



Midyear, 2024
Report from District 11
Honorable Gina Benavides

Texas, Arkansas Oklahoma

District 11 started the year with a bang with our Color of Justice Program in El Paso, Texas on January 11th. The day started with ten Bel Air High School alumni braving the cold windy weather to attempt to make an impact on the students of their alma mater. The weather was so bad that day that several school districts in the area had a two-hour delay start time for their schools. Ysleta Independent School District which Bel Air is a part of, did not alter their schedule. So present at 8:30 am in the Bel Air High Theatre, were three judges, three attorneys and four law enforcement personnel ready to present.

The Judges were a variation of a Family Law Judge, a Criminal Law Judge and an Associate Judge. The three attorneys were from Civil Litigation representing both Plaintiffs and Defense. The Law Enforcement included an Assistant Chief, a Commander, a retired Detective and a Canine Instructor for the Nation Border Patrol Academy.

The alumni were divided into 2 panels with an hour for each group. The questions were very standard until the students present were allowed to ask questions. Some of the students were very interested in how to go forward in law enforcement and what college courses should they focus on.

Overall, the morning was a huge success for not only the students, but for the panel who hoped they made a difference and directed someone to aim high.



Austin is next with their Color of Justice in Austin on April 16, 2024, being lead by Justice Gisela Trianna and Senior Retired Judge Orlinda Naranjo

District 11 would also spotlight one of our own, the Honorable Josephine Rendon. Benny Agosta, attorney in Houston and a huge supporter of NAWJ has endowed a scholarship in her name at the University of Houston Law Center. The scholarship for first-generation college students is named after Rendon, a trailblazer in the legal field, who became one of Harris County's first Hispanic women attorneys in 1977, Houston's first woman Civil Service Commissioner in 1981 and one of Houston's first Hispanic judges in 1983.



For a complete story: <https://www.law.uh.edu/news/fall2023/1221renden.asp>

Lastly we are all looking forward to Welcoming our colleagues around the Nation at the Midyear Conference.