



May 13, 2021
Report from District 11
Honorable Maria Salas Mendoza

Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas

Connect with Members:

State Chairs meeting (open to all members) was held on May 5, 2021. Approximately 25 members attended including several members who had not joined the meetings previously.

Just Us session was held on May 13. Members discussed the Gates' divorce as well as trial proceedings being held in El Paso, Houston and San Antonio. Members shared what was working including positives from remote proceedings. In addition, members discussed the ongoing educational session being held from May 13-14 by the Texas Center for the Judiciary.

Three new members from Texas have been welcomed—County Judge Lucy Hebron (Wood County), Judge Teana V. Watson, County Court At Law #5 (Ft. Bend), and Judge Toni. M. Wallace, County Court at Law #4 (Ft. Bend).

I continue to work with David Sachar to organize a meeting of Arkansas members and prospective members.

Recruit Members:

Members are participating in the District's High Five Challenge. Three new members joined this month. Members were encouraged to share the newsletter in their recruitment efforts as well as information about upcoming programs. Pending future meeting with Membership Subcommittee on this and other membership recruitment efforts.

Programs:

Texas Women Judges Day was held on April 13, 2021. Led by NAWJ member Chief Justice Rebeca Martinez, members recorded statements that comprised the video compiled with the support of the Texas Office of Court Administration and Senator Judith Zaffirini and staff. It was an NAWJ program that was shared with all judges throughout the state and on social media and will be used for further recruitment. That video is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IcjZRxUCgkc>

The resolution honoring Texas Women Judges was presented before the Texas legislature on April 13th:

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Members around the state celebrated in their own home towns.



Color of Justice (Houston) (Organizers: Ronique Robinson, Lesley Briones and Julie Countiss) was held on April 23, 2021. In collaboration with the 3 area law schools, members provided a fantastic program involving many members in HerHonor talks. The program can be viewed here:

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[zoom.us]<[Six scholarships were given to 6 law students. Their acceptance speeches were truly inspiring and can be viewed at the links above. This program will only grow and improve next year. We shared program brochures/flyers and documents with NAWJ.](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_zoom.us_rec_play_M5lzl22iVCzOV34I-2D4qnM8XBqBaYQ6yl5ohHc-2DgVdy6AiYeuC1jeXV5ndm30-5FGgogrZkQCeNKMRfCP0C.2R6E3njNijTG-5F1jR&d=DwMFAg&c=JwvUsAi-X5LZee1PnLuWqOrhPik99FZP4DtGRyQ5tXU&r=KLci5MWsjXBgyoc82EUoFsuHqIGaY2V6hleJBQ3bmMA&m=4QVHaXKOct2HafYbfXjA9PAefg9092TX5Irrju5I6_A&s=GHIITBxt7I3ST1N87mYz8zP8PgRfzm-X5m1B-FKI4WA&e=></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Color of Justice (Coastal Areas) (Organizers: Leticia Hinojosa and Gina Benavides). Current plan is to hold the session in the fall in the hopes of an in-person program

Color of Justice (El Paso) (Organizers: Diane Navarrete, Selena Solis and Linda Chew). Planning committee has met and are planning to hold the program in June 2021. Contact to schools pending.

Webinar: Celebrating the Women on the 4th Court of Appeals pending.

Prepare Monthly Reports:

Done.

Attend Meetings:

I have attended all meetings. I am also serving on the Ensuring Racial Equity Subcommittee which is pending a meeting in March. I moderated panel discussion on 3/2/21 entitled, So You Want to Be a Judge.

Texas Latinx Judges

I am excited to announce the organization of Texas Latinx Judges. All of the founding members are NAWJ members even though this program started as a project out of the Judiciary Committee of the Hispanic Issues Section of the State Bar of Texas. You can view our website at: texaslatinxjudges.org

Also see our promotional video here: https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.facebook.com_1105658589_posts_10220473295798181_&d=DwIFAg&c=JwvUsAi-X5LZee1PnLuWqOrhPik99FZP4DtGRyQ5tXU&r=KLci5MWsjXBgyoc82EUoFsuHqIGaY2V6hleJBQ3bmMA&m=67BrGav0hdDsk89HFXFMKQZQ9dJRk_ozLx_ZKg-HyCw&s=r5XXfATWin0_CUpyMuzsTk-azhTBBMcJSJuuDNI6p-c&e