



May 31, 2023
Submission for Counterbalance
Honorable Justice Gina Benavides
District Director 11

Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas



On April 25, 2023, NAWJ participated in Texas Women's Day recognizing all of our women jurist of our great State of Texas. A proclamation was heard and voted by all members of the Senate in particular lawyers and all females recognizing our first women jurist throughout our state and the accomplishments that we are making in the judiciary. After the proclamation, NAWJ hosted a reception at the Texas State Bar of Texas.

The sixteenth annual Color of Justice program was held on April 12, 2023 at UT School of Law. The event was sponsored by the NAWJ in partnership with the Travis County Women Lawyers Association, and the UT School of Law William Wayne Justice Center for Public Law. The event was attended by students from Travis High School students and Bertha Means Sadler Young Women's Leadership Academy. NAWJ members Sr Judge Orlinda Naranjo, former judge of the 419th District Court, Justice Gisela Triana, Third Court of Appeals, Judge Maria Cantu Hexsel, 53rd Civil District Court, Judge Selena Alvarenga, 460th Criminal District Court, and Judge Raul Gonzalez, JP Precinct 4 all participated in a panel discussion.

Every year NAWJ awards a \$1,000 "Access to Justice" Scholarship to a student who has demonstrated a commitment to public interest law. Sr. Judge Naranjo presented Emani Brown, a second year law student at the University of Texas, with the scholarship due to Brown's demonstrated and passionate commitment to public interest law. She captivated the audience when she shared her story and her personal struggles with dealing with her father being in prison, being raised by a single mom. being bi-racial, and financial struggles. She demonstrated what commitment, perseverance really means if you want to attain your goal.

A special thanks to TCWLA, Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody, Jackson Walker, Elissa I. Henry and Luna Law Firms for also sponsoring the luncheon for the judges, attorneys, and law students who sat with the students to give them an opportunity for a more personal connection.



And on May 4th, Laredo had their Color of Justice program lead by our very own Judge Becky Palomo. More details to follow but here are some great photos.



Color of Justice

Fostering Diversity in the
Legal Profession & Judiciary
...One Student at a Time





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