Greetings to all! I look forward to serving as your District 6 Chair for another year. Last week, we wrapped up the annual NAWJ Conference in Seattle. It was a wonderful time, and I hope to see those who could not make it at our Conference next year. In this edition of the District 6 Newsletter, you will find updates about local events as well as national NAWJ updates. Finally, please join me in welcoming our newly-elected NAWJ President, the Honorable Diana Becton! -Judge Bernadette D’Souza, District 6

CONGRATULATIONS, MADAME PRESIDENT

We are thrilled to have the Honorable Diana Becton as our NAWJ President for the 2016-2017 year. A native of California, she is currently a Superior Court Judge in Contra Costa County, California. After seven years in private practice, she was appointed to the bench in 1995.

Per abc7news.com: “Judge Becton has received the following honors: ‘Rose Bird Memorial Award’ (2012) awarded to a person who is elevated for excellence as a jurist, longstanding public service and inspiration to women lawyers in California. ‘Judicial Excellence Award’ (April 2011) California Association of Black Lawyers, Judicial Section; ‘Judge of the Year’ (2007) Alameda-Contra Costa Trial Lawyers Association; ‘Award of Judicial Excellence’, (2006) Charles Houston Bar Association; Honored in 2011 by Black Women Lawyers of Northern California. In 2007 she was inducted into the Castlemont High School Hall of Fame, receiving the highest honor, as a ‘Knight in Shining Armor’; ‘Dumlao Martial Arts Image Award’ (2011) for leadership and character within the martial arts studio. Judge Becton is a member of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association. She is the Co-Chair of Membership, and in 2011 was elected to serve on the Judicial Council Board. Judge Becton is also Co-Chair of the Judicial Section of the California Association of Black Lawyers.” Judge Becton has served as the District 14 (California and Nevada) Chair, as well as on planning committees and other NAWJ boards for the last seven years. We are fortunate to have her as our president and look forward to what will certainly be a great year!
UPCOMING LOCAL EVENT: GENDER AND RACIAL DIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA JUDGES

Please join me on the evening of Monday, October 24 at Tulane University Law School for a panel on diversity in the judiciary. I hope to see you all there!

If you are interested in purchasing Sally Kenney’s book on gender in the judiciary prior to the event, you may do so here. The book is “[i]ntended for use in courses on law and society, as well as courses in women’s and gender studies, women and politics, and women and the law[.]”
WE ARE IN NEED OF STATE CHAIRS FOR TENNESSEE AND ALABAMA! If you are interested in serving as State chair, please contact Judge D’Souza (bdsouza@orleanscdc.com) as soon as possible.

If there is something you would like included in an upcoming e-Blast newsletter, including information about awards, retirements, events, or NAWJ programs in your area, please contact me or your regional/state chair.

Thank you again to all the members who made the trip to Seattle to celebrate our Annual Conference this month. A great time was had by all:

DISTRICT STATES
Alabama
Louisiana
Mississippi
Tennessee

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District 6 Director
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Bernadette D’Souza
Judge, Orleans Parish Civil District Court
NAWJ District 6 Director
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