



February 17, 2026

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

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF A SUPERWOMAN AMONG US**  
**Remembering Maxine Rocaberte**

**With great sadness, we share the passing of Maxine Rocaberte—a true legend of the Middlesex Probate and Family Court and the longest-serving Local 6 employee in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**



Maxine began working at the Court in 1947. She left after ten years to raise her family, then returned in 1979 and continued serving the public and the Court until her final day—an extraordinary 59 years in total. Remarkably, she was still coming in daily at 95 years old. She was, without question, a superwoman among us. Maxine will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Her dedication and spirit leave an indelible mark on the Court and on all of us who had the privilege to work alongside her. — *Tara DeCristofaro, Register of Middlesex Probate & Family Court*

## Flaschner Judicial Institute (FJI) CEO and NAWJ Member Hon. Julie J. Bernard (Ret.) Continues to Draw Crowds with Excellent Programming



### “Evidence 2.0” Draws Dozens of Judges for Digital Evidence Training

On Thursday, February 12, 2016, NAWJ District1 members, Judges Marguerite Grant, Helene Kazanjian, and Sarah Ellis presented at the annual Flaschner Institution program on Evidence. This program is a must attend program for new and not so new judges to obtain refreshers on the law of evidence.

Approximately 70 judges representing every department of the Trial Court gathered for the Flaschner Judicial Institute’s “Evidence 2.0” program, a comprehensive training focused on the evolving role of electronic and digital evidence in the courtroom.

The program featured practical instruction on key topics, including establishing the proper foundation for admitting digital evidence, identifying individuals through videotape evidence, the use of compilation videos, and recent developments related to *Commonwealth v. Gordon*.

## **FJI Hosts Successful Program on Neuroscience and the Law**

On January 14, the Flaschner Judicial Institute hosted *Neuroscience and the Law: An Introduction for Judges*. This half-day educational program was presented in collaboration with the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior (CLBB), Harvard Medical School, and the Neurotech Justice Accelerator at Mass General Brigham (NJAM). Forty judges participated. The curriculum examined recent and significant developments at the intersection of neuroscience and the legal system. As neuroscientific evidence is increasingly introduced in courtrooms, judges are being asked to consider complex issues related to culpability, capacity, memory, injury, and decision-making. Several NAWJ members were in attendance and NAWJ member Judge CT Stoudemire helped develop the program.

### **WELCOME NEW RHODE ISLAND NAWJ MEMBERS!**

#### **The Honorable Sandra A. Lanni**

##### **Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Family Court**

Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Lanni was a sole practitioner, concentrating on family law. Prior to founding her own practice, Judge Lanni was a partner with the Warwick firm of Revens, Lanni & St. Pierre and an associate with the firm of Revens & Deluca Ltd. Judge Lanni has served as General Counsel to the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education (2000-2006); Legal Counsel to the Children's Code Commission of the State of Rhode Island (1980-1991); and Assistant Town Solicitor for the Town of North Kingstown (1980-1984). In addition to her extensive experience in the federal district and appeals courts, Judge Lanni argued two cases before the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Lanni has received numerous awards and honors and was active in many community and civic organizations, including the Rhode Island Women Lawyers Association. She is a prior member of the Supreme Court Ethics Advisory Panel and the Supreme Court Task Force to Examine the Code of Judicial Conduct. She is a graduate of Tufts University, where she earned a B.S. (summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa) in Psychology and Child Study, and the George Washington University Law School, where she earned a J.D. (cum laude).

**The Honorable Shilpa Naik**  
**Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Family Court**

Judge Naik is the first Indian-Asian American to serve on the Rhode Island Family Court. Since 2011, she worked in Family Court as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate, providing legal representation to children in the care of the Department of Children, Youth and Families. Previously, she was partner at Oster & Naik Law Offices in Lincoln and, prior to that, was a Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island. Judge Naik is a graduate of Brandeis University and Western New England College School of Law.

NAWJ Celebrates the Patriots Going to the Superbowl



NAWJ Member Judge Jessica Dubin Celebrates with her team Sessions Clerk Sonia Hubbard and Judicial Support Specialist Susan Clinton in anticipation of the Patriots going to the Superbowl. Although it was not the outcome that they desired, they were thrilled to celebrate this year's accomplishments together.

**Congratulations NAWJ Member honors, awards and promotions**

Judge Arose W. Neisen, Juvenile Court Justice was named a Vice President of Massachusetts Judges Conference

# SAVE THE DATE

## NAWJ 2026 Midyear Meeting



Nieuw Amsterdam

### NAWJ's Exclusive Alaska Cruise

Set sail with NAWJ on May 17, 2026 aboard Holland America's [Nieuw Amsterdam](#) for an unforgettable conference at sea!

To participate in our exclusive group benefits—including two cocktail parties and priority dinner seating together—**all bookings must be made through Lorraine Travel**. Once you register through NAWJ you will be given the contact information for Lorraine Travel. Don't miss this opportunity—reserve your spot today before this deal sails away!

Click [HERE](#) to receive the information for cabin selections and pricing for the cruise.

### Alaska Cruise Schedule

May 16, 2026 – Welcome reception and gathering before the cruise.

May 17-24, 2026 - Alaska Cruise on Holland America from Vancouver, BC to Anchorage, AK, with port stops and CLE sessions on at-sea days.

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# *NAWJ Annual Conference*



OCT 15, 2026 - ALL DAY - OCT 17, 2026

NEW ORLEANS, LA

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE DETAILS

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## **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!

WELCOME NEW MASSACHUSETTS MEMBERS!

Judge Toiya Taylor from Massachusetts Probate & Family Court, Judge Teresa F. Lamarre from the Massachusetts District Court!

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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 have been reaching out to our colleagues in Rhode Island and are happy to report progress.

We are always seeking new members and encouraging lifetime memberships. If you know anyone from Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico and Rhode Island who you think would be a good NAWJ member, please either let us know or contact them directly.

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