

NAWJ District 7 Michigan Report
State Chair – Hon. Michelle M. Rick
April, 2019

Report for Michigan

1. *Face of Justice*: Michigan previously reported on the Face of Justice program held in Detroit over the summer of 2018. Since that time, Michigan NAWJ and the State Bar of Michigan have begun preliminary discussions with partners in Flint, Michigan, in hopes of starting a Face of Justice program there. We hope to have more information in a future report.
2. *MentorJet*: In November 2, 2018, a MentorJet event was held at Western Michigan University Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. Approximately 30 students and 30 volunteer Judges and lawyers participated in the evening. A MentorJet event was held at Michigan State University Law School on November 8, 2018. A group of about 30 students, Judges, and lawyers participated.

Shout out and THANK YOU!! Lavinia Cousins for all of your help creating the brochures that are provided to students and providing folio gifts for Mentors.

The next Michigan MentorJet event will be held at Western Michigan University Cooley Law School Auburn Hills campus on Tuesday, June 4. Additional events are planned at other Michigan law schools for 2019.

3. WMU Cooley Lansing, 11/2/18











Michigan State University Law School, 11/8/19. Judge Rick and Maria Jandernoa Manager of Professional Development & Programming, MSU Law School.







4. NAWJ member Judge Elizabeth Hines receives National Award

NAWJ member and Michigan 15th Judicial District Court Judge Elizabeth Hines was awarded the prestigious 2018 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence. The award was presented by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., at the November 15, 2018, ceremony at the United States Supreme Court. The Judicial Excellence Award is one of the nation's highest judicial awards. Judge Hines was nominated for the award by Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget McCormack (now Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court).

“As a state supreme court justice, I work with and watch many judges,” said Supreme Court Justice Bridget McCormack, in her letter nominating Judge Hines. “My deep appreciation for Judge Libby Hines’ ongoing contributions and selfless service grows with each year. She is a quiet treasure.”



5. NAWJ Michigan State Chair Judge Michelle Rick and NAWJ Michigan member Judge Sara Smolenski receive recognition from the Michigan Supreme Court for community service projects

In January 2019, at the incoming new judges' school, the Michigan Supreme Court recognized select state trial court judges for their contributions to their communities. The Michigan Supreme Court released a report highlighting the efforts of Michigan trial court judges who are finding ways to make a difference outside the courtroom. The report, "Success Stories – Judges in the Community: Giving Back & Making a Difference," featured 20 trial court judges from around the state who have given their time to a variety of local causes and initiatives. The report can be found here:

https://courts.michigan.gov/Administration/SCAO/Documents/Judges%20Giving%20Back_FIN_AL.pdf



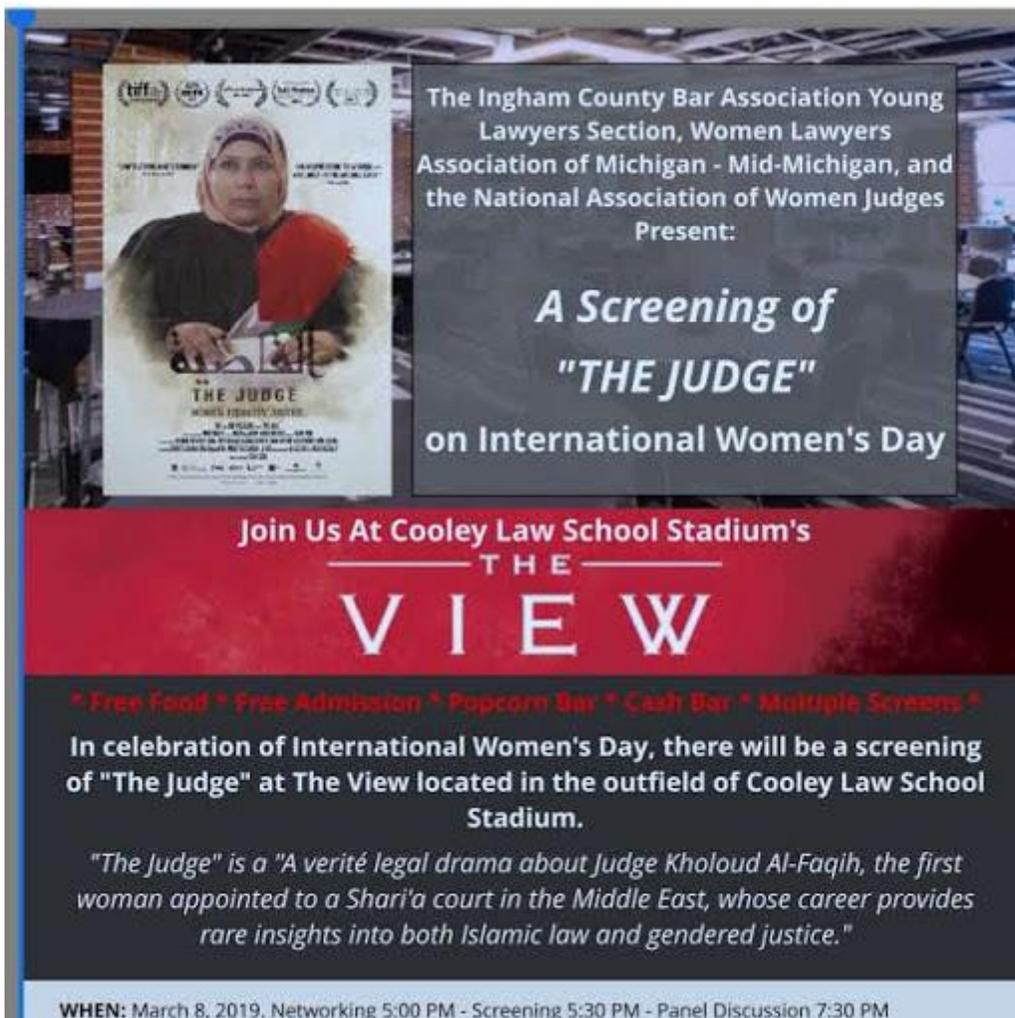
Judge Michelle Rick (Front row, 4th from the left) and NAWJ members Zenell Brown and Judge Langford Morris, together with MentorJet volunteer Judges and attorneys at WMU Cooley Law School, Auburn Hills, June 2018. Judge Rick was highlighted for her efforts in promoting NAWJ programming MentorJet and Face of Justice, which is based on NAWJ's Color of Justice flagship program.



Judge Sara Smolenski. Judge Smolenski was recognized for her quality of care and for her caring. Judge Smolenski is involved with numerous charitable organizations in her community in West Michigan, and has been actively involved in the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan for the last 15 years.

6. Honoring Women Judges Kholoud Al-Faqih and NAWJ member Michigan Judge Denise Langford Morris on International Women's Day March 8, 2019

NAWJ Michigan sponsored a showing of the documentary "The Judge" followed by a panel discussion on Friday, March 8, 2019 in Lansing, Michigan. The event was co-sponsored by the Women Lawyers of Mid-Michigan, and the Ingham County Bar Association Young Lawyers division. Event sponsors included the Sinas, Dramis law firm, Clark Hill, MVC Law, Mark J. DeLuca attorney at law, and Alexander Rusek attorney at law. The panelists included 30th Judicial Circuit Court Judge Laura Baird, Administrative Law Judge and NAWJ member Cori Barkman, Attorney Ernschie Augustin, and Attorney Alexander Rusek. Special thanks goes out to attorneys Alexander Rusek, Jacquelyn Dupler, and Ingham County Assistant Prosecutor Aylsh Gallagher who helped to organize the event and obtain sponsorships.



The poster features a central image of Judge Kholoud Al-Faqih, a woman wearing a black hijab and a red garment, sitting at a desk. To the right of the image is a dark grey box with white text. Below the image is a red banner with white text, and a dark grey box with white text. At the bottom is a light blue box with black text.

The Ingham County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan - Mid-Michigan, and the National Association of Women Judges Present:

A Screening of "THE JUDGE"
on International Women's Day

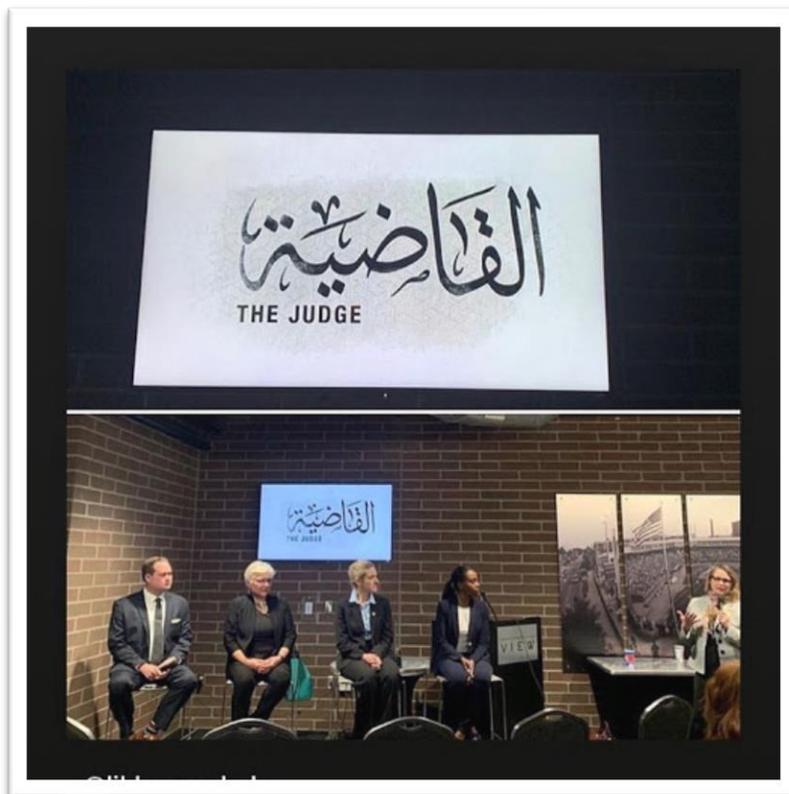
Join Us At Cooley Law School Stadium's
THE
VIEW

* Free Food * Free Admission * Popcorn Bar * Cash Bar * Multiple Screens *

In celebration of International Women's Day, there will be a screening of "The Judge" at The View located in the outfield of Cooley Law School Stadium.

"The Judge" is a "A verité legal drama about Judge Kholoud Al-Faqih, the first woman appointed to a Shari'a court in the Middle East, whose career provides rare insights into both Islamic law and gendered justice."

WHEN: March 8, 2019, Networking 5:00 PM - Screening 5:30 PM - Panel Discussion 7:30 PM



Also on Friday, March 8, 2019, the University of Detroit Mercy hosted a symposium on Women in the Law. The day-long event was highlighted by the unveiling of the portrait of the Honorable Denise Langford Morris, who is an NAWJ member and an alumna from the University of Detroit School of Law. It was a proud occasion for Judge Langford Morris to be recognized for her legal contributions.



Judge Langford Morris at her portrait unveiling at the University of Detroit Mercy, joined by UDM Law Dean Phyllis Crocker and UDM law students who created the symposium.

Michigan is actively recruiting members. Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget McCormack and Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Amy Krause have recently joined NAWJ. Welcome! Judge Krause is highlighted on an upcoming Counterbalance publication. This is an exciting time in Michigan. In 2018, all three judicial associations were led by women. This year, we have women holding top leadership positions in the State Judiciary, the Governor's Office, the Attorney General's office, and the Secretary of State.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Rick
Michigan State Chair



Justice McCormack



Governor Whitmer



SOS Benson



AG Nessel