



September 2022 Monthly Report
Honorable Maria Salas Mendoza

Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas

PROGRAMS

District 11 sponsored the inaugural Lawtina Network Summit held at St. Mary's School of Law on August 7, 2022. Chief Justice Dori Contreras, 13th Court of Appeals, Chief Justice Rebeca Martinez, 4th Court of Appeals, and Judge Toni Arteaga, 57th Civil District Court (Bexar) were among the program's motivating speakers focused on provided Latina law students support and guidance on their professional journeys. Dynamic organizer/student Brianna Chapa left a great impression on all who participated, nearly 150 law students.

Co-sponsored by District 11 NAWJ, Texas Latinx Judges presented its first high school outreach program, Paving the Way to the Courthouse, for over 160 high school students in El Paso, Texas on September 23, 2022. Judge Victor Villarreal, TLJ President and NAWJ member, welcomed the students and participants. Students heard from judges regarding the importance of mentorship; they learned about resilience and skills and strategies for college success. Students also had an opportunity to visit with legal professionals—court reporters, law enforcement officers including bailiffs and forensic officers, court interpreters, lawyers and judges—in breakout sessions as well as during lunch networking. The program will be replicated in Laredo, Texas, in November, Dallas in March and Brownsville in May. Texas Latinx Judges will have NAWJ co-sponsorship of all of these programs.



On October 1st, Houston members will hold their second Color of Justice program. In coordination with all three local law schools, the program will include numerous members sharing their HerStory with students. Two \$1000 scholarships will be given to students from each school for a total of 6 scholarships.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Judge Beckie Palomo, 341st District Court (Webb County) received the Leadership Award from the Laredo Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on May 13, 2022.

On May 18, 2022, Judge Yolanda Huff, County Court No. 12 (San Antonio) was a panelist discussing *Mental Health in Underserved Communities: Eliminating the Stigma, Addressing Disparities and Building Stronger Relationships* at the St. Phillips College.

Chief Justice Dori Contrera, 13th Court of Appeals, Chief Justice Rebeca C. Martinez, 4th Court of Appeals, U.S. District Judge Marina Garcia Marmolejo and Judge Antonia (Toni) Arteaga, 57th Civil District Court (San Antonio), will be speakers at the St. Mary's School of Law LAWTINA Summit on August 6, 2022.

Judge Yolanda Huff, County Court #12 (Bexar) received the Judiciary Service Award from MADD at its law enforcement recognition luncheon on August 14, 2022.

Judge Gloria Lopez, 308th Family Court (Harris), spoke at the Advanced Family Law Conference, State Bar of Texas, in August 2022.

Judge Audrie Lawton, Civil Court #1 (Houston), Judge Catherine Torres Stahl, 175th District Court (San Antonio), Judge David Sanchez, 444th District Court (Brownsville), Judge Angela King, Civil Court #6 (Dallas) and Judge Linda Chew, 327th District Court (El Paso) will present a roundtable for Texas Latinx Judges on August 16, 2022; the program is titled, *Do As I Learned Not As I Did*.

Justice Dennise Garcia, 5th Court of Appeals, received the Louise B. Raggio Award, and Justice Erin Nowell, 5th Court of Appeals, was recognized as Outstanding Jurist by the Dallas Women Lawyers Association in August 2022.

Judge Selena N. Solis, 243rd District Court (El Paso), as program chair, coordinated a fantastic celebration of Women's Equality Day for the League of Women Voters on August 27, 2022.

Judge Yolanda Huff, County Court #12 (Bexar) was the featured speaker for The African American Network (TAAN) at its Coffee Talk segment on September 3, 2022, with the focus on mental health and the judiciary.

The Dallas Bar Association recognized Judge Irma Carrillo Ramirez, U.S. District Court, Northern District, for its Living Legends program on September 15, 2022.

Judge Linda Chew, 327th District Court (El Paso) received the State Bar of Texas Judicial Section's Lifetime Achievement Award at the Texas Bar Foundation Luncheon held during

the Annual Judicial Conference in September 2022. The award given by her peers recognizes Judge Chew's reputation for and commitment to judicial excellence, her significant length of service and her long term, consistent and significant contribution to the betterment of the judiciary, access to justice and the system of justice in Texas. Judge the Judiciary, was Dean of the College of New Judges, and Local Administrative Judge for the El Paso Council of Judges from 2019-2022, and a long-time member of NAWJ.

Chief Justice Rebeca Martinez, 4th Court of Appeals, was elected Chair-Elect of the Judicial Section, State Bar of Texas, at the Texas Center for the Judiciary Annual Meeting in September 2022.

Judge Audrey Moorehead, County Criminal Court #3 (Dallas), is this year's recipient of the Hon. Cleo Steele Committed Mentor Award given by the JL Turner Foundation on September 15, 2022.

Judge Toni Artega, 57th Civil District Court (Bexar), has been named honorary chair for the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas State Conference.

Justice Leticia Hinojosa, 13th Court of Appeals, is being recognized by the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas as a 2022 Trailblazer at its State Conference to be held in San Antonio, Texas, from Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2022.