



November 20, 2025

Report from District One

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

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

CONGRATULATIONS



Lifetime NAWJ Member Chief Justice Amy L. Blake becomes Vice President of Districts for NAWJ! District One thanks you for your leadership as District One Director and wishes you all the best in your new role on the Executive Committee. Our programming and membership vastly expanded with the foundation that you set as director.

District One Member Associate Justice Jennifer M. Allen
Appointed to the Massachusetts Appeals Court



Justice Allen was appointed to the Massachusetts Appeals Court by Governor Maura Healey, who administered Justice Allen's oath of office on July 28, 2025. Justice Allen's first panel sitting was on August 12, 2025, and she participated in a ceremonial oath of office event with Governor Healey on October 27, 2025. More information about Justice Allen's distinguished career and background may be found [HERE](#)

COLOR OF JUSTICE PROGRAM 2025

The Cornelius F. Kiernan Judicial Center hosted nearly 70 middle school girls on October 1 for the 5th annual Color of Justice program, led by District Court Chief Justice Stacey J. Fortes. Students came from Bartlett, Butler, Sullivan Middle Schools, and, joining for the first time, the Lowell Community Charter School. The event is part of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) initiative designed to introduce students from underrepresented communities to careers in the legal profession.





*Judge's Panel featuring Hon. **Dalila Wendlandt**, Supreme Judicial Court; Hon. **Gloria Tan**, Appeals Court; Hon. **Cathleen Campbell**, Superior Court; Hon. **Marjorie Pauleon Tynes**, District Court; and Hon. **Joanna Rodriguez**, District Court*



ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION



The Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission, co-chaired by NAWJ member Hon. Valerie N. Yarashus, hosted a symposium in the Seven Justice Courtroom at the Supreme Judicial Court, “Moving Access to Justice Forward in the 21st Century: Technology & Transformation” on November 17, 2025. The symposium brought together court leaders, academics, the access to justice community, bar associations leaders, legal professionals, technologists, community partners, and others to explore how technology, innovation, and collaboration can drive real progress, particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalized civil litigants. Approximately 100 people attended in person and 150 people watched livestream. One of the highlights for everyone was that NAWJ member Chief Justice Margaret Marshall (ret.), the Chief whose leadership was responsible for the founding of the Commission in 2005, attended the program. This symposium was the culminating event of a year-long celebration of the Commission’s 20th year anniversary.

CULTURAL APPRECIATION WEEK



Justice Nielsen organizes the event planning committee



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School
presents Afrobeats dance ensemble

District One Lifetime NAWJ Member Juvenile Court Justice Arose Nielsen brings cultural appreciation week and National Adoption Day to the next level

On October 21st, Justice Arose Nielsen and Justice Danielle Williams chaired the Holyoke Courts' annual Trial Court Cultural Appreciation Week Celebration. The event was open to the public and featured music, live entertainment, salsa class, and free refreshments. Local service providers and the Hampden County Sheriff's Department also contributed with resources and support. The event highlighted unity, diversity, and access to justice through cultural and artistic expression.

On National Adoption Day, Justice Nielsen was also featured on local television assisting with some of the 134 children adopted across Massachusetts. See the heartwarming program [HERE](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

District One is proud to welcome the following new members:

Judges: Sarah A Turano-Flores, Elizabeth T Teixeira, Paul Smyth, Jeannie M Rhinehart, Cara L. Krysil, Sarah Kennedy, Diane Cabo Freniere, Katherine A Field, Colleen Carroll, Jacqueline M Burchill, Law Student: C Tricia Liu, Amicus Judicii Members: Gina L DeRossi and Jackie R Kaz, and Associate Member: Anita Botti

District One has been busy! Our membership has continued to grow in Massachusetts. We plan to focus 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

NAWJ District One Co-Directors