



September 17, 2021  
Annual Report from District ONE  
Honorable Mary Dacey White

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

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2020**

- 12 members attended the Virtual Annual Conference on October 15, 2020.
- Hon. Mary Dacey White was retained as District One Director.
- Hon. Mary Lou Muirhead was appointed by President Karen Donohue as Chairperson of the Law School Outreach Committee.
- Suffolk Law School hosted a virtual event, "All Rise Uniting to Advance Women and the Future of the Law". NAWJ members, Hon. Amy Necthem and Hon. Joan Feeney were part of the planning committee and Hon. Stacey Fortes was a panelist.
- Members were encouraged to like NAWJ on social media and to join Amazon Smile and to support NAWJ.

**JANUARY, 2021**

- Hon. Mary Dacey White attended the NAWJ Virtual Holiday Party on December 30th., a fun time was had by all.
- Hon. Mary Lou Muirhead has been working diligently with her Law School Outreach Committee. Many programs are in the works.
- Hon. Amy Blake, NAWJ member, was on a panel at the social Law Library in Boston, MA. The program was moderated by Atlanta Attorney and filmmaker Sharon Rowen and involved her documentary BALANCING THE SCALES.

**FEBRUARY, 2021**

- We are off to a great start!!!! Hon. Angel Kelley, Massachusetts Superior Court returned as a member this January, and new member, Justice Vickie Henry, Massachusetts Appeals Court. NAWJ has sent out letters of invitation 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 meeting via Zoom.
- 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, with 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.
- Judge Stacey Fortes is planning a Zoom Color of Justice Program for the spring. I will keep you all updated 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.

## **MARCH, 2021**

- February was a quiet month for the District! I 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 UMass Law School and March 24<sup>th</sup> at Suffolk Law School.
- Jury trials are back in Massachusetts but Evictions are still on hold.
- Vaccines are being administered but very slowly. I have the first of the Moderna.

## **APRIL, 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 presentations at the law schools in Massachusetts. Since my March 13 update, there have been presentations at UMass Law School, presented by NAWJ members, Judges Tuttmann and Brown Bryant, on March 18<sup>th</sup>. April 6<sup>th</sup> at Western New England Law School, presented by NAWJ members Judges Horan, McGuiggan and Walsh. April 7<sup>th</sup>, at Boston College Law School, presented by NAWJ members Judges Bernard, Dein and

Squires-Lee. And on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## **MAY/JUNE, 2021**

- Massachusetts was finally open!!!! Jury trials have resumed, and the courts are open for the use but masks are mandated for court users. There has been a flurry of appointments to the bench, but I am waiting for a complete list. As soon as I have it, I will forward it to NAWJ.
- Reached out to the district's core members to start planning for a fall event to celebrate the new women judges, the elevations of our women judges and the retirement of our members. Hoping to schedule it right after the Annual Conference.
- Hoping that Judge Fortes will be able to do her Color of Justice Program later in February, 2022. Judge Feeney and I are planning on doing a law school outreach program in September at Suffolk Law School. Should have the details by the next report.
- Waiting for a decision from the Massachusetts Judicial Ethics Commission as to the Resolutions that will be presented at the Annual Conference for the Massachusetts Judges. The concern is that it may take on a political nature that would affect the Massachusetts Judges' ability to participate and or remain as NAWJ members. I will keep you all posted as soon as I hear.
- I retired from the bench on July 30, 2021. I will remain on as District Director until the Annual Conference. I am concerned that by not being a part of the day to day activities of the bench, that I will not have the information needed to fulfill the position. I am thinking of several people to join me as a co-director that is still on the bench.

## **JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 2021**

- August was very uneventful! The Mass Judicial Ethics Committee did respond to my inquiry about the resolutions before the NAWJ Membership. I forwarded the opinion to NAWJ and to President Donohue. Massachusetts Judges must abstain from voting on the LBGTQ Resolution but may vote on the second resolution that was proposed by President Donohue.
- A fall reception was planned but is currently on hold due to the Delta Variant. I hope to get it off the ground in October and schedule it for early December.
- Judge Feeney (ret) and I are hoping to do a Law School outreach program at Suffolk Law School in the Fall.
- Judge Fortes has scheduled a Color of Justice Program at Lowell High School for

February, 2022.

- Hon. Amy Nechtem, Past President of NAWJ, was recently honored by the US Dept. of Health and Human Services for Children and Families with the 2021 Children's Bureau Champion Award.

**Respectfully submitted this 17th day of September, 2021,**

**Hon. Mary Dacey White, District One Director**