 learning objectives:

 1. How the law of slavery was constructed;
 2. The historical role of law in promoting and establishing racism and racial discrimination;
 3. How the current legal profession continues to rely on cases and doctrines derived from slavery;
 4. Why addressing and acknowledging the legacy of slavery matters.

Go to citingslavery.org to explore cases around the country and in your own state.

There were 109 registrants and 51 live attendees.
The virtual program can be viewed [here](#).

▪ The Judicial System in Race, Health, and Inequity: What Can Judges Do?

Co-sponsor w/ Fairness and Access

Subcommittee members:

MA Judge Arose Nielsen

VA Judge Vivian Henderson

MA Justice Vickie Henry

CA Attorney Patricia M. Taitano-Valdovinos

Program aired: January 23, 2025 @ 12:30 PST

Moderator and panelists:

Hon. Vivian Henderson, program chair

Margaret A. Burnham, Professor of Law, Director of Reparations and Restorative Justice Initiatives

Jasmine Howard, Northeastern University Program Director, Salus Populi

Wendy E. Parmet, Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Center of Health Policy and Law

Program topic/description/2-3 learning objectives:

1. Overview of race and access to healthcare;
2. How the law affects health and inequities;
3. How inequities affect what happens in the courtroom;
4. Examples of how judges can approach these issues.

There were 94 registrants and 53 live attendees.

The virtual program and additional resources can be viewed [here](#).

The following are potential future webinars:

▪ Microaggressions 3: Taking Care of Yourself

Subcommittee members:

Justice Vickie Henry

Judge Carol Scott Barry

Attorney Patricia Taitano-Valdovinos

Proposed date/time: TBD

Proposed panelists and moderator: TBD

Potential panelist – Judge Kim Berkeley Clark

[Judge Clark bio here](#)

Potential panelist – Judge Andrea S. Jarmon

[Judge Jarmon bio here](#)

Program topic/description/2-3 learning objectives: TBD

- Discrimination based on Caste (as a Protected Class)

Co-sponsor w/ Fairness and Access

Subcommittee members:

Hon. Ann Breen-Greco

CA Judge Renee Stackhouse

Atty Tarina Mand

Proposed date/time: TBD

Proposed panelists and moderator: TBD

Attorney Tarina Mand – confirmed

Wendy Shiba, Chair of the ABA's DEI Center and Chair of the ABA's DEI

Advisory Council – confirmed

Ajanta Subramaniam, Harvard Professor of South Asian Studies – proposed

Kevin Brown, Indiana Law School Professor - proposed

Ava DuVerney – proposed

Tanuja Gupta, Google employee terminated for bringing in Dalit speaker –
proposed as a moderator

Isabel Wilkerson, author of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* – declined.

Article on issue: [Opinion: Unprecedented California caste discrimination bill would address an important problem - The San Diego Union-Tribune \(sandiegouniontribune.com\)](https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/opinion/story/news/2021/03/04/california-caste-discrimination-bill/7031810002/)

Program topic/description/2-3 learning objectives:

To educate attorneys and judges on caste:

What is Caste? Why Caste is being used to discriminate?

- Jury Selection: Batson reform

Subcommittee members: TBD

Proposed date/time: TBD

Proposed panelists and moderator: TBD

Program topic/description/2-3 learning objectives: TBD

- NAWJ Counterbalance

- The Winter Edition of Counterbalance, which can be found [here](#), features the Committee's Mirror Monologues. Go to page 24 on the PDF.

- NAWJ Monthly Update

- See our compilation of 5 Minute Racial Equity Corner submissions [here](#).



March 6, 2025

Report of the Fairness and Access Committee

Prior Chairs: Attorney Patricia M. Taitano-Valdovinos and Honorable Vicky Kolakowski

New Chairs: Attorney Patricia M. Taitano-Valdovinos and Honorable Maria Salas Mendoza

- Monthly meetings: [Previously the First (1st) Friday of the month @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST]
 - August 2, 2024 – 4 committee members in attendance
 - September 6, 2024 – 4 committee members in attendance
 - October 4, 2024 – 6 committee members in attendance

Next Committee Meeting: March 2025

- NAWJ Webinars and Program Subcommittees

The committee offered 2 webinars, one in June 2024 and one in January 2025.

- Citing Slavery Cases: Why Acknowledgment Matters

Co-sponsor w/ Ensuring Racial Equity in the Justice System Committee

Subcommittee members:

WA Justice David Keenan

CA Judge Renee Stackhouse

Atty (now ALJ) Janelle Price

Program aired: June 20, 2024 @ 12:30 PST.

Moderator and panelists:

Attorney Janelle Price, moderator

Justin Simard, professor at Michigan State University College of Law + students

Program topic/description/2-3 learning objectives:

1. How the law of slavery was constructed;
2. The historical role of law in promoting and establishing racism and racial discrimination;
3. How the current legal profession continues to rely on cases and doctrines derived from slavery;
4. Why addressing and acknowledging the legacy of slavery matters.

Go to citing-slavery.org to explore cases around the country and in your own state.

There were 109 registrants and 51 live attendees.

The virtual program can be viewed [here](#).

- The Judicial System in Race, Health, and Inequity: What Can Judges Do?

Co-sponsor w/ Ensuring Racial Equity in the Justice System Committee

Subcommittee members:

MA Judge Arose Nielsen

VA Judge Vivian Henderson

MA Justice Vickie Henry

CA Attorney Patricia M. Taitano-Valdovinos

Program aired: January 23, 2025 @ 12:30 PST

Moderator and panelists:

Hon. Vivian Henderson, program chair

Margaret A. Burnham, Professor of Law, Director of Reparations and Restorative Justice Initiatives

Jasmine Howard, Northeastern University Program Director, Salus Populi

Wendy E. Parmet, Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Center of Health Policy and Law

Program topic/description/2-3 learning objectives:

1. Overview of race and access to healthcare;
2. How the law affects health and inequities;
3. How inequities affect what happens in the courtroom;
4. Examples of how judges can approach these issues.

There were 94 registrants and 53 live attendees.

The virtual program and additional resources can be viewed [here](#).

The following are potential future webinars:

- (Program regarding Self-Represented Litigants)

Subcommittee members:

Judge Courtney Boehm

Attorney Deborah Greenspan

Judge Vicky Kolakowski

Attorney Patricia M. Taitano-Valdovinos

Proposed date/time: TBD, potentially early September or late November.

Proposed panelists and moderator: TBD

Eric Helland, Senior Economist at RAND and Professor at Claremont McKenna
Expert re: affect, outcome and lack of access on population

Ashley Lowe, CEO of Lakeshore, MI Legal Aid

Her main focus is on expanding remote access due to her population's needs.

Attorney Renee L. Danser, Associate Director of Research and Strategic Partnerships Access to Justice Lab at Harvard Law School

Expert re: evaluations of systems, processes and what makes a difference.

Program topic/description/2-3 learning objectives: TBD



March 6, 2025
Midyear Report
of the NAWJ IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE
Submitted by Honorable JOAN CHURCHILL, CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee is Chaired by Hon. Joan Churchill. The Vice-Chair is Hon. Carol King. Both are retired Immigration Judges.

Membership on the NAWJ Immigration Committee has included active and retired Immigration Judges, but membership this year has decreased, with most of the active Immigration Judges having dropped out. We are aware that a number of Immigration judges have been fired or reassigned by the new administration, some on Inauguration Day. State court judges who have handled immigration cases as lawyers or judges, and a retired judge who handles immigration cases pro bono for members of the U.S. military continue to belong, as do retired immigration Judges, as mentioned above

MEETINGS

The Committee has met twice so far since our 2024 Annual Report was submitted on October 17, 2024. We met in person on October 19, 2024 during the NAWJ Annual Conference in San Diego. The meeting was conducted jointly with several other committees, whose membership overlapped with each other. We focused primarily on preparing for our then upcoming webinar on January 16, 2025, on migrant child labor.

WEBINAR: *He was only 12 - Judges and Migrant Child Labor*

The webinar took place on **January 16, 2025**, noon, EST.

The webinar was scheduled for the month of January to coincide with Human Trafficking Awareness Month. It was well attended and very successful. Feedback was very positive.

The Webinar Title was: "He was only 12. Judges and Migrant Child Labor"
NAWJ member Col. Linda Murnane, retired Justice of the Marshall Islands served as moderator.
4 NAWJ committees jointly organized the webinar:
the Immigration, Administrative Judges, Human Trafficking, and
Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare committees.

The panelists included:

[Dr. Meredith Dank](#), Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Human Exploitation and Resilience program, NYU Marron Institute of Urban Management

[Anna Lusero](#), Regional Coordinator - Workplace Crimes, Midwest Region, U.S. Department of Labor

[Astrid Munn](#), Lead U/T/VAWA Attorney, Immigrant Legal Center, an affiliate of the Justice For Our Neighbors Network

The webinar was enthusiastically co-sponsored by the ABA Judicial Division, which was very helpful in spreading the word about the webinar, which contributed to the turnout. A copy of the flyer is attached. One of the committed panelists (Julissa Ponce) was unable to participate due to a family emergency.

NAIJ

We are saddened to learn that both the President and Executive Vice President of NAIJ have submitted their resignations from the immigration bench, effective shortly. They both promised to continue their roles as officers of the Association through the end of their terms next summer. NAIJ announced that it has withdrawn its petition for recertification, given that the Federal Labor Relations Authority currently has only 2 members, one of whom, has repeatedly voted against NAIJ's eligibility for certification as a collective bargaining unit. NAIJ continues to function as a labor organization. The Association is affiliated with and represented by the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers [IFPTE].

AFGHAN WOMEN JUDGES

Our Committee members continue to provide assistance to the Afghan Women judges located in the U.S. who fled the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Hon. Beverly Cutler has been particularly active in leading a team of NAWJ volunteers in the DC/MD/VA area, where an increasing number of the Afghan women judges have located. Judge Cutler has been providing mentoring assistance to several of the families herself.

Several more Afghan women judges were expected to arrive, but the new administration has paused admission or parole of the immigration categories of for which they qualified.



February - March, 2025
Report of Judicial Independence Committee/Informed Voter Project
Honorable Robin Hudson (NC, Ret.) and Honorable Debra Stephens (WA), Co-Chairs, Annette
Boyd Pitts, Education Director

As we have for more than a decade, the JI Committee and its Informed Voters/Fair Judges Project (IVP) continued its public education projects throughout 2024. During the last half of 2024, and on into this year, we have been working on updating our materials, and reassessing our mission and message, as well as our long-term planning, following our leadership retreat in June. While our members have continuing giving presentations at various gatherings, our IVP Committee working group has met frequently on Zoom to complete the overhaul of our IVP website and other materials. That work continues, and we hope to complete it by late winter.

Big news: our Co-Chair Justice Debra Stephens of Washington State, has just been elected Chief Justice of the Washington Supreme Court. Congratulations, Chief Justice Stephens!!

1. Recent Events

NAWJ Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, October 2024

At the 2024 NAWJ Conference in San Diego, committee co-chair, Washington State Supreme Court Justice Debra Stephens participated in a panel discussion about judicial independence, voting for judges and the politicization of the judiciary. Moderated by retired judge and media host, Ladoris Cordell, the panel featured California Secretary of State, Dr Shirley Weber and retired North Carolina Chief Justice Cheri Beasley as well as Justice Stephens. Sharing both personal stories and professional advice, panelists highlighted the importance of proactively

engaging with the public to demonstrate why the judicial branch is uniquely nonpolitical and advancing our shared commitment to equal justice. The groundbreaking statements issued in 2020 by Chief Beasley individually and by the Washington Supreme Court in 2020 were praised for acknowledging the role courts have played in perpetuating racial bias and calling on judges at every level of court to embrace their responsibility to eradicate racism. Audience members gave the panel a standing ovation, several describing it the panel as an inspiring reminder of why judges matter in the preservation of our democracy.

Symposium on Defending the Judiciary (presented by Bolch Judicial Institute, Duke Law, Durham, NC), October 31 – November 1, 2024

Bolch Judicial Institute, based at Duke Law in Durham, hosted a two-day program focused on identifying and addressing literal and figurative threats to the judiciary. Over the two days, eight different panels of state and federal judges as well as academics and lawyers identified various threats (disinformation, unfair criticism, physical violence, among others), and proposed methods of responding. Panels explored possible responses by the bench, the bar, as well as online and in educational programs for the general public.

NAWJ's IVP Co-Chair Justice Robin Hudson (Supreme Court of North Carolina, retired) moderated the last panel of the symposium, Using Civic Education to Bolster Public Faith in the Judiciary. Materials and videos from the symposium are available to the public online from the Bolch Judicial Institute (for assistance contact Melinda Vaughn, melinda.vaughn@duke.law.edu).

2. Website Overhaul

Our highest priority this year is to complete a total redesign and content update for the IVP website, which is independently managed by our committee, but is hosted on the NAWJ main website, at ivp.nawj.org. Although we continued our work through the pandemic, and completed the video production in recent years, the content on the IVP website is seriously in need of refreshing.

Accordingly, we have a four-member working group that has been meeting regularly to edit all of the pages, as well as content within the pages (photos, slides decks, etc). We have also been fortunate enough to have a law student intern, Kyle Hurysz, from the UNC School of Law in Chapel Hill, to assist with this project, which will probably continue into early 2025.

The IVP website is reached through the NAWJ main website by finding “Informed Voter Project” on the menu of programs, and clicking to go to that page. We have changed the introductory paragraph on the NAWJ link to IVP, and made corrections on the existing NAWJ website, and the links to the IVP-produced videos and animations remain live. However, the tab that links to “Resources” now simply says “coming soon,” but is otherwise inactive until we complete our review and editing.

3. Videos Available for Distribution

The committee has active participants from coast to coast, and continues various education programs around the country. In 2023, we completed and released our updated educational video, “Liberty and Justice for All,” with 5 and 3-minute versions, in a collaboration with generous funding by the ABOTA Foundation. The longer version includes a new section, highlighting the importance of jury service. JI/IVP Committee plans to include the videos in general educational programs for the public, and in jury orientation programs.

JI/IVP committee members and ABOTA leaders actively participated in the creative work on the script and video editing, with the production being led by long-time lawyer and North Carolina public television producer Tom Earnhardt and his skilled professional crew.

In 2023, we completed and released Spanish language versions of the videos, and have continued distribution nationally.

Here are links to all four new videos.

Jury Orientation and Public Education Video (Five-minute English version):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o6FVSB1Qb5h0Gu21RIZ4ZvJM3ZCMDP3y/view>

Jury Orientation and Public Education and Outreach Video (Spanish version)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Cty6Eji1kL_D78GZVXDoytQ-T-MnJFPV/view?usp=sharing

Shortened Video (Three-minute English version):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12FPC0lhVr7GUaO5hb8xWEyEAooPA6kqz/view>

Shortened Video (Spanish version)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AdEHq56eQSch6w63KSgiBBfbvgMvnPW-/view?usp=sharing>

4. Programs for 2025

Both Co-Chairs have agreed to serve in 2025; we received our committee roster in November and have been meeting on Zoom. As the JI/IVP committee work continues we welcome any NAWJ members who are interested in joining our work, and would be pleased to have new members of our committee.

We are very excited about a new collaborative undertaking we are beginning with our ABOTA friends and the Bolch Judicial Institute. Bolch is working with the producers of our recently completed videos, to create 20 to 30 second snippets from the videos, with captions to be distributed to their social media contacts. Our committee and ABOTA leadership have final editorial control, and we hope the samples will be ready to roll out at the Mid-year meeting in Ann Arbor.

Our Committee is also working up ideas for NAWJ webinars, in conjunction with Law Day celebrations in May. We should have more details to report by next month.

We are also seeking new collaborations with national organizations, as we continue to value our relationships with ABOTA, ACTL, Bolch Judicial Institute, and many others.

Anyone interested in our materials, or in a collaborative program, can contact NAWJ Executive Director Laurie Denham, who will provide details.



March 10, 2025

Report of the Membership Committee

Co- Chair(s): Honorable Kathy King and Zenell Brown

The Committee leadership was appointed and is gathering background information on membership and the strategic plan to begin its work. The Committee looks forward to developing a plan to help increase membership enrollment, engagement, and retention in support of the District leaders.



March 3, 2025
Report of the Military and Veterans Committee
Chair: Honorable Linda Strite Murnane

The Military and Veterans Committee got off to a bit of a late start as we were working to identify a committee chair following the reassignment of the military spouse of our former chair, The Honorable Kirsten Brunson.

We will hold our first committee meeting on Friday, March 14, 2025 at 8 p.m. EST. We will have a good deal to speak about with the new Defense Secretary's actions, including removing references to women in the military and their achievements from DoD websites, orders to remove pronouns from signature blocks, an Executive Order precluding trans persons from service except in limited circumstances, and actions taken to relieve senior legal officers (Judge Advocates General) in multiple service branches. Additionally, the personnel cuts impacting critical services for military veterans at Veterans Administration Officials will be a matter for discussion.

Respectfully submitted.

Linda Strite Murnane

Linda Strite Murnane
Chair



Midyear Report. of the NAWJ Retired/Senior Judges Committee
Prepared by Honorable Joan Churchill, Chair
March 6, 2025

Membership

Our membership spans the USA, with members from Florida to Alaska, from the East Coast to West Coast, and from many states in the heartland. We are a large, but very active committee, with close to 40 members. Our membership includes state and federal judges, who have served on a variety of types and levels of courts: Federal and State, administrative, Military, trial and appellate, including a state Supreme Court. Several NAWJ Past Presidents are on the Committee.

Meetings

We meet quarterly. Attendance at our meetings is robust. Since our last report, submitted on October 17, 2024, in advance of the 2024 annual meeting, we have met twice, once in person on October 19 at the annual meeting in San Diego, and a 2d time by zoom on January 30, 2025. Our meeting at the 2024 Annual conference was joint with several other committees, as our Chair is also chair of the Immigration Committee, which was preparing a webinar jointly with 3 other NAWJ committees (Administrative Judges; Human Trafficking, and Juvenile Justice). Additionally we welcomed members of the Military Judges Committee to our table, to accommodate, Col. Linda Murnane, the moderator of our upcoming webinar, so she could attend both committee meetings simultaneously. It all worked out.

President Michelle Rick attended our zoom meeting on January 30, encouraging us all to attend the Midyear meeting at the Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor. She shared the amazing news that 5 of the 7 justices on the Michigan Supreme Court are currently female.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2025, by zoom. We avoided scheduling meetings in March and April, to avoid any conflicts with the NAWJ Midyear meeting in March and the IAWJ Biennial in April.

CONFERENCES

NAWJ ANNUAL MEETING October 2024: Our annual get together for all retired and senior judges at the Annual conference took place in the hospitality suite on the Thursday night of our 2024 Annual conference in San Diego.

NAWJ MIDYEAR MEETING 2025: ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN – March 20-22, 2025
A few of us on the committee will be attending the Midyear meeting scheduled for March 20-22 at the Lawyers' Club at the University of Michigan Law School. This committee's chair, Hon. Joan Churchill, is particularly thrilled with the location, as she is an alumna of the Michigan Law School, class of '65. Michigan Chief Justice Elizabeth T. Clement will be the keynote speaker at the Friday lunch. The theme of the conference is *Injustice Anywhere is a Threat to Justice Everywhere.*

IAWJ BIENNIAL IN Cape Town, South Africa, April 9-12, 2025

A major activity of our Committee this year has been, planning for a private side trip in conjunction with the upcoming IAWJ Biennial. After considering several proposals, the subcommittee, chaired by Hon. Kitty Schild, selected a 12 day tour conducted by a company called *Guiding the Wild*.

COUNTERBALANCE

A regular activity of the Committee is submitting an article for each CounterBalance for the *Life After the Bench* Column.

The Winter 2024 issue contained a heart warming article, by Hon. Beverly Cutler chronicling her mentorship of 7 Afghan judges who relocated to Virginia after they fled Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover of their country, following which all the women judges were fired overnight. The article can be viewed on the NAWJ website at page 11:

<https://www.nawj.org/static/275/counterbalance-winter-2024>

Judge Doris Pechkurow has promised an article for the next issue, on the topic of lobbying.