



April 5, 2021
Mid-Year Report from District 1
Honorable Mary Dacey White

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

NOVEMBER 6, 2020:

On October 15, 2020, 12 members of the district attended the district meeting during our virtual Annual Conference. During our meeting, I was retained as the District Director for the next 2 years. In that time frame hopefully, a member of the district will step up and take over the post by the 2022, Annual meeting.

MaryLou Muirhead, former District One Director has been tapped by President Karen Donoghue to be on the Law School Outreach Committee. She has reached out to all District One members to reach out to their law schools. MaryLou has gotten a response and as she said not from the usual suspects! I am putting a blurb in our newsletter about her new position and her plans for her term.

I have a list of new women judges that I will provide to NAWJ to reach out to them and ask them to join and for NAWJ to cc me on their letter and then I will follow up from there. I will also asked NAWJ to send me any information they get about newly appointed or elected women judges in the District.

Lastly, my core group and I are trying to plan a Zoom reception for these new appointed judges with a fun theme for Mid-January of 2021. However, with the increase in COVID it seems that it may be an impossible task but we will try our best!

Lastly, Suffolk Law School is hosting a virtual event for "All Rise Uniting to Advance Women and the Future of the Law" Amy Nechtem, Joan Feeney and Stacey Fortes all NAWJ members are involved in the event and Stacey is a panelist. It is November 18, 2020 from 4PM to 6PM. Amy Nechtem has sent it to all District One Members. I have attached the link here if you are interested in the event.

DECEMBER 10, 2020:

I just want to fill you in on NAWJ, since the virtual Annual meeting in October. I had hoped to get this out to you in November but I don't know where the month went! Since the meeting, I have had one director's meeting virtually and have another one on December 11, 2020. They are held virtually the second Friday of the month at 1 PM EST. If you have anything you want me to bring to the attention of NAWJ, just email the information by that day and I will inform them of your request or your events.

On October 15, 2020, 12 members of District One attended the district meeting during our virtual Annual Conference. During our meeting, I was retained as the District Director for the next 2 years. In that time frame hopefully, a member of the district will step up and take over the post by the 2022, Annual meeting. One of our newest members, Hon. Julie Bernard of the District Court attended.

I would like our members who are on social media to please "like" NAWJ on your social media platform. NAWJ is trying very hard to be out there in the social media world and our likes will go a long way. Thank you!

MaryLou Muirhead, former District One Director has been tapped by President Karen Donoghue to be on the Law School Outreach Committee. She has reached out to all District One members to reach out to their law schools. MaryLou has gotten a great response and as she said not from the usual suspects! I joined a Zoom meeting with MaryLou and her committee on November, 23rd. The following is from Marylou's follow up email to her committee that best describes its purpose. Please reach out to MaryLou Muirhead if you are interested in this committee.

"The goals of the of the National Committee and those of District 1 are: to establish relationships with law schools to strengthen the pipeline of women law students to the bench, and to raise awareness of NAWJ's mission among both students and faculty; to reach out and connect with women at law schools so every school has access to women judges, while expanding the presence of NAWJ.

There is no right or wrong way to do this. Strategies may include assisting members in holding NAWJ programs at the law schools such as Mentor Jet, 'Life on the Bench', and the Color of Justice. Information about these programs is on the NAWJ website and I am attaching information about programs we have done here in District One. But certainly there may be other programs or meetings with law schools and students that are specific to your court, your community and / the law school with which you are working. Young women in law school may be concerned about raising children on a partnership track in a law firm, for example, something some of us may have experienced. Coordinating with a dean or professor at a local law school and bringing back alumna or bringing in lawyers that practice before you might make a great program. In some ways, virtual programs expand your audience and presenters.

The law school outreach committee also works with the judges planning the annual conference to present a Future Justice scholarship at the conference to a law student attending a local school. We could pick a topic and review the review the essays. But money is tight now. In LA the planners contributed to the scholarship, prior to that it

was NAWJ. We could work with the local women's bar associations. Some of us may not be able to contribute to a scholarship and some may be prohibited from raising funds.

There are 16 law schools within District 1, 9 are in Massachusetts. Our plan is to have a judge or two reach out to a law school and develop a contact to see what kind of program would work. Your inroad may be with a member of the administration, faculty or the school's Women's Law Society of Law Caucus and have a conversation about what might work in that school. You can use NAWJ's materials or those that District 1 has developed or make up your own. (We had a lovely tea with New England Students a few years ago -- although we may not be able to do THAT this year!). Once you have a contact, and an idea, you can run with it or check in with me and I will be happy to help you. I can also provide copies of the programs that District 1 put on while I was director."

JANUARY 7, 2021:

On Wednesday, December 30th, I joined other NAWJ district directors and Board Members for a Holiday Cocktail Zoom Party. It was quite well attended.

MaryLou Muirhead has her group of committee members reaching out to all of the 9 law schools here in District One. I and member, Joan Feeney are working with Suffolk Law School. Our next Zoom meeting is January 28th. Our outreach was well received by the school.

Our member, Amy Blake is on a panel March 23, 2021, at the Social Law Library, Boston, Ma. I have attached below the information she has sent to me and that I have forwarded to our District One Members.

The program will be moderated by Atlanta attorney and film maker, Sharon Rowen and will involve her documentary Balancing the Scales. From her website:

This film explores the history of women lawyers in the US, why their attempts to break the glass ceiling have failed, and what we can do to change the cultural attitudes which prevent women from balancing power at the top.

The program is FREE and I would encourage you to sign up if you are interested.

Here is the Link:

I don't know about the other states in our district but I can tell you that Massachusetts is still having very few members of the public in the building at this time. It may possibly stay this way until

April 5, 2021. Currently, six person jury trials are to start on a limited basis on Monday, January 11, 2021. I will have more info on that in my next update!

Still trying to put a Zoom reception together but for every 2 steps forward we seem to take 4 steps back!!!! Would love to hear from other directors what seems to work well!

FEBRUARY 11, 2021:

We are off to a great start!!!! Hon. Angel Kelley, Massachusetts Superior Court returned as member this January, and new member, Justice Vickie Henry, Massachusetts Appeals Court. NAWJ has sent out letters of invite to 2 new Justices of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, Judge Melissa A. Long and Judge Erin Lynch Prata. I have also forwarded information on NAWJ to Justice Marguerite Grant of the Massachusetts Appeals Court.

On 1/25/2021, Judge Mary Lou Muirhead held a District 1 Law School Outreach committee zoom meeting. It was well attended, here is her follow up email:

We met today to check in and see how we the outreach is proceeding, and I am excited tell you that we have all contacted a law school and are well on our way to scheduling an event! In fact, Gloria Tan and Catherine Ham have a program scheduled for February 2 at Northeastern, Kathe Tuttmann and Helen Brown Bryant have a program at UMass on March 18 and Debra Squires Lee and Julie Bernard have a program scheduled for April 7, 2021 at BC.

The programs will include discussion about the road to the judiciary, job opportunities, and jobs for lawyers in the government and a question and answer discussion. Other schools have expressed an interest in similar programming -- all of course via ZOOM.

Gloria and Catherine will make their program available for the committee to view (and maybe even chime in). It might be good for all of us to consider doing the same, where possible

On 2/2/2021, I attended the program that Judge Cat Ham and Judge Gloria Tan put on at Northeastern University. It was in conjunction with the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and the Women's Law Caucus at Northeastern. It was well attended, approximately 25 students both male and female. I as well as Judge Muirhead attended the function. I will be forwarded to the organizers the link to NAWJ membership for the faculty as well as the students. We may be able to get some faculty and students as members from these programs.

Last night Gloria Tan and Catherine Ham, with the assistance of the women's law caucus, hosted a forum at Northeastern Law School! It was wonderful! There were about 25 participants and Cat and Gloria answered prepared questions for a while and then the attendees could ask their own questions. Mary white introduced NAWJ and I was able to be there for about an hour. The students and the two judges appeared to be having a lot of fun.

Congratulations and thank you for a job well done. I know this will be the first of many programs all over the state and hope this is not our last visit to Northeastern.

Judge Mary Lou Muirhead; 2/3/2021

Judge Stacey Fortes is planning on a Zoom Color of Justice Program for the spring. I will keep all undated on this.

Ret. Judge Joan Feeney and I are planning an outreach program at Suffolk on the History of Women in the Law. Tentatively, planned for the second half of March. I will have more information in my next update.

I am presenting as part of the ABA, Judicial Outreach Month on March 8, 2021 at Brookline High School.

Jury trials are back on hold here in Massachusetts as well as Evictions. Vaccines are being administered but very slow. Not sure when I will get mine. Probably not for at least another week or two.

MARCH 13, 2021:

February was a quiet month for District! I am presented as part of the ABA, Judicial Outreach Month on March 8, 2021 at Brookline High School. It was virtual and was attended by 23 students. It was well received.

Judge Muirhead's Law School Outreach committee is going strong. We have a program scheduled for March 18th at U Mass Law School and March 24th at Suffolk Law School.

Jury trials are back in Massachusetts but Evictions are still on hold. Vaccines are being administered but very slow. I have the first of the Moderna.

APRIL 5, 2021:

Judge Mary Lou Muirhead, Chair of NAWJ's Law school Outreach Committee has been quite busy these past few weeks. The committee members have all been busy since mid-March doing zoom presentation at the law schools in the greater Massachusetts. Since my March 13 update, there have been presentations at U Mass Law School, presented by NAWJ members, Judges Tuttmann and Brown Bryant, on March 18th. April 6th at Western New England Law School, presented by NAWJ members, Judges Horan, McGuiggan and Walsh. April 7th, at Boston College Law School, presented by NAWJ members, Judges Bernard, Dein and Squires-Lee. And on April 9th, at New England School of Law, Boston presented by Judges Muirhead, Ham and Blake. Judges Feeney, Nechtem and White are planning for a program at Suffolk Law School in September. Judge Fortes is also planning a Color of Justice Program in the fall as well.

Jury trials have resumed in Massachusetts but mostly at remote sites due to air quality issues. Massachusetts is still at 50% staffing in the courts until June 1, 2021. Hopefully by then a majority of court employees and court users will be vaccinated.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Mary Dacey White
District One Director