Collaboration Continues at the Sixth Annual Meeting Between the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues and the National Association of Women Judges

July 7, 2011 in the Cannon House Office Building must have been one of the busiest places on Capitol Hill with key House congressional players negotiating the debt ceiling crisis seen making their way back and forth between their offices and committee hearing rooms. Despite the nation's business calling, members of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues (Women's Caucus) joined members of the National Association of Women Judges, government officials, and legal professionals from around the country to discuss areas of mutual concern, share insights on programs to increase the effectiveness of state courts as providers of equal access to justice, and reaffirm the value of the annual joint meeting as an opportunity for each - jurists to representatives, and representatives to jurists – to important knowledge of current activities and interest, and the role each plays in providing justice for all.

NAWJ President Judge Marjorie Laird Carter, California Superior Court, Orange County, joined by fellow Meeting Co-Chair NAWJ Finance Chair Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, District of Columbia Court of Appeals, stood with Congressional Caucus Co-Chair Representative Gwen Moore of Wisconsin to welcome the near 65 attendees of Representatives, congressional staff, judges, government officials and attorneys who assembled in Cannon's elegantly beautiful Caucus Room. Despite another active period on Capitol Hill NAWJ members were joined by devoted Caucus members who included Hon. Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin 2nd District; Hon. Ann Marie Buerkle, New York 25th District, Hon. Lois Capps, California 23rd District; Hon. Donna Edwards, Maryland 4th District; Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas 18th District; Hon. Jean Schmidt, Ohio 2nd District, and Hon. Nikki Tsongas, Massachusetts 5th District.

NAWJ Past President Judge Vanessa Ruiz, District of Columbia Court of Appeals, who is chairing the American Bar Association project to produce Standards for Language Access in Courts, discussed the increasing importance of language access—“roughly 20% of people in the United States, American citizens included, speak a language other than English in their homes” she volunteered. Language access is a growing problem that ignites tension with decreasing court-funding and she stressed, something the congress should be aware of in future appropriations.

The Hon. Susan Carbon, Director of the Office of Violence Against Women at the U.S. Department of Justice, herself a former Supervisory Judge of the New Hampshire Judicial Branch Family Division from 1996 until 2010, informed the audience that “14% of all homicides in the United States are domestic homicides, further offering the idea that “these domestic violence crimes are almost always predictable and therefore preventable.” For her Office, promoting legislation to institute predictive programs is at the forefront of their agenda. Later during the meeting Maryland Representative Donna Edwards would strike a similar prescriptive tone when relaying a story of meeting with young girls who became animated when allowed to share their unfortunate experiences with violence in their homes and families.

Director Carbon reminded all of the resources available to them including the ‘Burgundy Book,” Civil Protection Orders: A Guide for Improving Practice, produced by Office on Violence Against Women and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. The Guide “acknowledges the unique roles performed by professionals throughout the civil legal system, and provides guidance specific to...
Dear NAWJ Members and Friends,

“Nothing ventured, nothing gained.” We are thankful for all who ventured and for all they gained. When women were not allowed to own property, women challenged that. Now we all have that right. When women were not allowed to attend universities, women challenged that and women attended colleges and universities and earned degrees. When women were denied the right to vote, women challenged that and finally gained that right.

NAWJ has represented women and continued the fight for equality. When very few women were appointed to the bench, NAWJ spoke out and focused attention on the issue, encouraging the appointment of women and supporting those who ran. NAWJ reached beyond the bench and became a voice for all women, including those beyond our boarders.

Although we may have started as an organization to support each other and increase our numbers, we have ventured and gained in other areas. NAWJ members have developed many programs and influenced children, students and women everywhere.

Sometimes when we are told we can’t do something, it makes us want to do it even more. And fortunately, we have taken the challenge and succeeded. Throughout history, women have done things they were told they couldn’t do. Courageous women, alone or in groups, have spoken out and made changes, and we must continue to take those chances and make changes. Together we can do even more.

Step back and wait out. NAWJ can make a difference. Each of us can make a difference.

Margie

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

How do we measure success?

NAWJ is a dynamic national organization that has been successfully led for the past thirty three years by outstanding, committed, professional and talented leaders. We can best measure organizational success by the quality of the many programs designed each year by and for NAWJ members with the assistance of legal and corporate entities in the 14 regionally based district communities we serve. Success can also be measured by the superior cutting-edge educational materials distributed to us. These written materials and programs advance our dedicated mission of promoting the judicial role in protecting the rights of individuals under the rule of law through strong, committed, diverse judicial leadership, fairness and equality in the courts, and equal access to justice.

This also helps to reinforce the essential importance of NAWJ’s strong membership and how this support helps to achieve the organization’s goals. Together, the communication and outreach programs speak to the important work and the achievements of the organization.

The NAWJ strategic plan continues to be the road map on how best to utilize NAWJ resources to align with outcomes that will help fulfill the NAWJ mission. This plan provides the organization with a model that helps to facilitate the programmatic work being done throughout the country.

Also included in our outreach initiatives are letters to appointing authorities on the importance of judicial diversity and access to justice and highlights the informative work in the following areas including: immigration, family law issues, domestic violence, human trafficking and women in prison.

NAWJ membership is the life blood of this organization. Together we imagine and continually seek ways to improve the organization.

Marie Komisar

The National Association of Women Judges greatly appreciates the generosity of law firms, organizations and individuals whose multi-year sponsorships allows us to expand the reach of our programs.

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advocates, attorneys, judges and court personnel, law enforcement officers and commanders, and prosecutors, focusing on strategies each discipline can use while operating under the same Guiding Values.“ She also reminded the judges of competitive grants the Office awards to states seeking to improve language access.

NAWJ Projects Chair Judge Joan Churchill (Retired) Immigration Court discussed the issues judges face with immigration to this country. Ambiguities in the law cause problems for immigration judges, and they must work with legislators to generate consistency in courts. NAWJ’s programs to raise awareness of issues surrounding immigration are made possible by the support of the State Justice Institute.

In 2006, then NAWJ President Judge Vanessa Ruiz sought to head off the potentially harmful effects of a perceived gulf in knowledge, understanding and trust that seemed to have broadened and deepened between some members of Congress and the judiciary. Though many state judicial groups had already formed regular joint meetings with women state legislators, on behalf of NAWJ she believed one way to help bridge this gulf would be to bring together in an informal setting in Washington, D.C. the women of Congress and women leaders in the federal and state. Today, the goals of the Meeting still drive NAWJ.

i. To create a forum for the exchange of ideas;
ii. To facilitate mutual knowledge and understanding of the respective roles of Congress and judges of the federal and state appellate and trial courts;
iii. To facilitate, where ethically permissible, common efforts among leaders of the two branches in connection with issues affecting women and their families;
iv. To identify and discuss, from the perspective of each of the respective two branches of government, gaps in legislative or judicial handling of specified issues of particular importance to women and their families, and
v. To facilitate collaborative efforts between leaders of the two branches to educate the public about the roles and challenges of each respective branch of government, and particularly challenging issues facing women legislators and jurists in particular.

Representative Donna Edwards exclaimed in her remarks that “these meetings are important.” Fast becoming one of our most vocal meeting enthusiast Congresswoman Edwards, who after attending last year’s Meeting toured the Maryland’s Correctional Institute for Women with NAWJ member judges, shared how valuable the meetings have been to fellow Caucus members. When the Caucus was deciding whether to begin an engagement with NAWJ it was important that: (a) the relationship would pertain to issues of particular significance to women through maintaining an informed and impartial judiciary that would act impartially with respect to cases with particular impact on women, (b) the relationship would involve judges of both parties and would deal with non-partisan issues, and (c) the relationship would focus on one or more issues of national significance. When New York Representative Ann Marie Buerkle, the Republican Task Force Co-Chair for Human Trafficking addressed attendees on human trafficking her impassioned remarks on children sent away by misinformed and desperate parents, entire families enslaved in India, and young girls from around the world who are promised acting and modeling careers but instead become enslaved were felt by all whether Democrat or Republican. Texas Representative Shella Jackson Lee, a member of the House Judiciary Committee who at present is also a member of their Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement, asked for the judges’ assistance in Committee work on children and families. Though not a priority in the present Congress, she looked forward to judicial contributions in her work in improving the lives of young people.

This year’s meeting would not have been possible without the generous support of Arnot Fox LLP, Dickinson Shapiro LLP, Fulbright & Jaworski L.P., Hunton & Williams LLP, State Justice Institute, White & Case LLP and the Women’s Bar Association of the District of Columbia.

Judicial attendees included Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson, Wisconsin Supreme Court; Judge Sheila R. Tillery Adams, Prince George’s County Circuit Court, Maryland; Senior Judge Rosemarie Amiciotta, Court of Appeals of Virginia, Administrative Law Judge Claudia Barber, District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings; Judge Mariela Bernard, Montgomery County Circuit Court, Maryland. Justice Ann Wald Bradley, Wisconsin Supreme Court; Judge Karon Cris, 25th District Court, Texas. Justice Fernande R.V. Duffly, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, Judge Karen Friedman, Maryland District Court. Administrative Law Judge Caryn L. Hines, District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings; Judge Jennifer Long, District of Columbia, Office of Administrative Hearings; Hon. Rosemary Gambardella, New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department; Hon. Avril Ussery Sisk, Judge (Retired); Judge Sue Pai Yang, New Jersey Workers’ Compensation Court.

The goals of the Meeting still drive NAWJ:

To facilitate collaborative efforts between leaders of the two branches to educate the public about the roles and challenges of each respective branch of government, and particularly challenging issues facing women legislators and jurists in particular.

To create a forum for the exchange of ideas;

To facilitate mutual knowledge and understanding of the respective roles of Congress and judges of the federal and state appellate and trial courts;

To facilitate, where ethically permissible, common efforts among leaders of the two branches in connection with issues affecting women and their families;

To identify and discuss, from the perspective of each of the respective two branches of government, gaps in legislative or judicial handling of specified issues of particular importance to women and their families, and

To facilitate collaborative efforts between leaders of the two branches to educate the public about the roles and challenges of each respective branch of government, and particularly challenging issues facing women legislators and jurists in particular.

Global Women’s Issues

National Association of Women Judges

33rd Annual Conference

October 12 – 16, 2011

Hilton Newark Penn Station
1 Gateway Center, Newark, NJ 07102-5307

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2011
Pre-conference tours of the courts for international judges

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011
2010-2011 Luncheon and Board Meeting – Hilton
Mentor/Mentee Meeting for First-Time Attendees and International Judges
Welcome Reception – Historic Courthouse

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2011
OPENING WELCOME - REMARKS BY NAWJ PRESIDENT HON. MARJORIE LAIRD CARTER, CONFERENCE CHAIR HON. SUE PAI YANG, AND OTHER DIGNITARIES – HILTON
Conversation with leaders on global women’s issues
Friends’ keynote Luncheon – New Jersey Performing Arts Center
New Jersey Highlights Tours (additional fee required)
New York City Tours (additional fee required)
Late night hospitality hosted by 2012 Annual Conference Committee – Hilton

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2011
NAWJ Districts Breakfast Meetings - Hilton

JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG SYMPOSIUM AT RUTGERS SCHOOL OF LAW – NEWARK
Promoting Global Equality for Women Through the Law
Ending Violence Against Women
Ensuring Economic Equality for Women in a Global Society
Prevention of Human Trafficking I
Prevention of Human Trafficking II
(Sponsored by Rutgers School of Law–Newark, International Association of Women Judges and the American Society of International Law)

LUNCHEON

Harvard Law School Professor Annette Gordon-Reed, also former Professor at Rutgers University, will share remarks. A
MacArthur fellow, she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for History in 2009 for her publication
The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2011
NAWJ Committees Breakfast Meetings – Seton Hall

EDUCATIONS PROGRAMS AT SETON HALL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
These programs are dedicated in memory of the late Hon. Shirley Tolenino, NAWJ President 1996-97 and Seton Hall alumnus.

- Judges’ Role in the Following Issues – Breakout Sessions
- Urban Revitalization: Foreclosure Crisis, Access to Education, Prisoner Reentry
- Forensic Evidence: Daubert Issues
- Cross-Cultural Issues in the Courts
- Family Law: Domestic Violence
- Immigration: Its Impact on Families
- Effective Leadership Styles

(Sponsored by NAWJ and Seton Hall University School of Law).

NAWJ Business Meeting and Investiture Luncheon – Don Pepe Restaurant

- 2011-2012 Board Meeting – Hilton
- NAWJ Resource Board Meeting – Hilton

NAWJ Annual Awards Banquet: Keynote Speaker Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg – The Newark Club
Late night hospitality hosted by NAWJ District Three – Hilton

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2011
Farewell Breakfast featuring video montage of the 2011 Annual Conference

NAWJ 2011-2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION SLATE
In accordance with the NAWJ Bylaws, the Nominating Committee presents the following Nomination Slate for the 2011-2012 Board of Directors:

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Members of the Nominating Committee include: Hon. Dana Fabe, Alaska Supreme Court, Chair; Hon. Judith Chirlin, California Supreme Court (Retired); Hon. Jane Craney, Morgan Superior Court, Indiana; Hon. Bernadice Donald, U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee; Hon. Carol Feinman, News, New York State Supreme Court; Hon. Rosemary Leder, Civil District Court, Louisiana; Hon. Brenda Stith Loftin, St. Louis County Circuit Court, Missouri; Hon. Brenda Murray, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; Hon. Cara Lee Neville, 4th Judicial District Court, Minnesota; Hon. Mary M. Schoeller, U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, Arizona; Hon. Bea Ann Smith, Third Court of Appeals, Texas (Retired).

2011 NAWJ AWARD RECIPIENTS

JOAN DEMPSEY KLEIN NAWJ HONOREE OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT
Hon. Judith Kaye (Chief Judge, New York Court of Appeals, Retired)
The award honors a judge who brings distinction in their office and in the National Association of Women Judges as exemplified by NAWJ co-founder California Court of Appeals Justice Jean Dempsey Klein.

ELAINE MERLIN FLORENCE K. MURRAY AWARD RECIPIENT
Elaine Merlin, Esq., Partner, Dickstein Shapiro LLP
The award is presented annually to a nominee who is not a judge, and who has, by example or otherwise, influenced women in pursuit of legal careers, opened doors for women in the legal profession, or advanced opportunities for women within the legal profession.

Elaine Merlin is Co-Chair of NAWJ’s Resource Board and has been an active member since 2006. She is a partner in Dickstein Shapiro’s Business Litigation and White Collar Practice where she has practiced law for 27 years. In 2006, she was named Washington, D.C. head of Dickstein Shapiro’s Women’s Leadership Initiative, and was recognized in October 2008 in Profiles in Diversity Journal’s 7th Annual Women Worth Watching issue which honored leaders from many industries who are “determined and compassionate.” She also is a founding member of the District of Columbia Chapter of Women’s Leadership Initiative and Mentoring Alliance, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to cultivate networking, mentoring, and career development opportunities for women across industries. Ms. Merlin is a life-long and passionate advocate for women. She has counseled victims of rape and abuse victims and spent hundreds of pro bono hours seeking to protect and preserve women’s reproductive rights. She has served as a mentor and role model for women since she entered law school as a single mother of a two-year-old daughter in 1980. In the mid-90’s, she was instrumental in drafting her firm’s cutting edge policy on alternative work arrangements, where women could work on a schedule reduced as much as 50 percent and still be on partnership track. She and her firm are generous supporters of NAWJ, contributing both time and resources. Dickstein Shapiro hosted an original panel on administrative courts for NAWJ judges, friends and other Washington, D.C. law firms, increasing NAWJ’s visibility in the Washington, D.C. legal community. Her firm has also been a strong supporter of NAWJ Conferences and Meetings, and has been a Landmark Sponsor for many years.

Landmark Sponsor for many years.
REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Attendee registration fee includes all educational sessions, receptions, meals, transportation to events listed in the program and use of the hospitality suite. Guest registration fee includes all of the above except educational sessions.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE AND LATE REGISTRATION
Registration forms postmarked after the registration deadline of September 16, 2011 must include a $50 late registration fee.

CANCELLATION POLICY
If notice of cancellation is received after September 16, 2011, the registration fee, less a $50 processing fee, is refundable. Cancellations received within 3 days of the conference are refundable less a $100 processing fee.

LODGING
Rooms at the Hilton Newark Penn Station have been guaranteed at the rate of $170.00 plus applicable state and local taxes, single or double occupancy. For reservations call (973)-622-5000 and state that you are with the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ). Reservations must be made on or before Wednesday, September 28, 2011, or guarantee the conference rate (subject to availability). The group rate is being offered three days pre/post based on availability.

REGISTRATION
(You may register online at www.NAWJ.org.)

Please print your name and title as you wish them to appear on your name badge.

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COUNTERBALANCE Fall 2011
9

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING
by Jill Laurie Goodman

Creating a comprehensive portrait of human trafficking is a difficult undertaking. Identifying traffickers, trafficking operations, and victims is an initial and major obstacle. Trafficking is an underground activity, intentionally hidden from outside eyes. Victims rarely break free, and, when they do, they are often too wary of authorities or too traumatized by experience to be able or willing to describe publicly or even privately what happened to them. Researchers have relatively small data bases from which to work, and the cases on which they depend inevitably reflect the biases of their sources, including those of laws and law enforcement. The many guises of human trafficking and the numerous cultures within which it flourishes complicate the work of researchers further. Trafficking can be found in virtually every inhabited corner of the globe. It can take place within the borders of a single nation, state, or city, or it may involve transit through, and exploitation within, multiple countries or regions. Researchers also must contend with conflicting definitions of trafficking, which vary in fundamental ways from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and nation to nation. As a result, different studies of trafficking invariably examine different populations, making comparisons among findings difficult.

Nonetheless, a fair number of reports, books, and articles on human trafficking have been published in recent years, and a body of knowledge is developing. Some scholars extrapolate from known cases to develop estimates about the extent of trafficking, while others summarize information about a limited number of uncovered instances of trafficking. From these kinds of work, a portrait emerges of a phenomenon, both local and global, that ultimately bears responsibility for massive violations of human suffering.

The Extent of Global Trafficking
Understanding the Reach of Human Trafficking

The United States Department of State issues yearly reports that document in rich detail the kinds of trafficking within, into, from, and through over 170 countries. The individual country descriptions provide data points demonstrating that human trafficking is common and that it takes many forms throughout the world. For example, trafficking in some fairly remote places, the State Department’s Trafficking in Persons Report for 2009 finds that women and girls in Sierra Leone are trafficked internally for forced labor and fishing; as well as begging and low-level street crime. Men and boys in Mali are part of a tradition of debt bondage in salt mines. Women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh are trafficked to India into the commercial sex industry, and low-status and poor Indian women and children are trafficked internally for forced marriages as well as other kinds of sexual exploitation. Cambodian children are transported to Thailand and Vietnam where they are made to beg, sell flowers, or shine shoes, while the sale of virgin to sex tourists visiting Cambodia thrives on fees of $800 to $4,000 per purchase. Brazil’s children are trafficked internally for sexual exploitation in resorts, along highways, and in Amazonian mining brothels.

Developed countries too are part of the trafficking underworld described in the State Department reports. Australian men marry foreign women and bring them into prostitution or domestic servitude. Moroccan men are lured to Italy where they are forced to sell drugs. St. Petersburg and Moscow are destinations for Russian, Ukrainian, and Moldavian children used for sexual exploitation and begging. Men are trafficked into Belgium for exploitation in restaurants, bars, sweatshops, fruit farms, and construction. Mongolian victims are found in Germany, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel, while South Korean and Japanese men visit Mongolia as sex tourists. Closer to home, Canadian aboriginal women and girls are trafficked internally into the sex industry where they are forced to sell drugs. St. Petersburg and Moscow are destinations for Russian, Ukrainian, and Moldavian children used for sexual exploitation and begging. Men and boys in the United States are trafficked internally for forced labor and fishing; as well as begging and low-level street crime. Men and boys in Mali are part of a tradition of debt bondage in salt mines. Women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh are trafficked to India into the commercial sex industry, and low-status and poor Indian women and children are trafficked internally for forced marriages as well as other kinds of sexual exploitation. Cambodian children are transported to Thailand and Vietnam where they are made to beg, sell flowers, or shine shoes, while the sale of virgin to sex tourists visiting Cambodia thrives on fees of $800 to $4,000 per purchase. Brazil’s children are trafficked internally for sexual exploitation in resorts, along highways, and in Amazonian mining brothels.

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What We Know About Human Trafficking

The Trafficking in Persons Report, while an important document that provides critical data about human trafficking, is not without its limitations. Many of the stories it contains are based on information provided by trafficking victims, who often have limited knowledge about the trafficking networks that exploit them. As a result, the report may not capture the full extent of trafficking in any given country. Additionally, the report relies on information provided by foreign governments, which may not always be accurate or complete. Despite these limitations, the Trafficking in Persons Report remains an important tool for understanding the scope and nature of human trafficking.

The report includes information on the number of trafficking victims in each country, the types of trafficking activities reported, and the penalties for trafficking offenders. It also provides information on the measures that governments are taking to combat trafficking, including laws and policies that are in place to protect victims, and resources available to help victims

The report also includes a section on the role of foreign governments and international organizations in combating human trafficking. It highlights the efforts of countries such as the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom to address the problem of human trafficking, and provides examples of best practices that other countries can learn from.

In conclusion, the Trafficking in Persons Report is an important resource for understanding the scope and nature of human trafficking. While it is not a perfect document, it provides critical information that can help governments and international organizations better understand the problem and develop effective strategies for combating it.
for human trafficking research and programs, said in its most recent report that it is premature to make estimates of the scope of the problem because of gaps in data.

Most attempts to quantify human trafficking begin by trying to count its victims using complicated sampling methodologies.6 The most authoritative but admittedly problematic figures on the number of global victims come from the 2005 estimates of the International Labour Office (ILO), an arm of the United Nations. According to these figures, which the ILO characterized as minimums, the total number of victims of “forced labour” was 12.3 million, and the number of victims of “trafficking” was 2.45 million.7 The ILO researchers themselves viewed these estimates as most useful for stimulating discussion than for settling questions, and four years later the ILO was still struggling to find ways to provide reliable data.8 Among the problems the ILO’s concepts of “forced labor” and “trafficking,” the ILO defines “trafficking” too narrowly to include the universe of victims covered by international, federal, or New York State definitions while the ILO’s figure for “forced labor” is too broad. Also, the ILO only counts victims that involves movement of victims and so discounts a substantial portion of domestic trafficking.9 Nor has the United States government been able to produce satisfying estimates. The number of 600,000 and 800,000 victims cited by the Department of State’s Trafficking in Persons Reports in 2005 and 2006 and still often cited under harsh criticism from the United States Department of State. The Department of Justice’s February 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report simply refers to the ILO numbers without endorsing them, and the 2010 Report relies on them as well.10

Demographics of Trafficking Victims

Girls and women often are important links in the networks of trafficking victims and instances and victims. Estimates from the four major international sources of data on victim profiles, the U.S. government, the ILO, UNODC, and the International Organization for Migration, for cases involving sexual exploitation accounts for the greatest number of known victims.11 According to the ILO, which defines “trafficking” to mean “sex trafficking,” the ILO’s figures for human trafficking is for commercial sexual exploitation, 32% for labor exploitation, and 25% for mixed labor and sex trafficking.12 UNODC in its 2009 TIP Report, 13 which is the generally recognized definition of trafficking, found that 79% of reported victims are exploited in commercial sex and 18% in forced labor.14 United States Department of Justice figures are similar. Of United States trafficking incidents reported in 2007-08, the latest reporting period, 83% were incidents of sex trafficking and 12% were labor trafficking, with 5% designations of mixed.15

While figures on the basic character of trafficking victims and incidents are in agreement, UNODC has suggested that the available numbers on sex versus labor trafficking may be regional differences and may mask the extent of labor trafficking.16 Estimates necessarily rely in one or the other, on the small subset of trafficking incidents that is uncovered, which may represent an atypical sample of trafficking cases. One limited number of gender studies of victims in the United States and South American countries into the United States across the southwestern border, found that trafficking victims for labor outnumber those for sex trafficking.17

Sources agree that an overwhelming number of reported victims are female and that women and girls are the majority of labor trafficking as well as sex trafficking victims. Female victims are cited as more vulnerable to victimization, and are often kept in servitude and forced to work in sweatshops, restaurants, and agriculture. The ILO reported that women and girls are 98% of those interviewed for sexual exploitation, but also 56% of victims of labor trafficking.18 UNODC’s 2009 Report documents a similar disparity: between 84% and 88% of female victims in the years from 2003 to 2006 were women or girls.19 The disproportionate number of female victims was sufficiently noteworthy for the U.S. Department of State to devote a special section in its 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report to the gender imbalance in human trafficking.20 The report ascribes the vulnerability of women to their lack of integration into society, their vulnerability to violence, and their economic need. Children, too, are victims of trafficking in large numbers. International and federal laws define trafficking asprofiting from the participation of anyone under the age of 18 in commercial sex. The estimate commonly used is the UNICEF figure of more than 2,000,000 children exploited yearly in the global sex industry.21 But children are overwhelmingly exploited for forced labor, as they are forced to beg or commit petty crimes, used in industries such as fishing, gold mining, and brick making, or turned into child-soldiers by rebel armies.22 The ILO estimates that 40% to 50% of those in its category of “forced labour” are children.23

Traffic Prosections

The United States government annually counts both worldwide and domestic trafficking prosecutions and convictions, and the numbers are woefully low. The 2010 U.S. TIP Report, in its worldwide figures of 256 prosecutions and 166 convictions; the number of prosecutions was lower than in 2003, the first year in which the United States reported data on a global law enforcement efforts, while the number of convictions was somewhat higher.24 For 2009, the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Division reported charges brought against 114 individuals for 22 sex trafficking cases and 21 labor cases.25 In addition, the Justice Department reports separate law enforcement figures for cases of child sexual exploitation. In 2009, there were 126 convictions for sex trafficking and 106 children were identified through the joint federal and state law enforcement efforts.26 The experiences under New York State’s Human Trafficking Law are consistent with the low figures for trafficking or who encounter its victims. Together these studies mark by physical or sexual abuse, neglect, or parental substance abuse are common among international trafficking victims, and many victims were subjected to sexual abuse or rape by someone they knew before they met their recruiters.28 Indigenous people and ethnic minorities are vulnerable across the globe.29 As one UN official said, “Traffickers fish in the stream of migration.”30 War, civil strife, political upheaval, and natural or environmental disasters create fertile ground for trafficking.31

Age itself is a risk factor. Children, who are dependent on the adult world and subject to the authority of families, are highly vulnerable to being lured or fooled into a situation that may be attractive or even tolerable to them. At the same time, other factors are present in the lives of these children, such as family poverty, institutionalization, or displacement from abuse or neglect.32

Poverty is another risk factor and among the biggest contributors to poverty and displacement. Unlike some forms of international trafficking, is from less developed countries, usually in the global south and east, to more developed countries, usually in the global north and west. Countries in the former Soviet Union nations, Southern and Eastern Europe, South America, Western Africa, and Southeast Asia, while the most wealthy and highly developed countries, are the most common home for these bases for this operations.33 A single organization may employ specialists who find victims, recruiters who persuade and transport them, and managers who maintain and control the victim, while others may operate independent businesses.34

In between are any number of possible models with varying degrees of structure and collaboration among traffickers. Some trafficking is done through a network of independent contractors rather than as an integrated business. Recruiters may limit themselves to procuring victims and selling them to intermediaries for quick profits, a business model often found in the former Soviet Union nations.35 Recruiters document the operation of trafficking networks and the former Soviet bloc decades from now on. It is crucial that the entire global community work together to put an end to this practice by ending the cycle of violence and exploitation to which these women, girls, and boys are subjected.

In Asia, brothel owners may recruit children themselves, they may delegate recruitment, or they may work through agents.36 In some trafficking networks, agents may themselves be recruiters and take responsibility for only one leg of a multi-national journey. Women in transit destined for sexual exploitation may be sold by their families, agents, or brokers in limited ways, some may be sold or leased to a single man, others may be allowed to choose their own clients.37

Loose citywide, national, or regional networks in the United States seem to support domestic traffickers and link them to broader national or international networks. Domestic traffickers may also use social media, phone calls, or text messages to the include its victims in domestic trafficking. The United States government annually counts both worldwide and domestic trafficking convictions and convictions, and the numbers are woefully low. The 2010 U.S. TIP Report, in its worldwide figures of 256 prosecutions and 166 convictions; the number of prosecutions was lower than in 2003, the first year in which the United States reported data on a global law enforcement efforts, while the number of convictions was somewhat higher.24 For 2009, the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Division reported charges brought against 114 individuals for 22 sex trafficking cases and 21 labor cases.25 In addition, the Justice Department reports separate law enforcement figures for cases of child sexual exploitation. In 2009, there were 126 convictions for sex trafficking and 106 children were identified through the joint federal and state law enforcement efforts.26 The experiences under New York State’s Human Trafficking Law are consistent with the low figures for trafficking or who encounter its victims. Together these studies mark by physical or sexual abuse, neglect, or parental substance abuse are common among international trafficking victims, and many victims were subjected to sexual abuse or rape by someone they knew before they met their recruiters.28 Indigenous people and ethnic minorities are vulnerable across the globe.29 As one UN official said, “Traffickers fish in the stream of migration.”30 War, civil strife, political upheaval, and natural or environmental disasters create fertile ground for trafficking.31

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Vulnerability to Domestic Trafficking

Gender and age also predispose victims within the United States to trafficking for commercial sex, the form of most documented domestic trafficking. Like girls and women abroad, United States victims are trafficked to meet the demand generated by customers willing to buy women and children for commercial sex, and girls in prostitution are likely to be under the control of pimps. Youth also makes individuals vulnerable. The majority of people in prostitution entered before they turned 18 years old, many well before, and any sexual exploitation of children under 18 is trafficking under federal and international law.

In the United States as well as abroad poverty itself is a major risk factor, and so is the kind of family dysfunction that correlates to poverty. Common among domestic sex trafficking victims are children who are run away from, or become homeless, families with high levels of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect, often these are homes where substance abuse or domestic violence is prevalent. Immigration puts people at risk within the United States as well as in other countries. People who have fled their home country to flee violence, are vulnerable to traffickers. Victims may have been abducted or kidnapped. More often the process is subtle. Violence is one method of acquiring human beings for trafficking purposes. Another method is the promise of employment. Traffickers take advantage of vulnerabilities found in people who are looking for work. Traffickers are particularly effective. Victims who have been taken across multiple borders are often completely lost to family members who might try to locate them. Once commercial exploitation begins, traffickers keep victims on the move, and the changes of locale can be so frequent that victims have no idea where they are. Victims are often confined by their traffickers, and their movements are restricted; they may be constantly watched and allowed outside only if closely guarded. They are often prevented from calling or communicating with people they know, even when family and friends are near. Victims exploited in prostitution are often given new identities. Abuse also takes the form of depriving victims of life's most basic necessities, including food, sleep, and shelter. Not only may victims be kept hungry and exhausted, they may be forced to live in places that are dirty, overcrowded, and frequently change. This may also be the case when victims work, sleep in beds they use to service customers in brothels, or spend their nights on floors. Debt bondage is common, and victims who rarely see money are left without means to buy basic personal items, such as soap or tampons. Drugs and alcohol play major roles in the subjugation of trafficking victims, and in sex trafficking they are a nearly universal presence. Traffickers sometimes prey on poor and minority populations, parents that they believe to be weak and children with addictions, but recruiters, particularly in the transnational trade, may prefer healthier, more attractive victims and those who are easier to control. Recruiting is a critical part of trafficking operations. Both giving drugs and withholding drugs are effective and commonly used means of maintaining control over victims. Drugs and alcohol can render the victim temporarily physically and emotionally powerless, and many victims have been psychologically traumatized. Drugs and alcohol can contribute to a downward spiral evident in the compromised physical, emotional, and spiritual development and the ability to think, remember, and respond to overwhelming traumas. Victims who have experienced many traumatic events are at highest risk for untreated physical and psychological problems that persist. Over 70% of the victims reported mental health symptoms indicative of depression, anxiety, and hostility.122 Following these researchers, “[w]omen's psychological reactions were multiple and severe, and compare to, or exceed, symptoms experienced by torture victims.”123 Symptoms of post-traumatic stress were common, and 56% of the victims met the clinical definition of post-traumatic stress disorder.117

Studies Most stories and reports on human trafficking devote space to the horrific impact of trafficking on individuals, including vulnerable populations such as runaway and homeless youth, immigrant workers, and 25% for mixed labor and sex workers. Yet a lack of complete knowledge is no excuse for inaction. We have already discussed forms of human trafficking and the long list of symptoms found among victims who have experienced trafficking. We have acknowledged the devastating impact of being trafficked. Authors of an important study on the health effects of trafficking concluded that their findings “are startling in the brevity but not in the scale of the harm . . . [A]s a result of this study, in the first weeks post-trafficking, 57% of the victims interviewed had at least twelve physical health symptoms causing them pain or discomfort.”135 Among these were fatigue and weight loss. Four-fifths of victims had central nervous system problems including headaches, memory loss, and other symptoms, and 25% reported gastrointestinal problems that proved persistent. Over 70% of the victims reported mental health symptoms indicative of depression, anxiety, and hostility.122 Following these researchers, “[w]omen's psychological reactions were multiple and severe, and compared to, or exceed, symptoms experienced by torture victims.”123 Symptoms of post-traumatic stress were common, and 56% of the victims met the clinical definition of post-traumatic stress disorder.117

Conclusion The relatively new field of research in human trafficking already has produced valuable data, useful to practitioners and policymakers alike. For example, knowing how often trafficking victims receive education and support services, their vulnerability to disease, including HIV/AIDS, and the physical and emotional trauma they experience. Agricultural workers may suffer disabilities from overwork, accidents from machinery, or poisoning from pesticides. Victims exploited in the sex industry are at high risk for sexual transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS, and gynecological disorders, and customer-perpetrated violence. Prostitution, the sex trade, and sex trafficking victims are vulnerable to the psychological, emotional, and physical violence that occurs in these labor situations. Victims of life's most basic necessities, including food, sleep, and shelter. Not only may victims be kept hungry and exhausted, they may be forced to live in places that are dirty, overcrowded, and frequently change. This may also be the case when victims work, sleep in beds they use to service customers in brothels, or spend their nights on floors. Debt bondage is common, and victims who rarely see money are left without means to buy basic personal items, such as soap or tampons. Drugs and alcohol play major roles in the subjugation of trafficking victims, and in sex trafficking they are a nearly universal presence. Traffickers sometimes prey on poor and minority populations, parents that they believe to be weak and children with addictions, but recruiters, particularly in the transnational trade, may prefer healthier, more attractive victims and those who are easier to control. Recruiting is a critical part of trafficking operations. Both giving drugs and withholding drugs are effective and commonly used means of maintaining control over victims. Drugs and alcohol can render the victim temporarily physically and emotionally powerless, and many victims have been psychologically traumatized. Drugs and alcohol can contribute to a downward spiral evident in the compromised physical, emotional, and spiritual development and the ability to think, remember, and respond to overwhelming traumas. Victims who have experienced many traumatic events are at highest risk for untreated physical and psychological problems that persist. Over 70% of the victims reported mental health symptoms indicative of depression, anxiety, and hostility.122 Following these researchers, “[w]omen's psychological reactions were multiple and severe, and compare to, or exceed, symptoms experienced by torture victims.”123 Symptoms of post-traumatic stress were common, and 56% of the victims met the clinical definition of post-traumatic stress disorder.117

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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JUSTICE BARBARA LENK'S REMARKS

JUSTICE BARBARA LENK'S SWEARING-IN REMARKS, JUNE 8, 2011

That it has come shows the vitality of America's promise: we remain a country where anything is possible. Even that, for the first time, someone of openly Polish heritage can sit on the bench of this court of this Commonwealth.

It is, in any event, probable fair to say that my application for this position posed the question, as in the song we heard moments ago, “Why can’t I?” Governor Patrick, I thank you most sincerely for responding: “You can.” I will do everything in my power over the next decade to live up to your confidence in me.

That I have reached this place is due to the people who have helped me all along the journey. It has taken far more than a village. It has taken a lifetime of family, friends, teachers, neighbors, colleagues, the larger legal community, and fellow citizens, who have blessed me with their generosity. This room is filled with people to whom I owe an endless debt of gratitude.

The 20th century theologian Abraham Heschel has said “It is gratefulness that makes the soul great.” If that is right, then my soul is trending in an awfully good direction, replete as it is with thankfulness, full to overflowing with gratitude.

Chief among my blessings are my spouse, Debra, and our daughters, Katie and Julia, in whom women they are becoming is our greatest satisfaction. Debra, Katie and Julia are, for me, the center of the center, the rock on which the family rests. I was 37 when I found my life with her and, this fall, we will celebrate our 24th anniversary, our 7th legally married.

My parents believed that every person, no matter how they dressed or what they did for a living, was to be treated with courtesy, dignity and respect. They believed in family and country, in the dignity of work, and in the power of education. They made sure that I did too. So when my father died unexpectedly at the age of 52, leaving my mother to raise me — then 16 — without any source of income other than Social Security, my mother’s true colors showed through. Not once did she suggest that I just finish high school and go out to work.

There are no heroes in this room. The French order of nuns, the Daughters of Wisdom, who associated with such luminaries as John Adams and Oliver Wendell Holmes. I am very mindful that I assume the seat vacated by the eminent Justice Judith Cowin, whose decision to change course and become a lawyer instead of being a live-in housekeeper to wealthy families. She had independence and her own money, a woman ahead of her time. Armed with an 8th grade education, she headed off at 16 for New York City, and supported herself for the next 20 years as a live-in housekeeper to wealthy families. She had independence and her own money, a woman ahead of her time.

She worked as an over sewing machine operator at the book binders, my mother at the age of 56 returned to manual labor. My father’s lap by looking at the comic strips, and we spent many life turning out books that were bound just-so. All of the work of one’s hand, if done well, has dignity and brings pride. Work. I learned from my parents that they were duty bound to leave the world not only when I came out, but also when I became part of a family. They helped me win a fellowship that paid for four years of college and for life, insisting that we were duty bound to leave the world not less and worse but greater and more beautiful than when it was given to us.

The Jesuits at Fordham, who encouraged and guided me, who helped me win a fellowship that paid for four years of graduate school, and who then supported me in my decision to change course and become a lawyer instead of a college professor.

The lawyers and staff at Brown Rudnick where I practiced law for fourteen years, where I was given room to grow and flourish, learning from master lawyers how to be a good lawyer, and being elected over and again by my partners to help manage the firm itself.

The judges and staff of the Superior Court who serve on the front lines of justice. Having been there, I appreciate the daunting challenges that all trial court judges and staff face and I have the highest regard for what they do every day.

What was a loving woman whose gift for making a family drew all of us close as she wrapped us in her warmth. Debra’s dad, Mayer, here today from Minneapolis, and whom I looked upon as a second father, shows us by his steady example how to be a spouse, a parent, a father-in-law, a grandfather, a friend, a man, a mensch. And we are blessed to fill our lives with such seats here with family and lifetime friends, who are to us as family, many of kind people that I have been given countless opportunities. Let me touch on just some of these.

The French order of nuns, the Daughters of Wisdom, who inspired us to believe that girls from families like mine could do anything. The Daughters of Wisdom, who helped me win a fellowship that paid for four years of graduate school, and who then supported me in my decision to change course and become a lawyer instead of a college professor.

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Later at the swearing-in ceremonies when I became a Superior Court and Appeals Court judge. No one was happier than she to have grandchildren.

My parents gave me the gift of keeping on giving and, though neither has lived to see this day, they — like Debra’s mom — are very much here with us in spirit. Their grandchildren are now the heirs to their legacy of values, the same values that Debra is a loving woman whose gift for making a family drew all of us close as she wrapped us in her warmth. Debra’s dad, Mayer, here today from Minneapolis, and whom I looked upon as a second father, shows us by his steady example how to be a spouse, a parent, a father-in-law, a grandfather, a friend, a mensch. And we are blessed to fill our lives with such seats here with family and lifetime friends, who are to us as family, many of kind people that I have been given countless opportunities. Let me touch on just some of these.

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The members of the Appeals Court family with whom I have worked for fifteen years. Justice is the work of many hands and the shared devotion to excellence manifest in the Appeals Court has quieted improved everything that I touched, from administrative matters to full opinions. It is wrenching for me to leave these fine people.

Let me now speak of those kind people whose words on my behalf more recently have made a world of difference for me, without whom I would not now be changing jobs.

Every time in the last few years that a vacancy on the Supreme Judicial Court was announced, I learned to expect three calls. Each caller would say – ‘You are applying, aren’t you?’ You have to apply.’ And, ‘What can I do to help?’ If I was too vague in my response, the calls would just keep coming, as they did anyway, to keep track of my progress.

The application process is, as it should be, time consuming and arduous. It was as if every time I needed to cross a river and didn’t know how to do it, a boatman would somehow appear to take me to the other side.

And I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the enormous help I have been given in organizing today’s events by Maura Doyle, Suzanne Brown, the court officers of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Appeals Court, and most especially by Monique Duarte, the executive assistant to Chief Justice Kapozza, and my long time secretary, Ann Hogan.

Let me end by speaking about the future. We stand in this magnificent building dedicated to providing justice for all who enter. Each day before the court’s session begins, court officers at the Supreme Judicial Court, as they do throughout the Commonwealth, give their time-honored cry: ‘Hear ye, Hear ye, Hear ye. All persons having anything to do before the Honorable, the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, draw near, give your attendance and you shall be heard. God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.’ And upon entering the courtroom of the Supreme Judicial Court, litigant and lawyer alike see the words of John Adams: our judges are to be ‘as impartial as the lot of humanity will admit.’

The court officials’ cry and John Adams’ words must be more than aspirational. We must realize them. We must make sure that the promise of access to justice is kept. You shall be heard. We must decide each case independently, impartially and respectfully, remaining faithful to the rule of law and constitutional demands.

Our much loved and admired colleague, Justice Benjamin Kaplan, would say to his law clerks: ‘Why are we here? We’re here to make a difference!’ I, too, am a judge because I want to make a difference. As a judge, my only allegiance is to the rule of law and to the fair and equal treatment of all who come before the court. Judges have no constituencies other than those who seek justice and there can be no thumbs on the scale. At the same time, each person who wears a judicial robe has had life experiences that leave their mark. Mine have been rich and varied, bridging many divides, and these experiences enable me to see things from many perspectives. I understand fully that the law is not an abstract academic exercise and that, instead, it has immense practical impact on human lives. I also understand that the law belongs to all of us.

You are all witnesses to the oaths I have taken today. To this I add the promise to follow the advice I received when I first became a judge. As I have each day since then that I have taken the bench, I will remember to do four things: to hear courteously, answer wisely, consider soberly, and decide impartially.

Thank you.
Finally, New York eagerly anticipates the 33rd Annual Conference in our neighboring State of New Jersey and has put together a “New York State of Mind” component offering free-time alternatives including Broadway, Harlem and Ground Zero. Thank you to committee members Tanya Kennedy, Shari S. Roman, Carol Feinman and Phyllis Orloff-Klug for organizing these outing offerings.

District Three (DE, NJ, PA, VI)

Delaware
Judge Jane Brady served as a judge for the Delaware State Mock Trial Competition Finals. She traveled to Croatia and presided over a mock trial there and taught legal education. While in Croatia, she met Croatian President Ivo Josipovic and observed the Project Citizens competition there.

During the last fifteen months and for an additional year, Judge Peggy Abelman, Delaware State Courts, will maintain full responsibility for all of the asbestos litigation in the state, in addition to her routine criminal and civil caseload. Approximately ten percent of the asbestos litigation nationwide in NAWJ’s districts is handled by Judge Abelman, who is frequently invited to speak at national conferences as part of East Coast panels or judicial panels. The workload is enormous because Delaware does not have a dedicated judge assigned to asbestos but the judge manages to keep up with the huge number of summary judgment motions, pretrials, motions in law, and trials. Settlements are frequent due to Judge Abelman’s devotion to weekend and evening reading of transcripts and briefs.

New Jersey
The Diversity Committee of the New Jersey Bar Association honored Paulette Brown, Esq., Friends Committee Chair for this year’s Annual Conference in Newark, and the Late Honorable Shirley Tolentino, with this year’s Mel Narol Excellence in Diversity Award.

Many of the rest of NAWJ’s judges and friends in New Jersey and beyond are busy organizing NAWJ’s upcoming 33rd Annual Conference to be held in Newark from October 12-14. For more information please visit the registration and information found on pages five through nine in this issue of Counterbalance.

Pennsylvania
The NAWJ District Brunch Meeting was held July 30, 2011 in Montclair, New Jersey. The Diversity Committee estimated that District membership by at least one-hundred new members and to encourage each new member to sign-up another new member. The Committee also planned and hosted a Panel luncheon and a greeting and reports from NAWJ Judge Marjorie Carter, and NAWJ District Three Chair Judge Ishmael Duff, and others on topics such as the upcoming Annual Conference in Newark, the 2012 Annual Conference in Miami Beach, Florida, District Three Membership Growth, Speed-Mentoring and Color of Justice Programs, Announcement on District state leadership, IAWJ’s Annual Conference in London, and a presentation of the Wal-Mart v. Duke United States Supreme Court decision by attorney Jenny Yang. District Three meeting participants included Judge Marjorie Lazel Carter, Judge Jane Brady, Judge Joan Churchill, Judge Mara Musto Cook, Judge Michelle Hollar Gray, Judge Sharon Harris, Judge Debbie O’Dell Sensen, Judge Isabel Stark, Judge Doris Pechkarow, Judge Andrea Marccea Strong, Judge Sobhna Teare, Jenny Yang, Esq. and Judge Sue Yang.

District One (MA, ME, RI, NH, PR)

Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Margaret Marshall (Retired) and Justice Shirley Tilmouth on the State of the World and the Supreme Judicial Court.

On April 26, 2011, District One celebrated the appointment of 11 women judges to the State Courts of Massachusetts, the appointment of Denise Casey to the U.S. District Court and Jennifer Boston to the position of U.S. Magistrate Judge, and the elevation of Nan Duffy to the Supreme Judicial Court at our annual reception and meeting. A number of newly elected legislators joined the group, enjoying a brief respite from a long week of budget battles. We had a fond farewell to Supreme Court Justice Judith A. Cowin, who retired in April 2011, after serving on the Supreme Judicial Court for 11 years and on the Superior Court for almost eight years. She was the third woman to be appointed to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

“I have been privileged to serve the people of Massachusetts,” stated Justice Cowin. “I will remember these years with a conviction that the work is of great importance and with an abiding affection for the colleagues with whom I shared it.” Born in Boston, Justice Cowin earned her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College in 1963 and her J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1970. She is a member of the Wellesley Alumnae Association and takes an active interest in advising young women about career paths and work-life balance. Also, we noted the upcoming retirement of Judge Nancy Gertner, Chief Judge of the District Court for the District of Massachusetts. In 2008, Judge Gertner, who was the first woman to serve as chief judge in the district, was selected by Virtue Foundation in collaboration with the Chief Justice of Ghana, Her Ladyship Georgina T. Wood, and the Leitner Center for Law and Justice at Fordham Law School, to participate in the five-week program. The Virtue Foundation, in collaboration with the Leitner Center and the Office of Justice and Technology at the University of New York, implemented this intensive training and shadowing program. Training topics included: legal research and writing, case management, fair trial rights, ethical issues, gender and the judiciary, and issues of vulnerable groups in the courts. Judges also spent a week shadowing U.S. judge counterparts who are working in problem-solving courts. The goal was to adequately prepare participants to plan and implement an innovative model Family Justice Center in Ghana.

The New York Chapter sponsored its third annual Summer Family Justice Academy for Young Women at Pace Law School. The Justice Academy is a one-week, intensive immersion program to inspire and empower these young women from Westchester County and New York City to pursue education leading to careers in law. NAWJ Past President and New York Chapter President Justice LaTia Martin spearheaded this program.

As usual, the Women in Prison Committee conducted many successful programs. Please read about them in the Women in Prison feature of Counterbalance.

On June 9, 2011, Manhattan Appellate Supreme Court Justice Debra A. James, wrote a forward to the report “From Protection to Punishment: Post-Conviction Barriers to Justice for the Domestic Violence Survivor” - the study, which was inspired by the Women in Prison Project of the Correctional Association of New York. The study includes a Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School, argues that “mandatory minimum sentences constrain judges’ ability to take survivor-defendants’ experiences of abuse into account.” The report backs a bill introduced in the state Legislature - the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act - that would remove mandatory minimum sentences on defendants in domestic violence cases. This will allow judges to impose shorter, determinate sentences or place survivor-defendants in alternative-to-incarceration programs if their experiences of abuse were a “significant contributing factor” to the crime committed.

The committee also hosted two screenings; “Crime after Crime” which chronicles the experience of Deborah Peagler, a California woman charged with murder in the 1st degree, for her role in the death of her abusive boyfriend. The documentary follows Deborah Peagler’s trial and her two pro-bono rape attorneys, as they encounter the corrupt and politically-driven trials and turn from criminal case into civil case. The second screening was for “Mothers of Bedford” which explored the lives of five incarcerated women in the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and the impact on the mother-child relationship.

On May, Judges Arlene Hahn, Tanya Kennedy, Patricia LaFreueriere, Carole Levy and Sheri S. Roman joined in the cruise to Alaska. Once again friendships were forged with other attendees. Our intrepid wanderer Justice Sheri S. Roman next attended the Congressional Caucus in Washington D.C. on July 7, 2011, during which she and a group of women judges addressed a delegation delivered an address relating to an assortment of trafficking issues, ranging from children sent away by misinformed and desperate parents, entire families enslaved in India, and all too frequent occurrence of young girls from around the world promised acting and modeling careers who become enslaved and subjugated to produce records.

On June 13, 2011, the New York State Chapter held its Summer Dinner at the Water’s Edge Restaurant. We honored Justice Beaty Weinberg Gibson (Retired) for her long years of service which continues in full force to date. In addition, a scholarship award was given to Sandrah Donzante, a student at New York Law School.

On Friday, April 15, 2011, the New York Chapter of NAWJ hosted a dinner event in honor of five Ghanaian women judges participating in the Virtue Foundation Institute for Innovation and Alliances in Family Resilience Program. The five women judges from Ghana – Circuit Court Judges Patience Mills-Tetteh and Barbara Naadja Tetteh-Charway, and Magistrate Judges Patricia Eluka Quansah, Audrey Edem Ama Kucievic-Tay, and Abena Oppong Adjak-Doku – were selected by Virtue in collaboration with the Chief Justice of Ghana, Her Ladyship Georgina T. Wood, and the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice at Fordham Law School, to participate in the five-week program. The Virtue Foundation, in collaboration with the Leitner Center and the Office of Justice and Technology at the University of New York, implemented this intensive training and shadowing program. Training topics included: legal research and writing, case management, fair trial rights, ethical issues, gender and the judiciary, and issues of vulnerable groups in the courts. Judges also spent a week shadowing U.S. judge counterparts who are working in problem-solving courts. The goal was to adequately prepare participants to plan and implement an innovative model Family Justice Center in Ghana.

The New York Chapter sponsored its third annual Summer Family Justice Academy for Young Women at Pace Law School. The Justice Academy is a one-week, intensive immersion program to inspire and empower these young women from Westchester County and New York City to pursue education leading to careers in law. NAWJ Past President and New York Chapter President Justice LaTia Martin spearheaded this program.

As usual, the Women in Prison Committee conducted many successful programs. Please read about them in the Women in Prison feature of Counterbalance.

On June 9, 2011, Manhattan Appellate Supreme Court Justice Debra A. James, wrote a forward to the report “From Protection to Punishment: Post-Conviction Barriers to Justice for the Domestic Violence Survivor” - the study, which was inspired by the Women in Prison Project of the Correctional Association of New York. The study includes a Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School, argues that “mandatory minimum sentences constrain judges’ ability to take survivor-defendants’ experiences of abuse into account.” The report backs a bill introduced in the state Legislature - the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act - that would remove mandatory minimum sentences on defendants in domestic violence cases. This will allow judges to impose shorter, determinate sentences or place survivor-defendants in alternative-to-incarceration programs if their experiences of abuse were a “significant contributing factor” to the crime committed.

The committee also hosted two screenings; “Crime after Crime” which chronicles the experience of Deborah Peagler, a California woman charged with murder in the 1st degree, for her role in the death of her abusive boyfriend. The documentary follows Deborah Peagler’s trial and her two pro-bono rape attorneys, as they encounter the corrupt and politically-driven trials and turn from criminal case into civil case. The second screening was for “Mothers of Bedford” which explored the lives of five incarcerated women in the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and the impact on the mother-child relationship.
NAWJ member Hon. Patricia McGowan Wald (U.S. Courts of Appeal for the District of Columbia Circuit Retired) received the 2011 Constitutional Champion Award from The Constitutional Project on April 14, 2011 in Washington, DC. The program highlighted Judge Wald’s decades of public service, including her work on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit where she was the first woman ever appointed to that bench. She served in the Department of Justice as the head of Legislative Affairs. She established the DC Circuit Gender, Race and Ethnicity Task Force and has written about issues of gender bias for the ABA and other legal publications. Upon her retirement, she was the United States representative to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in the Hague. The program, which was well attended, provided an inspired role model for lawyers and judges. Her remarks, as well as videos, may be found at The Constitutional Project’s website.

NAWJ member Judge Kathryn Oberly of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals was the planning chair for the 36th Annual Judicial Conference of the District of Columbia. It was held on June 3, 2011, at the Ronald Reagan Center. The topic was Implicit Bias: Recognizing It and Dismantling It. There were outstanding speakers, including nationally known Dr. Mahzarin R. Banaji of Harvard University.

Thanks to United States Magistrate Judge Susan K. Gauvey for sharing word of another woman, Stephanie Gallagher, appointed magistrate judge to her U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland bench. Here’s hoping she joins NAWJ as well.

Judge Marcella Holland had a great afternoon with the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars troop on April 30th. Some of our judges helped them make jewelry and jewelry boxes for their mothers to take to the institution the Saturday before Mother’s Day. A play performance based on the life of the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and featuring a few District Four judges, was nominated for a CLASSY award given to outstanding charities. The play features a cast of judges and local dignitaries including U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan Gauvey who played the admissions officer from the University of Maryland who denied Marshall admission to its law. The play centered on Marshall’s life when he argued Brown v. Board of Education, and highlighted his career before becoming a lawyer.

On May 13 and 14, 2011 NAWJ District Four held a joint conference with the Maryland Women’s Bar Association at the Gaylord Resort in Prince George’s County, Maryland. Judge Toni Clarke, President of the NAWJ Maryland Chapter, and Kathleen Bustraan, Esq., President of WBA, joined in presenting the conference. On Saturday morning, the WBA and NAWJ members held separate business meetings over breakfast and then rejoined for a program on the Judiciary and the Media. Richard Gellman led a panel of newspaper and television news managers and Circuit Court Judge Crystal Mittlestadt who found herself at the center of media coverage following her ruling in a domestic violence petition hearing.

Judge Julia Weatherly, District Four President, is co-chairing the fourth Women Moving Forward Conference at Maryland’s prison for women on October 22. NAWJ has partnered with Maryland Correctional Institute for Women (MCIW) and a network of ex-offender organizations, faith based programs, and community groups dedicated to improving the chances for women leaving prison. This one day conference held at MCW in Jessup offers over a dozen workshops on issues that the women must address in returning home, such as reunification of families, housing, handling their finances, and accessing services to address their health. A major focus is on the issue of employment. This year’s keynote speaker will be Chief Judge Robert M. Bell from the Maryland Court of Appeals.

NAWJ continues to support the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars which provides scouting activities both at the state prison and in the community for girls with mothers who are incarcerated. Judge Marcella Bernard sustains support and interest for the Storybook Project which affords contacts between mothers in prison and their children. The children receive the book and their mother’s recorded reading. Continue to read about Maryland’s Women in Prison work following District News.

Virginia

Virginia Association of Women Judges Awards

The Virginia Association of Women Judges (VAWJ) awarded $500 scholarships to two Virginia high school students who wrote winning essays about the benefit of women’s full participation in the legislative and judicial branches of government. The VAWJ presented its scholarship awards at an April 10 lunch at the Virginia State Capitol to Karalin A.M. Timmons (left) and Kelsey Hess (right), who are pictured above with Portsmouth General District Court Chief Judge Rosalie O. Holder. Ms. Hess is a senior attending Rockbridge County High School and Timmons is a senior at Richmond Community High School. Judge Holder, said that in addition to offering financial assistance to students, the annual scholarship award is designed to increase awareness of the functions of, and women’s contributions to, the legislative and judicial branches of government. Judge Holder is president of the VAWJ. The April 30 lunch also brought together sitting and retired judges, current and former legislators and members of state and local bar groups to celebrate with the families and friends of the scholarship winners.

VAWJ’s next meeting will be held during the General District Court Judges Conference in August.

Future plans: At the May conference business meeting, we discussed Color of Justice programs for the fall in Virginia and Maryland. More programs with the Women’s Bar Associations in the three jurisdictions should be encouraged. Programs to encourage judicial applicants (“So You Want To Be A Judge”) have been well received in the past. The Board has committed to establishing an annual program at one of the area law schools to encourage law clerk opportunities and to give out the scholarship money available through NAWJ. A committee will be set up to determine what criteria should be set for the scholarship applicants.

Judge Weatherly has appointed Judge Cathy H. Surrette, immediate past president of District Four, as chair of the nominating committee for officers for 2011-2013. A September meeting will be announced shortly which will include the election of new officers.

District Five (NC, SC, GA, FL)

2012 Annual Conference November 7-11, 2012 “Meet Me in Miami”

In the newly renovated Eden Roc hotel directly on the ocean in Miami Beach, District Five will host the NAWJ 2012 Annual Conference. They will present a number of innovative educational programs including: “Bringing Human Rights Home,” “The Power and Reach of the Internet in the World of Social Networking,” “The Hidden Impact of the Economic Crisis,” and a focus on recent events that threaten...
their lifetime of achievement in the law and service to the public and Bar. The awards are presented at the Section breakfast and later celebrated at a lavish reception held in honor of the recipients at the State Bar Annual Meeting. Judge Miller was originally appointed to the County of Appeals by then Governor Georgia Boyce Barnes on July 12, 1999, when she became the first African-American woman and 66th Judge on the Court. From January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010, Judge Miller acted as the Chief Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals.

DISTRICT SIX (TN, MS, LA, AL)
Justice Sharon Lee attended the Midyear Meeting and Leadership Conference at the Surf and Sand Resort in Laguna Beach, California held March 11-13, 2011.

COLOR OF JUSTICE IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
On May 11, 2011, Justice Lee present-ed Tammy Crayne, a student at the Lincoln Memorial University-Dun-Can School of Law, with an NAWJ Equal Access to Justice Scholar-ship. Ms. Crayne was chosen from a number of applicants to receive a $1,000 scholarship based upon her sustained and passionate commit-ment to the achievement of diversity and equality in the system of justice. Once she achieves her goal of being a lawyer, Ms. Crayne’s desire is to practice law in the field of child advocacy. The scholarship was presented during a luncheon in Knoxville, Tennessee, honoring the Tennessee Supreme Court hosted by the East Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women where Chief Justice Cornelia A. Clark was the keynote speaker. The luncheon was also attended by a number of representatives of the Duncan School of Law, including Dean and Professor of Law Syd Beckman, several professors, staff members and students. This scholarship was made possible through the support of Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann and Bernstein, LLP, one of NAWJ’s top level Landmark sponsors.

DISTRICT SEVEN (MI, OH, WV)
On May 11, 2011, Kathleen M. O’Malley was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit by President Barack Obama in 2010. Prior to her elevation to the Federal Circuit, Judge O’Malley was appointed to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio by President William J. Clinton on October 12, 1994. During her sixteen years on the district court bench, Judge O’Malley presided over in excess of 100 patent and trademark cases and was by designation on the United States Circuit Court for the Federal Circuit.

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DISTRICT NEWS
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DISTRICT NEWS

COUNTERBALANCE

District Nine (MO, IA, WI)

Missouri

From Missouri, come reports not just on the news but also on bits of history. The NAWJ Color of Justice Program is 10 years old this year. The first program was presented in St. Louis Mo, and plans are underway to celebrate the 10 year anniversary by presenting a program in St. Louis in October.

Another bit of District Nine history and its Missouri members focuses on the early days of NAJW when Missouri women judges were leaders and activists in the organization. Among them was the Hon. Susan Block, who along with Judges Anna Furder and Rosemary Denson served as officers or members of NAJW’s Board of Directors. Although Judge Block retired after 25 years of judicial service and returned to the practice of law in 2004, she maintains her membership in NAJW. Among Judge Block’s many other honors for a life dedicated to service to others, she was named a Missouri Super Lawyer.

NAJW was invited to attend the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) Conference held in Chicago, Illinois during the week of June 20, 2011. Attorney General Rob McKenna from Washington appointed NAJW to his 12 presidential initiative during a panel discussion addressing issues of human trafficking. Judge Brenda Stith Lowfit, past president of NAJW from Missouri, represented NAJW at the kick-off of the NAAG Presidential Initiative.

Iowa

“I have gavel, will travel” is the news that comes from Iowa’s U.S. Magistrate Judge Celeste Bremer. She is slated to have a temporary assignment to a border court in Las Cruces, where she will be handling immigration cases. In addition to continuing her work with the Infinity Project, a group trying to increase gender balance on the courts, Judge Bremer has been teaching at the Federal Judicial Center and presenting programs on judicial mentoring for the Iowa Judicial Branch.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson along with Justice Ann Walsh Bradley were selected to attend the Aspen Institute Justice and Society Judicial Seminar for state court leaders in the United States. The seminar will be handling an initial appearance, arraignments and pleas. Temporary assignment to a border court in Las Cruces, New Mexico, has been teaching at the Federal Judicial Center and presenting programs on judicial mentoring for the Iowa Judicial Branch.

WISCONSIN

Judge Angela W. Sudikwicz was appointed by then-Governor Jim Doyle in 2010. Previously she practiced law in Milwaukee and taught at Marquette University Law School.

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS TRIBAL LAW CENTER

May found Stacy Loebs, Interim Associate Dean for Academics, Professor of Law and Director of the University of Kansas Tribal Law Center was named the Dean of the School of Law at the University of Kansas. Dean Loebs is also the first Native American to serve as the Dean of a law school. She will begin her new position on July 1, 2011, and we wish her the best and are very proud of her.

Missouri

By the time this issue of Counterbalance goes to press, the strong hope and desire of Missourians is that we will no longer be in the news relative to our state shutdown. If you read our July issue in 2011, our State made headlines in going the route of a full government shutdown as our state tries to erase a $5 billion deficit without legislative resolution. Since then the state has found resolution in compromise as what was labeled “the longest standing dispute in our history” has ended. The status of the shutdown was significant to NAJW readers because of the resolution of the courts to assist in management issues, which by nature are of a crisis mode, as state agencies and recipients of government aid go without while legislators stay on this side of the “aisle”. In particular, it is Minnesota Women Judges who have been handling some of the disputes. Ramsey County Chief Judge Kathleen Gears of St. Paul, emerging from a meeting with ordering some of the disputes, has the numbers are being tracked. Judge Bremer has been appointed Special Master to sort out the rulings. Judge Bremer said that she understands the situation very well that sometimes focus on emotional appeals rather than legal arguments. It has been a time consuming process. The final state outcome will have our confidence in the decision making abilities of our two dedicated women.

And, much like other states in our Nation, Minnesota will again be facing legislative challenges relative to the redistribution of our legislative boundaries. Again, a women judge has been selected to guide this judicial determination and boundary review procedure. NAWJ state members will be handling initial appearances, arraignments and pleas. Benefits include legal assistance, medical services, job skill training, financial counseling, social services, veterans assistance, clothing, shelter referrals, food, haircuts and day care. On March 16, the Gulf Coast Women In Prison Committee held its first meeting at the Galveston County Courthouse. Judges and lawyers met to discuss and plan projects for the Carole S. Young Prison Unit in Texas City, Texas.

On March 23, District Eleven co-sponsored the Coastal Bend Women Lawyer’s Association Annual Spring Luncheon honoring Women of Distinction in Corpus Christi, Texas. The honoree and keynote speaker was Ayaan Hirsi Ali, an outspoken defender of women’s rights and former member of our Islamic society.

Arkansas

According to the Arkansas News, on July 25, 2011, Arkansas U.S. Senator Mark Pryor “did his part” to speed up federal appointments in Arkansas. Senator Pryor recommended three candidates for appointment to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas to President Barack Obama. The vacancy that needs filled is that of James M. Moody, who stepped down to assume senior status. The recommended nominees are Kristine G. Baker, Jane W. Duke and Collette D. Honorable. Pryor said, “They each have experience, intellect, enthusiasm and thoughtfulness. Any one of them could serve with distinction.”

In April, President Obama nominated Judge Susan Owens Hickey to a seat on the United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas. Judge Susan Owens Hickey is currently serving as a District Judge for the United States District Court for the State of Arkansas in El Dorado, Arkansas. As Circuit Judge, Judge Hickel has jurisdiction over civil, criminal, juvenile, domestic relations, and probate matters in six counties. Prior to taking the bench in 2010, Judge Hickel was a career judicial law clerk to the Honorable Harry Barnes of the United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas.

District Thirty Three (AK, WA, OR, HI, ID, MT)

Alaska

In April, President Obama nominated the first woman in Alaska history to sit as a federal judge. Judge Sharon L. Gleason would be the first woman for the United States District Court for the District of Alaska. Judge Sharon L. Gleason is the Presiding Judge of the Third Judicial District of the Alaska Superior Court in Anchorage, Alaska, a position she has held since 2009. Judge Gleason was appointed to the Superior Court in 2001 and was retained by Alaska voters in 2004 and 2010. Prior to being appointed to the bench, she spent seventeen years in private practice.

President Obama Nominated Justice Morgan Christen for the United States Court of Appeals.

Judge Christen, who served as an Anchorage Superior Court Judge for seven years, was appointed in 2009 to the Alaska Supreme Court by then-Gov. Sarah Palin. Judge Christen was born and raised in Washington state. She graduated from the University of Washington in 1983, and the Golden Gate University School of Law in 1986. She clerked for Alaska Superior Court Judge Ruth Shortell, and joined the law firm Preston Throgmussen Ellis & Holmes in 1987, now known as K&L Gates. Her work included representing the State of Alaska in the Williams v. State land Valdez oil spill.

Justice Morgan Christen was born and raised in the state of Washington. She attended the University of Washington, where she received her B.A. in 1983. While an undergraduate student, Justice Christen studied in England, Switzerland, and China. She later attended Golden Gate University School of Law and obtained her J.D.S in 1986.

Ninth Annual Color of Justice Program in Alaska

Mark Niles, Dean of Seattle University School of Law, L. and Justice Dana Faber, Chief of Colby County in Maine, offered remarks at Memorial. A Speed Mentoring Experience, held the first evening of the 2- day program. Fair Fight, Alaska’s Chief Justice, Walter Carranza.
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Sixth Annual Success Inside & Out Reentry Conference

NAWJ-Alaska's Sixth Annual Success Inside & Out conference will take place October 29, 2011, at Hilland Mountain Correctional Center near Anchorage. Nearly 100 women inmates nearing the end of their incarceration are expected to take part in the day-long program of workshops and special events designed to help them prepare for the transition to life outside prison. A planning committee of judges, attorneys and community volunteers is busy preparing for this year’s conference, which will once again include inspirational music and speakers, a wide range of breakout sessions on topics of importance to women in reentry, and the ever-popular luncheon fashion show presented by Second Run, a prominent Anchorage clothing shop. For more information about this year’s Success Inside & Out program, contact the project coordinator at bhood@appellate.courts.state.ak.us (907-264-0879).

DISTRICT NEWS

Fall 2011

Washington

Seattle, Washington Women's Law Caucus Joins NAWJ in a Judicial Reception to Honor Law Student with Award

April saw members at a wonderfully received judicial reception hosted by the Women’s Law Caucus of both University of Washington and Seattle University School of Law, and sponsored by the National Association of Women Judges with support by the Washington State Association for Justice, and the State Gender and Justice Commission. In attendance were several lawyers including attorney Melissa Anderson from the international law firm Orrick, and NAWJ Landmark Sponsor, who made the scholarship possible. Over 50 law students attended with a like number of law students. The event was held at a local restaurant, and the students and judges had a lively interaction before and after presentation of the NAWJ Scholarship. In photo above (from left): Orrick attorney, Melissa Anderson (tallest in front row); Priyanka Prakash, NAWJ Scholarship winner, University of Washington law student (holding certificate); Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice and NAWJ member Barbara Madsen; far right, NAWJ District 13 Director Judge Marilyn Paja. All others are law students from University of Washington and Seattle University who hosted the event.

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DISTRICT NEWS

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Color of Justice (CA, NV)

Color of Justice Soars Triumphantly in San Diego

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Honorable Tamila Elhrami Eisma brought the very first Color of Justice Program to the San Diego Superior Court on May 26, 2011. The National Association of Women Judges’ Color of Justice Program was presented in collaboration with the University of the San Diego School of Law, LexisNexis, and the San Diego Superior Court. The participation of more than twenty seven accomplished judges and attorneys as mentors made this program a huge success. Judge Tamila E. Eisma, who chaired the program, welcomed the students and the mentors to the program. She gave a brief history of the NAWJ, described her own background, and then laid out the objectives of the program and the schedule to follow.

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On March 27th, California Women Lawyers posthumously honored the Late Honorable Isabella Horton Grant with the 2011 Rose Bird Memorial Award for her service to the San Diego Superior Court. Hon. Allie Seeley, Judge of the San Diego Superior Court, presented the award to the family of Judge Grant. Judge Seeley mentioned that Judge Grant was well known for her kindness and compassion in the courtroom. She was dedicated to the well-being of her colleagues and was always willing to help others. Judge Seeley also stated that Judge Grant was a trailblazer for women in the legal profession and a role model for many female attorneys. The award was presented to her family to honor her legacy and her contribution to the legal community.
NAWJ Cruises Alaska

Ninety-eight NAWJ members, family and friends departed Vancouver aboard the MS Statendam on Sunday, May 22, for a trip up Alaska’s Inside Passage. The days at sea were opportunities to take in excellent seminars on subjects including retirement, diversity, ethics and mediation. Monday’s passage found travelers learning what they needed to know about judicial retirement and financial planning. Nancy Blunck presented an overview of how to incorporate your judicial retirement plan into your overall financial and retirement planning.

The ports of Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway’s change of scenery moved travelers to tour scenic towns and enjoy shore excursions. While in Ketchikan, Lynn Hecht Schafran, Director, National Association of Women Judges, offered excellent seminars on the Next Steps Report discussion on the NAWJ Roundtable: Hot Topics on the Horizon. The panel, which included Dr. Joanne Bellsnap and Hon. Marjorie Laird Carter, reviewed emerging ethical issues for judges such as those posed by problem-solving courts, cases of domestic violence, and other issues unique to the 21st Century.

In Juneau, cruise travelers took advantage of an opportunity to learn about Therapeutic Courts. Evenings on the MS Statendam found cruise-goers gathering for dinner and dancing in the Crow’s Nest and watching musical entertainment. This cruise was a chance for many to get together and come to know each other better: NAWJ’s inaugural cruise conference implanted fond memories and lessons for all who attended, and successfully fully educated, adventure, fine dining and bonding into a signature NAWJ experience!

Retired Judge Pegge Fulton Hora moderated a discussion entitled the Ethics Roundtable: Hot Topics on the Horizon. The panel, which included Dr. Joanne Bellsnap and Hon. Marjorie Laird Carter, reviewed emerging ethical issues for judges such as those posed by problem-solving courts, cases of domestic violence, and other issues unique to the 21st Century.

Senior Judge Elaine Marie Andrews of the Alaska Court System and Retired Judge Judith C. Chirolin banded together to offer fellow travelers “Tips and Tricks for Settling Cases.” Presented as a practical guide for Mediators and Settlement Judges the judicial team led an interactive discussion on problems that arise during mediation and settlement, and offered solutions to those problems.

A reception in Juneau, hosted by the Juneau Bar Association, featured entertainment by native dancers and a performance of Robert Service’s poems by a local attorney who is also an actor. Evenings on the MS Statendam found cruise-goers gathering for dinner and dancing in the Crow’s Nest and watching musical entertainment. This cruise was a chance for many to get together and come to know each other better: NAWJ’s inaugural cruise conference implanted fond memories and lessons for all who attended, and successfully fully educated, adventure, fine dining and bonding into a signature NAWJ experience!

Membership in NAWJ is open to sitting and retired judges, attorneys, associates, law clerks, law students and all other who are part of judicial and legal community. Find out more about NAWJ on our website www.nawj.org. Download a membership application, or mail or fax the completed form below to: Membership Office, National Association of Women Judges, c/o National Center for State Courts, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23185-1520, fax 757.259.1520.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

LIFE MEMBER
Life members are voting members who make a one-time financial contribution and are not obligated to pay future dues.

VOTING MEMBERS
Sitting judges hold judicial positions and are in good standing in the practice of law.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER
Associate members hold judicial positions not requiring bar membership. They share the privileges of membership, but may not vote or hold office.

RETIRED JUDGE
Retired members have retired and are unavailable for judicial duties. They may vote and share the privileges of membership.

AMICUS JUDICII, LAW CLERKS, LAW STUDENTS
Amicus Judicij, Law Clerk and Law Student members are interested in supporting NAWJ goals, but are not otherwise eligible for membership. They may not vote or hold office, but receive NAWJ mailings and publications, and share in all other privileges of membership.

Full Name:
Title: ☐Chief Justice ☐Chief Judge ☐Justice ☐Judge ☐Ms. ☐Mr. ☐Other ___
Court/Agency: _____________________________________________________________________________________________
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PLEASE SELECT A MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

LIFE MEMBER.......................................................... $3,000¹
☐SITTING JUDGE.................................................. $200
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1. One-time only fee. May be made in three installments.
2. New Member Drive March 15, 2011 – March 14, 2012 - First Time Member fee is $100.
3. Retired Judges with changed circumstances may pay a reduced membership fee of $100.

JOIN TODAY!

Nawj Membership
Maryland Women in Prison

Concerns Raised to Improve the Wellbeing of Detainees

Throughout the month of March earlier this year the Maryland Women’s Bar Association (WBA) and NAWJ presented life and career development workshops to young women detained in the Correctional Center in Laurel, Maryland. Two issues arose over the course of the programs, and participating judges and lawyers felt compelled to raise to Superintendent Johntirha McNair. The session on teenage dating violence clearly demonstrated that many of the girls had been abused and are in need of trauma counseling. Judge Cathy Hollenberg-Serrette offered on behalf of the group that Waxter provide such services, and informed Superintendent McNair that NAWJ is willing to provide assistance to ensure that there are sufficient resources for appropriate counseling for the girls.

Second, the girls were extraordnarily responsive to the debate session. One of the wonderful young women from Baltimore, suggested that she might be willing to organize and coach a debate team of Waxter. Obviously this would create logistics issues, given the need to debate other teams. Either the girls would have to be able to leave Waxter for competitions, or competing teams would have to be brought to Waxter. However, these issues can be overcome, and NAWJ proposed support for this program should a sufficient number of girls interested in participating.

College Degree Program at the MD Correctional Institution for Women

The program continues with about one hundred women enrolled in either college classes or developmental classes designed to prepare them for college. Demand by women who want to pursue these educational opportunities is such that the non-profit is going to have to re-think its policy of trying to accommodate everyone. The program largely consists of volunteer teachers and tutors.

In May, a State of Maryland official in charge of correctional education, Secretary Alexander Sanchez, and other state officials accepted an invitation to come to a bar prison and meet with some of the college students. On August 8, 2011, Professor Helen Vendler, A. Kingsley Porter University Professor, Department of English, Harvard University, will speak to the college students on some poems of Emily Dickinson.

Book Club and Writing Sessions at MCIW

The in-prison Book Club and Writing Sessions began the tenth session in July. This session will have area college professors leading discussions of Cutting for Stone by Abhama Verghese, Sugar Street by Naguib Mahfouz, Half A Life by Darin Strauss, The Believer by Mohsin Hamid, and And Now You Can Go by Vendela Vida.

U.S. Justice Department’s Proposed Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Regulations

The Women in Prison Committee joined with several other groups in voicing concern at the U.S. Justice Department’s proposed Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) regulations. It was the view of many that the regulations proposed by the Justice Department watered down the recommendations of the 11th National Commission on the Prevention of Prison Rape (1999), the first federal law enacted to prevent and eliminate sexual assault and rape in state and federal detention facilities.

Mothers of Bedford Still Open for View

We tried unsuccessfully to get federal correctional authorities to view the four-part film by Jenie McShane that describes over an extended period the lives of several women at Bedford Hills, NY, and their interaction with their children and families.

Call for a New Federal Bureau of Prisons Chief

Several of us met with White House and Justice Department officials to state the position that the selection of a new Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons should be someone open to improving the treatment of incarcerated women and their children. We met with people agreed with us. We have tried unsuccessfully for an in-prison nursery for federal prisoners who give birth while incarcerated.

No Word Yet from the Conference of Chief Justices on Anti-Shackling

We did not hear anything from the Conference of Chief Justices at a request made some time ago that it go on record as opposing the shackling of incarcerated women during childbirth and in transportation to medical facilities. What we heard, the issue was sent to a committee.

New York Women in Prison

The Brooklyn Youth GED Class, First Year Anniversary Celebration

On March 16, 2011, the Hon. William Miller, Kings County Criminal Court Supervising Judge, joined Judge Betty J. Williams and New York City Department of Education staff and teachers in celebrating the one year anniversary of the Brooklyn Youth GED Class. The GED class is located in a former courtroom at Kings County Criminal Court. In downtown Brooklyn, and its curriculum is designed to create equivalency classes to defendants, as part of their court mandate to pursue a high school general equivalency diploma (GED). Since March 2010, seven students have received their GED, with four more scheduled to take their tests this summer. Three students have been accepted to and are scheduled to start college this fall.

Speaking at the class’s official opening, on November 19, 2010, Kings County Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters, Barry Kamins, called the initial opening remarkable; a sentiment repeated by Judge Miller at the class’s first anniversary celebration. To have a court room converted into a learning center and in one of the busiest criminal courts in the country. Judge Miller remarked, “remarkable!” The GED class, along with the Career Education Center, which opened on September 25, 2009, was founded with the support of Justice Fern Fisher, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, New York City Courts and Justin Barry, Chief Clerk, Criminal Court of the City of New York.

The Career Education Center provides career educational services to all drug court participants of the Screening Treatment and Enhancement Part (STEP), presided over by the consort of Sallie Tripak; and the Midterm Brooklyn Treatment Court, presided over by Judge Williams. The GED class, as a component of the Career Education Center, is a collaborative effort between the New York State Unified Court System and the New York City Department of Education, District 79, Alternative High Programs. Judge Williams assisted in securing the classroom space and contributed homemade cupcakes to the March 16th celebrations.

Taconic Housing Workshop

On March 25, 2011, Stephen Myers and Heidi Cain, attorneys for the Legal Aid Society, conducted a Housing Re-Entry Workshop, organized by Judge Cheryl J. Gonzales of the Women in Prison (WIP) committee, at the Taconic Correctional Facility, a medium security prison for women, located approximately 50 miles north of New York City. The workshop addressed some of the housing issues facing incarcerated women as they re-enter their respective communities. The four (4) main topics discussed were: (1) the rules for Section 8 eligibility as administered by New York City Public Housing Authority (NYCHA) and New York City Housing and Preservation Department as they relate to the formerly incarcerated, and the possible challenges to eligibility findings; (2) eligibility criteria for NYC Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and their respective HUD subsidies; and (3) the Family Eviction Subsidy Program and Services for the Disabled. In addition, the presenters discussed trends in housing urban development and the resources available to public housing applicants. Resources included statewide legal services, neighborhood churches, private foundations and community-based organizations, such as the Fortune Society, many of which have set-up programs focused on the housing needs of the formerly incarcerated. The presenters emphasized the importance of completing applications for the various subsidies and housing developments, and challenging any illegibility finding by requesting a hearing.

Taconic Superintendent Andrea Hester, Taconic, Judges Gonzales and Betty J. Williams, and 68 women were present.

The members also delivered donated bags that will be used by the women to pack their belongings when they are released. The Superintendent and upstate Taconic requested housing expertise to present on issues confronting women in upstate New York.

Bard Prison Initiative: Eastern Correctional Facility for Men, Eighth Commencement Address

On March 26, 2011, the Bard Prison Initiative held its Eighth Commencement at the Eastern Correctional Facility for men in upstate New York. Thirty-four Eastern Correctional residents received Associate of Arts Degrees and six residents received Bachelor of Arts Degrees. Retiring Superintendent William D. Brodsky delivered the Commencement Address and received the Bardian Award, honoring his service to the Bard Community. Bard President Leon Botstein delivered the Charge to the graduates, Bard College faculty, Eastern Correctional staff, family members of the Eastern Correctional graduates, and guests, including NAWJ member, Judge Betty J. Williams.

Started in 2001, the Bard Prison Initiative provides higher education opportunities at five New York State Correctional Facilities: Eastern, Elmira, Bayview, Greenhaven and Woodbourne. Begun as a pilot program with fifteen students, the Initiative currently educates approximately two hundred thousand incarcerated men and women in a full time liberal arts curriculum. The Initiative aims to spread the benefits of a higher education to New York State’s prison population, one of the State’s most isolated communities. Building on the success of the Bard Prison Initiative in New York, in 2009, Bard established the Consortium for the Liberal Arts in Prison. As of 2010, Wesleyan University in Connecticut and St. Thomas College in Iowa have become respective members of the Consortium. Retiring Superintendent William D. Brodsky, as a guest of the NAWJ at the 2009 Annual Conference in Memphis, Tennessee, where he participated in the workshop, “Education Inside & Out, the Multiple Benefits of Education for Incarcerated Women.” The Initiative’s first school opened at the Eastern Correctional Facility for Men. Women Receive Bard College Degrees, appeared in the Fall 2009 Counterbalance.

The curriculum at Eastern includes a full range of college mathematics, studio arts, natural sciences, and a comprehensive study of the German and Spanish languages. Central to the completion of the bachelor’s degree is the writing of the Senior Project. Students pursue a yearlong course of research under the close supervision of a faculty advisor, resulting in an original academic thesis of roughly one hundred pages. Students studying with Bard through the Initiative have written Senior Projects in the fields of mathematics, anthropology, art history, American literature, and philosophy.

The benefits of the Initiative extend beyond the prison walls. The range and vitality of the College’s work with incarcerated students has strengthened the intellectual life of Bard’s main campus in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York of New City. Approximately forty campus students visit regional prisons as volunteers. The students plan and facilitate a variety of workshops on the arts, basic
education, and college preparation. Bard College faculty travel regularly to the prisons, where they teach a full range of liberal arts courses. Professors from neighboring colleges also participate in the Initiative.

The Initiative has made a significant contribution to the lives of all those involved — the teachers, volunteers, administrators, and, especially, the incarcerated students, their children and their extended families. The Initiative has also made a significant contribution to the New York community as a whole, both on the state and local level. The pursuit of a college education reduces the rates at which students return to prison. By furthering higher education inside New York State prisons, the Initiative has benefited not only those directly involved, but arguably all New Yorkers who have a stake in the well-being of their communities.

For additional information, please refer to the Correctional Association of New York’s report, “Education from the Inside, Out: The Multiple Benefits of College Programs in Prison,” located at http://www.correctionalassociation.org, or contact Mr. Max Kenner, Executive Director, Bard Prison Initiative, Bard College, at (845) 758-7817 or kenner@bard.edu.

**Bacon Parole Workshop**

On April 15, 2011, Edward Hammond and Donna Sullivan, parole attorneys, conducted a Parole Workshop at the Beacon Women’s Correctional Facility. A minimum security prison for women, with a capacity of two hundred and fifty (250), located in Beacon, New York, north of New York City, Bayview is the largest women’s prison in New York State.

The workshop addressed parole issues the women may confront as they prepare to go before the Parole Board. The presenters emphasized the need to avoid any signs of a sense of entitlement, to pay particular attention to statements made by the Parole Board and parole officers, and to have a plan designed to increase credibility and earn the respect of the Parole Board and their parole officer. The presenters fielded questions on early release, work release, post release supervision, merit time eligibility, parole violations, parole revocation, relocation while on parole, and a defendant’s right to a pre-sentencing report.

Superintendent Gail Thomas, Deputy Superintendent for Programs, Jaifa Collado, Beacon staff, retired Superintendent Delores Thornton and Judges Cheryl Gonzales and Betty J. Williams attended the workshop. The workshop addressed parole issues the women may confront as they prepare to go before the Parole Board. The presenters emphasized the need to avoid any signs of a sense of entitlement, to pay particular attention to statements made by the Parole Board and parole officers, and to have a plan designed to increase credibility and earn the respect of the Parole Board and their parole officer. The presenters fielded questions on early release, work release, post release supervision, merit time eligibility, parole violations, parole revocation, relocation while on parole, and a defendant’s right to a pre-sentencing report.

Superintendent Gail Thomas, Deputy Superintendent for Programs, Jaifa Collado, Beacon staff, Judges Sharon Aarons, Cheryl Gonzales, Laura Jacobson, and Betty J. Williams attended the workshop.

The presenters discussed trends in housing urban development and the resources available to public housing applicants. The presenters highlighted such reentry legal services, neighborhood churches, private foundations and community based organizations, including the Fortune Society, many of which have set-side programs for New Yorkers who are incarcerated. The presenters further emphasized the importance of completing applications for the various subsidies and housing developments, and challenging any illegibility that may occur. They noted that “the process requires a hearing” and the residents have the addresses of all New York State Housing Offices. Judge Jeannette Ogden provided a Housing Specialist referral for the Taccon upstate women who are anticipating release in the Buffalo and upstate New York area.

Beacon Superintendent, Gail Thomas, Deputy Superintendent for Programs, Jaifa Collado, Beacon staff, retired Superintendent Delores Thornton and Judges Cheryl Gonzales and Betty J. Williams attended the workshop.

The WIPC organized several “Beyond the Bars” events and workshops at Bayview, including the eleventh annual Bayview Holiday Program, the Successful Dressing Workshop and, as well as the Parole Workshop, held several times throughout the year. The WIPC is currently organizing the second WIPC Bayview Volunteer Recognition Luncheon to honor the volunteers who greatly contributed to the success of the WIPC’s Beyond the Bars Program. The luncheon is scheduled to be held in Fall 2011. Bayview is a medium-security women’s prison located in lower Manhattan.

**Art Exhibit Brooklyn Youth GED Program**

On June 12, 2011, Brooklyn Criminal Court Supervising Judge, William E. Judge, Brooklyn Criminal Court, attended a student art exhibit held on the 10th floor of the Kings County Criminal Court House. The exhibit, which featured art works by the students of the Brooklyn Youth GED Program, was mounted with the assistance of “Doing Art Together,” a non-profit arts education organization, created to keep students interested and engaged and building skills that are easily transferred from the classroom to life.

**President of Doing Art Together, Ken Jones, Esquire, invited Judges Betty J. Williams and Cheryl Gonzales to applaud the students’ creativity and hard work. The GED Program, a component of the Kings County Career Education Center, is a collaborative effort between the New York City Department of Education, the Kings County Department of Education, District, 79, and the Kings County Correctional Facility.**

The GED Program provides high school equivalency classes to defendants, pursuing their court mandated high school general equivalency diploma. Opened on March 1, 2010, the GED Program already has seven graduates who have passed the GED test, with four more scheduled to take the test this summer. Three of the recent graduates have been admitted and are scheduled to start college this fall. The student art exhibit was featured in local paper, the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, on Tuesday, June 28, 2011.

**Surrogate’s Court Presentation**

On July 9, 2011, Judge Diana Johnson, a Kings County Surrogate Court Judge, presented an overview of the operations of Kings County Surrogate’s Court to the members of the Association of East New York and Brownsville, a non-profit community based organization. Judge Johnson’s presentation, requested by the Association, was held at the New York City Surrogate’s Court, located at the Association’s monthly meeting. At the conclusion of the presentation, Judge Johnson answered questions from the members, approximately twenty-five association members in attendance. Judge Johnson was well received and enthusiastically applauded by the audience. Judge Johnson’s presentation continued a tradition, begun by New York City Judges Delores Thomas, Joan Taylor Stewart, and HUB Supervisor, Volunteer Services, Margaret Horton, presented the volunteers certificates of appreciation for the work the WIPC does on behalf of Bayview’s residents.

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**WOMEN IN PRISON COMMITTEE NEWS—PHILADELPHIA**

‘Philadelphia Judges Help Inmates to Stand for Themselves’

In July, Judge Lietsie Shridan-Harris of the Philadelphia City Court of Common Pleas, along with two colleagues, Judges Diane Thompson and Gwen Bright, co-chairs of the local NAWJ Women in Prison group mounted their first Success In and Out conference. Several other judges were involved with our Women in Prison committee and served on the conference steering committee: Judges Sheila Woods-Skipper, Karen Shreeves-Johns, Karen Simmons, and Angela Pechkurow. The conference is a side project of our second project since its inception last year. Our first project was a successful book drive which was also held at our local women’s county jail.

Keynote speaker, State Sena- tor LeAnna Washington, D-Philadelphia, got 100 or so inmates attending the conference who eagerly took advantage of the chance to ask the senator questions. Senator Washington told attendees: “It’s not how you fall. It’s how you get up.” During the keynote, Senator Washington told the conference attendees that she had been close to closing up in jail after a tumultuous personal relationship and a stint in a mental hospital outpatient unit.

One inmate told Washington, “I haven’t had a childhood.” Another inmate, Melissa from the E unit, said she is now clean and sober and grateful for the programs that have helped her in her sobriety. “You have to work your program or your program will work you,” Washington said.

Another woman from the E unit said that she was glad to be back in RCP because “I love myself as of now.” Right now, what I’m trying to do is make a stand for myself,” she said.

PSS Commissioner Louis Gioria said that the conference showed a side of judges that can’t be shown in court and “we couldn’t afford to bring them in as a system.”

More than 30 judges, attorneys and social workers presented programs on etiquette, getting ready for work, partnering with the community, domestic violence, and “Thirty Days Out: I’m Not Coming Back and Here’s Why!” Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Doris A. Pechkurow, chair of the conference steering committee, said that providing support to women, whether a government official, a head of a corporation or a sales clerk at Wal-Mart, struggles on how to get food on the table for her family and how to take care of work and other responsibilities. But the conference was an opportunity to give back to women who have the extra problem of re-entering society from incarceration, Pechkurow said.

In one workshop session, Kathleen Creamer, a fellow with the Stoneleigh Foundation working to improve services for children with incarcerated parents, said that parents only have 15 months after children are taken into foster care before a parent’s rights will be terminated unless there is “extraordinary evidence.”

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The Importance of Diversity in a Court’s Exercise of Its Appointment Powers

by Roberta D. Liebenberg

Much attention has been focused on the efforts by law firms and corporate legal departments to promote diversity and provide greater opportunities for women and minority lawyers. There has been far less discussion of whether courts have done enough to promote diversity through the exercise of their discretionary appointment powers. This is a significant issue because federal and state court judges routinely appoint lawyers to a number of important positions, such as lead counsel in class actions; special masters; receivers; trustees; hearing officers; referees; mediators and arbitrators; guardians; and as counsel for criminal defendants. Numerous federal and state court judges, and within the past six years, have examined how women and minorities are faring in our nation’s courts.

They have found that women and minority attorneys “are often excluded from important court appointments.” For example, the landmark Report issued by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Committee on Racial and Gender Bias in the Justice System found that women and minorities were significantly underrepresented on court appointment lists. This underrepresentation in court appointments “reduce[d] their opportunities to gain the experiences necessary to further their careers.” Moreover, women and minority attorneys “perceive that they are excluded from receiving court appointments because they are not members of the ‘old boys’ network’ of white male attorneys and judges.” The Report stressed that although the judiciary has an interest in retaining discretion as to whom to appoint, “this interest must be balanced with the need to overcome the perception (and perhaps the reality) that the system is not accessible to all races, ethnicities, and genders.” Therefore, it was recommended to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that it “[e]stablish as a goal increased opportunities for women and minorities to receive judicial appointments and to serve with the courts.”

The ABA Commission on Women in the Profession recently created a Committee which will further shine a spotlight on the ability of courts to promote diversity through their appointment powers. The Committee is comprised of a prominent number of women judges, and is chaired by Justice Nan Dybas of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, a former president of NAWJ. The Committee intends to educate judges around the country about the need to make appointments which are inclusive of women and minorities. We believe that, by securing such appointments, women and minority lawyers will also become better positioned to advance within their law firms and perhaps enhance their prospects of becoming judges themselves. Our society and legal profession are diverse, and thus it is imperative that women and minority lawyers be afforded an equal opportunity to secure court-appointed positions.

One federal district court judge who has taken the lead in the effort to promote diversity in judicial appointments is Judge Harold Baer of the Southern District of New York. Judge Baer became concerned by the lack of female and minority lawyers at law firms, and concluded that he could help address that problem by taking diversity into account in making appointments of lead counsel for plaintiffs in class actions. For example, Judge Baer entered an order in a securities class action last Fall directing the two plaintiffs’ firms serving as Co-Lead Counsel for the class “to make every effort to assign to this matter at least one minority lawyer and one woman lawyer with requisite experience.” In re: Gildan Activewear Inc. Securities Litig., 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 140649 at *3 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 20, 2010). Judge Baer emphasized that “this proposed class includes thousands of participants, both male and female, arguably from diverse backgrounds, and because it is important to all concerned that there is evidence of diversity, in terms of race and gender, in the class counsel I appoint.” Indeed, Judge Baer has demonstrated his strong commitment to diversity in the appointment of class counsel in several other cases as well.

With respect to the appointment of class counsel, the Manual on Complex Litigation and various Circuit Courts of Appeals have endorsed the use of “private ordering” among plaintiffs’ counsel in order to secure appointment as to who should serve as lead counsel for the class. However, although it may be desirable to avoid competing lead counsel applications, there is a risk that women and minority lawyers may be shortchanged in the “private ordering” process. This risk is exacerbated by the fact that courts presented with stipulations concerning the appointment of class counsel often approve such stipulations without conducting a rigorous analysis.

At the Federal Bench Bar Conference held in June, 2011 in Philadelphia, Judge Cynthia Rufe of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania spoke about the importance of diversity in the appointment of counsel for a plaintiff class. She discussed her selection of the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee in the Avandia Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation, MDL No. 1871. In that class action, Judge Rufe emphasized to Plaintiffs’ counsel that she wanted qualified women and minorities to be well represented on Plaintiffs’ Steering Committees, that all appointments would be made by the Court through an open application process completed by on-the-record interviews, and that the Court would not be restricted to recommendations based on an “old boys network” of plaintiffs’ lawyers. As a result, the Steering Committee that she appointed was inclusive and diverse, with women attorneys placed in leadership positions based on their experience and qualifications. See, e.g., April 9, 2008 Order in MDL No. 1871.

Courts can and should utilize their appointment powers to advance the salutary goal of promoting diversity in the legal profession and the justice system. Ensuring the full participation of women and minority lawyers in court-appointed roles will demonstrate that the judicial system is fully committed to fairness and equality for all, not just in words, but also in deeds.

Roberta D. Liebenberg is a senior partner at Fine, Kaplan and Black in Philadelphia. She is Chair of the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession. She was also Co-Chair of the Friends Committee for the 2007 NAWJ Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Ms. Liebenberg was Chair of the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary 2006-07.

RESOURCE BOARD NEWS

NAWJ Resource Board Member Ariana J. Talder was recently honored as one of the recipients of the Women’s Venture Fund’s Highest Leaf Award. The award is given annually to women business executives who are leaders in their respective industries and who have influenced the business world with innovative strategies and creative ideas. The Women’s Venture Fund is a non-profit organization that helps women of diverse backgrounds establish thriving businesses in urban communities by offering training, small business loans, and a network of business advisors to help them reach their business goals. Ms. Talder was also invited to speak at a national media conference in late June to discuss the U.S. media process. The conference was organized as part of the implementation in Italy of the European Union directive promoting and regulating media. The newly enacted Italian law requires all litigants to attempt mediation prior to filing a case in court.

NEW MEMBER INITIATIVES - JOIN NAWJ AND ATTEND THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

At its recent meeting the Board of Directors approved two exciting new member initiatives to promote membership in the organization by using one of its most engaging events of the year, our Annual Conference.

First, any person considering an initial membership in NAWJ may join for $300. This fee is almost half the $755 fee first-time jnors have paid in the past. The offer is open to anyone who shares NAWJ’s mission and joins between March 15, 2011 – March 14, 2012. Secondly, the Board approved our Annual Conference.

At the first time NAWJ Member First Time Attendee. Please see the conference registration form on page 38.

FURTHER AFIELD

The Secrets of a Client are Inviolate, a short story

By Hon. Janice Law

A Houston politician attorney in West Texas who inhabits a famous American mystery, and ethical issues to go with it, is the subject of a fiction short story by NAWJ member Janice Law, a former Harris County, Texas judge. Law’s story “The Secrets of a Client are Inviolate” won an Honorable Men-

Ohio Courts ‘Go Green’ Initiatives, and the courthouse’s Gold LEED status.

Ohio will be the first LEED-certified courthouse in Ohio. On hand for much of it development Ms. Skove said that though the LEED compliance part was ‘fraught with issues’ she is joining in congratulating NEW MEMBER INITIATIVES - JOIN NAWJ AND ATTEND THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

At its recent meeting the Board of Directors approved two exciting new member initiatives to promote membership in the organization by using one of its most engaging events of the year, our Annual Conference.

First, any person considering an initial membership in NAWJ may join for $300. This fee is almost half the $755 fee first-time jnors have paid in the past. The offer is open to anyone who shares NAWJ’s mission and joins between March 15, 2011 – March 14, 2012. Secondly, the Board approved our Annual Conference.

At the first time NAWJ Member First Time Attendee. Please see the conference registration form on page 38.

FURTHER AFIELD

The Secrets of a Client are Inviolate, a short story

By Hon. Janice Law

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Save the Dates in 2012!

NAWJ Midyear Meeting and Leadership Conference
March 8-11, 2012
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Host Hotel: The Charles Hotel

NAWJ’s 34th Annual Conference
November 7-12, 2012
Miami Beach, Florida
Host Hotel: Eden Roc Renaissance