

[NAWJ](#)'s mission is to promote the judicial role of protecting the rights of individuals under the rule of law through strong, committed, diverse judicial leadership; fairness and equality in the courts; and equal access to justice.

Welcome!

Your District 14 Team:

District 14 Co-Chair [Hon. Victoria Kolakowski](#)

District 14 Co-Chair [Hon. Renée N.G. Stackhouse](#)

California State Chair [Uche Enenwali, Esq.](#)

Nevada State Chair [Hon. Kendra Bertschy](#)

Whether you are a new or returning member we are thrilled to be able to represent you this year. Please do not hesitate to reach out with suggestions or questions.

We welcome our newest NAWJ members:

Hon. Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux (Riverside)

Hon. Deirdre H. Hill (Los Angeles)

Hon. Jami Ferrara(San Diego)

Worried your membership has lapsed? [Email us](#) to find out!

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of the California Judiciary [appointed by California Governor Newsom](#) on August 7, 2025:

Hon. Diane Meier (Alameda)

Hon. Julie Wilensky (Alameda)

Hon. Cara Sandberg (Alameda)

Hon. Ruby Neumann (Butte)

Hon. Veronica Ramos (Los Angeles)

Hon. Renee Williams (Los Angeles)

Hon. Melinda Porter (Los Angeles)

Hon. Amanda Park (Los Angeles)

Hon. Maggie Yang (Los Angeles)

Hon. Kemi Mustapha (Santa Clara)

Hon. Sarah Cook (Santa Clara)

Hon. Sarah Birmingham (Stanislaus)

Get Involved

- Join an NAWJ Committee!

NAWJ Committees are listed [here](#) and Committee meetings are listed [here](#). You are welcome to join and participate at your comfort level.

- Enjoy the Counterbalance Magazine. You can access the latest issue, Preserving the Rule of Law, Summer 2025, [here](#). Please feel free to forward Counterbalance to friends and colleagues, membership is not required to view it.
- Create programs in your area!

Do you want to get more involved in NAWJ but don't have an active group...yet? We can work with you to give you the help you need to start one of these programs in your area. Just reach out!

Upcoming Events

The NAWJ 2025 Annual Conference will be held in **Boston, MA** October 23-25, 2025. Click [here](#) for more information. Early Bird registration is over, but it's not too late to still register! Highlights include a Friday evening Reception at the John Adams Courthouse, CLE programs with Judge Esther Salas, Anita Hill, and Dean Chemerinsky's Supreme Court update.





SAVE THE DATE for the NAWJ 2026 Midyear Meeting! The 2026 Midyear meeting will take place on an Alaska Cruise, Vancouver to Whittier/Anchorage May 17-24, 2026, on the Holland America Signature Class ship, Nieuw Amsterdam. This will be the 15th anniversary of our first NAWJ Alaska cruise in 2011. [Click here](#) for additional details on the cruise.

Past Events

The following webinars have recently aired. If you missed them the replays are now available on the [NAWJ website](#). You will need to log in to be able to watch. *Note: The webinars are in chronological order, please scroll to the bottom of the page to access the 2025 webinars.*

Threats Against Women Judges: Why the Risk is Greater and How to Protect Your Home and Family

Threats and attacks against judges have escalated rapidly in recent years. But within this general climate of judicial hostility, it's important to understand that some judges are at higher risk than others. Our research has found that women judges and minority judges are also targeted at a higher frequency. Threats received by a judge that is a woman of color are typically 40% higher than those directed at a white male judge. The webinar will provide strategies judges can begin employing right away to better protect themselves and their families.

Understanding and Addressing Caste Discrimination in U.S. Courts

This National Association of Women Judges discussion on caste discrimination, featuring leading scholars, advocates, and practitioners was held June 12, 2025. The panelists provide critical insights into recognizing, litigating, and adjudicating caste discrimination cases. The session highlights developments such as the Fresno Resolution and the ABA's stance on caste equity, offering practical guidance for both attorneys and judges.

Caste discrimination, while long recognized internationally, is an emerging frontier for U.S. courts, attorneys, and advocates. This panel, hosted by the National Association of Women Judges, equips legal professionals with the knowledge to recognize caste discrimination, frame claims effectively, and evaluate these complex cases from the bench.

Panelists explore the foundations of caste as a social and legal category, share real-world examples of caste bias in the U.S., and discuss practical strategies for litigating and adjudicating these claims. The discussion also highlights key developments, including the

landmark Fresno City Resolution and the American Bar Association's resolution recognizing caste discrimination as a form of prohibited bias.

Through this session, judges and attorneys will gain practical tools for identifying and addressing caste-based harms, and judges will deepen their understanding of how to weigh and evaluate evidence of caste discrimination under existing legal frameworks.

Ethical Legal Research with Generative AI

This presentation is for legal professionals who want a better understanding of the intersection between generative AI and legal ethics. Beginning with a foundational overview of AI and its generative capabilities, participants will explore the ethical implications as outlined by the American Bar Association (ABA) model rules. Key topics include maintaining competency (Rule 1.1), ensuring confidentiality (Rule 1.6) and effective supervision (Rule 5.1) in the context of AI use.

The course will also address potential sanctions for unethical AI practices and provide insights into the application of AI in legal research tools, emphasizing ethical principles and considerations. Participants will engage in discussions on specific ethical issues such as AI hallucinations, supervisory concerns, and confidentiality challenges.

The course concludes with a review of ethical AI use policies within law firms and an open discussion to consolidate learning and address participant queries. This course is designed to equip legal professionals with the knowledge and tools necessary to ethically integrate AI into their practice.

Judge's Exchange: A space to share, learn, and lead together.

This month, Hon. Kendra Bertschy shares about the Eviction Diversion program with Reno Housing Court. The [YouTube](#) is just under a half an hour and worth every minute. You can also find it under the podcast "I'll Allow It Nevada."

Watch Out!: Circulating Law/Court Related Scams

[Fake traffic ticket texts](#) (NV)

[Failure to Appear citation](#) (NV)

[Fake traffic citations \(CA\)](#)

[Jury scams \(CA\)](#)

Free Resources:

The National Judicial College is offering the following free programs:

- [Self-Represented Litigants and Judicial Ethics \(9/4/25\)](#)
- [Understanding Changes in the Brain \(9/5/25\)](#)
- [Using Decision Trees to Analyze Complex Evidentiary Issues \(9/9/25\)](#)
- [Why Judge? “Unmasking” Procedural Fairness and Empathy for Self-Represented Litigants \(9/9/25\)](#)
- [Substance Use Disorder: Success Stories from Tribal Judges \(9/19/25\)](#)
- [Analyzing Constitution-Based Evidence Objections. Three Parts. Part I: Crawford at 21 \(9/25/25\)](#)
- [Evidence Objections. Part 2: Analyzing Brady, Agurs, Giglio and Kyles \(10/14/25\)](#)
- [Techniques of Jury Management \(10/15/25\)](#)

Recognitions & Congratulations



Congratulations to Hon. Corey Lee of San Bernardino County, who has been appointed to serve as an Associate Justice in the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division Two. Lee has served in the San Bernardino County Superior Court as a Judge since 2015. She served as a Deputy Chief Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office from 2008 to 2015. Lee was a Deputy District Attorney in the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office from 2007 to 2008. She served as a Deputy District Attorney in the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office from 2004 to 2007. Lee served as a Law Clerk in the U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office of Immigration Review from 2003 to 2004.

Lee received a Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School. This position requires confirmation by the Commission on Judicial Appointments, which consists of Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero, Attorney General Rob Bonta, and Senior Presiding Justice Manuel Ramirez.



Selma Moidel Smith, who became a member of The State Bar of California over 82 years ago, has passed. She is hailed as “a trailblazing California attorney, legal historian, and composer whose work uplifted generations of women in the law.” You can read more about her [here](#).



Congratulations to the Washoe County Adult Drug Court (ADC) program, which celebrated its 30th Anniversary on July 10, 2025. Specialty Courts Manager Brooke Howard notes that the event marked not only “the progress and success of this vital program, but also ...recognize[d] the dedication, hard work, and resilience of everyone involved- from the participants and their families to the court staff, treatment providers, and community partners.” You can read more [here](#).