



March 12, 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

**Massachusetts Hosted its Sixth Annual Women's History Month Awards Ceremony & Conference Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future on March 11, 2026**



Pictured above (left to right) Justice Lauren E. Reznick, Land Court, First Justice Lee Peterson, Probate & Family Court, Justice Marguerite T. Grant, Appeals Court, Mediation Attorney Barbara Macy, Land Court



Pictured above (left to right) from Norfolk Probate & Family Court: Sessions Clerk Elizabeth E. Cusick, Probation Officer Michelle Montgomery-Duarte, Probation Officer Yakira L. Morales, Judicial Support Specialist Susan M. Clinton, Chief Probation Officer Teresa M. Plante, First Justice Lee M. Peterson, Regional Coordinator of Interpreter Services Martha G. Soto, Assistant Chief Probation Officer Claudine Bala, Sessions Clerk Sonia E. Hubbard, and Sessions Clerk Pauline A. Alexopoulos



This event featured several panel discussions regarding various topics including the creation of a sustainable future and the effects of artificial intelligence. Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court Kimberly Budd, Chief Justice of the Trial Court, Heidi Brieger, Superior Court Justice Beverly Cannone and Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea J. Campbell were some of the speakers at the event.

## HER HONOR

### NAWJ Member Amy Nechem, Former Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Juvenile Court Launches Podcast Focused on Child Advocacy



Chief Nechem (ret.) (pictured above) will discuss access to child services for parents and children as they navigate the complexities of juvenile justice. A team of Suffolk University students helped establish former Chief Nechem's podcast called "Her Honor". The podcast will focus on vulnerable children and families to engage in prevention to change lives. The conversation is based on prevention and intervention to identify children early who are at risk to prevent issues in the future. Learn more about the podcast [HERE](#)

### The Massachusetts Falmouth District Court hosted an informational forum and dialogue with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Court

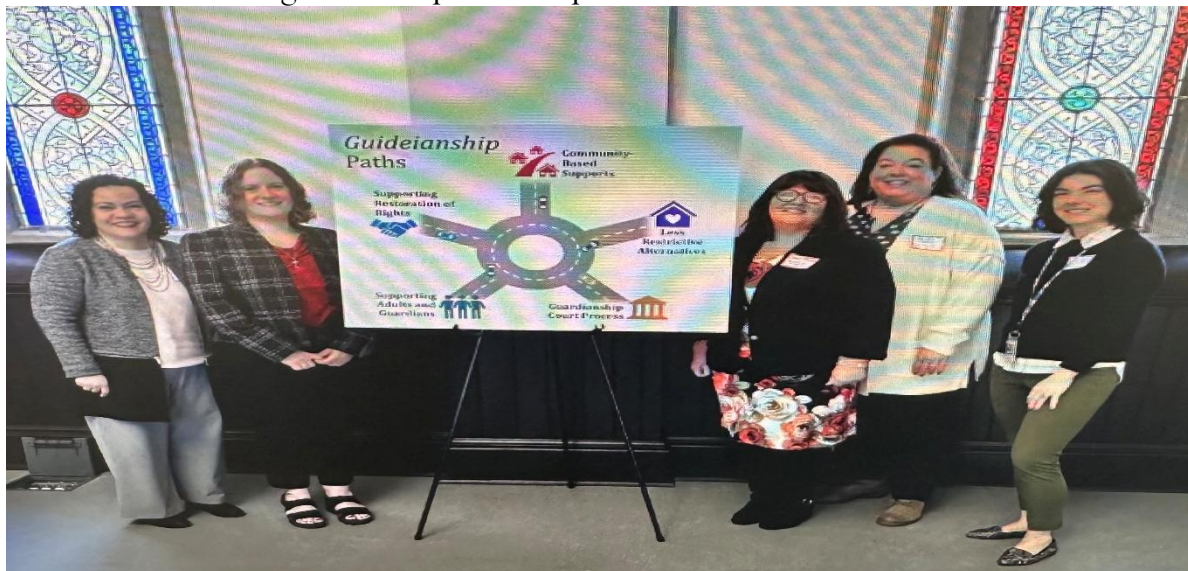


*Panel (left to right): First Justice Lisa Edmonds; Chief Kevin Frye, Wampanoag Police Department; Chief Judge Robert Mills, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Court; District Judge Jan Morris, Wampanoag Tribal Court; Suzanne Sullivan Jacobus, AUSA; Agent Matthew Riportella, FBI; Elzy Tubbs III, Probation Officer Wampanoag Tribal Court; Ian Ames, Falmouth District Court Probation Officer.*

The forum presented an opportunity for the Falmouth District Court and the Wampanoag Tribal Court communities to open a dialogue based on mutual respect for our common goal of administration of justice. The Wampanoag Tribe, known as the People of First Light, have inhabited present day Massachusetts and Rhode Island for more than 12,000 years. In 2007, they became a federally recognized tribe, endowed as a Sovereign Nation, and have since established the Wampanoag Tribal Court. The Tribal Court has a Supreme Court, District Court and Peace Maker Court. The Peacemakers Court utilizes traditional conflict resolution process followed by Native American Peoples and is presided over by Tribal Elders. Topics included, significance of federal recognition, criminal procedure, information sharing, establishing connections between our courts to best serve our communities. The event concluded with a Traditional Prayer of Thanksgiving.

## **Probate and Family Court hosts the First Guideianship Mapping Workshop in Hampden County**

The Administrative Office of the Probate and Family Court, Hampden County PFC and National Center for State Courts (NCSC) hosted a community mapping workshop on alternatives to adult guardianship in Chicopee, MA on March 9 and 10.



*(Left to right) NAWJ Member First Justice Claudine Stoudemire, Judicial Case Manager Kristina Bordieri, Register of Probate Rosemary Saccomani, Assistant Register Maureen Murray, and Senior Program Manager of the Elder Justice Innovation Grant Samantha Canica stand with a visual representation of the Guideianship model.*

In late 2024, the Trial Court was awarded its second Elder Justice Innovation Grant (EJIG) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living. The Administrative Office of the Probate and Family Court is using this three-year grant to fund a project titled “Guideianship: Helping Vulnerable Adults Explore Alternatives to Traditional Guardianship.” This event provided an opportunity for community stakeholders to make connections and work collaboratively with a shared goal; to improve how individuals and families access the support they need to avoid guardianship, whenever possible. The participants developed local action plans, with detailed steps they will take to improve the adult guardianship system and protect more individual rights. A second pilot of this project will be held in Barnstable County in May 2026.

## **MASSACHUSETTS JUDGES ENGAGE THEIR COMMUNITIES FOR JUDICIAL OUTREACH MONTH**

**NAWJ District One Co-Director Justice Debra A. Squires-Lee, Superior Court** engages young people at the Josh Kraft Mattapan Boys and Girls Club. The students were so engaged and had so many questions. Judge Squires-Lee invited them to watch part of her criminal session in Suffolk Superior and talk to court officers, clerks and probation officers about other careers in the court system



**Norfolk Probate & Family Court** discussed a typical day at court and careers in the courthouse and in probate and family law to Canton High School students on March 10, 2026.



Pictured above (left to right) Assistant Chief Court Officer Michael Alkins, Attorney & Mediator Justin Maiona, Judicial Case Manager Jason Caton, First Justice Lee Peterson, Asst Supervisor of Case Administration Charles Bogan, Chief Probation Officer Teresa Plante, and First Assistant Register Michael Barbadoro

## NEW HAMPSHIRE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN JUDGES EVENT

*Third Annual*  
**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN JUDGES EVENT**

Join us to celebrate women judges around the world, and those who championed the rule of law in Afghanistan. Hear from former Afghan Judge Geeti Roeeen about her work protecting women and children, the forced evacuation of judges from Afghanistan, and her family's journey to freedom in New Hampshire.

Tuesday, March 24  
4:00 - 6:00 PM

Sheehan Phinney  
1000 Elm Street, 17th Fl.  
Manchester, NH

\$100 Per Ticket  
*Light hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served*

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

Sponsored by the NH Coalition to Support Afghan Women Judges in partnership with:

**SHEEHAN PHINNEY**  **NEW HAMPSHIRE Women's Bar Association**  **NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR FOUNDATION**   
*Strengthening Justice for All*

New Hampshire judges will host an event on March 24, 2026 to honor women judges from around the world for their courage, sacrifice and commitment to the rule of law. Thank you to NAWJ Member Judge Barbara Hantz Marconi for your efforts in coordinating this wonderful event. You can find more information about the Afghan judges and register for the event [HERE](#)

## **NAWJ Members Will Participate in a Free Breathwork and Sound Experience at C2 Body in Dedham, Massachusetts on March 27, 2026**

Breathwork and Sound is a mindful and restorative practice designed to help you slow down, reset your nervous system and release tension at the end of a busy week. Guided breathwork and crystal sound bowls work together to support relaxation and recovery. There are still spots left. Please contact District One Co-Director Lee Peterson at [lee.peterson@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:lee.peterson@jud.state.ma.us) to sign up.

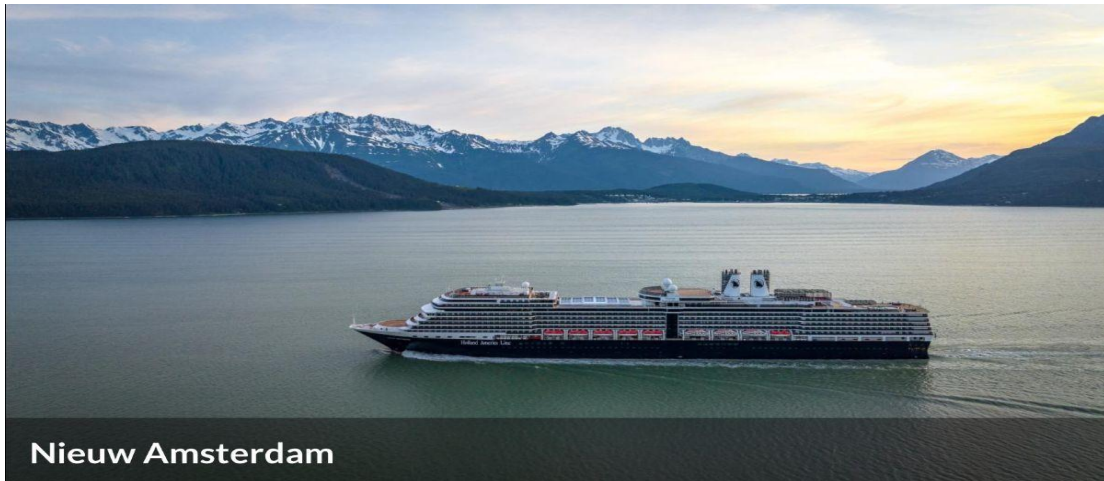
## **The National Judicial College Hosts the First Judicial Summit 2026: The Foundation and Future of the Judiciary. Strengthening Judicial Excellence through Innovation & Alliances.**

**June 8 - 10, 2026 in Santa Fe, New Mexico**



Join judges from across the nation in a conference that combines judicial education with interactive learning opportunities in this first-of-its-kind national judicial conference. The National Judicial College is collaborating with the New Mexico Court Education Institute to offer this new conference in one of America's most unique cities. Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, dean and distinguished professor of law at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, will be discussing the Constitutional Separation of Powers. A special session on Neurodivergence in Justice, focusing on autism, will wrap-up the summit. More information may be found [HERE](#)

## NAWJ 2026 Midyear Meeting



### 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 on Thursday, June 4, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME NEW MASSACHUSETTS MEMBER!

Judge Manisha Bhatt from Massachusetts Probate & Family 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