



May 1, 2026
Midyear Report
Report from District 11
Honorable Susan Criss

Austin Color of Justice

The nineteenth annual Color of Justice program was held on March 25, 2026, at the University of Texas School of Law. The event was sponsored by the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), in partnership with the Travis County Women Lawyers Association (TCWLA). The event was attended by students from Akins Early College High School, LBJ Early College High School, and Lively Middle School, who heard from attorneys and judges and learned about the importance of the legal profession in our society.

After a warm welcome by **Justice Gisela Triana**, Third Court of Appeals, on behalf of NAWJ, the event featured a game of Legal Jeopardy, moderated by **Kim Hidrogo**, Assistant Travis County Attorney, and **Samantha McCoy**, Attorney, Hanna & Plaut, LLP. It was followed by two panel discussions with speakers sharing their individual experiences and backgrounds while discussing the importance of personal commitment and perseverance in their roles as lawyers and judges in our community.

The first panel was moderated by **Beth Payán**, Assistant Travis County Attorney, and featured the following lawyers: **Daniela Peinado Welsh**, Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody; **Jessica Huynh**, JVH Law; **Rudy Metayer**, Pflugerville Councilmember and Chamberlain McHaney; and **Christopher Mugica**, Partner, Jackson Walker. The second panel was moderated by **Justice Gisela Triana**, and featured the following judges: **Judge Brad Urrutia**, 450th Criminal District Court, **Judge Maya Guerra Gamble**, 459th Civil District Court, **Judge Sherine Thomas**, 353rd Civil District Court, and **Judge Yvonne Williams**, J.P., Precinct 1. After the program, the lawyers and judges were joined by UT Law students in sharing lunch with the young students and in answering their questions one on one.

Every year NAWJ awards a \$1,000 Access to Justice Scholarship to a student who has demonstrated a commitment to public interest law. Justice Triana presented Karla Peredo, a second-year law student at the University of Texas.

El Paso Color of Justice

The El Paso NAWJ members will hold their third Color of Justice event and lunch in May 2026.
This event will be co-sponsored by the Texas Latinx Judges