



NAWJ District One Spring 2022 Newsletter

District One is back up and running!

Welcome to Spring!! It has been quite awhile since I communicated with all of you! I hope all of you are well and survived the pandemic without issue.

Mid-year Highlights:

I attended the Mid-year Meeting in Crystal City, VA and was joined by 3 other members from the district.



From left to right: Hon. Nan Duffly (ret.), C.J. Amy Nechtem, Hon. Mary Dacey White (ret.) and Hon. Karen Green

The conference was well attended despite COVID-19. On March 10th, I attended the Board of Director's Meeting and NAWJ is doing very well. Even during the pandemic its membership increased. President Elizabeth White has a good vision for NAWJ for 2022.

Opening reception: Celebrating the International Day of the Women Judge

Hon. Lisa Walsh, the International Director for NAWJ to IAWJ introduced to the group 3 Afghan Judges that are here living in the DC area. They are 10 Afghan Women Judges here in the U S. They left everything behind. They are here with their families but have nothing. As a result of this if you wish you can send to NAWJ gift cards of any denomination for national retailers such as Target, Wal-Mart, CVS Walgreens or even a check designated for the Afghan Women Judge refugees. These 10 women judges are looking for work and are hoping that they soon will be productive workingwomen in various legal fields.



The 3 Afghan Women Judges at reception with Hon. Lisa Walsh (back right)

Plenary Luncheon: Presentation of the Lady Justice Award
The award was given to Justice Vanessa Ruiz who was instrumental in getting the 10 Afghan Women Judges here to the United States. Please see the NAWJ website for a full write up.



From left to right: an Afghan Judge, David E. Birenbaum (husband of Honoree), Judge Vanessa Ruiz, Honoree, an Afghan Judge, Hon. Lisa Walsh, an Afghan Judge, NAWJ member and Hon. Beverly Cutler (ret.).

Panels:

All the panels were excellent and very enlightening. However, the most informative was the panel that I was on!!! "*Judges in Transition*" The 4 panelists were all retired judges from different parts of the country and all doing something different. Judge Barbara Levenson retired from the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida, is now an author of mystery novels; Judge Beverly Cutler, Senior Judge retired from Alaska Court System, 3rd Judicial District, is now doing pro bono legal work for immigrants; Judge Randa Trapp, retired from San Diego Superior Court is now a mediator for JAMS and Judge Mary Dacey White, retired from Brookline District Court (MA) is now enjoying life as a grandmother of 2 little girls with a grandson on the way. Attorney Nicole Erb, a partner at White & Case, moderated it. It was well attended and quite a lively discussion amongst the panelists and the audience. If I say so myself, an enjoyable panel on all fronts!!



From left to right: Hon. Mary Dacey White (ret.), Hon. Randa Trapp (ret.), Atty. Nicole Erb (moderator), Hon. Beverly Cutler (ret.) and Hon. Barabara Levenson (ret.).

District One Highlights:

- Hon Joan N. Feeney (ret.)** was the coach for the Suffolk Law School Moot Court Team at the Hon. Conrad Duberstein Moot Court Team in NYC the weekend of February 25, 2022.



Hon. Joan N. Feeney (ret.) 3rd from the right with her moot court team.

2. Women's History Month was off to a great start at the Chelsea District Court. First Justice Matthew Machera and Chief Probation Officer Carmen Gomez held the second annual virtual celebration to honor, recognize, and hear from women who have influenced society by *Providing Healing and Promoting Hope*. The honorees included **Hon. Dalila Argaez Wendlandt**, Associate Justice, **Hon. Julie Bernard**, District Court Judge and **Hon. Angel Kelley**, USDC Massachusetts. **Hon. Amy Nechtem** was one of the event speakers as well. Judges Bernard, Kelley and Nechtem are **NAWJ** members. The event was held at virtually on March 1, 2022.

3. Hon. Joan Feeney (ret.), Hon. Amy Nechtem, Hon. Helen Brown Bryant and Hon. Mary Dacey White (ret.), all **NAWJ** members did a **NAWJ Law School Outreach** program with the assistance of **Hon. Mary Lou Muirhead** on March 8, 2022 at Suffolk

Law School both in person and virtually. The topic was ***Women in the Law.***



From left to right: 3L and President of the Suffolk Women's Bar Association Sofia Martinez Guasch, moderator, Atty. Safa Osmani of Hogan Lovells, Hon. Mary Dacey White (ret.), Hon. Joan N. Feeney (ret.), Hon. Helen Brown Bryant and Chief Justice Amy Nechtem.

4. Hon. Paula Carey, Hon. Judith Frabricant and Hon. Amy Nechtem all members of **NAWJ** were part of a panel sponsored by the Massachusetts Trial Court in March 18, 2022. The topic was ***Women on the Bench, Being Prepared to Navigate Gender Related Experiences***

5. Hon. Angel Kelley is being sworn in as a U S District Court Judge for the District of Massachusetts on April 4, 2022. We send her our congratulations and best wishes. Judge Kelley had a great career as

a Massachusetts District and Superior Court Judge. She will be a fantastic Federal Court Judge!

6. April 13, 2022, Judges Amy Blake, Marguerite Grant, Catherine Ham and MaryLou Muirhead are presenting a **NAWJ Law School Outreach** program at New England Law - Boston. More information will be forthcoming.

7. Judge Stacey Fortes', Color of Justice program which was scheduled for this past February, is being rescheduled again due to MCAS for Massachusetts that are scheduled for the May date. Therefore, the program will most likely be in the fall of 2022. More information will be forth coming.

8. District One is planning an in-person reception for early June at the Union Oyster House honoring those newly appointed judges, those recently retired and those who have been elevated to higher courts since our last reception in March, 2019. Again further information will be forthcoming.

That is it for now. I will be sending out more information about the upcoming events over the next few weeks.

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Conference in Detroit Michigan, October 19 -22, 2022!!! It should be a great time.

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