



Midyear Report, April 2023
District 14
Judge Pennie K. McLaughlin, District Director

California and Nevada

District 14 members continue to organize and present on educational panels in our District and throughout the country. Our members are featured in the monthly newsletter updates and below is a compilation of the past six months.

Overall District Report:

Southern California continues to dominate the news for NAWJ members in District 14. Both Los Angeles and San Diego have large networks of active members who engage in official NAWJ projects in their communities, including events at the women's jail and Mentorjet Color of Justice Programs. Many of our members throughout the District are continually engaged with local schools in teaching about the three branches of government. The judges give the students a closer look at the judiciary and what its role is in relation to the other branches of government. We have many active members throughout California, and we are up to 12 in Nevada. In the coming months, we hope to inspire our Central and Northern California, along with our sister members in Nevada to bring mentoring programs and re-entry programs to their courts and women's jail.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR DISTRICT:

CHIEF JUSTICE PATRICIA GUERRERO MAKES HISTORY IN CALIFORNIA



Justice Guerrero was appointed by Governor Newsom as the first Latina Chief of California's Supreme Court. At the time, the new Chief commented, "there has never been a Latino or a Latina to serve as chief justice until now. I am proud to be the first, and I look forward to the second, third and the fourth." For all who know Justice Guerrero, this display of humility is her nature, and California is fortunate to have her serve as their Chief of the highest court, following the stellar leadership of Chief Justice Cantil Sakauye. Chief Justice Guerrero previously served on the San Diego Superior Court and then the Fourth District Court of Appeal before taking the highest judicial seat in the state.

JUDGE TAMILA IPEMA, Ret., NAWJ LIFETIME MEMBER AND FORMER PRESIDENT, IS HONORED WITH THE NAWJ 2022 JOAN DEMPSEY KLEIN AWARD



NAWJ President Judge Elizabeth White Presenting Judge Tamila Ipema with the 2022 Joan Dempsey Klein Award in Detroit

The awards, accomplishments, and achievements of Judge Tamila Ipema, who recently retired from the San Diego Superior Court, have graced these pages for years. It was a special moment at the NAWJ annual conference in Detroit for all present to watch this remarkable woman, trailblazer, community leader and inspiration to so many receive this most prestigious and well-deserved award. Congratulations Tamila!

NAWJ members in San Diego came out in mass to assist local elementary students in learning about civics and the courts. This program coincided with a statewide conference for the California Judiciary held in San Diego.



Front row: Attorney Jodi Clesattle, Judge Daniela Real-Ferrari, Justice Judith McConnell, Judge Pennie McLaughlin, Attorney Jeri Malana, Back row: Judge Terrie Roberts, Attorney Tristan Higgins, Comm. Erika Cortez, Comm. Kelly Mertsoc, Comm. Lizbet Munoz, Attorney Heather Rosing



Justice McConnell added humor and got the attention of every student in the room.

LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES SERVE ON MULTIPLE PANELS TO EDUCATE THE LEGAL COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC

**HOLLY FUJIE, MICHELLE WILLIAMS COURT AND WENDY CHANG SERVED ON AN IMPORTANT PANEL TO
INSPIRE DIVERSITY ON TRIAL TEAMS**



Judge Marguerite Downing, Los Angeles Superior Court, was a part of a special panel to celebrate Black History Month along with NAWJ member Judge Patricia Titus and Judge Erithe Smith. The presentation was titled “Celebrating Women Jurist” at the University of West Los Angeles School of Law (Judge Downing’s alma mater). It is important to note another honor bestowed upon Judge Titus, as she was recently inducted into the John M. Langston Bar Association’s Hall of Fame for the outstanding impact and positive influence she has had in the legal profession and the community for over 35 years.



Judge Marguerite Downing



Judge Patricia Titus

NAWJ MEMBERS AND CALIFORNIA SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES ON IMPORTANT PANELS DURING THE PAST HALF-YEAR:

MARCELLA MCLAUGHLIN LED A COUNTY BAR PANEL ON THE TOPIC OF “COLORISM.”



San Diego County Superior Court Judge Marcella McLaughlin

CA JUDGES TERRIE ROBERTS, ERIKA YEW, AND ELIZABETH MACIAS INFORMED NEW BENCH OFFICERS ABOUT NAWJ WHILE TEACHING AT JUDICIAL COLLEGE



San Diego Superior Court Judge Terrie E. Roberts CA Superior Court Judges Elizabeth Macias, Orange County, Erika Yew, Santa Clara County and Terrie Roberts, San Diego

SAN DIEGO JUDGES SERVE ON A PANEL TO CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AT UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO LAW SCHOOL



(From left to right: Judges Shereen Charlick, Daniela Realí-Ferrari, Adelaida Lopez, Ana Espana, Pennie McLaughlin, Selena Dong Epley, Saba Sheibani, Terrie Roberts, and Nadia Keilani)

NAWJ MEMBERS OUT IN THE COMMUNITY TO INSPIRE STUDENTS AND HELP INCARCERATED WOMEN IMPROVE THEIR LIVES

SUCCESS INSIDE AND OUT SAN DIEGO

Behind the leadership of Judges Terrie Roberts and Nadia Keilani, San Diego hosted its Annual Success Inside and Out at the women's jail late last fall after a two-year dormancy from the pandemic. The event was a great success and involved many judges and leaders in the San Diego community, including NAWJ members Summer Stephan, San Diego District Attorney and Assistant Presiding Judge Maureen Hallahan.



Co-Chairs, Judges Nadia Keilani and Terrie Roberts, San Diego Superior Court



San Diego Judges Pennie McLaughlin, Terrie Roberts, and Nadia Keilani

The workshops were plentiful with several NAWJ members serving as moderators. Judge Pennie McLaughlin moderated a panel on “Changing Behavior.” Two of the panelists once sat where the incarcerated women sat and knew the demise of one’s life at the hands of drugs, crime and the continuous cycle of release and reoffending. Their talks were remarkably frank, strong, and encouraging.



The large team who worked hard to make this event a success!



Judge Tilisha Martin (left) leading a panel on Establishing Healthy Relationships with Children Upon Release with Judge Rohanee Zapanta (right)



Judge Michael Washington and San Diego Superior Court Research Attorney Lauren Woon lead an inspiring panel on "You Too Can Go to College."

MENTORJET LOS ANGELES:



Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Christopher Lui, left, Judges Laura Seigel and Elizabeth White, ret., on the right. Two Loyola Law students are in between.

Los Angeles NAWJ members continue to host regular MentorJet programs at area law schools throughout the county. In late fall, the program was hosted at Loyola Law School with a tremendous and diverse turnout. NAWJ Immediate Past-President Elizabeth White was onsite with many judges, including Judge Laura Seigel, who has chaired many of these events for years. In March 2023, the event has hosted at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law in Malibu.



OTHER NAWJ SISTER MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT:

LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE MARIA PUENTE-PORRAS

In any given month, it is likely that Judge Puente-Porras is chairing a committee meeting, serving on a legal community panel, and attending NAWJ events. She is one example of many in District 14 who represents the epitome of what it means to be an active and caring member of the NAWJ.



Judge Maria Puente-Porras, Los Angeles Superior Court, with her son Christopher in Detroit, Judge Puente-Porras served on a panel with Judges Washington and Terrie Roberts for the NAWJ Racial Bias training series

RETIRED JUDGE ANN BREEN-GRECO ATTENDED THE ABA MIDYEAR CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS

Judge Breen-Greco has joined District 14 after relocating to California upon her retirement from her judicial post in Chicago. We are so excited to have Ann, who is very active in the LGBTQ and Human Trafficking Committees, in our District. Ann was kind to share photos with other NAWJ members from the recent ABA gathering.



President Toni Clarke, Judge Vivian Medinilla, Col. Linda Murnane, Judge Ann Breen-Greco, Judge Heather Welch, and Judge Marcella Holland

DISTRICT 14 MEMBERS WERE WELL REPRESENTED IN DETROIT'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAST OCTOBER:



San Diego Judges Cindy Davis, Randa Trapp, ret., Tamila Ipema, ret., and Nadia Keilani, all enjoying the Gala



Judge Jamoa Mobley, Ret. with President Elizabeth White



San Diego Judges Nadia Keilani, Tamila Ipema, ret., Terrie Roberts, and Alaska Judge Pam Washington, NAWJ Vice President of Districts