



April 3, 2023
Mid-Year Report from District 1
Honorable Amy Lyn Blake

Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico and Rhode Island

District One is off to a great start! Fifteen new members joined NAWJ since November and we are looking forward to adding more through outreach and programming. Our current membership is strong with more than eighty members. We have been busy with educational and social programming.

EVENTS:

Our first post-COVID event was held on August 24, 2022, under the leadership of then District One director **Judge Mary Dacey White (ret.)**. We recognized newly appointed, elevated and retired judges. Over forty people attended, and you could feel the excitement of being together in person again!

Our virtual Coffee, Cocktails & Conversation took place on January 26, 2023. We challenged each member to invite someone who is not currently a NAWJ member. We had 42 people in attendance including NAWJ President **Judge Toni E. Clark**. We had a great time catching up, talking about upcoming programming, and planning future get togethers.

We held a Pathways to The Bench program at New England Law Boston on February 2, 2023. Panelists included **Judges Marylou Muirhead (ret.), Cat Ham, Erika Reis and Amy Blake**. The students asked interesting and engaging questions.

Judges Karen Green (ret.) and Valerie Yarashus launched a mentoring program at Harvard Law School through the school's Women's Law Student Association. The first event, held on February 27, 2023, was a great success. Next up the law

students will visit different courts throughout the Commonwealth. Also participating as mentors are **Judges Karin Bell, Debra Squires-Lee, Cat Ham and Maureen Mulligan.**

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Massachusetts Trial Court Women's History Committee held a celebration on March 21, 2023, to honor the impactful contributions of some amazing trailblazers from the executive branch, judiciary, academia, media and social service agencies. Gloria Steinem, who was introduced by **past NAWJ President and Chief Justice Amy Nechtem**, offered inspiring remarks. Our own **District Court Chief Justice Stacey Fortes** was among the honorees!



Chief Justice Stacey Fortes

District Court Chief Justice Stacey Fortes hosted a Color of Justice Program at the Lowell Justice Center on March 7, 2023. Sixty middle school girls of color attended this incredible event. Students met with judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers, court interpreters, and court officers. The students toured the Justice Center and ended their trip with a discussion and a pizza lunch. Chief Justice Fortes was the Mistress of Ceremonies. **Participating judges included NAWJ District One members: Amy Lyn Blake (Appeals Court), Catherine Ham (Superior Court), Helen Brown Bryant (Juvenile Court) and Judges Shannon Frison (Superior Court), Michelle Fentress (District Court), and Catherine Byrne (District Court).** NAWJ members in attendance included **Chief Justice and past NAWJ President Amy Nechtem and judges Kerry Ahearn and Joanna Rodriguez (Juvenile Court).**

On The Move:

District One member **Judge Diana H. Horan** has been appointed Chief Justice of the Housing Court. She was the first woman appointed to the Housing Court and is the first woman Chief Justice of the Housing Court. Justices of the Housing Court celebrated the elevation of Judge Horan with an outing in Truro!



(Judge Ann Chaplin, Chief Justice Diana Horan, Judge Fairlie Dalton and Judge Marylou Muirhead)

The United States Senate confirmed President Biden's nomination of Ayer District Court **Judge Margaret Guzman** to the federal bench as a U.S. District Court judge for the District of Massachusetts. Judge Guzman is the first Hispanic judge to sit on the USDC for Massachusetts.



But wait, there's more!

Planning is under way for five regional dinners over the next couple of months hosted by **Judges Ariane Vuono, Vickie Henry, Pam Dashiell, Lynn Rooney, Joanna Rodriguez, Gloria Tan, Kerry Ahearn, Lee Peterson, Amy Nechtem and Amy Blake.**

We are also collaborating with the Massachusetts Judges Conference to host a reception in the fall for the record number of women elected to offices throughout the State.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hon. Amy Lyn Blake
District One Director