



April 2021
Report from District 10
Honorable Cheryl A. Rios

Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota

District 10 is hosting a High Five Membership Drive! We have challenged all of our members to reach out to 3-5 of their friends within the judicial system to try and recruit more members to join NAWJ. We will follow up with a Zoom Membership Meeting in May to answer questions members may have and try to increase membership in District 10.

Kansas:

- Jacy Hurst was appointed to the Kansas Court of Appeals. Hurst will be the first woman of color on the Court of Appeals. A Lawrence resident, she is a partner with the law firm Kutak Rock LLP in Kansas City, Missouri. Much of her legal career was spent representing businesses in the employment, health care and regulatory areas. She has also provided pro bono legal services to individuals in criminal and family law cases. However, her experience with the courts system came much earlier, growing up in a single-mother family with parents who didn't graduate college. "As a child, I experienced divorce, violence, homelessness, poverty early on, and those were my introductions to the law," Hurst said at her confirmation hearing. "That's where I met my first lawyers and judges." She said her experiences led her to volunteer at a domestic violence shelter, and all that drove her to practice law.



- District 10 Director, Cheryl Rios, received the MANA Ring of Honor Award from MANA, A National Latina Organization. In honor of Women’s History Month, MANA recognized the rapidly growing number of MANA women who have served or now serve in an elected or appointed office of public trust.



Minnesota:

“For the first time in state history, all chief judges serving on Minnesota’s appellate and executive branch courts are women”

[ST. PAUL, MN] – Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan today announced that the Minnesota Tax Court has unanimously voted for Wendy S. Tien to assume responsibility as Chief Judge effective March 17, 2021. Judge Tien has served on the Tax Court since her appointment by Governor Walz on November 13, 2019. For the first time in Minnesota history, the chiefs of the Minnesota Supreme Court, the Minnesota Court of Appeals, and all three Executive Branch Courts are all women: Chief Justice Lorie Gildea, Minnesota Supreme Court; Chief Judge Susan Segal, Minnesota Court of Appeals; Chief Judge Jenny Starr, Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings; Chief Judge Patricia Milun, Minnesota Workers’ Compensation Court of Appeals; and Chief Judge Wendy Tien, Minnesota Tax Court.

“I applaud the selection of Judge Tien as Chief Judge of the Minnesota Tax Court. As a remarkable jurist and leader with a strong dedication to public service, I have no doubt Judge Tien will make an excellent chief,” said Governor Walz. “I am also proud to celebrate a more representative democracy today. With women now presiding over Minnesota’s appellate and executive branch courts as chief judges, this is a historic moment for our state.”

“For the first time in our state’s history, these Minnesota courts are all led by all women at the same time,” said Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. “Representation on the bench matters,

and a more diverse judicial branch equates to a more representative government for our communities. I am proud to see such distinguished women serving Minnesotans as chief judges.” (Found at:

<https://mn.gov/governor/administration/judicialappointments/judicialnews.jsp?id=472366>)

You can also read another article at: <https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2021/03/16/women-now-hold-all-chief-judicial-seats-on-minnesota-executive-branch-and-appellate-courts/>

Nebraska:

- No report.

South Dakota:

- No report.

North Dakota:

- No report.