



December 19, 2025  
Report from District One  
Honorable Debra A Squires-Lee & Honorable Lee M. Peterson

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



NAWJ Members had strong presence for a powerful message at the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment: The Undeniable History conference at

Salve Regina University in Rhode Island on December 4, 2025. The conference was sponsored in part by the Flaschner Judicial Institute thanks to the leadership of NAWJ member Honorable Julie Bernard (ret.) (seen above). NAWJ member the Honorable Melissa A. Long, Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court presented at the program along with several other distinguished members of the judiciary, professors and historians from across the United States. District One thanks our members for their support and commitment to this profound and essential conference.

### **Massachusetts Appeals Court Honored with 2025 Reporting Excellence Award**

The Massachusetts Appeals Court was awarded the 2025 Reporting Excellence Award by the Court Statistics Project (CSP), a national initiative jointly operated by the National Center for State Courts and the Conference of State Court Administrators. The CSP collects, analyzes, and publishes caseload data from courts in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories, transforming raw data into actionable insights that empower court leaders. The award places the Massachusetts Appeals Court among a small and distinguished group of courts nationwide recognized for excellence in data reporting. This recognition reflects the dedication of the Appeals Court's docketing, data, chambers, and technology teams, and their ongoing commitment to responsible stewardship of court information. The Appeals Court expects to realize even greater advances in statistics and data collection in the coming years as they continue to modernize their case management system. Thank you once again Chief Justice Blake and to all our District One Massachusetts Appeals Court justices for your leadership and dedication to these measures that are critical for effective operations into the future, congratulations!

## NAWJ Members Celebrate the Holidays



Thank you for attending the District One Holiday Zoom party on December 17<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate that you could take time out of your busy schedules to meet. It was fun to talk about favorite holiday memories and there was even a special guest appearance by the Grinch (Justice Henry's colorful holiday decoration). Happy Holidays everyone!



NAWJ members (left to right) Judge Jennifer Bingham, Judge Jacqueline Burchill, Judge Lee Peterson and Judge Jessica Dubin celebrate the holidays with Norfolk Probate & Family Court Judges, Probation Officers, Assistant Judicial Case Managers, Sessions Clerks, Assistants and staff on December 6, 2025 in Norwood, Massachusetts.



District One is Trilled to Announce Distinguished New  
Members

WELCOME TO NAWJ JUSTICE MELISSA A. LONG!



District One is honored to welcome the Honorable Melissa A. Long, Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court to NAWJ. Justice Long was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court on January 11, 2021. Before her elevation to the Supreme Court, Justice Long served for over three years as an Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court, where she was assigned to oversee, or to assist on, various calendars in Providence County. Justice Long chairs the Rhode Island Committee on Racial & Ethnic Fairness in the Courts.

Justice Long received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia and earned her law degree at the George Mason University School

of Law. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Marcus D. Williams of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia and thereafter devoted her legal career to public service and public interest law, including nearly three years as Rhode Island Deputy Secretary of State.

WELCOME TO NAWJ PROFESSOR ANITA HILL!



District One is honored to welcome Professor Anita F. Hill to NAWJ. Professor Hill teaches courses on gender, race, social policy and legal history at Brandeis University. Professor Hill was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar in 1980 and began her law career as an associate with the Washington, D.C., firm of Wald, Harkrader & Ross. In 1981 she became special counsel to the assistant secretary of the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. From 1982 to 1983, she served as adviser to the chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

She began her teaching career as an assistant professor at Oral Roberts University, where she taught from 1983 to 1986. In 1986, she joined the faculty at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Before coming to the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University she visited at the University of California's Institute for the Study of Social Change and Brandeis University's Women's Studies Program.

Professor Hill is the author of numerous articles on international commercial law, bankruptcy, and civil rights -- all areas in which she has taught. She has given numerous presentations on commercial law as well as race and gender equality. In addition, she has appeared on several television programs, such as Face the Nation and Meet the Press, and her commentary has been published by Newsweek, the New York Times, and the Boston Globe. She has served on numerous boards of directors for nonprofit organizations and is the author of Speaking Truth to Power, which chronicles her experience as a witness in the confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas. Her latest book is Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race and Finding Home (Beacon Press, 2011) combines the study of commercial and anti-discrimination law with an examination of culture and society to address the 2008 foreclosure crisis and its ongoing impact.

Professor Hill is a graduate of Yale Law School and she has a B.S. from Oklahoma State University. She has Honorary Degrees from Simmons University, Dillard University, Smith College, Lasell College, Suffolk University, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Mount Holyoke College, Mount Ida College, Emerson College, Lesley University and was a visiting Scholar at Wellesley College.

Professor Hill has received countless awards and honors including Ford Hall Forum, First Amendment Award Alphonse Fletcher Sr. Fellowship Award, Alice and Clifford Spendlove Prize in Social Justice, Diplomacy and Tolerance, Martin Luther King Fellowship, American Bar Fellowship, and Silver Gavel Award.

# **JOIN NAWJ DISTRICT ONE FOR THE LAWYERS HAVE HEART 5K**

**In Honor of the Honorable Maureen Mulligan, Superior Court  
December 10, 1961 – December 25, 2023**

We are so excited to offer an incredible opportunity / program for our membership!! The entire District running / walking to raise money for the American Heart Association and in honor of our friend and colleague Hon. Maureen Mulligan who died on Christmas two years ago. Judge Cathi Campbell – District Court and now Superior Court – an accomplished marathoner and coach, will train us.

All the information you need is contained in the message sent by Judge Squires-Lee on December 10, 2025. Please take a look! Think about joining us the first week in June 2026!



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District One has been busy! Our membership has continued to grow. We are focusing on growing our membership outside of Massachusetts in the coming year.

We are always seeking new members and encouraging lifetime memberships, if you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a member or if you are already a member and would like to become a lifetime member, please forward the link or join here: [Join NAWJ](#)

Respectfully submitted:

Honorable Debra A Squires-Lee & Honorable Lee M. Peterson

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NAWJ District One Co-Directors