President’s Message

Dear Members,

I am honored to serve as your President and stay the course of the imperative leadership provided by Judge Tamila Ipema and all of our esteemed Past Presidents of NAWJ. Stepping into this role, I am humbled by both the opportunity and responsibility of this office and inspired by the passion, grace and dedication of our leaders and membership.

NAWJ provides a vital and unique source of community, support, diplomacy and integrity to our members and the individuals we serve. I look forward to working with all of you as we tend our ongoing efforts and am determined to further our mission of protecting the rights of individuals, promoting fairness and equality in the courts, and expanding equal access to justice for marginalized populations.

My theme for this year is Innovative Efforts to Improve Access to Justice through Global Judicial Leadership. Now more than ever we are equipped with the ability to lead by example on a global scale. In June, I was honored to attend the First Pan American Judges’ Summit on Social Justice and the Franciscan Doctrine in the Vatican City and found inspiration in the words of His Holiness Pope Francis: “Esteemed magistrates, you have an essential role; allow me to tell you that . . . you are social poets . . . Your justice and the Franciscan Doctrine in the Vatican City and found inspiration in the words of His Holiness Pope Francis: “Esteemed magistrates, you have an essential role; allow me to tell you that . . . you are social poets . . . Your

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Immediate Past President’s Message

It has been such an honor to lead this incredible organization for the past year. And it is with special warmth and gratitude that I thank you for your enduring commitment to NAWJ’s overarching mission, and for the overwhelming support and encouragement that has inspired me and the leaders of our organization every day of this wonderful year.

NAWJ and its amazing board of directors have made great strides this year. I am thankful for the support of the NAWJ board and the former presidents who guided and advised me in the past year in our attempt to lead NAWJ in the right steps to an even brighter future. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you amazing women.

Our members actively fulfilled my Global Judicial Leadership theme this year by reaching out and participating in international training for foreign judges, attorneys and police departments in various countries including Armenia, Bangladesh, and Ukraine, on important topics such as human trafficking and domestic violence. I believe judges have to lead by example and it is our duty to be global leaders in promoting and protecting meaningful and equal access to justice for all in conformity with the rule of law and NAWJ’s mission.

This year, NAWJ also collaborated with the UN and Columbia University Law School and School of International Public Affairs to provide our members with a 2-day educational summit on Global Judicial Leadership on human rights for all women. The focus of NAWJ’s conference, which was held inside the UN through the collaboration and leadership of Salwa “Sally” Kader, the president and founder of International Federation for Peace and Sustainable Development, was sexual harassment and abuse within the UN and also within its peacekeeping forces around the world, and what the UN is doing to address this troubling issue.

At the Columbia University Law School, we collaborated with expert professors on issues involving human trafficking, international surrogacy, and elder abuse issues confronting the world; on sexual assault on school campuses as well as on immigration and refugee issues, and looked for solutions and best practices to provide meaningful and equal access to justice for all.

Furthermore, in fulfilling this year’s theme of Global Judicial Leadership, ten NAWJ members, who were invited by His Holiness Pope Francis, presented in their areas of expertise at a two-day Pan-American Summit on social rights at the Vatican in June 2019. We spoke on important topics such as judicial ethics and discipline, equal access to justice for all, implicit bias, judicial independence, collaborative courts (hospice courts, Veterans courts, mental health courts, drug courts and re-entry courts, as well as human trafficking collaborative courts for juveniles and adults). The US NAWJ delegation at the Vatican spoke about how judges could become “agents of change” in justice systems all around the world and, as such, make a difference in reforming justice systems everywhere to provide equal access to justice for all and train and treat instead of punishing people who are accused of committing crimes stemming from drug addiction, childhood trauma and abuse or mental health.

This year, had the honor of being appointed by Pope Francis as one of 6 judges to his newly created Pan-American Commission on social justice, fairness and access for a period of two years. The other members of commission are judges from Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Columbia. They were made great strides this year. I am thankful for the support of the NAWJ board and the former presidents who guided and advised me in the past year in our attempt to lead NAWJ in the right steps to an even brighter future. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you amazing women.

COUNTERBALANCE
FALL 2019

Interim Executive Director Report

It is an honor to serve as your interim executive director. NAWJ members and leaders are more passionate and engaged than any other association I have served. I believe this is key to your ability to have reached your 40th Anniversary. You are spearheading many important issues of the day, including diversity and equal justice. Your programs dealing with immigration, human trafficking, the opioid crisis, domestic violence, and sexual harassment provide a national platform for education and reform in these areas. Programs you have developed to encourage young women and help families, such as the Color of Justice, Women in Prison, and The Storybook Project, hold promise that your good works will be sustained over many generations. Finally, programs you offer law students, young lawyers and promising judicial candidates - Mentor Jet, and From the Bar to Bench - teach the core values of NAWJ. These and other programs you provide are so impactful to people outside NAWJ.

When I interviewed for interim director, I asked if you simply wanted a caretaker or someone to offer an overall strategic view of the organization...
Introducing Priya Purandare, Executive Director

In July, a hiring committee was formed by President Beena to search for a new Executive Director after our previous director resigned. The committee set out to find a leader with the right vision and experience to lead NAWJ through the next phase of our organization. In order to implement the five-year strategic plan and raise NAWJ to new heights, it was essential for the committee to identify a dynamic, engaged individual. We are delighted to announce that we were successful in our mission.

Priya Purandare brings over a decade of inclusive leadership experience at member-focused organizations to her new role as Executive Director of NAWJ. Although Priya will not begin her daily work with NAWJ until December 2nd, she is already learning about the organization. She has met with interim director, Laurie Deshaim, and staff members Lavinia Cousin and Kim Tucker. Priya also attended the 61st Annual Conference in Los Angeles, where she was introduced to the members and participated in board meetings and receptions.

“I am excited to lead NAWJ at this pivotal time,” said Priya. “Throughout its history, NAWJ and its members have shown a deep commitment to diverse judicial leadership, fairness and equality in the courts, and equal access to justice. As we look towards the next 40 years, we will carry this pledge forward and harness the power of our vibrant membership to advance the administration of justice.”

Most recently, Priya served as the Deputy Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) where she applied innovative and creative strategies to grow the organization’s revenue. As the architect of the NAPABA Convention, Priya reimagined the attendee experience, expanded the sponsorship base, and strategically placed future-year conventions to align with NAPABA’s business needs. Prior to NAPABA, Priya was the Meetings Manager at the American Public Health Association (APHA)—an organization whose Annual Meeting attracts over 13,000 attendees and 600 exhibitors.

Priya holds an undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Florida and a Master’s in Women’s Studies from the George Washington University—a program that expanded her worldview and the lens through which she views inequity.

Priya, her husband Yash, and toddler son live in Washington, D.C. and spend an inordinate amount of time admiring the primates and Canada geese. As part of the TVPA, a distinction was made to include not just those dependent on a juvenile court who were placed in State custody, whereas children from all other countries other than Mexico and Canada are not automatically entitled to hearings before the immigration courts, unless children are court ordered into the custody of an individual when reunification with one or both parents is not viable due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

As part of the TVPA, a distinction was made for unaccompanied children arriving from countries other than Mexico and Canada. Unaccompanied alien children arriving from Canada and Mexico are not automatically entitled to hearings before the immigration courts, whereas children from all other

Current Immigration Issues Affecting Children

Children are mankind’s most precious resource. Of late, children have become a focal point in our nation’s debate about immigration. From discussion of legalizing the “dreamers,” to forced separation of migrant children from family at the border, to shifting funds appropriated for schools and day care centers for military families to border wall construction, issues relating to children and immigration are top and center in our news. Politicians on the right gavelize their base by arguing children are being used as props or “free passes” to enable family members to take advantage of “loopholes” in our immigration laws.

The hottest topics about children and immigration currently in the news stem from (1) the family separation policy which was a byproduct of the application of the “zero tolerance” policy (criminal prosecution across the board for illegal entry to adults traveling with children, a category previously exempted from the policy), (2) the detention of children with and apart from their families, (3) the administration’s attempts to change the requirements of the U.S. District Court order known as the Flores Settlement Agreement which limits detention of children to 20 days, and (4) whether there should be a path to citizenship for long time residents who entered without authorization. We shall discuss each in turn.

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Historical Background


In 1990, Congress amended the Immigration & Nationality Act [INA] to create a new category of Special Immigrant Juvenile, which accords visa numbers to certain children for lawful permanent resident status: INA §101(a)(27)(J). Originally the provision covered only children dependent on a juvenile court who were placed in State custody, who had been declared eligible for long-term foster care. As described below, the definition was expanded in 2008.

By Joan Churchill, Immigration Judge (ret.), Past President, NAWJ

In 2002 Congress amended the INA to provide that unaccompanied alien children be transferred from the Immigration & Naturalization Service [INS], an enforcement agency which later became part of the Department of Homeland Security, and placed in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement [ORR] in the Department of Health and Human Services [HHS]. The objective was to provide a more child appropriate setting for children in U.S. government immigration custody.

An “unaccompanied alien child” is defined in the INA as a child who—
(A) has no lawful immigration status in the United States;
(B) has not attained 18 years of age; and
(C) With respect to whom—
(i) there is no parent or legal guardian in the United States; or
(ii) no parent or legal guardian in the United States is available to provide care and physical custody. [Homeland Security Act of 2002, 6 U.S.C. 279(c) (2002)].

In 2008 as part of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 [TVPA] Congress expanded the definition of juveniles eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile status to include not just those dependent on a Court, or in state custody, but also juveniles who are court ordered into the custody of an individual when reunification with one or both parents is not viable due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

As part of the TVPA, a distinction was made for unaccompanied children arriving from countries other than Mexico and Canada. Unaccompanied alien children arriving from Canada and Mexico are not automatically entitled to hearings before the immigration courts, whereas children from all other...
The Flores Settlement Agreement provides a guideline for the treatment of migrant children being detained by immigration authorities on charges of having come to the United States without authorization, while their removal cases are pending. Litigation has continued regarding specific provisions of the agreement, as to whether it complies with the guidelines. A key provision of the settlement agreement is that children be released to licensed care programs within 20 days.

Against the above backdrop of legislative enactment and cases and laws, an increasing number of family units from the “Northern Triangle” countries [El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras] have been arriving with minor children. In May 2018, the Trump administration announced that the zero-tolerance policy for illegal entry to the USA, which would no longer exempt families traveling with children. Under the Bush and Obama administrations, parents traveling with children were exempted from the zero-tolerance arrests and prosecutions. When numbers of migrants entering illegally surged upward again in 2018, this administration started arresting migrants entering illegally at the border, creating a nationwide preliminary injunction entered on June 25, 2018 by U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw, of the U.S. District court for Southern California, which directed that the separated children be promptly returned to their parents. It was then revealed that DHS had not kept a record identifying which children came with which adult, so they had difficulty locating the parents, especially in the cases of very young children who were not yet social. According to reports, parents were told that they could only be reunited with their children if they agreed to be deported. Instead, many were deported without their children. Currently, there are still a number of children whose parents cannot be identified or located.

Meanwhile, separation of children from parents at the border continues in some individual cases, as the detention of the groups of children such as a criminal history, communicable disease, fitness, dangerousness, doubts of parenthood and criminal prosecution. Litigation is continuing, with the ACLU back in court arguing at a hearing before Judge Sabraw on Friday September 20, 2019, that the Government is abusing its discretion by separating families in which the parent poses no danger to the children. The Flores Settlement Agreement provided a guideline for the treatment of migrant children being detained by immigration authorities on charges of having come to the United States without authorization, while their removal cases are pending. Litigation has continued regarding specific provisions of the agreement, as to whether it complies with the guidelines. A key provision of the settlement agreement is that children be released to licensed care programs within 20 days.

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Forty years ago, Justice Joan Dempsey Klein, Justice Judith McConnell, Justice Christine Durham and Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey made history when they, along with approximately 100 other women judges, attended the first ever gathering of what would become the National Association of Women Judges. This past October, all four women were back in Los Angeles for the 41st Annual Conference at the Omni Hotel. This time, they were joined by approximately 300 other members and friends, including 42 international judges from 22 countries, as we celebrated the 40th anniversary of NAWJ October 15 – 19, 2019.

Conference Chair, Judge Elizabeth Allen White, assembled an amazing team of judges and attorneys to put on an extremely successful conference. NAWJ President for 2018-18, Hon. Tamila E. Ipema, presided over the five-day conference. From the beginning, NAWJ has been proud to provide cutting edge education at each gathering. This year was no exception.

Once again, attendees were treated to excellent educational programming. This year topics included sessions on DNA Science for Judges, Border and Immigration issues, Tackling Homelessness, Judicial Security, Judicial Independence, Perspectives on the Future of Work in the World of Me Too and Repairing Justice, among others. Speakers included Jonathan Shapiro, Linda Greenhouse, Piper Kerman, Dean Erwin Chemerinsky and California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

Judge Barbie, the 2019 Career Doll, also made her NAWJ debut. NAWJ worked with Mattel after Judge Bobbi Tillman and Judge Marguerite Downing suggested the toymaker highlight women judges. Along with Mattel, we are hopeful that the introduction of Judge Barbie will inspire more young people to explore judicial careers.

On Wednesday, October 16th, a reception was held at the Walt Disney Concert Hall to celebrate NAWJ’s 40th anniversary and the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles’ 100th anniversary. Guests were treated to the music of the Los Angeles Big Band of Barristers.

Annual Awards were presented to Hon. Holly J. Fujie (Justice Joan Dempsey Klein Honoree of the Year), Hon. Tani Cantil-Sakauye (Justice Vaino Spencer Leadership Award), Jerelyn Malana (Florence K. Murray Award), Shibani Mahotra (Norma Waker Excellence in Service Award) and Annette Boyd Pitts (Norma Waker Excellence in Service Award). Kathy Ireland received a Lady Justice Award at the Gala dinner on Friday evening.

Judge Bernadette D’Souza was sworn in as President of NAWJ by the Honorable Anna Blackburne-Rigsby while her three beautiful children looked on. Her heartfelt and inspiring message will be placed on the NAWJ website.

Many thanks go to the approximately 40 members of the Conference Planning Committee. The contributions of each member are deeply appreciated. Special thanks continued on page 11.
At least five racial terror lynchings took place in Anne Arundel County, traumatizing the black community. These lawless acts of violence targeted African Americans accused of misconduct or crimes, all of whom were killed without trial, many under false accusation. In 1875, a white mob lynched John Simms at Simms Crossing after seizing him from the county jail, which stood on Calvert Street at the location where the marker was placed. On November 26, 1884, George Briscoe was being transported to the jail when a white mob abducted and lynched him by the Magothy River Bridge. On October 6, 1898, Wright Smith was taken from the county jail by a white mob intent on lynching him. He attempted to escape, but the mob shot him in the back of the head as he fled. Henry Davis was seized from the jail on December 21, 1906, dragged by a mob through the nearby Clay Street black community, and hanged by College Creek. He was shot over 100 times. Five years later, a white mob abducted King Johnson from the Brooklyn Station House on Christmas Day, 1911. The mob beat Mr. Johnson, dragged him through the streets, and shot him to death. Although the perpetrators of his violence were often known to law enforcement, no one was ever convicted of crimes for these acts of racial terror.

The marker reads:

Lynchings in Anne Arundel County

Connecting the Dots Partners with the Equal Justice Initiative on The Maryland Lynching Memorial Project

By NAWJ member Hon. Claudia Barber

A historical marker memorializing four lynchings in Anne Arundel County, Maryland was unveiled on Saturday, September 7, 2019. More than 330 people were on hand for the unveiling ceremony at Annapolis’ Whitmore Park. Former District 4 Director Claudia Barber was present for the event. Connecting the Dots, Anne Arundel County, coordinated this effort with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI). The Maryland Lynching Memorial Project helped sponsor the event. It is the first EJI historical marker installed in Maryland. Similar efforts are in progress in other counties in Maryland.

The marker reads:

Lynchings in Anne Arundel County

Former District 4 Director Claudia Barber is a member of Connecting the Dots, Anne Arundel County.
District 4 Wellness Conference

By Julia B. Weatherly, District 4 Secretary

O

n a beautiful fall weekend, members of NAWJ District 4 and the Virginia Women’s Bar Association gathered at the Lansdowne Resort and Spa in Leesburg, Virginia to present District 4’s 14th Annual Edna Parker Award and to participate in a Wellness Conference. District Director Hon. Judith Kline and the planning committee selected a perfect venue for a fall weekend conference.

The conference opened at the Lansdowne Resort and Spa in Leesburg, Virginia on Friday evening with a reception on the patio overlooking the Potomac River. Judge Kline gave a warm welcome to the attendees, who took the opportunity to introduce ourselves and make new friends. Nothing like a wine bar to encourage conversation.

Saturday morning started for some with the yoga classes offered by the resort. Others considered the walk from their rooms to the conference center sufficient exercise, and headed for the coffee and breakfast buffet. Once assembled, Judge Judy Kline (Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court, Newport News, VA) opened the meeting, and made the introductions for the attendees and an overview of District 4 projects and programs in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Judge Anita Josey-Herring, who co-chaired the July NAWJ meeting with the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues along with Judge Marcella Holland, reported on their successful event. The program speakers offered information for judges, courts and communities dealing with the avalanche of deaths, medical emergencies, expanded need for treatment, criminal cases, and impact on children and families created by the recent explosion of addictions from the opioid crisis. In February the Maryland Chapter held its annual Irma Raker Dinner with members of the Maryland Women’s Legislative Caucus, a major focus was on issues of mental health of women in prison and the impact of solitary confinement. Judge Julia Weatherly gave a report on the continued programs at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women. The Storybook Project provides the opportunity for women inmates to read and record a children’s book, which is then gifted to their child. The reentry conference, Women Moving Forward, held its 14th conference last spring focused on mental health. Judge Brenda Murray (Chief Administrative Law Judge, Ret., US Securities and Exchange Commission) has for decades conducted a book club at the women’s prison, providing the books, an English professor, and her commitment to women in prison. Judge Heidi Pasichow, a past D-4 Director, discussed the need for a below amendment in the coming year to formally establish a District of Columbia Chapter, and her involvement in NAWJ which has landed her as Vice President, Publications for the national organization. We also noted that Judge Holland will also continue to serve on the national board as Director of Finance. In Virginia, Judge Karen Henenberg, (Ret. Arlington, Virginia General District Court) held a brunch for women judges and the local women’s association. Also attending the conference was Laurie Durham, our interim executive director, who had provided invaluable service to District 4 in putting together this conference, as well as to the national officers and association after the resignation of our former executive director. She was sincerely thanked by President Ipema and the attending NAWJ members.

Judge Kline next announced with an unexpected amount of glee the nomination of the slate of new officers for District 4, to serve a two year term:

- Director: Anita Josey-Herring, Associate Judge, DC Superior Court
- Vice-President: Coen D’Souza, Administrative Law Judge, DC Dept of Employment Services
- Secretary: Julia B. Weatherly, Circuit Court for Prince George’s Co, MD (Ret)
- Treasurer: Sharon Goodie, Administrative Law Judge, DC Office of Administrative Hearings

Hearing no objections (or additional offers to serve), the slate was unanimously voted in, to be sworn in at the annual meeting in Los Angeles, California, and Judge Kline is happily looking forward to becoming the immediate past director. Judge Kline deserves our gratitude for her excellent service as District 4 Director, during which time District 4 held a weekend conference at George Mason Law School, as well as the present conference in Leesburg. Following the business meeting, we enjoyed a very relevant and rewarding program on Networking and Stress Management for Lawyers and Judges. Judge Anita Josey-Herring, who chaired the retreat planning committee, introduced Dr. Daiva P. Hastings Proctor, DM, LCNE, LSNW-C, CPM, our Wellness facilitator. Dr. Hastings Proctor, a licensed psychotherapist and motivational speaker, presented the well-received program which identified signs and symptoms of stress fatigue and secondary trauma, also known as compassion fatigue. The importance of sleep, exercise, good nutrition, and stress management were expanded upon, including how to fit them into our busy, overworked and stressful lives. Dr. Hastings Proctor presented us with important tasks to improve our wellness, and ended her program with the judges on their feet and dancing.

The Edna Parker Award Luncheon

After a delicious lunch, the awards ceremony commenced with Judge Kline presenting the Gender Equality Scholarship Award to Alexis Johnson, a law student at the Liberty University School of Law. Ms. Johnson, who earned by the $1,000 scholarship award by submitting the winning essay to the awards committee, was present and read her essay. Articulate and focused on the history of women in the legal profession, Ms. Johnson is a beacon of light for young lawyers and leaders. She received hearty congratulations, and more unsolicited advice from the judges than she could have expected. (But who doesn’t love a law student who takes the time to tell us what role models mean to her?)

This year the Edna Parker Award was presented to The Hon. Joan V. Churchill to recognize her contributions to the legal profession, the advancement of support and service to the community. Judge Churchill (US Immigration Court Ret.) served as the NAWJ President for 2012-2013, and previously held many NAWJ leadership positions, including Director of District 4, Projects Director, Secretary, Vice-President for Districts and President Elect. Judge Churchill graciously accepted the award with many members of her family and friends present. During her comments, she reminded us why it is still important to have an organization for women judges, and the rewards for its members.

While the conference was officially adjourned at the conclusion of the awards ceremony, many conference participants stayed on to enjoy an excursion to the Stone Tower Winery, arranged by Judge Deborah C. Welsh (Loudon Co, VA General District Court). Although she did not take credit for the beautiful afternoon, Judge Welsh did use her local knowledge of over 30 local Virginia wineries, to select a perfect one that would accommodate our group, offer delicious wines and tasty treats. The afternoon was spent enjoying the scenery, the wine, and the company of our fellow judges.

Many thanks to the judges that gave their time to arranging this wonderful weekend:

Hon. Anita Josey-Herring, Retreat Planning Chair Hon. Judith Kline, Hon. Coen D’Souza, Hon. Heidi Pasichow, Hon. Mary Henry, Hon. Marcella Holland, Hon. Tanya M. Jones Bosier, Hon. Karen Henenberg, Ret. Virginia General District Court). Although she did not take credit for the beautiful afternoon, Judge Welsh did use her local knowledge of over 30 local Virginia wineries, to select a perfect one that would accommodate our group, offer delicious wines and tasty treats. The afternoon was spent enjoying the scenery, the wine, and the company of our fellow judges.

Acknowledges and our unending gratitude for their assistance to Lavinia Comtes, Lauren Denham, and the NAWJ staff.
Linda Alinda-Ikanza Justice and Innovation in Sub Saharan Africa

By Judge Matthew Williams

Uganda, like many nations in Central Africa, has worked hard to strengthen its response to issues of corruption and improving justice. While working with Justice Advocacy Africa on a series of advocacy and anti-corruption initiatives sponsored by the EU and UK, I had the good fortune to meet and work with a remarkable Ugandan attorney.

For more than 20 years, Linda Alinda-Ikanza has fought for social justice in Uganda. As a practicing attorney, she advocates for the rights of women in a male-dominated society. She is a calm beacon of hope for those seeking social and economic justice in Uganda’s tumultuous legal, economic, and political climate. Linda has been a leader in developing programs for governmental and non-governmental organizations to fight and prevent corruption and to promote social justice.

Linda is also the driving force behind the creation of Justice Advocacy Uganda (JAU), a non-profit, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) dedicated to improving the trial skills of Ugandan Advocates and the trial skills of Ugandan Judges. Her work with the Ugandan Bar, and the Law Development Center has impacted the skills and the focus of an entire generation of Ugandan advocates. She is truly shaping the direction of Ugandan justice.

Her work has been instrumental in bringing technology and effective social justice advocacy to Uganda. She even developed an “App” (NkolaApp), to help Ugandan workers learn about their rights under Ugandan law.

Nothing is usually more crippling than finding corrupt or incompetent advocates on either side of the bar or bench. Their intentions may differ but their effect on the Rule of Law is the same.

Q: What led you to a career in the law?

A: I am the last of born of six children. My mum died in labor having me. Her cousin who was six months pregnant with her firstborn adopted me informally. She gave me a chance at life none of my other siblings got. So, I was raised by her (my maternal aunt’s) family. Both her husband and father-in-law were lawyers and very successful ones at that. I grew up seeing them buried in law books and arguments and I knew from as early as Grade 5 that I too wanted to be a lawyer.

Q: What gender barriers have you had to overcome?

A: My adopted family gave me the gift of education which has sheltered me from the gender barriers typical for women in my country. However, the practice of law is male-dominated in my country. Despite the number of students that leave law school being equal in gender, what it takes to be successful as a lawyer in practice, particularly as a litigation lawyer, does not favor the work-family balance and forces many women out. That makes our courtrooms typically a men’s world.

So, despite all my skills, clients may still think I am a secretary at my firm, or clients may give their litigation business to male lawyers or offer a lot less pay for similar work. There are also those experiences where the lower staff at the institutions I teach may treat me as a student. But those perceptions based on gender stereotypes can work in my favor because then I am undervetted by many, to my advantage.

In the summer of 2010, I was lucky to take the basic trial advocacy week-long training organized by Justice Advocacy Africa. I had been struggling 3 years into my trial practice and it was either this training or I would give up litigation practice. The training was life-changing.

Particularly how it was taught, using the learning by doing method where most of the time was spent practicing and receiving feedback. To date, I cannot sufficiently describe how “bound” I felt at the end of that training. The next year I undertook teacher training and got involved in organizing a sustainable program here in Uganda.

Currently our program takes about 40-50 people two times each year. Yet, our law schools produce hundreds of lawyers every year with little or no training in trial advocacy.

Like those lawyers, I left law school thinking I had been prepared for court practice, only to find myself stuck in a cycle of embarrassment and frustration. Compared to the 100 advocates who went through the Justice Advocacy Africa training, the 1,000 plus students who left law school with little or no trial advocacy training created a gap in our system that our training at the time would never fill.

So, in 2013, I followed my heart and applied to join the teaching staff at the Law Development Centre (LDC), the only institution that trains lawyers to practice law in Uganda with the sole conviction and goal of changing how trial advocacy was taught there. It has been 6 years of sowing seeds of change at many levels of the Centre.

Q: Tell us about your current work within the Ugandan Legal Education System.

A: Let me first explain a little about the Ugandan Law School system. We spend 4 years at a university to attain a law degree and then to practice, we go through 30 months at the LDC which is the Bar Course. Although over 10 universities offer the law degree to hundreds of law students, all the thousand plus students must go through LDC successfully to be called to the Ugandan Bar.

I joined the LDC as a part-time faculty member in 2013, and in 2016 I was appointed to teach Trial Advocacy.

Although, “advocacy” was a key subject at the LDC, it was only taught through lectures. A lecture curriculum doesn’t really lend itself to producing advocates who can actually present a case in court. Working with Justice Advocacy Africa (JAA) founder Steve Fury and Judge Matt Williams, I designed a new program that turned the “preparation” classes into practical training sessions where students get a chance
Global Judicial Leadership Conference
On Human Rights of All Women
By Elizabeth Lee

More than fifty NAWJ participants braved intertidal weather, including a torrential downpour of rain, to attend the all-day conference held at the United Nations (UN) in the heart of New York City. This was an educational journey not to be missed. The first part of the conference featured a guided private tour where members learned about the history and the important peacekeeping functions of the UN comprised of 93 member countries and 2 observer states. This international body is responsible for maintaining worldwide peace and security, developing relations among and fostering cooperation between nations, and providing a forum for bringing countries together to meet the UN’s purposes and goals. During the tour, members were escorted through the corridors of international diplomacy and passed by the General Assembly Hall and Security Council chamber. A stop at the gift shop at the end of the tour saw many members leaving with an assorted array of UN memorabilia.

Following the tour at the UN, participants enjoyed a delicious lunch at Zaika Restaurant and 2 observer states. This international body is responsible for maintaining worldwide peace and security, developing relations among and fostering cooperation between nations, and providing a forum for bringing countries together to meet the UN’s purposes and goals. The UN is comprised of 193 member countries and 2 observer states. This international body is responsible for maintaining worldwide peace and security, developing relations among and fostering cooperation between nations, and providing a forum for bringing countries together to meet the UN’s purposes and goals.

The conference focused on important topics such as human rights, gender equality, and international law. Key speakers included Judge Lisa Walsh (NAWJ Past President, 2015-16), Judge Bernadette D’Souza (NAWJ President-elect) and President Tamila Ipfuma chaired panels and forums focusing on the plight of women domestically and internationally.

After the chairs’ opening remarks, and a welcome message from SIPA Dean Mera Junus, participants learned more about various topics including US policies affecting immigrant women, surrogacy and human trafficking, gender discrimination in nationality laws, lessons learned from combating sexual assault on college campuses, and strategies and resources to support maturing and aging demographics.


Conference Day One was hosted by IFPSD and organized by Founder and President, Sally Kader.

Conference Day Two was hosted by Columbia Law School and the School of International and Public Affairs with support from the Law School’s Center for Gender and Sexuality Law.

Co-Chairs Judge Myram Lehr (NAWJ Past President), Judge Lisa Walsh (NAWJ Past President, 2015-16), Judge Bernadette D’Souza (NAWJ President-elect) and President Tamila Ipfuma chaired panels and forums focusing on the plight of women domestically and internationally.

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GLOBAL JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP

Beranadie D’Souza. The speakers addressed the significant increase in asylum cases and the backlog and recent time standards metrics imposed on immigration judges. Professor Franke spoke about conditions for migrants seeking asylum at the border. The “Human Trafficking and Related Issues Including Surrogacy” panel featured panellists Hon. Elizabeth Lee, NAWJ Secretary and San Diego County Superior Court Judge, and Columbia Law School Professor Yasmin Ezags, Director on Gender and Public Policy and Lecturer. The session was moderated by Judge Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Bigsby, Past-President of NAWJ (2013-14). The panelists held a lively discussion concerning the issues raised by advances in reproductive technology and transnational surrogacy. A child may now be conceived using an ovum donor from one country, a sperm donor from another country, a surrogate who is not a citizen of the host country where the child is born, and for intended parents who may be from none of these other countries. Complications such as citizenship arise when a surrogate decides she wants to keep the child or when the intended parents, for whatever reason, decide to abandon the child before or once the child is born. Risks for human trafficking increase when donors are from extremely poor countries and are exploited financially in the process.

The “Sexual Assault on College Campuses: Lessons Learned for the Judicial System” panel featured Columbia Dean Suzanne Goldberg, Hon. Carolyn Temin (Ret.), First Assistant District Attorney for Philadelphia, and Past-President of NAWJ (2003-04) and Jordan Rosenfeld, a recent graduate of University of California Berkeley, and was moderated by Hon. Lisa Walsh. This panel explored the changes in the ways universities respond to charges of sexual harassment and assault, the interplay between the criminal and university systems, and ways the judicial system can learn from the experience within academia.

Finally, the “Elder Abuse” Panel presented by Dr. Andrew Nierman, AARP, Regional Vice President, Catherine A. Christian, Special Assistant District Attorney for External Affairs, Beth R. Finkiel, State Director, New York State Office AARP, and was moderated by Hon. Myriam Lehr. This panel explored the many ways in which older Americans are preyed upon or abused and the various ways in which court proceedings may better address these issues.

Reaction to the conference by attendees was overwhelmingly positive. “I found it to be one of the most informative and thought-provoking conferences I have ever attended” said Bobbie J. McCartney, Judicial Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture. She added, “I found myself energized and motivated by these wonderful speakers and newly introduced colleagues and as a result I have decided to make it a priority to become more actively involved in NAWJ activities.”

NAWJ’s Global Judicial Leadership Conference is the brainchild of NAWJ President Hon. Tamla E. Ipena, for whom navigating and strengthening international frameworks that improve human rights of all women is a passion. NAWJ hopes to help all that relationships created in this year’s partnerships with the International Federation of Peace and Sustainable Development, Columbia Law School, and Columbia School of International and Public Affairs, and making NAWJ’s Global Judicial Leadership Conference in New York an annual tradition.

Global Judicial Leadership Conference At the United Nations

By Honorable Patricia Garcia Judge, California Superior Court, County of San Diego, South Bay Division

On June 10, 2019, I had the opportunity of a lifetime to visit the secure and mysterious complex of offices, halls, and meeting rooms in NYC known as the United Nations. After successful entry through several security checkpoints, we toured the many lobbies, exhibition halls and meeting rooms. The exhibition halls contained unique gifts from various nations, consisting of artifacts and artworks of art, including the iconic mosaic by Norman Rockwell, known as the “Golden Rule” presented to the UN in 1962 by then First Lady Nancy Reagan on behalf of the United States.

We visited grand meeting rooms, including the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly where “leaders of nations speak to the world.” At our subsequent meeting at the UN, organized and hosted by the International Federation for Peace and Sustainable Development and its president, Sally Kaler, the point was driven home that sexual harassment and violence against women happens everywhere, at all levels and to all women. No one is immune.

Lynne Goldberg, the UN Special Coordinator for Improving the UN Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse confirmed that the very organization that is charged with promoting human rights, peace and security around the world – the UN – is committing these violations within the UN system. Thankfully, the UN, under the leadership of the Secretary-General Antonio Guterres of Portugal, has called initiatives to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, focusing on putting the UN’s “own house in order.”

The programs at Columbia School of Law were no less impressive. All four sessions included excellent presenters and experts in their field, and all revealed information that is not well known in the legal community, let alone to those worked by the Immigration Session. It was learned that the Immigration Court suffers chronically from systemic public at large.

I was particularly moved by the Immigration Session. It was learned that the Immigration Court suffers chronically from systemic problems, such as the lack of independence by being housed within the Department of Homeland Security, by having no control over its own funding, and by the imposition of arbitrary and unrealistic quotas.

NAWJ Visits Vatican for Pan-American Judges’ Summit on Social Rights

By Jodi Cleavettle

The National Association of Women Judges members led a delegation at a special summit on social justice at the Vatican in early June, joining judges from across the Americas to discuss the need to defend and protect human rights throughout the world.

The judges gave presentations on access to justice, shared ideas with judges from Central and South America, heard remarks from Pope Francis, and enjoyed individual meetings with the Pope. Following the conference, the NAWJ delegation also attended a special reception hosted by the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, Callista Gingrich, and her husband, former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, at their home in Rome.

NAWJ president Tamla Ipena, who chose “Global Judicial Leadership” as the theme for her term, said she was thrilled to be invited to the Pan-American Judges Summit on Social Rights and Franciscan Doctrine, which was organized by the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and held June 3-4.

“The Vatican Summit on social rights fit beautifully into our theme of Global Judicial Leadership,” said Ipena, a judge on the San Diego County Superior Court. “I believe judges have a leadership role to play, and it is our duty to be global leaders in providing equal access to justice for all.”

Ipena said she was asked to bring a delegation of 10 U.S. judges who could be ordered to strip down and only keep the garment closest to their skin. These volunteers also use permanent markers to write important information on small children such as who their parents are as they may not be able to provide the information in the event they are separated from their parents. It was heart-breaking to hear about these scenarios and to imagine the crestfallen look on the faces of these foreign nationals when they are given this advice. They come from far and wide, not just Mexico, to escape violence and persecution but it soon becomes clear their journey for relief, security and protection is not over.

Thank you NAWJ, International Federation for Peace and Sustainable Development, Columbia School of Law, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs on Human Rights of All Women, and the Center for Gender and Sexuality for bringing attention to these important issues and educating our judicial leaders.
She began the delegation’s presentation with an introduction explaining the roles of NAWJ and the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) in advancing justice, especially for vulnerable populations. “I spoke about the effectiveness of our NAWJ and IAWJ organizations, in that we are making a great difference in the world,” D’Souza said. “I also spoke about judicial independence and the importance of keeping the politics out of judicial selection systems. I believe in fair and free courts, and we cannot have a fair and just system if we do not have judicial independence.”

Each judge talked about programs that seek to improve access to justice.  

NAWJ president-elect Bernadette D’Souza, a judge on the Orleans Parish Civil District Court in Louisiana, said she drew on her more than 18 years of experience as a Legal Aid lawyer representing domestic violence victims in New Orleans, to shape her remarks at the summit. “My topic was on equal access to justice and the delivery of justice to eradicate poverty,” D’Souza said. “My focus is the prevention through the creation of informal Families in Need of Services program to identify and intake those who act as neutral third parties, providing for the assessment of a family’s need, the resolution of a family dispute, the enhancement of a child’s coping skills, and the coordination of services to meet the family’s need without formal court involvement, but through the leadership of a juvenile court judge.”

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Lisette Shridan-Harris said she discussed several programs her court has initiated to provide greater access for litigants. “I addressed the creation of collaborative courts in the U.S. and throughout the world,” Shridan-Harris said. “There is excellent research showing that the way judges talk to the people who come to court can encourage positive change – lower rates of drug use, better participation in therapies, lower incidence of criminal recidivism. And motivational interviewing is free. It’s an excellent tool, readily available to anyone willing to try it.”

Judge Judy Gossip Lobrano, who serves on the Louisiana Court of Appeal’s Fourth Circuit and chairs NAWJ’s Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Committee, gave a presentation on an early intervention program and community model that brings together juvenile court, the schools, and community care centers to identify families in need of services, assess their needs, and provide services aimed at preventing problems such as truancy, violations of school rules, curfew violations, and crime. “Juvenile court judges can greatly assist in the prevention of human suffering,” Lobrano said. “My focus is the prevention through the creation of informal Families in Need of Services program to identify and intake those who act as neutral third parties, providing for the assessment of a family’s need, the resolution of a family dispute, the enhancement of a child’s coping skills, and the coordination of services to meet the family’s need without formal court involvement, but through the leadership of a juvenile court judge.”

“I spoke about our mortgage foreclosure program and its success as a model throughout the country in helping people save their homes; our elder justice program creating greater access for litigants. “I spoke on tackling homelessness, poverty and drug addiction for military veterans struggling from military sexual trauma, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) through Veterans Treatment Courts,” Murmane said. “I chose this topic because the issues of sexual trauma and its relationship to subsequent engagement in the criminal justice system, as well as addressing the mental health issues represented by PTSD and TBI through innovative court solutions, are solutions to global concerns – not just in the U.S. I am hopeful other court systems will consider collaborative courts as a solution on a global basis.”

Judge Lisa Walsh, who serves on the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida serving Miami-Dade County, used her remarks to address implicit bias and achieving fairness in the legal workplace and the courtroom. “At the heart of ensuring access to the courtroom is the promise that all litigants will be received and treated equally,” Walsh said. “In the U.S., women and minorities have received disparate treatment in the legal profession, which has resulted in skewed attrition rates from law firms. I chose to address these issues to shed light on the challenges faced by women and minorities in the courtroom and the profession.”

Retired Orange County Superior Court Judge B. Tam Nordum Schumann, who takes office in October as president of the California Judges Association (CJA), addressed judicial ethics. The topic was a natural fit – Nordum Schumann has chaired the ethics committee for NAWJ for several years and has been a member of the CJA ethics committee since the 1980s and has chaired that committee as well. “Ethics has always been very important to me,” she said. “I basically wanted to learn from my international colleagues because I’m also an educator. I really wanted to hear their perspectives on ethics and how they handle things in their cultures.”

Recently retired Associate Justice Marcia Kahn, who served on the Appellate Division, First Judicial Department, of the New York Supreme Court, described her work with tribal courts and the history and treatment of indigenous people. “I spoke about my 18-year engagement with the International Indian Judges Association (IIJA), which I chaired the ethics committee for NAWJ for several years and has been a member of the CJA ethics committee since the 1980s and has chaired that committee as well. “Ethics has always been very important to me,” she said. “I basically wanted to learn from my international colleagues because I’m also an educator. I really wanted to hear their perspectives on ethics and how they handle things in their cultures.”

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GLOBAL JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP

and I would summarize them and put them in the context of how they support judicial independence, a fundamental concept in the Rule of Law.”

Cherin said she enjoyed the opportunity to learn from other judges, as well as to reconnect with judges she has met at prior NAJWJ and IAWJ conferences.

“The most meaningful part of the experience was meeting and learning from all of the other judges,” Cherin said. “It was very interesting to hear of the differences among the judges from various countries. I also encountered some friends who have attended our NAJWJ or the IAWJ conferences.”

Lobrano said the summit successfully brought together judges from all over the Americas who have an active role in the development of social, economic, and cultural justice in order to share their experiences, successes, best practices, and projects.

“It was quite a humbling and thought-provoking experience,” Lobrano said. “Judges from diverse backgrounds shared information and best practices, and we gained new insights into initiatives that serve justice, the common good, and, especially, our most vulnerable populations.”

The NAJWJ delegates said they appreciated the opportunity to learn about innovative programs being used by judges in Central and South America to increase access to justice—such as a traveling judge program in Peru, where judges go to the remote indigenous regions of the jungle to visit residents with no access to the country’s justice system.

“Judges, prosecutors and attorneys travel together to convene trials to resolve disputes and address criminal behavior,” Walsh said. “This was the conference’s best program presented addressing fundamental access to justice issues.”

She added that she would like to see similar traveling judge programs reach U.S. residents who don’t have easy access to the courts, including in her own jurisdiction in Florida.

“My jurisdiction is the fourth largest in the United States, yet its criminal courts are centrally located,” Walsh said. “Our most remote rural areas are also our poorest. Both distance and poverty create real barriers to parties, victims and witnesses attending court. I would like to promote programs which make justice better available to the outer reaches of our jurisdictions.”

Ipema said she was impressed by the traveling judge programs in Peru and Brazil, and she noted that programs that provide court services outside the courthouse help ensure access to justice.

“It is not enough for us to sit in our courtrooms and render justice,” Ipema said. “We need to take justice to remote areas where people have no meaningful access to our courts or justice. Without access there can be no justice. San Diego Superior Court’s homeless court is a good example of this, where the judges pair their robes and go to a community center or a homeless shelter to conduct legal proceedings and handle cases of homeless persons accused of breaching the laws or committing crimes.”

Nomoto Schumann added that the U.S. delegation initially faced some skepticism from Central and South American judges who did not believe that U.S. judges face the same kinds of challenges as judges in the rest of the Americas.

“We Americans took a lot of heat from our Latin colleagues,” Nomoto Schumann said. “It got to the point that we were being so criticized that I asked to be recognized. I responded that it was incorrect for them to think that judicial independence in the United States was not similarly being threatened. I gave them examples of judges who are qualified who have been voted out of office, subject to recall, or whose lives and families have been threatened. My Latin colleagues were amazed by this. They didn’t realize that we were similarly facing dangerous reactions to our decisions and that our judicial independence was just as seriously jeopardized in the United States as anywhere else.”

She said one of the critics came up to her after the presentations and offered her a pound of mate, a traditional South American tea, which they shared.

“It was really a beautiful moment,” she said.

Following the presentations and discussions among the judges, Pope Francis joined the conference delegates and gave remarks, then spoke to the judges individually.

“Pope Francis urged us to develop new routes to achieving social justice, beyond those traditionally ascribed to the courts,” Kahn said. “I have to say, it was very moving. And when each of us had the opportunity to speak with His Holiness individually, it was amazing.”

Pope Francis, who delivered his remarks in Spanish, urged the judges to work to protect the rights of the most vulnerable. “Esteemed magistrates, you have an essential role,” Pope Francis said. “Allow me to tell you that... you are social poets. Be protagonists in the transformation of the justice system based on values, justice and the primacy of the dignity of every human being...”

Ipema said meeting and listening to Pope Francis was the most meaningful part of the summit for her.

“The highlight of the program was when Pope Francis walked into our session, shook my hand and sat right next to me, delivering one of the most passionate and compassionate speeches on social rights and social justice that I have ever heard,” Ipema said. “He spoke about how poor and disadvantaged people around the world are deprived of access to justice and how the judges have a responsibility to provide equal access to justice for all.”

Gaston also cited Pope Francis’s remarks as the highlight of the summit.

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Gaston also cited Pope Francis’s remarks as the highlight of the summit.

“As a person of faith and admirer of Pope Francis, the most meaningful part of this experience was witnessing his deep commitment to justice,” Gaston said. “His Holiness addressed us at the end of Day Two of the summit on a warm June afternoon, after we had been sitting in the same seats for hours, in close quarters, listening to multiple presentations by judges from throughout the world. It was important work, but paying close attention for two days was exhausting. Then in walked Pope Francis, who delivered remarks that were warm, simple, funny. He stressed his devotion to the poor and forgotten and encouraged all of us to work for justice on their behalf.”

For D’Souza, the most meaningful moment was her personal meeting with Pope Francis.

“The highlight of the summit was meeting Pope Francis and receiving his blessing. It was very special for me,” D’Souza said. “As a Catholic, I grew up in a devout, school environment. In India, I was raised by the nuns and my parents always gave me back to my community. I knew attending the conference would be a great conversation on the subject of access to justice. I was interested to learn what other countries were doing about access to justice in their courts.”

Shridhar-Harris said the Pan-American Summit was inspirational.

“My goal continues to be to look at ways to improve access to justice for all in my court in general and in my courtroom, specifically,” Shridhar-Harris said. “As a black female and leader in my court, I am also mindful that I bring a unique perspective to the bench and that I have a responsibility to share that perspective with my colleagues as we consider the ways in which access is denied and find ways to implement new programs and refine old ones. Ultimately, the Summit was an affirmation that despite room for improvement, we have an incredible judiciary doing amazing work every day in maintaining the Rule of Law.”

At the conclusion of the conference, the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences announced the formation of a standing committee, the Pan-American Board of Judges in Defense of Social Rights. Pope Francis appointed Ipema as one of six judges to serve a two-year term on the board.

“I was totally blown away,” Ipema said. “I feel extremely honored by this appointment, and I hope to make a difference.”

Josh Eleutherio is a Supervising Deputy Attorney General for the California Department of Justice in its San Diego office and a member of NAWJ.

**Esteeemed magistrates, you have an essential role.** Pope Francis said. “Allow me to tell you that... you are social poets. Be protagonists in the transformation of the justice system based on values, justice and the primacy of the dignity of every human being...”
Women in the Military

The position of military judge was created in 1969. Military judges preside over Special and General Courts-martial. A Special Court-martial is the intermediate court-martial level somewhat similar to a misdemeanor Court. A General Court-martial is the most serious, similar to a Felony Court, where punishment can include a death sentence for certain offenses.

Colonel (Col.) Linda Murnane

Colonel (Col.) Linda Murnane (U.S. Air Force, Retired) knew early on that she wanted to be a lawyer. When her father told her and her sister that only their brothers would go to college, she refused to give up on her dream. Working full time and going to school full time, she got a financial aid and she could while working on her undergraduate degree. When financial aid funding was cut, she enlisted in the Air Force and used her GI Bill to pay the last year’s tuition. After receiving her degree, she was competitively selected for commission becoming an officer and went to Officer Training School. Still pursuing her dream to become a lawyer, she applied for the Air Force’s funded legal education program. With only seven slots open annually, it was highly competitive. She was not selected. Her Commander arranged for her to speak with one of the panelists on the selection committee. She was told that her application “didn’t show the level of commitment that other applicants did.” She asked if he could have done to demonstrate the commitment that they were looking for. His reply was, “If you had gone to the Air Force Academy, we would have known you were committed.”

The problem? Women were not eligible to go to the Academy.

She knew, then, that the problem wasn’t her commitment, grades, or credentials. She had to make up for what she calls an “anatomical deficiency.” But Col. Murnane is unstoppable. She enrolled in a night law program at Loyola, 100 miles away from where she was stationed. She drove there and back four nights a week during her first year of law school, all while serving as a Public Affairs Officer during the day. After a year, she applied again to the funded education program confident that she had demonstrated commitment.

The same day she learned that she had been selected for the program, Col. Murnane found out she was pregnant. Just a few years earlier, that would have meant she would have been discharged. She was sent to a physical, where she was diagnosed with an “enlarged uterus” and was going to be removed from the program.

Fortunately, she had a mentor and advocate, Gen. Jon Passan, who went to bat for her saying, “I don’t care if you’ve never sent a pregnant woman to a graduate program before, you don’t know this woman.” Provided that she was able to pass as a physical six months after childbirth, Col. Murnane was allowed to stay in the program.

While in law school, Col. Murnane faced – and overcame – multiple struggles from her military adversity. Col. Murnane graduated a semester early, and with honors. She applied, and was accepted to, the Judge Advocate General Corps in 1991.

At the time, she didn’t receive bar results. When she reported, her supervisor started off their working relationship by remarking that he didn’t know why they’d sent her to him since she couldn’t do anything. He ended with the insinuation, “I don’t know who you know that got your assignment changed...” The second time she met with him, he gave her the ultimatum, “I need to know whether you are a mother or a lawyer and I need to know by 4:30p.m. You need to go Temporary Assigned Duty if you’re a lawyer.” At the time, her husband and her youngest daughter were in the hospital, her older daughter at home. With no real choice, she went on the temporary duty assignment. When she came back, she and two other women made formal complaints.

Col. McShane was the then-Chief Defense Counsel for the Western Circuit and brought her on his team. Years later, when he became Chief Trial Judge of the Air Force, he hired her again. Col. Murnane credits Col. McShane with taking her from the bottom of her career to the top.

In the Air Force, Col. Murnane served as a chief circuit military judge for ten years. She presided at the first criminal trials for the U.S. Air Force during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in a war zone, deploying five times between 2001 and 2003. She was the first Chief, International Operations and Civil Law, while assigned to U.S. Forces Japan/Fifth Air Force. She was the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate at Ramstein Air Base (Germany) and the Staff Judge Advocate at Bitburg Air Base (Germany), advising commanders making decisions employing the Rules of Engagement. Her military decorations include the Legion of Merit, and the Meritorious Service Medal with bronze and silver oak leaf clusters.

Colonel (Col.) Kirsten Brunson

Colonel (Col.) Kirsten Brunson (U.S. Army, Ret.) knew early on that she wanted to be a lawyer. When she grew up, she knew that she wanted to be a lawyer. While in law school, Col. Brunson faced – and overcame – multiple struggles from her military background. Women in the Military

Celebrating Veteran’s Day

Each November 11, the United States celebrates the bravery and sacrifice of all U.S. veterans. Originally “Armistice Day” was created to honor the end of World War I and those who had fought in the “War to End All Wars.” Unfortunately, that month was given too soon, and World War II and Korea followed. In 1954 the name was changed to Veterans Day and became a day to honor American veterans of all wars. Unlike Memorial Day, celebrated in May, Veterans Day is a day to thank and honor veterans both living and deceased who served honorably in the military during times of war or peace.

It was only six years before the name change to Veteran’s Day that President Truman signed the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act, allowing women to serve as permanent members of the military, instead of being allowed to only serve during times of war.

The history of women in the military goes back much further than 71 years. At least three women are known to have fought in the American Army during the American Revolutionary War, all disguised as men. Between 400 and 750 women are estimated to have fought in the Revolutionary War, all disguised as men.

Our Military Judges

In 1970, 8.4 percent of the U.S. armed forces are women. It is with pride that the National Association of Women Judges recognizes and celebrates our own service members this month. Veterans, Law, and military judges. Women who take service to a higher level. We thank you all and commend you. Additionally, this is an appropriate time to recognize military spouses who are lawyers and judges as they support in other ways.

By Renee N. G. Stackhouse

Shining the Spotlight on Military Judges

Women in the Military

Recognizing those that serve
When asked if she faced adversity as a "first", she found that while individuals might have their own hang-ups, the general rule is that the military is a disciplines organization. Everyone realizes that a judge is in charge of the courtroom. She wears a robe, and so they call her "Your Honor." The Army is a meritocracy. You get the rating.

Her military awards and decorations include a Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with Bronze Star, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with Bronze Star, and the Parachutist Badge.


**Veteran Judges Bring Their Experience to the Courtroom**

Justice Eileen Moore

Justice Eileen Moore joined the U.S. Army at 20, shortly after graduating from nursing school and received a direct commission as a Second Lieutenant before being deployed to Vietnam. She remembers to this day the smell of decay and tar and theominous sound of mortar attacks.

She has recounted the tenuous position of being less than one percent of the military force, as a woman, and charged with caring for and healing the men fighting but also being in a position to protect herself from those same men at times.

She credits Vietnam with giving her the backbone to go to college, saying, "Once you've been to Vietnam you can probably do anything, so even though I came from a family where there is no education and there was no college

**Judge Randa Trapp**

Judge Randa Trapp was in college and not really enjoying the experience when she fell ill. She took a break from college and returned home to San Diego, the Nation's largest concentration of military personnel.

She had always been patriotic and had neighbors in the military to whom she looked up, so it seemed a natural fit for her to enlist. Judge Trapp remembers she signed up at the age of 19. "The Navy is a good place to start" and it was just that for her. It was the 1970s, during the height of the civil rights era, and while the military was progressive in terms of race relations, as an African American woman, she still experienced adversity because of gender and race. The good she experienced from her service in the Navy was the regimented life and the ability to focus on her future. She served 5 years, 5 months, and 5 days as a pharmacy technician. She enjoyed helping people and her service inspired her to go back to school and finish her education.

**Military Spouses Serve Too, But In A Different Way**

Hon. Erin Wirth

Hon. Erin Wirth is the first female Federal Administrative Law Judge appointed to the Richmond, Virginia Social Security Hearing office and a Coast Guard wife. She met her husband in her last year of law school. Since graduating, and due to his military career, she has worked in seven jurisdictions and had 11 jobs. Until her most recent position, she had not been able to keep a position for more than three years. She took 3 full bar examinations before realizing that the constant testing was not sustainable. Because military families typically move every two to three years, attorney spouses often can't meet requirements for admission by motion. When her husband was transferred to Minnesota and she had to leave a great job in D.C., she was faced with the choice between two jobs; the first was in private practice and the second was with legal aid. She opted for the legal and position where she would not have to take a fourth bar exam. The experience prompted her to write a letter to the ABA proposing waiving bar examinations for military spouses, which was published in 2007. In 2011, she co-founded Military Spouse JD Network that supports military spouses in the legal profession by advocating for licensing accommodation for military spouse attorneys, education the public about the challenges faced by career-minded military spouses and their families and encouraging the hiring of military spouses along with providing a network connecting military spouse attorneys with each other and their supporters.

As a military spouse, she found that she was hesitant to bring up her husband's service. Professionally, she says, it felt like she would be undermined by it. "If opposing counsel didn't like a settlement offer, they just had to wait until my husband was transferred," she joked. "I was also worried that judges or opposing counsel wouldn't take me seriously or that employers wouldn't hire me in the first place."

"It turns out that she was often hired by people who had served in the military themselves and appreciated her unusual resume as indicative of service, dedication, perseverance, and flexibility. And while there have been challenges as a lawyer, ALJ, and military spouse, there are benefits, she says. She and her family value service. She values her husband's military service enough to give up financial and professional advantages that she could have had if she had stayed in the same place. In return, she has learned flexibility and became open to a different career path focused on service.

**An Ongoing Commitment of Support**

The NAWJ has a Committee for Military/ Veteran Judges which is co-chaired by Hon. Kirsten Brunsson and Hon. Linda Murnane. Military Spouse JD Network, or MSJDN, has over 1,000 members and supporters. It continues to advocate for licensing accommodations for military spouses, including bar memberships without additional examination. In April 2012 Idaho became the first state to approve a military spouse licensing accommodation, following in December 2012 by Arizona. For a full list of states that have adopted military spouse rules, visit www.msjd.org/rule-change/.

**Second Annual Texas Law Day**

Over one hundred fifty women judges came from all over Texas to the 2nd annual Texas Law Day. The event took place at the Texas State Capitol on April 8th of 2013. Women judges donned their robes and were acknowledged during this legislative session from the Texas Senate Floor. Many thanks to Senators Royce West and Joan Huffman and Meredith Higgins of Texas Court Administration. NAWJ celebrated the event with a reception hosted in the Old Supreme Court Building.

This event coincided nicely with the fact that last year brought 47 new women judges to the bench in the Lone star state. This last November was a banner year for women judges in Texas. It brought the swearing-in of many female elected judges. In fact, you may have seen that Texas’ own Harris County made national news with the recent election of 10 African American women judges. (Harris County is the third largest county in the U.S.)
NAWJ’s Mimi Tsankov Leads Celebration of International Women’s Day at Fordham

On March 11, the FBA Southern District of New York (SDNY) Chapter, the FBA International Law Section, and the FBA Judicial Division co-sponsored Fordham University’s Second Annual International Women’s Day Event—A Student-Moderated Evening of Discussion, hosted by the Fordham School of Law in New York City. This two-hour program, involved presentations by eight distinguished speakers and FBA leaders. The National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY) co-sponsored the program. FBA SDNY Chapter President-Elect and adjunct professor Mimi Tsankov kicked off the event with a welcome in her capacity as both Fordham School of Law adjunct professor and chair of the National Association of Immigration Judges, Gender and Equality Committee.

She announced the evening’s theme as “Balance for Better”—in accordance with the United Nations’ 2019 International Women’s Day guidance. Framing the evening’s anticipated discourse, she posed three questions: “What is the extent of the laws that we have in place to support gender balance?” “Where do we need to improve?” and “What have we succeeded in doing so far?” Challenging the presenters to consider how they see gender equality in terms of the stated theme, she invited their personal remarks in light of how they see gender equality in terms of the stated theme.

She began her remarks by noting that in order to truly achieve equality, we must invite men to the table and find ways to join forces. She remarked that women make up 33 percent of the state court judiciaries nationwide, and that New York State courts are doing even better—at 37 percent. She explained that New York State Court’s chief justice is female, in the four appellate divisions, female judges outnumber male judges. She said that this should come as no surprise since women are effective judges due to their skills in compassion, thoughtfulness, listening, and multitasking. She called on women to be on the Supreme Court, responded, “There will be enough women on the Supreme Court when there are nine.”

Next, Fordham LL.M. student Vincenzo Debolini introduced Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy, immediate past president of the NAWJ. Justice Kennedy presented on “Women in the Judiciary—A U.S. Perspective.” She began her remarks by noting that in order to truly achieve equality, she must invite men to the table and find ways to join forces. She remarked at the presence of so many males in the program’s audience. Justice Kennedy said that 2018 statistics reflect that women make up 33 percent of the state court judiciaries nationwide, and that New York State courts are doing even better—at 37 percent. She explained that New York State Court’s chief justice is female, in the four appellate divisions, female judges outnumber male judges. She said that this should come as no surprise since women are effective judges due to their skills in compassion, thoughtfulness, listening, and multitasking. She explained how in the past, these qualities had not been viewed favorably, and yet these are the qualities that strengthen a judge. By encompassing them, women exercise the full power being a woman. She said that the characteristics of a good judge include open-mindedness, patience, courage, firmness, understanding, compassion, and a basic common sense. She compared these characteristics with those of being a female and highlighted how many qualities the two had in common. In addition, she pointed out how, in the pursuit of justice, women can provide a unique perspective and enhance the judicial experience by educating males to see things from another perspective. She closed by referencing the movement “#Me Too in the Legal WorkPlace,” highlighting the need for women in the law to have greater equality to ensure equal access to justice for all.

Judge Lisette Shidorn-Harris appeared in her capacity as NAWJ international director and North American U.S. delegate to the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). She was introduced by LL.M. students Nandor Win Kerei and Milena Konecna, both of whom wish to work in the areas of international human rights, gender-motivated violence, and international criminal law. By way of background, Judge Shidorn-Harris provides over matters of gender and discrimination. In her leadership role at the IAWJ, she has led judges around the world in breaking down gender stereotypes, changing attitudes, and raising awareness through programs, partnerships, and training. She has presented at panels and programs around the world, including the Netherlands and Morocco. She is very interested in women’s issues, and her presentation focused on women in judiciary from an international perspective and, in particular, the work of IAWJ. Judge Shidorn-Harris explained that IAWJ’s key programs are: gender-based violence, property rights, human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, child marriage, and abuse of power (also called “sextortion”). She explained that septrion is a terrible issue to deal with in the equation of lack of freedom and equal rights for women. Also, women and girls are facing deeply entrenched attitudes and customs worldwide that pose potential for discrimination. These programs are designed to bring a new perspective in examining law and procedure and reinforcing the application of international law. She added that, as a result of these programs, we are seeing an increase in the number of women on the bench. This is important because women judges around the world are helping to create “balance for the better.” She added that IAWJ hosts a biennial "Bringin...
worldwide conference, which will not be held in Auckland, New Zealand, in May 2020. The anticipated topic will be a celebration of diversity. She challenged the group to push NAWJ’s efforts at achieving equality of justice and combating violence around the world vis-a-vis women and children, and to support appropriate judicial responses to these crises.

Fordham LL.M. student Melissa Maton and Maqing Lu, who plan to work in the field of international human rights, introduced the next speaker, Hon. Carol F. Edwards. Judge Edwards presides in Kings County Civil Court and serves as the NAWJ’s District Two director supporting New York, Connecticut, and Vermont. Judge Edwards provided specifics about women in the judiciary from a U.S. perspective. She started her speech by sharing her experience within the courts and how she was surprised at the continued imbalance of ratios of women to men appearing in the four circuits in the Kings County Civil Court and in the remainder of the circuits, the majority of the attorneys that appear are men. She stated that, although the representation of women in law school is quite balanced, most trial attorneys are still men. Judge Edwards summarized that “we [women] do have a way to go in terms of our representation within the bar and the bench.”

Fordham LL.M. student John Neben Mensah, a Ghanaian student planning to work in the area of public interest and international human rights, introduced the next speaker, Margaret Kuehn-Taylor, co-chair, American Bar Association, International Law Section, Immigration and Naturalization Committee. Kuehn-Taylor, appearing in her personal capacity, focused on Women’s Issues in Immigration Asylum Proceedings. She noted the existence of gender bias in the rule of law and protection of Asylum Proceedings. She noted the existence of a Committee. Kuehn-Taylor, appearing in her personal capacity and in her role in the leadership of a woman’s rights group in the court systems, access to justice in the family law context related to three topics. (1) problems of children and divorce or separated parents, (2) domestic violence, and (3) the child welfare system. She pointed out that 90 percent of victims of domestic violence are not represented by counsel. She said that many women try to handle divorce matters alone, without divorces, procedures, and custody problems, and locating a safe home to live. She remarked that, although there are some nonprofit organizations and law school clinics providing support to women as they access the court system, access to justice continues to be a fundamental challenge.

Following the series of presentations, the students led a discussion session during which many of the distinguished guests were able to participate substantively. Audience participation included the following distinguished guests: (1) Hon. Delores A. Ridgway, U.S. Court of International Trade; (2) Greta Kolton, WBASNY president; (3) Gayle Parris and Maria Cortez, WBASNY committee co-chairs; (4) Linda Chaveras, WBASNY executive director; (5) Christina Blacklaws, president, The Law Society of England and Wales (The Law Society); (6) Janet Zhou; (7) Susannah de Hextaw, international programs manager, The Law Society; and (8) Stephanie Brown, international policy assistant for the Americans et al., The Law Society. At the conclusion of the question and answer session, all participants enjoyed a catered reception.

Compiled by Karen Donohue

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In my annual meeting a year later, hosted Antiq Hill, which gave a bit of a circus to the circle. The annual meeting during my Presidency was also the inaugural meeting of the International Assn of Women Judges. To provide over a meeting looking out at an audience of so many courageous women of all different backgrounds and dress was truly amazing. At my mid-year meeting in San Antonio there was a movement to pass a resolution supporting the Violence Against Women Act. There is still no push back Congress at the time but also by many of the Federal Judges who were amongst other things, fearful that all domestic violence cases would end up in Federal court. I called a late-night meeting in my hotel room for a few members to meet how I could be written to accommodate the concerns of our members and those of the federal courts, as well as to strategize how to get it passed in Congress. Judges Mary Schroeder, Norma Shearer and Copas helped define the problems, particulars and draft the resolution. I asked Mary Schroeder to take the lead and we spent many hours working by phone the rest of the year. Mary did great work and we can thank her for her ultimate passage.

I remember the battle over the necessity for an executive director in addition to, or instead of, using the National Center for State Courts as Secretariat. I, and many others, were thoroughly convinced we couldn’t grow and become the professional association we had the potential to be, without an executive director. It was a fight but the membership eventually decided in favor of hiring an executive director while maintaining the relationship with the National Center. We knew it would cost money but it represented a commitment to the continued viability of the organization.

In 1992-93 Hon. Brenda P. Murray
I had a friend who knew a woman who managed an office building in DC so NAWJ got a rent-free office. Up to that point we operated from the National Center for State Courts. We negotiated with the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women at Radcliffe/Harvard to archive NAWJ’s papers. IFR reported on our effort at the Supreme Court to celebrate. We continued efforts to get funding for projects on women in prison and initiated a direct contact with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Thanks to NAWJ member Judge Patricia Wald, Circuit Court of Appeals DC Circuit, who allowed us to use her considerable prestige to the effort.

In 1994-95 Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin
I was sworn in as President at the 16th Annual Conference in Seattle in 1987 and my year in office was

I was President of the NAWJ 1989-90. This was the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the Association. A highly significant meeting at my swearing in was the participation of women judges from around the world at the Annual Conference in Washington DC to discuss whether an international Association of Women Judges should be established. The support for such an endeavor was unanimous. The Annual Conference was held in Denver, Colorado in 1990. Much work during my administration was focused on improving the relationship between the Association and the structures for putting on the Annual Conference.

1991-92 Hon. Cara Lee Neville
I was sworn in as NAWJ President at the annual meeting in Chicago, which hosted Mary Robinson, then President of Ireland. It was also the meeting during the Clarence Thomas Hearings. The keynote speaker at my Annual Conference was Sandra Day O’Connor, which gave a bit of a circus to the circle. The annual meeting during my Presidency was also the inaugural meeting of the International Assn of Women Judges. To provide an evening looking out at an audience of so many courageous women of all different backgrounds and dress was truly amazing. At my mid-year meeting in San Antonio there was a movement to pass a resolution supporting the Violence Against Women Act. There is still no push back Congress at the time but also by many of the Federal Judges who were amongst other things, fearful that all domestic violence cases would end up in Federal court. I called a late-night meeting in my hotel room for a few members to meet how I could be written to accommodate the concerns of our members and those of the federal courts, as well as to strategize how to get it passed in Congress. Judges Mary Schroeder, Norma Shearer and Copas helped define the problems, particulars and draft the resolution. I asked Mary Schroeder to take the lead and we spent many hours working by phone the rest of the year. Mary did great work and we can thank her for her ultimate passage.

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One highlight of my year as president (2009-10) was

2009-10  Hon. Dana Fabe

2008-09  Hon. La Tiaw M. Martin

“Branching Out: Making a Difference in the Three

lawyers. With the amazing support of NAWJ’s District

needed to further access to justice and how those initiatives might be implemented in other countries facing similar issues. The biggest disappointment during my tenure was our unsuccessful attempt at redesigning the NAWJ website, which required both a technological and visual overhaul.

2013-12  Hon. Joan V. Churchill

2012-13 Hon. Jonai Laidt Carter

I was fortunate to serve as NAWJ President 2010 – 2011. It was a busy year, with district meetings and conferences. The mid-year meeting was most memorable. The whole country had been having a Thanks to Mother Nature, our
during Laguna Beach, California, was perfect. Sun, surf and sand. The dedicated directors led time to share ideas, and our immigration and human trafficking programs were introduced.

Alaska! Nearly 100 NAWJ members, family and friends gathered for our first NAWJ Cruise around the island passage, stopping at several towns. Kudos to Judge Fabe for organizing the trip and for the reception at her “bug castle” I especially appreciated getting to know the dedicated, dynamic, NAWJ members, across the country. Everyone is working hard presenting programs and spreading our messages.

2011-12  Hon. Amy L. Neckethm

I have the distinct honor to be one of six justices in our past 40-year history, along with Judge Cindy

2011-10  Hon. Marjorie Laird Carter

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We also had a private tour of the Holocaust Museum, followed by a lecture on the judges of the Third Reich and a panel on judicial independence, moderated by Judge Gayle Shevel with an NAWJ member who was also a Holocaust survivor.

The NAWJ Leadership Conference in Cambridge MA, was an exciting event highlighting women’s issues in the judicial profession with then recently appointed Justice to the U.S. Supreme Court Elena Kagan, moderated by then Dean Martha Minow, at Harvard Law School. Also discussed at this Leadership Conference were issues relating to children and immigration and the role of judges.

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2012-13 Hon. Joan V. Churchill

The theory of my NAWJ year was JUSTICE FOR ALL. Major initiatives my district year focused on addressing the issues that led to the NAWJ Biennial in Washington DC, a membership drive to attract male members and a Midyear conference in Washington DC which included: a reception at the Supreme Court Hosted by our member, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and attended by our member Chief Justice John Roberts and members of the NAWJ Board in town for their Annual Meeting; a joint activity with the Shakespeare Theatre on Rights of Women to Confer Benefits On Men with a play reading from Henry V; our annual Congressional Caucus; and, an all-day symposium on Human Trafficking.

2013-14 Hon. Anna Blackburne-Rigsby

The theory of my term as NAWJ President was “Ensuring Access to Justice for All.” Two memorable moments from my tenure at NAWJ came to mind. First, my successful hosting of 2011 NAWJ

members and guests in Washington, D.C., for the 2014 Midyear Meeting and Leadership Conference entitled Ensuring Access to Justice for All. During this action-packed three day conference, we addressed the unique role that the judiciary plays in ensuring that all individuals have fair and equal access to our court system. Unforgettable moments at the midyear included a keynote address by former Attorney General Eric Holder and a special performance of Ms. Janet Langhart-Cohen’s play “Annie & Emmett” at the U.S. Supreme Court, graciously hosted by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, along with a follow-up panel discussion moderated by Justice David Boies and myself.

Second, I was honored to lead the NAWJ delegation at the 2014 ARIU Biennial Conference in Ashaka, Tanzania. I was particularly touched by the theme—

Justice for All—which echoed the theme that I had chosen for my tenure as President. At the conference, I discussed how NAWJ and other organizations within the legal profession were working with others to ensure that more women and minorities were able to further access to justice and how those initiatives might be implemented in other countries facing similar issues. The biggest disappointment during my tenure was our unsuccessful attempt at redesigning the NAWJ website, which required both a technological and visual overhaul.

2014-15 Hon. Julie E. Frantz

The theory of my President was Voices of Justice: Enhancing Judicial Diversity and Leadership. Embedded in my vision to further our mission-driven goals was fostering through our programming some practical “take-aways” to increase our national voice and our voice within and across the judiciary. One such program designed to enhance the opportunities for women of diverse backgrounds to advance to lead the judiciary was disseminated through a panel presentation on the tool box to elevate women to the legal profession and infiltrate the network from which judicial appointments often originate. Of equal importance was to expand through the districts innovative programs that expose girls to the possibility of a legal and perhaps even judicial career by personally engaging, the importance of which is so eloquently stated by Justice Sotomayor in My Beloved World. “A risk asked in the future provides more than inspiration; her very existence is confirmation of possibilities one may have every reason to distrust. "Others, say someone like me can do this.”

Other matters of prominence included important input moving forward the website redesign to enhance NAWJ visibility and the ease of our website use, continuing to expand the much of reach of education to raise the consciousness of the vital necessity of an independent and impartial judiciary, and upholding the rights of our most vulnerable populations through our collective voice and action as we strive to ensure equal and meaningful access to justice for all.

2015-16 Hon. Lisa S. Walsh

During my 2015-16 term, which concluded at the annual conference in Seattle, I chose as my theme “Sustaining the Future for Women and Girls.” By keeping with this theme, NAWJ focused upon the future women in the legal profession, on the vulnerable populations we serve and the future for NAWJ.

2017-18 Hon. Tanya Kennedy

The theory of President Kennedy’s “Future” was an “Emerging Legal Landscape—Navigating a Path to the Future” where NAWJ convened cutting-edge legal education experts focusing on the nation’s prominent thought leaders and experts to address such topics as, the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, the dark web and hacking, as well as the back up to the beyond on a new data breach.

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Highlights of that year included creation of a Sustainability Committee to ensure NAWJ was living our RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, RENEWABLE, and reliable environmental commitment. As a result of the Legislative Caucus, NAWJ received and accepted an invitation from Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee to attend the press conference regarding the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which NAWJ submitted a letter in support of its reauthorization.

During President Kennedy’s term the “Future of Justice Scholarship” was launched (which is to be awarded at all future annual conferences), the ADA Policy Compliance, Governmental Affairs, Law School Outreach, LGBTQ, Technology and Social Media Committees were formed, and NAWJ went green by publishing digital versions of the Membership Directory and Countertable.

2018-19 Hon. Tamila Ipepa

The theory of my presidency was Global Judicial Leadership. NAWJ took a team of 30 judges to Rome at the invitation of His Holiness Pope Francis to participate at the Vatican Summit on Social Justice of 50 judges from African and Eastern counties. Pope Francis, who attended the second day of the summit, delivered a compassionate and heartfelt speech on social justice asking judges to reform the judicial system to provide equal access to justice for all. I am truly honored to have been appointed by the Pope to serve on the 7-member Pan-American Commission on Social Rights and Access and Fairness for a period of two years. We had a successful conference in NY, in collaboration with the UN and Columbia University on human rights of all women with a special focus on sexual harassment and assault at the workplace.

Much work during my administration was focused on moving our organization forward to new heights and a new direction with a sound and workable strategic plan of action in place to be implemented in the next five years. I am proud of the 2018-19 NAWJ Board of Directors for achieving this monumental goal.

NAWJ celebrated its 40th anniversary in style at the Walt Disney Concert Hall at the Los Angeles Annual Conference.

After organizing a Legislative Caucus on Capitol Hill focusing on ensuring a healthy work environment free of sexual harassment, Justice Kennedy led NAWJ in issuing apliantion for the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2019 “LEGAL WORKPLACE” As a result of the Legislative Caucus, NAWJ received and accepted an invitation from Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee to attend the press conference regarding the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which NAWJ submitted a letter in support of its reauthorization.

During President Kennedy’s term the “Future of Justice Scholarship” was launched (which is to be awarded at all future annual conferences), the ADA Policy Compliance, Governmental Affairs, Law School Outreach, LGBTQ, Technology and Social Media Committees were formed, and NAWJ went green by publishing digital versions of the Membership Directory and Countertable.
It’s Time We Consider the Best Interest of the Child

Objective to which virtually all other factors speak.”

Thus, for example, in the seminal Maryland case on

or private welfare (UNCRC) provides,

absent or merely tangential in criminal law and procedures.

placing the best interest of the child first and foremost, in

the child’s best interests. Article 12 mandates that

personal relations and direct contact with both

the child’s best interests. Article 12 mandates that

best interest of the child shall be a primary

when sentencing parents

Reproduction of Childhood Disadvantage

Mass Incarceration, Family Complexity, and the

children, have had a parent who lived with them go

children, or approximately seven percent of all U.S.

experiences (ACEs) that can impact a child’s

identified as one of the adverse childhood

economic disadvantages

have been linked to

risk of serious or delinquent behavior.

early death.

risky health behaviors, chronic health conditions, low

mental illness, and parental separation or divorce. (U.S.

childhood experiences (ACEs) that can impact a child’s

incarcerated parents. (See http://www.oregon.gov/

educational opportunities for children with

incarcerated parents. (See http://www.oregon.gov/

Department of Social Services and the Division of

In Oregon, the Department of Corrections oversees the

Department for Children, youth, and families and

incarcerated parents. (See http://www.oregon.gov/

For example, the rate of incarceration of parents has

In Maryland, the Governor’s Office for Children has

inmates for children of incarcerated parents. (See


children, families, and communities as a priority, and Maryland’s Reinvestment

In North Dakota, among the factors that are to be considered in sentencing is whether imprisonment would entail undue hardship to the defendant or the defendant’s dependents.

In North Dakota, among the factors that are to be considered in sentencing is whether imprisonment would entail undue hardship to the defendant or the defendant’s dependents. N.D.C.C. §§12-1-02-04.

In Oregon, the Department of Corrections oversees the Children of Incarcerated Parents Project, a 12-year-old public-private initiative that includes Head Start programs, mental-health services, and educational opportunities for children with incarcerated parents. (See http://www.oregon.gov/DOC/OMH/PREGNANCIES/pages/san_children.aspx.)

In Maryland, the Governor’s Office for Children has identified the reduction of the impact of parental incarceration on children, families, and communities as a priority, and Maryland’s Reinvestment Act provides a philosophical foundation for the adoption of reforms such as child impact statements, community-based alternatives to incarceration, and other family-focused initiatives. In Prince George’s County, the Circuit Court has teamed with the Department of Social Services and the Division of Parole and Probation to implement a pilot project that provides for the inclusion of a section on caretaking responsibilities in presence investigations (PSIs) and an offer of voluntary family preservation services to families in which a caretaker is incarcerated. However, statewide, we have yet to sufficiently adapt policies and practices that appropriately consider and reduce the harmful impact of our criminal justice system on our children.

Michelle Alexander’s “The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” meticulously documented, “the north of a caste-like system in the United States, one that has resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to a permanent second-class status—denied the very rights supposedly won in the Civil Rights Movement.” (Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, (2010), New Republic.com/abs.)

Among the victims are the children of those incarcerated, many of whom may also end up in this caste-like system of incarceration as a result of the trauma and loss resulting from the incarceration of their parents or caregivers. And while there are

Continued on page 47
Impacting the Future of the Movement

#WeToo in the Judicial Workplace:

"I was the only one.

Of course, it’s not unusual that the attendees at an NAWJ event are women. Or even that the other panelists and moderator are as well. NAWJ and other women’s professional groups provide a forum for discussion of issues that are particularly germane to women and are often presented by women. However, the flip side of this is that issues are impacting both males and females in the judicial workplace. Not only was it an honor to be part of the program, but it was also a privilege to be invited to participate in an important dialogue that affects the future of our profession and system of justice.

Men cannot absent themselves from the discussion. I was overwhelmingly accepted and appreciated in July 2019. There is nothing for ethical male judges and legal professionals to fear by being actively involved in addressing gender-related equality issues. The ‘room’ should always be an inviting place for anyone who wants to be part of the discussion. We should all aim in to present solutions. But some men still tend to be reluctant. They may be worried about saying the wrong thing or fearing they lack the personal knowledge to meaningfully contribute. They may be unsure of what to do or wonder whether a male voice is necessary for the conversation. They may simply be ignorant of where the discussions are happening and are hesitant to seek them out. Regardless, there are more than likely just a few steps forward.

These are ideas to encourage NAWJ members on ways to advance the goals we’ve set at the U.S. Capitol. Just some simple suggestions based on my experience. I am the director of a judicial conduct commission. In that role, I have investigated and prosecuted judges for misconduct for over twelve years. Several of the most publicized and notorious cases that my office has handled were misgivings or statements or, quite simply, inaction. I also have served on the expert panel for the Global Judicial Integrity Network. Our first position paper was published in South Korea in December 2018, and it focused on gender-related judicial integrity issues. Gender-related misconduct in the courtroom is not just a local concern. It is an international and national topic.

Judicial conduct commissions (JCCs) are often the front line for sexual misconduct cases against judges and judicial staff. These bodies investigate and prosecute ethical violations of each jurisdiction’s code of judicial conduct. These commissions often refer allegations they discover to other authorities. They are a ready and available ally in the #MeToo movement. While many may not know it, they have been in the trenches for years on these issues.

In the United States, sexual- or gender-related judicial misconduct cases are more common than people may think. For example, in reported state judicial discipline cases in the last 20 years more than four thousand judges have involvement.

1. Improve sexual conduct to staff
2. Improve sexual conduct to attorneys
3. Sexual misconduct with a litigant
4. Sexual misconduct with staff
5. Sexual misconduct with attorney

Of course, some of these cases are counted in more than one category. But many other cases are not reported, result in confidential sanctions or agreements, or are not specific to sexual misconduct. Still, many of these men may not know how to get involved; they may not be certain what steps to take to respectfully contribute toward meaningful change. They may be unsure of what to do or wonder whether a male voice is necessary for the conversation. They may simply be ignorant of where the discussions are happening and are hesitant to seek them out. Regardless, there are more than likely just a few steps forward.

How do we succeed in the effort to eliminate sexual harassment and misconduct in the judicial workplace? That question is likely too broad to give wholesale treatment here. However, there are a few practical ways that NAWJ members can help to implement meaningful change to our courthouse communities in the #MeToo era.

1. Get involved in your jurisdiction’s JCC.

State courts (and, of course, the Federal system) have various ways of developing their own provisions for a code of judicial conduct. The same is true for judicial rules that are adopted to govern the way a JCC handles ethical complaints. Judicial input is an important facet and one that can truly influence change.

For example, in the last edition of Counterculture, a report on the NAWJ #WeToo in the Legal Workplace meeting at the California State Capitol was recounted. California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye described the efficient changes that were shaped by the California Judicial Council. Rules that were considered ambiguous on public records access were quickly improved by amendment. Also, the Court addressed confidentiality concerns regarding the harassment of those reported sexual misconduct, working alongside similar efforts in the legislative branch. These changes were made to foster a safe environment for reporters of harassment to be heard and for a meaningful review of allegations. All of these changes were made with input, advice, and leadership from the judiciary.

That same effect can be had if it comes to JCCs procedural rules and changes to codes of judicial conduct. Do you want to see gender-related issues getting more specific treatment in the code of judicial conduct? Should a clear definition of sexual harassment be included in the comments to an ethical rule for judges? Then grab a seat at the table! Volunteer (or lobby) to get on the JCC. Draft meaningful changes to judicial ethics rules or guidelines. Same on an ethics advisory committee. The standards that are applied and developed by JCCs affect judicial conduct and the legal system as a whole. Help by lending your perspective and knowledge.

2. Champion training on sexual harassment in the judicial workplace.

Whether your administrative office of the courts or your own district is the sponsor, make sure that your voice is heard on the subject matter for training. Of course, there is need for training on new rules and other relevant sexual misconduct cases. Sexual harassment in the judicial workplace should not be a rare or forgotten topic in the regular training schedule for judges and judicial staff.

It is important that female judges are willing to join in the push for regular and pertinent training on these subjects. Invoking male counterparts is also vital – their movement is about all of us. Good judges need to avail themselves and their staff of effective training that improves the judicial workplace.

3. Encourage male colleagues to speak up and join you.

Transformation efforts, like those highlighted here, are happening as women in the judiciary push reforms forward. Those females leading the way are also tackling the challenge of expanding the conversation. In the Counterculture balance, Judge Wendy McGuire Coats encouraged women in positions of power to engage “the good men” and teach them about the prevalence of sexual harassment. This point cannot be emphasized enough. But be aware that sex is not always an easy task, To be clear, it is not the fault of women when men are underrepresented in sexual harassment discipline, policy changes, or training sessions. When terms like “gender equality” and “sexual harassment” are highlights of an event, the experts that speak on the subject tend to be a female. Women often have experienced harassment and been subject to be a male counterparts have not personally faced. But many men, including myself, are appointed and just as angry as anyone else each time it is revealed that the judicial workplace, the place where justice should reign, was the venue for injustice through horrible acts of harassment. Judges may not know how to get involved, they may be uncertain what steps to take to respectfully contribute toward making changes. They may be concerned about protecting or defending those who are already leading the charge.

This is where you can encourage them to be proactive. Encourage them to speak out. Join up with those who support training on sexual harassment and accountability for those who cross the line. Help one another learn from tools like “outstanding bystander” so that those in the judicial workplace can equip themselves and their staff to fight the problem anywhere it is observed in the courthouse.

Urging “the good men” to lend their voices to the issue is worth the effort. Ethical male judges are aware of the fallout from the actions of their corrupt colleagues. They do not want to be lumped in with them. They want a safe place for all, where equality is the rule – not the exception.

The elimination of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct in the judicial workplace should be a goal that is not only advanced by women. As noted in the Counterculture balance, sexual harassment is often of power over the target, and the focus now is “interrupting the power.” Efforts have already begun across the country to change policies that do a disservice to reporters of harassment by leaving them without vindication, unjust systems that create fear and keep members of the judicial workplace from taking action, and eliminate the option for resolutions to happen out of the public view, which can stifle the statements that are made. Women have unique insight and have issued the call to action. Female judges should continue to lead and present solutions to this epidemic. Men must join the effort.

Chief Justice Earl Warren stated, “… law floats in a sea of ethics.” That sea courts on judges to be and see as ethical. Only then will the rule of law be given the respect and honor that it deserves. Getting involved, promoting training, and rallying male colleagues will further the goal of strengthening our independent judiciary. The fact that the halls and chambers of our judiciary have been defined by gender-related sexual misconduct is truly a blight on the face of our democracy. Find those of us who will join you. Our judiciary, the eny of the free world, is worth the effort.
District 6 Delivers

By Trina S. Vincent, Louisiana Supreme Court, Community Relations Department

District 6 is passionately working on the Women in Prison Initiative. With support from Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, NAWJ District 6 Director Judge Shavu Sims of Shreveport City Court, continues to focus on reinvestment efforts that strengthen employability skills for incarcerated women’s success once they are released. While District 6 continues to build a cosmetology program at the Louisiana Transitional Center for Women (LTCW) in Tallulah, LA, it is also supporting the women by delivering books and toiletries.

On a humid Louisiana Saturday morning in September, members of District 6 arrived at LTCW to deliver loads of books and toiletries for the incarcerated women to Warden Billy Tigner and create a yearning for the women to return to the community. By Trina S. Vincent, Louisiana Supreme Court, Community Relations Department

Some may feel that if they mastered more, their Mom or Dad would be with them instead of in jail. It is so much more complicated than this, but one thing is sure, if we can figure out a way to strengthen the bond between incarcerated parents and their children, we may be able to change the narrative to something positive. If a parent feels a strong connection to their child while locked up, it will have the ability to be even stronger upon release. This in turn leads to a more law-abiding parent that has a very important reason to be a real and constant part of their children’s lives, and its concern for their wellbeing is cause to anticipate major gains for these women to create viable lives when they return to their communities.

What you can do!

In January of this coming year, San Diego is kicking off a collaborative effort with Reading Legacies, a group that is responsible for an amazing program of having parents read to their children from jail. NAWJ also has a similar program started by Judge Marielsa Bernard and Brenda Murray and a team of others in Maryland, Chicago and Alabama. With our new collaboration with an organization already up and running in California and Arizona, we are able to share tasks to make the implementation and continuity easier. In a nutshell, the incarcerated parent will be filmed reading a selected book. The book is then sent to the child with the film of the parent reading. The child then returns the book and the film back to the parent in jail to let the family know that they are being read to.

With this idea in mind, we have now set out to begin a new program that has arisen out of another obvious need in our local jails and prisons. Many inmates are parents, so while they are locked up and away from their families, it is not uncommon for the children to feel abandoned or worse. Some may feel that if they mastered more, their Mom or Dad would be with them instead of in jail. It is so much more complicated than this, but one thing is sure, if we can figure out a way to strengthen the bond between incarcerated parents and their children, we may be able to change the narrative to something positive. If a parent feels a strong connection to their child while locked up, it will have the ability to be even stronger upon release. This in turn leads to a more law-abiding parent that has a very important reason to be a real and constant part of their children’s lives, and its concern for their wellbeing is cause to anticipate major gains for these women to create viable lives when they return to their communities.

Our annual San Diego Superior Court, NAWJ Projects Chair

Pennie K. McLaughlin, Commissioner

One year ago, my colleague Terrie Roberts and I went to the local women’s jail and kicked off the start of our Freedom Through Words book club. The women seemed confused that judges would care enough to spend a Thursday evening with them. They asked us outright why we were doing this. Our reasons were many, not the least of which was to try and create positive bonds between the inmates and their families. A young woman raised her hand and with tears in her eyes, exclaimed that for the first time in years, she had something to talk to her mother about during their periodic phone calls. Her mother had bought the book and together they read the chapters week after week. She explained how talking about the book made them learn to see each other as people and they began to look forward to her release and a life free of crime. Hope entered slowly until this young woman believed that a different life was possible. Now the tears in the room were many, we shared a smile, some silence to let the significance sink in and began to talk about the book. Our book club has brought many local attorneys and judges face to face with a group of twelve women in an intimate small classroom setting complete with tea and cookies brought in by the jail. We learn to see other sides of each other, we share parts of our own stories while relating to the characters and discussing the plot. Through these experiences, the women begin to feel worthy and their hearts may in time, raise up a bit higher. For us, we learn that the person before us in court is not simply a name behind a booking number and penal code statute, but a whole other story that unfolded long before they reached our departments. This awareness makes us better bench officers and attorneys and ultimately, citizens.

t the books will be useful to the women. We also look forward to helping with future donations.”

On behalf of Chief Justice Johnson’s office, Angela White-Bazile, Esq., obtained books from the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center (SECC), a retreat center in Larangar, LA. The visit included a meeting with the judges, Mrs. White-Bazile, Mrs. Tate, Ms. Bennett, and cosmetology program candidates from the Heritage and Kala Curtis, to discuss recent developments on the cosmetology and coding programs.

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Degrading Strip Search of 200 Women Prisoners Cries Out for Courts to Act

Opinion by Judith Resnik

Felicity Huffman's sentence of 14 days of prison time for participating in a college-admissions cheating scheme made international news. But the headlines about women prisoners we most need are about the degrading treatment of the nearly 110,000 women already in state and federal prisons, many of whose pleas for protection are being ignored.

A vivid example comes from a decision in July by a federal appellate court in Chicago. Asked to recognize that the Constitution protects women forced by prison officials to disrobe and reveal their inner parts to strangers as part of a “visual cavity search,” that court said no.

The case involved 200 women prisoners, rounded up by Illinois female prison staff who were helmets and vests, banged batons on cells and yelled obscenities. These cadets marched the women into a large day room, sent groups of ten to a side area, and told them to strip.

You can read the rest of the opinion at, http://www.cnn.com/2019/10/03/opinions/women-prisoners-have-rights-resnik/index.html

NAWJ 2019 Cruise, Budapest – Nuremberg

Prepared by Judge Joan Churchill
Chair, NAWJ Retired Judges Committee

May 5-12, 2019
On board the Amacerto

The NAWJ 2019 cruise began in Budapest, Hungary, at Lotz Hall’s Café Parisi, a most elegant teashop where 10 of us assembled for lunch before boarding our cruise ship. The century-old Lotz Hall is described on the Web as “one of the jewels of Budapest’s glorious Belle Époque.” “Trespass by renowned Hungarian painter Károly Lotz, Belle-Epoque chandeliers, large mirrors and a lot of gold – the Lotz Hall...is undoubtedly one of the most breathtaking locations in Budapest”. The ceiling looks a lot like the Library of Congress in Washington DC. The location was recommended by Judge Agnes Galád, President of the Hungarian Women Judges Chapter of IAWJ.

Unfortunately, she was unable to join us, as it was a holiday weekend.

Our cruise ship, the Amacerto sailed the Danube River. After leaving Budapest, we crossed the border to Austria in Passau, where we develop our destination city of Nuremberg.

To travel that route, one goes through numerous locks, always a marvel of engineering. The food on board was terrific. We usually dined together. One night we were treated to dinner in the separate Captain’s Table dining room. We took our group photo on banquet night.

The cruise ended in Nuremberg, Germany, where we visited Courtoom #600, the location of the famous World War II War Crimes Tribunal. The Courtroom is still in use, used for the most serious offenses. Photos of what it looked like when it served as the War Crimes Tribunal and of some of the participants line the wall of the entrance Hall, which serves as a mini museum in remembrance. One of the participants in the photographs is now the sole
surviving prosecutor from that period. Albert Firenze, whom Juan heard speak at the Library of Congress at a Federal Bar Association event a few weeks earlier as part of their distinguished speaker series. Age 100, Albert Firenze was born in what was then Romania. Brought to the United States at age 2, he joined the U.S. army after graduating Harvard Law School, which is now his name tag complete with title. The chair was thrilled that I was the lead docent for the event. I showed off my Docent skills for a Sixth Circuit conference and for an ABA Board of Governors dinner. I love when I get to mix my worlds! Seven years into Life 2.0, I have no regrets about my decision to retire early. I am as busy as I want to be, I am intellectually stimulated, I travel, I sit as a visiting Judge on occasion. Retirement is good, nothing to be afraid about no matter how much you love your job, there’s more to life! Current Immigration Issues Affecting Children

Continued from page 8

“Since June, USCIS demand for E4 numbers, primarily for Juvenile Court Dependent adjustment of status applicants, has increased dramatically. This has resulted in the E4 annual limit having been reached. Therefore, it has been determined that numbers in the SIJ category will be available to natives of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras whose priority dates are before July 1, 2016.

(1) Dreamers

About a million young people who were brought Immigration continued to the US without authorization many years ago, before the age of 16, who have been living in the United States ever since, are referred to as “Dreamers.” Legislative attempts to legalize the status of this group of young people have been unsuccessful through several Congresses. Legislation maneuvering about their status led to a bill Federal Government shut down in January 2019. Susanna Meissner

On May 13, 1996, the call I’d been waiting for since the death of the former mayor and longtime judge of the county of 20 years came. The boy governor of Michigan called and told me that although I was too young to be a judge, he’d appointed me anyway. At the time, I was the youngest judge in the county and the fifth woman on the Bench.

After mit schlag (a coffee break and desert) at one of Vienna’s oldest cafés, we visited the Belvedere Palace where we saw the breathtakingly beautiful Kunsthistorisches Museum. Ellen opted for the evening concert, which featured musicians, as well as dancers demonstrating the famous Viennese waltz. We all agreed that this magnificent city warranted a return trip.

Art History, and I had never taken it. In my one semester in Grad school, I finally did. I was glad I had already gotten my degree and trained as a paralegal otherwise I might have mapped it in. My friend who did ultimately went to law school.

By Susanna Meissner

In the historic center we saw St. Stephen’s Cathedral. We walked by the stables of the Hofburg Palace where we saw the breathtakingly beautiful Kunsthistorisches Museum. Ellen flatly said for the evening concert, which featured musicians, as well as dancers demonstrating the famous Viennese waltz. We all agreed that this magnificent city warranted a return trip.

To conclude let me tell you a characteristic of the old continent: warm and friendly people (like my traveling companions from NAWJ). It’s really the best of two worlds: security, the value of the art, and the art itself, only the trained docents were allowed to do that! I kept it a secret although I knew I was a bit over qualified knowing that I needed to be there and be visible to secure my place in the next docent training class.

In the fall of 2015, I finally began my training to be a docent. After a year of training, lectures by curators, tours of the museum, reading, testing I graduated in May of 2016 and began my new (volunteer) job. I contribute approximately 500 hours a year, not including prep time, to the museum. I lead public tours, senior tours, work with Veteran’s groups, Alzheimer’s patients and children. We are stationed in galleries to talk about the art, particularly in Rococo Court, the 27 murals painted by the legendary Mexican mural artist, Diego Rivera in 1932-33. I also give talks in the community.

My current “job” is not so different than my previous one: I talk, I eat, I meet a lot of people from different walks of life and I need to know a lot of things.

Last spring, I volunteered for an event at the Museum: the Negligence law section of the State Bar of Michigan hosted an event for lawyers and judges. I wore both my museum ID and a William tag complete with title. The chair was thrilled that I was the lead docent for the event. I showed off my Docent skills for a Sixth Circuit conference and for an ABA Board of Governors dinner. I love when I get to mix my worlds!

Seven years into Life 2.0, I have no regrets about my decision to retire early. I am as busy as I want to be, I am intellectually stimulated, I travel, I sit as a visiting Judge on occasion. Retirement is good, nothing to be afraid about no matter how much you love your job, there’s more to life!

During President Obama’s administration, a policy of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was created by Executive Action for a defined group of these young people, which temporarily shielded those who registered from removal and accorded them work authorization in 2-year increments. While announcing that he wanted to do something to help these young people, President Trump canceled the DACA program on the ground that it exceeded Executive authority and should be taken up by Congress. Cancellation of the DACA program has been stayed by Federal judicial orders while litigation about the program continues. Issues concerning the DACA program are currently on the docket of the Supreme Court for its coming term.

Continued next page

Having my fantasy come true, I was able to indulge my passion as I walked along cold stone streets, experiencing first hand the incredible architecture of epic castles erected centuries ago, one still surrounded by remnants of a protective wall and moat. I got to view visually descriptive images of my favorite historical novels of the 14th and 15th century period: stories of battles and wars fought for land, queen and loved treasures. I saw cathedrals of grandeur built of exquisite pure marble, statues richly adorned with gold, precious jewels and breathtakingly beautiful stained glass windows, many memorializing kings, who built the cathedrals to guarantee their entrance into heaven.

I was awe-struck considering that these magnificent architectural structures were built centuries ago over long periods of time, without modern day tools, equipment and technology. It is incredible to think that these divine edifices have survived wars and other destructive forces of hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, bombing and looted mostly during the 20th century, which is now its name tag complete with title. The chair was thrilled that I was the lead docent for the event. I showed off my Docent skills for a Sixth Circuit conference and for an ABA Board of Governors dinner. I love when I get to mix my worlds! Seven years into Life 2.0, I have no regrets about my decision to retire early. I am as busy as I want to be, I am intellectually stimulated, I travel, I sit as a visiting Judge on occasion. Retirement is good, nothing to be afraid about no matter how much you love your job, there’s more to life!

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Continued from page 8

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Continued next page
During the last Congress President Trump indicated that he would sign legislation that would give some protection to the Dreamers if the bill also addressed the large number of unauthorized border crossers. In 2018, during the Trump administration the name “Dreamers” was not used. Executive Order 13881 titled “Withdrawing Congress’s Authority to Address Family Separation.”

The Senate introduced a bill that would establish a task force to examine the impact of family separations. The Senate version of the bill was passed without a vote on June 5, 2018. It passed a bill titled the “Dream and Promise Act” that would grant lawful permanent residence to the Dreamers. However, the Senate is not expected to take up the bill. After the 2018 Congressional election, the House of Representatives on June 5, 2018 passed a bill that entitled the “Dream and Promise Act” that would grant lawful permanent residence to the Dreamers. Both chambers are unable to renew their DACA status and work authorization.

As NAWJ members, we are exposed to all the work that is done by our organization only at the mid-year and annual conference. But throughout the year, many NAWJ committees are performing important work which embodies the mission of organization. The following examples highlight the work of some of these committees and their ensuing leaders. This work cannot be done without our members. If you see something that interests you, sign-up and get involved!

**NAWJ Committee Updates**

**Awards Committee**

The Awards Committee is chaired by Ariane Vouro. Other members include Judith Chirlin, Debra James, Elizabeth Lee, Brenda Loflin, Janara Moberly, Vanessa Ruiz, and Lisa Walsh.

The committee convened via conference call on August 6, 2019, to discuss the nominations for the Joan Dempsey Klein and Florence K. Murray awards. A unanimous decision regarding the recipients was reached by those who were able to participate on the call. Awards were presented at the banquet during the annual conference in Los Angeles.

**By-Laws Committee**

Judge Julie Franz and Judge Fernande (Nan) Hudson participated in a Judicial Roundtable under the banner of the Judicial Independence Committee, and broadcast on C-Span. Undermining the Courts and the Media: The Consequences for Democracy, a nonpartisan national symposium for judges and journalists at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The historic program, “The Consequences for Democracy, a nonpartisan national symposium for judges and journalists at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.” is part of a variety of resources and model initiatives to strengthen the judiciary so that judicial elections are free and open, and sharing the goals and objectives of the By-Laws Committee, and other interested NAWJ members, for further discussion.

**Committee Spotlight**

Led by co-chairs Justice Robin Hudson, Supreme Court of North Carolina and Justice Debra Stephens, Washington Supreme Court, the Judicial Independence Committee provides leadership to the Informed Voters, Fair Judges Project. The Informed Voter, Fair Judges Project (VP) was the brainchild of Justice Joan Erion of California in 2012. An Emmy Award-winning film was produced under Justice Erion’s leadership. Currently, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor narrated the project. Today the project has evolved into a national education initiative providing a variety of resources and model initiatives to NAWJ members, courts, bar association, and the public at large. Annette Boyd Pitts, Director of Education and the Justice Teaching Center of Florida, serves as the National Education Chair for VP. Other members of the VP leadership team include Chief Justice Tammi Cantil-Sakayan, California Supreme Court, and attorney Linda Leal of Florida.

The committee has had great success this year getting the word out about the project and sharing the goals and objectives of strengthening knowledge of the courts and the judiciary so that judicial elections are free and open, and sharing the goals and objectives of the By-Laws Committee, and other interested NAWJ members, for further discussion.

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Members of the committee also participated in a panel discussion during the American Bar Association Annual Convention as well as in presentations in Florida, California, and North Carolina. They continue to provide new resources both in print and on the internet. If you want to find out more, check out the website at nanj.org.

Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Committee

NAWJ’s Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Committee has expanded its mission statement to ensure that NAWJ is well-informed about juvenile court initiatives that improve the lives of children and families; provide information on standards, practices, and effectiveness of the nation’s juvenile courts; explore, develop, and present educational programs related to the wide range of juvenile justice and child welfare issues in courts and communities; and provide NAWJ with the National Council of Family and Juvenile Courts Judges’ continuing education, research, publications, and technical assistance information with respect to juvenile courts. Committee Chair, Judge Joy Cossuch Lobrano, is excited to be taking on this new leadership role for NAWJ.

Judge Lobrano would like to invite judges to become a member of the committee. The committee is always looking for judges interested in learning more and sharing their knowledge of initiatives that restore the lives of children and families, improve response to juvenile justice and child welfare, and develop effective early intervention, prevention initiatives.

LGBTQ Committee

The recently formed LGBTQ committee, chaired by Judge Kristin L. Rosi, has been toiling this year, working on increasing the committee’s impact and visibility. They presented their inaugural panel at the NAWJ Annual Conference entitled “Judicial Tools for Creating a Bias-Free Courtroom for Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People.” The panel featured Justice Terence Stewart from the California Court of Appeal, Judge Victoria Kolakowski from the Superior Court of Alameda County, Williams Institute Director of Judicial Education Todd Brower, and Judge Kristin L. Rosi, Chair of NAWJ’s LGBTQ Committee.

In addition, the committee hosted a joint reception with the International Association of LGBTQ+ Judges. 1LGBTQ+ President Judge Daniel Anders from the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia, PA was in attendance, along with many other 1LGBTQ+ members.

Membership Committee

Judge Kathy King and Judge Holly Fujie lead the Membership Committee. They are pleased to report that the Membership Committee’s efforts to increase NAWJ membership are going strong! Since a year ago, NAWJ has added 7% new members, and since May 1st alone, 70 new members have joined! Thanks to all of the District Chairs for their hard work in encouraging renewals and bringing in new members—with particular thanks to Judge Barnes in District 5 and Judge White in District 14 who brought in the largest numbers of new members in the past quarter.

Retired/Senior Judges Committee

The Retired/Senior Judges Committee, chaired by Joan Churchill, is a particularly active committee. The committee membership spans the United States from Florida to Alaska, from Massachusetts to California. The members of the committee have a wealth of enthusiasm and willingness to work on its activities. They had meetings in February, April and July by conference call. An in-person meeting was held at the 2019 Annual Meeting in October. Their members have been important contributors to Counterbalance this year, authoring no less than six articles. They organized a 7 day retreat for new members in Palm Desert, CA, which was a huge success.

Generally, conditions at BOP appear strained. The bureau still has an Acting Director after the administration’s choice, Mark Inch, left abruptly in May 2018. In addition, the First Step Prison Reform Act signed into law on December 21, 2018, which allows the early release of thousands of people under specific criteria, has given the bureau a tremendous administrative task. One former Attorney General told a committee that conditions of women in prison is all about money, and it is unlikely that the Federal BOP will get a bigger budget.

All the good projects that NAWJ members are doing locally continued. Judge Sheva Sims, Shreveport City Court, has energized District Six and has successfully recruited women in the district. Counterbalance has featured several articles this year about the work of NAWJ members on women in prison issues.

Nicole Erb

Ms. Erb joined the Resource Board in 2019. She co-leads the international sanctions practice at White & Case LLP in Washington DC. She represents clients in civil and criminal government investigations, voluntary self-disclosures, internal audits and investigations, compliance, licensing and other regulatory matters, as well as complex transnational litigation matters. Her clients comprise foreign states and their state-owned entities, international financial institutions and multilateral corporations in the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Russia, Africa and Asia.

Nicole routinely represents clients before the Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), the Department of Justice, and the Department of State. She advises clients on US sanctions relating to, among others, Crimea, Cuba, Iran, Nicaragua, North Korea, Russia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Venezuela. She also advises on matters involving OFAC’s various sanctions lists, such as the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List and the Sectoral Sanctions Identifications List, including making applications and applications to unlock assets. Nicole also advises on US sanctions legislation including, among others, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act, the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, and the Global Magnitsky Act.

Nicole’s litigation matters typically involve questions under the Anti-Terrorism Act, the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, the Alien Tort Statute, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, The Trading With The Enemy Act, and the act of state and political question doctrines, as well as garnishee and interpleader actions involving OFAC sanctions and blocked assets.

Nicole is one of eight partners on the Firm’s global International Sanctions and Export Controls Practice. She is a graduate of Northwestern University and the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.

Sarah London

Ms. London joined the Resource Board as co-chair in 2019. A partner in Lieff Cabraser’s San Francisco office, Sarah is an experienced advocate for the injured, employees and consumers.

In September, Sarah presented on the health risks associated with e-cigarettes at Harvard’s “UIU, E-Cigarettes & Vaping Conference.” Sarah was also recently appointed by Judge Judith E. Levy to serve on the Class Settlement Committee in In re Flint Water Cases. The federal class action lawsuit seeking justice for the over 100,000 residents of Flint, Michigan who were exposed to seriously elevated levels of lead as a result of insufficient water treatment.

Sarah also serves in lead roles in women’s health cases, including work as court-appointed Liaison Counsel and Interim Class Counsel in the federal class action filed on behalf of families in May against San Francisco’s Pacific Fertility Center over the Center’s March 2018 allegedly negligent destruction of hundreds of frozen eggs and embryos as a result of a leak in a cryogenic storage bank. Sarah also served in a leadership role in successful litigation recovering millions of dollars on behalf of women who suffered serious injuries due to complications from allegedly defective trans-vaginal mesh.

Sarah is experienced in all aspects of trial work, from drafting and arguing motions in limine, opposing Daubert challenges to plaintiffs’ experts and defending defendants’ experts, and serving as lead counsel to writing successful post-trial and appellate briefs A Super Lawyers Rising Star for eight consecutive years and 2015 finalist for the Consumer Attorneys of California Starlighter of the Year Award. Sarah has held multiple leadership positions in CAOC, including her current position as Women’s Caucus Legislative First Vice Co-Chair.

She has served on the Board of Governors and was membership chair of the New Lawyers Division. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the San Francisco/Mary Wenger. Sarah is a graduate of Northwestern University and the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.
**District News**

**DISTRICT ONE (MA, ME, NH, PR, RI)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Mary Dacey White, Brockton District Court, Massachusetts

**DISTRICT TWO (CT, NY, VT)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Robert J. Ciulla, Connecticut Supreme Court, New Haven

**DISTRICT THREE (NJ, PA, MD)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Dian Adam, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

**DISTRICT FOUR (DC, MD, VA)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Elizabeth L. Sighbors, District of Columbia Superior Court

**DISTRICT FIVE (FL, GA, NC, SC)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Mary C. Granville, Superior Court of the State of Georgia

**DISTRICT SIX (AL, LA, MS, TN)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. David S. Casper, Tennessee Supreme Court

**DISTRICT SEVEN (MI, OH, WV)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Mary J. Haines, Ohio Supreme Court

**DISTRICT EIGHT (IL, IN, KY)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Karen D. Murphy, Kentucky Supreme Court

**DISTRICT NINE (IA, IL, WI, MO)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Edward J. Scherer, Iowa Supreme Court

**DISTRICT TEN (NE)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Susan L. Back, Nebraska Supreme Court

**DISTRICT ELEVEN (AZ, NM, TX)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Adria H. Houston, Texas Supreme Court

**DISTRICT TWELVE (OK, AR, LA)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Franklin Neathery, Louisiana Supreme Court

**DISTRICT THIRTEEN (KS, MO, KS, NE, SD)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. David L. Gage, Kansas Supreme Court

**DISTRICT FOURTEEN (CO, UT, WY)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. John F. Kuenzi, Colorado Supreme Court

**DISTRICT FIFTEEN (NV, OR, WA)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. James P. Choate, Oregon Supreme Court

**DISTRICT SIXTEEN (CA, NV)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. William M. McFall, Nevada Supreme Court

**DISTRICT SEVENTEEN (ID, MT, WY, WY)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Michael F. Madsen, Montana Supreme Court

**DISTRICT EIGHTEEN (UT)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Robert A. Grove, Utah Supreme Court

**DISTRICT NINETEEN (NM)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Richard J. Sibilia, New Mexico Supreme Court

**DISTRICT TWENTIES (TX)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. David W. Allen, Texas Supreme Court

**DISTRICT TWENTY ONE (TX, OK, LA, AR)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Linda M. Abbott, Arkansas Supreme Court

**DISTRICT TWENTY TWO (LA, MS, AL)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Charles J. Brown, Louisiana Supreme Court

**DISTRICT TWENTY THREE (GA, FL, NC, SC)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Stephen D. Gravely, North Carolina Supreme Court

**DISTRICT TWENTY FOUR (NC, SC, GA, FL)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. John W. Geeslin, South Carolina Supreme Court

**DISTRICT TWENTY FIVE (NY, NJ, DE)**

**DIRECTOR:** Hon. Mark E. McHugh, New York Supreme Court

President Honorable Tamia E. Levi’s during an annual meeting of the Conference of Chief Justices. Contact her at Germaine.Mendez@magajudicial.pr

Honor Roll 1. Abrams 1930-1991: First Women on the Massachusetts Supreme Court

On August 12, 2019, Judge Mary Lou Mirheid and Justin Brooks were at the premier of the movie “Brian Banks”. The movie tells the story of Brian Banks, a young black man who no contest a charge of rape while he was in high school in California and his quest to have his name cleared. He served his full sentence, but in 2002, with the help of attorney Justin Brooks and the California Innocence Project, he was exonerated. Justin Brooks was at the premier.

New Member Municipal Court Judge Germaine Méndez-Negrón joins NAWJ from Puerto Rico

Orozco-Rodríguez has appointed her to serve in the Technology Advisory Committee and the 2020 Strategic Plan Committee, among other special projects. Since 95% of the Puerto Rican Judiciary are women, she is working together with the Chief Justice on all judicial programs and initiatives that promote gender equality and combat violence in the Island. She joined NAWJ this year after meeting NAWJ.

Hear from Hon. Mary Lou Mirheid and Justin Brooks

On September 10, 2019, NAWJ’s New York Chapter led “Access to Justice” panels, and packaged toiletries that recognized “Access to Justice” panels, and packaged toiletries that featured by Justice Betty Williams (retired) and Judge Cheryl Gonzales.

On July 13, 2019, Justice Carmen Velasquez received the 2019 International Gold Excellence Award from the Peruvian American National Council.
COUNTERBALANCE

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Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigby of Washington, D.C., 2019 NAWSA Champion of Justice Award recipient, welcomed the attendees and looked back on the organization’s history, recognizing the contributions of the organization’s leaders and milestones. Judge Blackburne-Rigby encouraged the audience to continue the organization’s legacy by engaging in the NAWSA’s mission to advance gender equity and justice.

Top photo (l-r): Congressman Jared Kushner; Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard; NAWSA Champion of Justice Award recipient, Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigby, NAWSA Executive Director Connie Pillich, Representative Jamie Herrera Beutler (WA); and Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (WA). Bottom photo (l-r): Rep. Jared Kushner (NJ); Rep. Lorie japon; Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (NY); and Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (IL).

COUNTERBALANCE

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In addition to the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association, other groups that have joined with the NAWSA Women in Washington, D.C. include the National Women's Political Caucus, the National Capitol Chapter of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, and the Women's Legislative Caucus. These organizations support the organization's mission of promoting women's rights and gender equality in the legal profession.

The NAWSA was founded in 1921 to address the needs of women in the legal profession. It is a membership-based organization with chapters in every state and the District of Columbia. The organization's mission is to advance gender equity and justice in the legal profession by promoting the interests of women in the legal field.

The NAWSA holds an annual meeting in Washington, D.C., which is attended by members of Congress, Supreme Court justices, and other leaders in the legal profession. The event provides an opportunity for members to network, share ideas, and learn about the latest developments in the legal field.

The NAWSA is committed to promoting gender equity and justice in the legal profession. The organization's programs and events are designed to educate and empower women in the legal field, and to promote policies that support gender equality and justice.

The NAWSA is a membership-based organization that is open to all women in the legal profession. Members benefit from access to networking opportunities, educational programs, and advocacy initiatives that support gender equity and justice.

The NAWSA is a proud member of the American Bar Association, the National Association of Law Placement, and the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia. The organization is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and has chapters in every state and the District of Columbia.
Augusta Branch Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade. In
hold them hostage. In addition, to ensure families
Judge Heath is innovative and passionate as she
appointed by the Superior Court effective October 1,
organization.
there will be a brief presentation promoting our
– 7:30 p.m. at their offices in Atlanta, Georgia. NAWJ
The women lawyers of Smith, Gambrell & Russell,
2008. She was elected to a third term in 2010,
bench, and was re-elected, without opposition, to a
Circuit of Georgia that
Amanda N. Heath is a
Augusta Program through the local chamber of
Active with the family bar association, Judge Jolly
hosts several bench and bar events each year at her
home. She is active in community efforts and a
strong advocate of public art. She is the current
President of the board of directors of the Greater
Augusta Arts Council.
In 2018, Judge Jolly was invited to serve as a jurist
in the Georgia Supreme Court to hear a openings
major case.
Superior Court Judge Ashley Wright
Augusta Judicial Circuit
Judge Ashley Wright was appointed to the Augusta
Superior Court Circuit Superior bench by Gov. Nathan
deepen and broaden the LBF's work to
the public interest.
JRF's work to
preserve the history, culture and flavor of Louisiana
law. The goal is to put into place a system for
regularly recording oral histories of retiring judges,
bar leaders and related community leaders. The video
presentations will then be available for use in
classrooms, Continuing Legal Education seminars and
other venues to preserve, honor, and improve our
system of justice.

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2020 Nashville Conference Planning Team
Member Elected Presiding Judge
The Louisiana Transition Center for Women
Cosmetology program is set to start around late fall or
early winter. All supplies and equipment have been
purchased with Department of Public Safety &
Corrections and Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI)
funds. The renovation will also be JRI funded, as well
as the train-the-trainer protocol. A certified instructor
educator will bring our offender cosmetologists back
to work gaining their high profile cases and trials. She credits Judge
Ramona Emanuel for her advice, as well as,
Assistant District Attorneys Ed Blewer, Virginia
Washington and Josh Williams for their mentorship. Jasmine
Cooper desires to be a prosecutor.

Professor of Law at the University of Georgia
forms a Committee of Accountability Court Judges to serve
all these programs.

The Appalachian Judicial Circuit also now has
a Family Treatment Court, a Veterans Treatment Court,
and a HELP court (serving those with mental health
problems). There have been over 500 graduates from
all these programs.

Judge Weaver was also awarded the STAR ward at
the Council of Accountability Court Conference. This
award was established to recognize the best of the
best in the various disciplines in the accountability
court model such as a judge, treatment provider,
defense attorney, prosecutor, probation officer, etc.

Judge Pamela Boles
The Honorable Pamela Boles serves on the Forth
Magistrate Court. Judge Boles spoke on the topic of
Court and Martinet
Reigns
Orleans Parish Juvenile
Judge Ernestine S. Gray became a member of NAWJ
on January 1, 2007. She has previously served on
the Women in Prison Committee and the Juvenile Justice
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The Honorable Felicia Toney Williams
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The district’s Women in Prison Initiative donated two books to the Homemade Memorial Library. Friends. The books were presented by the organization’s president, Captain Jim Gavin. The first set of donations totaled five boxes and was presented to the Juvenile Correctional Center for the female inmates. The second set of donations included books, soap, lotion, sanitary items, facial cleanser, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and underwear (all sizes). If you are interested in donating any of the following items: paperback books, soap, lotion, sanitary items, facial cleanser; please contact our office. Other area judges and staff members of the organization are still being collected. If you are interested in donating any of the following items: paperback books, soap, lotion, sanitary items, facial cleanser, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and underwear (all sizes), please deliver the donations to Greater ProVision Christian Church, 3445 Garrott Road, Shreveport, LA 71119 or call (318) 485-7813 to arrange the drop off or pick up of donated items.

Women in Prison Initiative Book Donations

The district’s Women in Prison Initiative received two book donations from the Shreveport Memorial Library. The books were presented by the organization’s president, Captain Jim Gavin. The first set of donations totaled five boxes and was presented to the Juvenile Correctional Center for the female inmates. The second set of donations included books, soap, lotion, sanitary items, facial cleanser, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and underwear (all sizes). If you are interested in donating any of the following items: paperback books, soap, lotion, sanitary items, facial cleanser; please contact our office. Other area judges and staff members of the organization are still being collected. If you are interested in donating any of the following items: paperback books, soap, lotion, sanitary items, facial cleanser, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and underwear (all sizes), please deliver the donations to Greater ProVision Christian Church, 3445 Garrott Road, Shreveport, LA 71119 or call (318) 485-7813 to arrange the drop off or pick up of donated items.

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Correctional Facility. This NAWJ book drives to be used in the Storybook Project for the Women's County Court to the Supreme Court, will again seek numerous other judges and magistrates ranging from District 11 members.

informal meet up at the conference hotel with fellow disseminated at the annual conference during an number “11”. This District 11 accessory will be awarded to Judge Julie Kocurek in honor of Oklahoma Judges. A similar event is planned in the spring for the State Association on Color of Justice sessions included “MentorJet: A supported by the Alaska Bar Association and the professors from Gonzaga University School of Law, of workshops and other activities presented by law professions. Nearly 80 high school students from Anchorage area high schools attended the two days of workshops and other activities presented by law professors from Gonzaga University School of Law, Seattle University School of Law, and University of Washington School of Law. The program is also supported by the Alaska Bar Association and the Anchorage School District. Anchorage area students are coming from Bartlett, East, and West high schools.

Chief Judge of the 17th Judicial District in CO. She is retired, throughout Arkansas have received an overwhelming response from the bench in Colorado.

May 3, 2019 Judge Anderson was sworn in as Chief Judge of the 17th Judicial District in CO. She is the first female chief judge to serve in this district, a large metropolitan district with 33 judicial officers and nearly 400 employees.

DISTRICT THIRTEEN (AK, HI, ID, MT, OR, WA) DISTRICT DIRECTOR: Hon. Pamela Washington, Anchorage Court District, Alaska Email: pwm@akcourts.us

Alaska Judges Honored on All-Women Court of Appeals Alaska women judges from around the state, past and present, gathered at the beautiful home of NAWJ Past President, Retired Chief Judge Dana Faber on August 20, 2019, to celebrate the amazing women judges on the state’s Court of Appeals. It is the first time in its history that all three seats on the appeals court are filled by women. Judge Marjorie K. Allard, a graduate of Yale Law School, was appointed to the court in November 2012, and was the first woman to serve on the court since it was founded in 1980.

On September 19, 2019, NAWJ Member Judge Yolanda Orozco Leads Fall Outreach Efforts to Promote Diversity on the Bench NAWJ Member Judge Yolanda Orozco, Chair of the Los Angeles Superior Court’s Diversity Committee, chaired her Diversity Committee’s fifth summit on “How to Become A Judge”. The judicial appointments agency, Justice Martin Jenkins, Chair of the NE Commission and the LACBA Judicial Evaluations Committee spoke with a panel of three newly appointed judges who discussed their own journeys to becoming a judge.

In 2013, the Diversity Committee hosted its third Young Women’s Leadership Conference at the Mosk Courthouse. One hundred fifty (150) high school young women heard presentations from three women judges who spoke about their journeys to the bench. The young women were also given presentations from the District Attorney’s office, the Public Defender’s office, an LAPD Captain, and the head of the Los Angeles Probation Department on how to achieve success as women while negotiating obstacles and mindfields.
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California Western School of Law, and Santa Clara University School of Law, to name a few. NAWJ Members Speak on Racial Reconciliation Panel A Racial Reconciliation Forum took place on June 19, 2019, where NAWJ and Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge Anita Santos (former NAWJ Vice President of Publications), Contra Costa County Judge Benjamini Reyes, II, NAWJ former President and Contra Costa County-less D.A. Diana Becton, Contra Costa County-less P.D. Robin Lopetogly, and two local attorneys: Robin Pearse (corporate and business litigation) and Philip Anderson (insurance litigation) spoke. The event was sponsored by the Contra Costa County Bar Association Diversity Committee, and was organized and moderated by Ms. Qana Washington, Esq. The event was at John F. Kennedy Law School in Walnut Creek, and had approximately 80 attenders. San Francisco Color of Justice Program The San Francisco Color of Justice Program, chaired by San Francisco Superior Court Judge Charlene Padavani Kiessevart, was held on April 19, 2019. Students attended from Balboa High School, a public high school in San Francisco, and from Holy Names High School, an all-girls private high school in Oakland serving many disadvantaged youth. This half-day program exposed the students to demonstrations by attorneys practicing their skills and candid discussions by judges and lawyers about their path to a career in the law, as well as an opportunity to talk informally with lawyers in small group sessions. The half-day program included a mock closing argument, an interactive discussion with students on whether youth should be treated differently than adults, a judge’s panel discussion on their path to the legal profession and bench, and small group meetings led by practicing attorneys.

The San Francisco Color of Justice was started in 2004 by Judge Charlene Padavini Kiessevart, as the first such program in California. In 2012 it received the Public Service Award by the National Conference of Women’s Bar Associations. The program is jointly sponsored by NAWJ, California Women Lawyer’s, and Queen’s Bench. The generous support of these organizations makes it possible for this program to be presented each year to high school students in the San Francisco area. Today, the program is Co-Chaired by Judges Kiessevart and Solano, proud members of NAWJ and District 14. The other members of the Steering Committee are: Daicuclen Shender Ramey, Kelly Robbins, Robbins Family Law; Eliza Rodrigues, Attorney at Law; and Alice Puryr, Flicker, Kern, Kruger & Bissada.

Fourth Annual Success Inside and Out Workshops NAWJ San Diego held workshops for inmates for the fourth year this past August lead by NAWJ members Commissioner Terre Roberts and Attorney Nadiia Kelani. Along with inspiration and instructions on how to get out of bad relationships, reconnect with others, or for their credit, the day also brought much needed information on available services to a few hundred female inmates at the Lomas Colinas Detention and Re-entry Facility. An added workshop entitled “Healthy Obsessions” was led by NAWJ Projects Chair pessimistic McGuilhins. Commissioner McGuilhins teamed up with the jail’s popular Captain Madison to teach women how to eat healthy on a budget, and form an exercise routine for both physical and mental well-being.

NAWJ President Tamila Ipena was on hand to greet the women, and the audience was also treated to remarks by the Presiding and Assistant Presiding Judges of San Diego County, Peter Dedeh and Lorna Akson, and District Attorney Summer Stephan. Comments from this group made the women realize the importance of this event in our community and how all of us are collectively rooting for them to succeed. Each woman also received a toiletry bag with items donated by L’Oréal Paris.

Hon. Judith C. Chirlin Speaks on Judicial Responsibility at The Vatican Judge Judith Chirlin (Ret.) was part of a delegation from the National Association of Women Judges at a “Pan-American Judges Summit on Social Rights and Franciscan Doctrine” at the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences at the Vatican. She spoke on “Judicial Responsibility in Systems Governed by the Rule of Law.” The highlight of the event was a discussion with Pope Francis on the importance of an independent judiciary. She said, “I believe that the mission of judges is to serve the common good and to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with dignity.”

Judge Holly Fujie Honored by Berkeley Law with Citation Award On June 13, 2019, Judge Holly Fujie received the UC Berkeley School of Law Citation Award—the highest award given by the law school. The award was presented by Dean Erwin Chemerinsky who will be speaking at the Los Angeles Conference on October 18.

Judge M. Margaret McKernon Receives ABA’s 2010 John Marshall Award The American Bar Association (ABA)’s Judicial Division and Standing Committee honored NAWJ member and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Judge, the Honorable M. Margaret McKernon, with the John Marshall Award. The award will be presented at the Judicial Division Awards Luncheon Friday, August 9, 2019 during the ABA’s Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The ABA’s Citation states, “When the WME700 issue hit the judiciary, McKernon was appointed to lead the Ninth Circuit Task Force on the Workplace. U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts later named her to the National Workplace Environment Working Group. “Under her leadership,” Lawyering & Pritchard of the Seattle-area firm of Helsell Fetterman wrote, “the Ninth Circuit is now recognized as a pioneer on a number of key changes in the judicial workplace.” She is nationally recognized for her work on gender issues, judicial ethics and international rule of law. She was instrumental in creating a program to reform the public about court rulings, and the use of electronic media alerts on the federal courts. Judge McKernon chairs the board of the ABA’s Rule of Law Initiative and previously chaired the Latin America Council.

2019 Margaret Brent Achievement Award Justice Judith McConnell, one of the original 100 founding members and a former president of the National Association of Women Judges, and Ms. Kelly M. Darmody, former co-chair and current member of NAWJ’s Resource Board have been named as 2019 recipients of the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. Each year, this award honors up to five outstanding women lawyers who have achieved professional excellence within their area of specialty and have actively paved the way for success for other women lawyers. These women demonstrate excellence in a variety of professional settings and personify excellence on the national, regional or local level.

Hon. Tam Nomoto Schumann Elected President of the California Judges Association Retired Judge Tam Nomoto Schumann of the Orange County Superior Court was elected President of the California Judges Association (CJA) by the group’s Executive. Board. She will serve a one-year term beginning October 13, 2019. Judge Schumann was appointed to the Orange County Superior Court in 1979. She has served on Family, Civil, and Criminal assignments, and is currently sitting on assignment. She graduated from Boalt Hall, University of California, Berkeley. After graduating, she was in private practice with Nossaman, Krueger, Marsh & Rodian then with the Orange County Counsel’s Office. Judge Nomoto Schumann was on the Judicial Council, Chair of the CJA Ethics Committee, and Past President of the American Judges Association. She is currently the Secretary-Treasurer for the California Judges Association.

Miami-Dade Law Library Recognizes NAWJ Members Heather L. Rosing, Esq. and Renne Stachouse, Esq. The Miami-Dade Law Library Foundation will honor NAWJ members at its 2019 Within the Law awards ceremony on October 17, 2019 at the Ham’s Lighthouse in San Diego, CA. Attorney Heather L. Rosing will receive the Law Library’s Excellence in Public Service Award. Attorney Renee Stachouse will be honored for her “Excellence as a Community Change Maker.”

NAWJ Collaborates with Palomar College to Highlight Pathways to Law On April 12, 2019, NAWJ members Commissioner Penni McLaughlin and Judge Michael Washington rolled out a new event for NAWJ that combines civic education elements. The day was funded by an Informed Voter-Four Judges Project with real-world knowledge from the unique perspective of judges in a mentoring segment composed of small groups of five students per judge. Justice Judith McConnell, one of NAWJ’s founding members, spoke to the large group of college students from Palomar College about the importance of an independent judiciary. Justice McConnell showed two videos on the Informed Voter Project that captured the students’ interest. NAWJ President Ipena and San Diego Superior Court

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Presiding Judge Peter Dedeh were on hand to welcome the students and serve with a group of fifteen judicial mentors. This program was coordinated with Palomar College’s “The Pathway to Law” program that aims to create a clear pathway to California’s top law schools for traditionally underrepresented students.

NAWJ San Diego Holds Court-Clergy Conference On May 2, 2019, the San Diego County Superior Court presented its third Biennial Court-Clergy Conference at the Hall of Justice in downtown San Diego. NAWJ member and Co-Chair of the NAWJ Ethics Committee, Judge Laura Halgren chaired this amazing conference that has made a huge difference in the San Diego Community. Eighty-four clergy members attended, representing a wide variety of faiths, including Buddhist, Christian Science, Catholic, Islam, Jewish, Pentecostal, Protestant, non-denominational and many others. Thirty-one judges and commissioners from San Diego County Superior Court participated, either as speakers or luncheon table discussion leaders.

The Honorable Teresa Guerrero-Daley In April, longtime NAWJ member Teresa Guerrero-Daley passed away, she joined NAWJ in 2011 and served on several committees including Judicial Exchanges, International Courts and Domestic Affairs, NAWJ, and the SDHC. After her passing, the NAWJ held a memorial service for her with words honoring her and the work she did for our organizations. This year, the NAWJ will honor her memory at the Division Awards Luncheon.
incarcerated parents to assist in providing better services to practitioners working with incarcerated parents. Judge Downing chairs an Incarcerated Parents Working Group in Los Angeles County, a first of its kind, which was created as a coalition of families, researchers and community organizations to address the impact of parental imprisonment from a global perspective and to create a worldwide network. The first conference of the network was successfully held in 2017 in New Zealand. At this second conference, Judge Downing along with two Children’s Law Center attorneys, Brenda Robinson, and Phyllis Stricklan presented a program on eliminating barriers to reunification and best practices for practitioners working with incarcerated parents. Judge Downing chairs an Incarcerated Parents Working Group in Los Angeles County, a first of its kind, which seeks to eliminate barriers and provide services to incarcerated parents to assist in providing better outcomes for their children in foster care.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR: Hon. Lisette Shirdan-Harris, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Pennsylvania. Email: lisette.shirdan-harris@courts.phila.gov

As we begin another membership year, I will be transitioning from my four amazing years as our NAWJ International Director to our U.S. Delegate to the IAWJ board. My term will end in May 2020 at the IAWJ Biennial Conference in Auckland, New Zealand. At that time, our NAWJ-US Association will nominate and vote on my successor. NAWJ Past President Judge Lisa Walsh, to fill my seat on the IAWJ board and assume her duties as NAWJ International Director. The IAWJ election takes place at our biennial North American regional meeting where we hold a joint meeting with our North American counterpart, the Canadian Chapter of the IAWJ (ISWCC) who will also vote on their Delegate to the IAWJ board. For those attending the Biennial Conference, the regional meeting is a time to meet or get reacquainted with our Canadian Judges. One of the many benefits of NAWJ membership is that does automatically provide membership in IAWJ. The Biennial Conference dates are May 7 – 10, 2020. Early bird registration is now open through January 2020 and more information can be found at www.IAWJ/Auckland.com. The conference will bring judges from around the world for an opening reception followed by three days of sessions on a variety of topics. The conference theme is “Celebrating Diversity” with three sub streams: indigenous issues, human rights, and diversity in the courts.

We are excited to welcome our colleagues from around the world: approximately 34 International judges representing 17 countries. Represented this year are judges from Armenia (3); Costa Rica (2); Democratic Republic of the Congo (1); Georgia (2); Ghana (2); Grenada (1); Hungary (3); Liberia (2); Moldova (1); Morocco (5 including IAWJ Secretary/Treasurer, Judge Mina Saadog; Niger (1); North Macedonia (1); Peru (1); Philippines (5); Saint Lucia (1); Thailand (4). The scholarships continue to be funded by the U. S. Department of State’s ICS/LAP office in Washington, DC or the ICS/LAP office in U.S. Embassies around the world. Special thanks to Shamsa Malikah from the IHL who continues to be instrumental in securing the scholarships and to Judge Judith Chirlin for her long-standing work on the International Outreach Committee. There are several programs at this year’s conference geared toward the international judges. All board members are invited to attend the International Judges Welcome Reception and the International/Neutral Rights Roundtable, which Judge Judith Chirlin and I facilitate.

Since the 2018 Annual Conference in San Antonio, the IAWJ board met in New York in March in conjunction with the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) activities with participation in several sessions. I am just returning from the IAWJ board meeting held in Fez, Morocco at the invitation of the Chief Justice of Morocco. The board meeting was held in conjunction with a meeting of representatives from African countries on the status and challenges facing women in the judiciary. Thanks to Judge Mina Saadog for handling all of the arrangements and hosting the board in Morocco. The time in Morocco also gave us a board’s preview of our 2022 Biennial conference which will be held in Marmelosh.

IAWJ continues to grow with close to 6,000 active members in more than 100 countries represented by 52 associations. There are 795 members in the Africa region, 1,314 in the Asia Pacific region, 422 in the MENA (Europe, Middle East and North Africa) region; 1,947 in the Latin America and the Caribbean region; and 1461 in the North America region.

IAWJ’s international outreach with the NAJFORDHAM Law School collaboration is now in its second year with New York Judges Tammy F. Kennedy; Kathy King; Mirei Tsuchino; Abane Darkeh; Mary J. Kahn; Ellen Gesmer, and Debra James volunteering to meet with international students and Visiting Scholars in their courtrooms. Professor Tani-Jaeger-Fine, Assistant Dean for International and Non-J.D. programs at Fordham serves as the coordinator of the program.

This will be my last annual report, but I look forward to continuing our work to further our collective mission to promote access to the courts and to advance women’s rights to equal justice by eliminating gender bias from judicial systems, and by educating the judiciary about human rights and the role of the judiciary in protecting the rights of women. I am confident Judge Lisa Walsh will represent us well when she begins her term as North American Delegate in New Zealand and I look forward to being a resource as needed. My heartfelt thanks to President Judge Tamila Ijema and the Past Presidents and boards who have worked tirelessly during my tenure. Best wishes to our incoming President Judge Bernadette D’Souza who I am confident will carry on the traditions of force leaders making a difference.

Judge Claudia Caputi speaks on Judicial Decision-making with a Gender Perspective in Argentina

Judge Claudia Caputi, an NAWJ member in Argentina, spoke about “Judicial Decision-making with a Gender Perspective” in a special activity within the “Course for the Judiciary” organized by the Judicial Education and Training Center at the Supreme Court of Justice of the Province of Santa Fe, in the City of Santa Fe, Argentina, on Friday, August 2nd, 2019. In her lecture, Professor Caputi analyzed several court decisions, showing how to focus on cases and reason under a gender perspective, and also how to better rule with this approach.
CONFERENCES

NAWJ annually holds midyear and annual conference to conduct association business, present education programs, recognize accomplishments, and strengthen our social bonds. The following list includes donations made to the National Association of Women Judges by individual, companies and organizations for midyear activities and annual conferences held since May 1, 2018.

2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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