



**October 19, 2022**  
**Annual Report from District 1**  
**Honorable Mary Dacey White (ret.)**

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

1. Our members **Hon. Cathy Campbell** was elevated to the Superior Court for Massachusetts, **Hon. Angel Kelley** was appointed to the USDC-Massachusetts by President Biden, **Hon. Catherine Ham** was elevated to the Superior Court for Massachusetts and **Chief Justice Paula Carey** retired in January 2022.
2. Color of Justice Program: Was scheduled for February 16, 2022, at the Lowell District Court. Unfortunately, it has been postponed until a date in April or May due to the Omicron Variant. The program is being presented by **Hon. Stacey Fortes** and **NAWJ**;
3. **Women's History Month** is off to a great start at the Chelsea District Court. First Justice Matthew Machera and Chief Probation Officer Carmen Gomez are holding the second annual virtual celebration to honor, recognize, and hear from women who have influenced society by ***Providing Healing and Promoting Hope***. The honorees include **Hon. Dalila Argaez Wendlandt**, Associate Justice, **Hon. Julie Bernard**, District Court Judge and **Hon. Angel Kelley**, USDC Massachusetts. **Hon. Amy Nechtem** is one of the event speakers as well. Judges Bernard, Kelley and Nechtem are **NAWJ** members. The event was held at 11AM virtually on March 1, 2022.
4. **Hon. Joan Feeney (ret.)**, **Hon. Amy Nechtem**, **Hon. Helen Brown Bryant** and **Hon. Mary Dacey White (ret.)**, all **NAWJ** members did a **Law School Outreach** program with the assistance of **Hon. Mary Lou Muirhead** on March 8, 2022 at Suffolk Law School at 5:30 PM both in person and virtually. The topic will be ***Women in the Law***.
5. **Hon. Paula Carey**, **Hon. Judith Frabricant** and **Hon. Amy Nechtem** all members of **NAWJ** were part of a panel sponsored by the Massachusetts Trial Court on March 18, 2022. The topic will be ***Women on the Bench, Being Prepared to Navigate Gender Related Experiences***
6. I attended the Mid-year Meeting in Crystal City, VA and was joined by 3 other members from the district.



From left to right: Hon. Nan Duffly (ret.), C.J. Amy Nechtem, Hon. Mary Dacey White (ret.) and Hon. Karen Green

The conference was well attended despite COVID-19. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Board of Director's Meeting and NAWJ is doing very well. Even during the pandemic its membership increased. President Elizabeth White has a good vision for NAWJ for 2022.

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All the panels were excellent and very enlightening. However, the most informative was the panel that I was on!!! "*Judges in Transition*" The 4 panelists were all retired judges from different parts of the country and all doing something different. Judge Barbara Levenson retired from the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Florida, is now an author of mystery novels; Judge Beverly Cutler, Senior Judge retired from Alaska Court System, 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District, is now doing pro bono legal work for immigrants; Judge Randa Trapp, retired from San Diego Superior Court is now a mediator for JAMS and Judge Mary Dacey White, retired from Brookline District Court (MA) is now enjoying life as a grandmother of 2 little girls with a grandson on the way. Attorney Nicole Erb, a partner at White & Case, moderated it. It was well attended and quite a lively discussion amongst the panelists and the audience. If I say so myself, an enjoyable panel on all fronts!!



From left to right: Hon. Mary Dacey White (ret.), Hon. Randa Trapp (ret.), Atty. Nicole Erb (moderator), Hon. Beverly Cutler (ret.) and Hon. Barbara Levenson (ret.).

7. **Hon Joan N. Feeney (ret.)** was the coach for the Suffolk Law School Moot Court Team at the Hon. Conrad Duberstein Moot Court Team in NYC the weekend of February 25, 2022.



Hon. Joan N. Feeney (ret.) 3<sup>rd</sup> from the right with her moot court team.

8. **Women's History Month** was off to a great start at the Chelsea District Court. First Justice Matthew Machera and Chief Probation Officer Carmen Gomez held the second annual virtual celebration to honor, recognize, and hear from women who have influenced society by ***Providing Healing and Promoting Hope***. The honorees included **Hon. Dalila Arguez Wendlandt**, Associate Justice, **Hon. Julie Bernard**, District Court Judge and **Hon. Angel Kelley**, USDC Massachusetts. **Hon. Amy Nechtem** was one of the event speakers as well. Judges Bernard, Kelley and Nechtem are **NAWJ** members. The event was held at virtually on March 1, 2022.
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From left to right: 3L and President of the Suffolk Women's Bar Association Sofia Martinez Guasch, moderator, Atty. Safa Osmani of Hogan Lovells, Hon. Mary Dacey White (ret.), Hon. Joan N. Feeney (ret.), Hon. Helen Brown Bryant and Chief Justice Amy Nechtem.

10. **Hon. Paula Carey**, **Hon. Judith Frabricant** and **Hon. Amy Nechtem** all members of **NAWJ** were part of a panel sponsored by the Massachusetts Trial Court on March 18, 2022. The topic was ***Women on the Bench, Being Prepared to Navigate Gender Related Experiences***
11. **Hon. Angel Kelley** was officially sworn in as a U S District Court Judge for the District of Massachusetts on April 4, 2022. She had several NAWJ members present both in person as well as virtually. **Hon. Tony Leoney (ret.)** was the moderator of the festivities and did a fabulous job. We send her our congratulations and best wishes to her. Judge Kelley had a great career as a Massachusetts District and Superior Court Judge. She will be a fantastic Federal Court Judge!



Hon. Angel Kelley being sworn in by Judge Saylor at the Moakley courthouse in Boston, MA.

12. On April 13, 2022, Judges Amy Blake, Marguerite Grant, Catherine Ham and MaryLou Muirhead presented a NAWJ Law School Outreach program with New England Law Boston.



From the left Professor Natasha Varyani, Justice Marguerite Grant, Judge Catherine Ham, Justice Amy Blake, Professor Monica Teixeira-DeSousa, Judge MaryLou Muirhead, Professor Caryn Mitchell-Munevar.

13. **Hon. Angela McConney Scheepers** a District One member has a new title for the next 12 months! She is going to be the President of the Massachusetts Bar Foundation. See the press release below that was sent to me from **Hon. MaryLou Muirhead**, NAWJ member.

“When **Angela McConney Scheepers** was in college at **Dartmouth** deciding on a career path, it seemed like all of her friends made one of three choices: business school, medical school, or law school.

Her decision — the law school route — ended up having a meaningful impact on the legal community in her home state of Massachusetts. For the past decade, she has worked as an administrative magistrate for the state Division of Administrative Law Appeals. During the decade before that, she had been general counsel for the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission, a Suffolk County prosecutor, and chief legal counsel with what was then the state Legislature's criminal justice committee. She also has held a number of volunteer roles over that time, including one year as the president of the **Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association**.

On June 7, she'll add a new title: president of the **Massachusetts Bar Foundation**. She will take over for **Dick Grahn** for the next 12 months at the group's annual meeting at the **JFK Library**. In doing so, she will become the first person of color to lead the foundation's board in its nearly 60-year history.

“I think attorneys of color, seeing me being the president, ... you can see, 'Wow, that's a group that I can work with,'" McConney Scheepers said. “My very presence here lets you know you are welcome.”

She takes the gavel at a time when the foundation is looking to expand its geographic and racial diversity. Now that COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, it will be easier to socialize at events across the state and recruit new members.

The Boston-based foundation's primary mission is distributing grants to nonprofits that provide legal assistance to people who can't afford a lawyer in civil cases; most of its \$3-million-plus annual budget goes to this purpose.

“She is smart, compassionate, fully engaged and focused on working on our mission: increasing access to justice," said **Susannah Thomas**, the nonprofit's executive director. “She brings a lot of energy and enthusiasm.”



14. On August 24<sup>th</sup>, District One had its first live reception since March of 2019. It was a great success! As I was leaving the next day for a 12-day trip to Scotland and France, CJ Nechtem was gracious to write up the following for my report. I truly appreciated the help!!!

**NAWJ Reception:**

“It was a beautiful summer evening as seen in this photo overlooking Boston Harbor, when NAWJ District One members celebrated newly appointed judges, elevated judges to leadership positions and higher courts of appeal. District Director **Judge Mary Dacey White** along with past NAWJ presidents **Justice Nan Duffly** and **Chief Justice Amy Nechtem**, with honored NAWJ leaders **Justice Ariane Vuono**, **Judge MaryLou Muirhead**, and **Judge Joan Feeney**, welcomed over 40 judges from across the Commonwealth enlisting many new members to NAWJ. The warm collegiality and excitement for NAWJ’s annual meeting in Detroit was on everyone’s mind. This late summer gathering was a long-awaited joyous event. **Judge Mary Dacey White** recently retired from the bench yet her NAWJ devotion to NAWJ continues. We cheer and honor Judge White’s many years of judicial service and thank her for leading District One with passion and grace. Her successor, our friend and colleague, **Justice Amy Blake** will be taking the helm when **Judge White’s** term concludes.

Congratulations and thank you to Judge White for her years of service as District One Director.”

Hon. Amy Nechtem



***Marina Bay, Quincy, MA 8/24/2022***