



September 30, 2024
Annual Report from District 14
Honorable Victoria Kolakowski

California and Nevada

District 14 is proud to host this year's NAWJ Annual Conference again.

Northern California News:



Alameda County Superior Court Judge Noel Wise has been nominated to fill a vacancy in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee approved her nomination on August 1, 2024, and she awaits the full Senate's consideration.

This has been a momentous year for NAWJ member Judge Wise, who received the California Women Lawyer's 2024 Rose Bird Award. Since 2000, this award has honored judges from the northern portion of California based upon excellence as a jurist, longstanding and/or groundbreaking public service, and service as an inspiration to women lawyers in California.

Southern California News:

San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan was honored with the prestigious Attorney General’s Award for Meritorious Public Service. This is the highest public service award from the U.S. Department of Justice, which recognizes the most significant contributions of citizens and organizations in advancing justice. DA Stephan was honored for her extraordinary leadership, unwavering commitment to justice, and innovative approaches to enhance public safety. DA Stephan serves as Co-Chair of NAWJ’s Human Trafficking Committee, and President-Elect of the National District Attorney’s Association.



DA Stephan with U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland

I reached out to our previous District Director, **Judge Pennie McLaughlin**, and asked for an update on San Diego. She has been busy organizing this year’s Annual Conference, but took time out to send the following report, with photos “San Diego NAWJ continues to be active in our legal community.”



This year, we hosted the annual Resource Fair again and it was well received and very helpful to the women who are reentering their communities after incarceration.”



“The North County branch of our San Diego Superior Court held a Color of Justice/Mentorjet program this past Spring. We brought in students from a local community college and included the Informed Voter Project video to better inform the group.”



Judges Tilisha Martin and Pennie K. McLaughlin

“Our monthly NAWJ book club at the women’s jail just celebrated its 9th anniversary last week. Each month, two different NAWJ member judicial officers or attorneys host the session, providing copies of the books a month ahead of time.”

“Our annual Success Inside and Out will take place on November 1, 2024, at the women’s jail and will feature motivational speakers and workshops on how to effectuate real and lasting positive changes. Judge Renee Stackhouse and Commissioner Chandra Reed have taken the helm of this event for the past two years.”

“Judge Terrie Roberts and I have been very busy planning the conference and we are so excited that it is around the corner. We had the help of 27 chairs and many committee members to bring it all together. We are grateful for the guidance from President Karen Sage, and the talented NAWJ crew of Laurie Denham, Janelle Mihoc and Brian Gorg.”

- Judge Pennie K. McLaughlin

Thank you to Judge McLaughlin for all that she does for the community and for NAWJ.