



Annual Report, September/October 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. It has been a pleasure serving as the District Director over the past two years.

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. San Diego is hosting a Mentorjet/Color of Justice program in October with 10th graders from a local high school. Another Mentorjet program is on the calendar later in the year with college students in North County San Diego. At this event, the Informed Voter Project video will be presented to inform these voting-age students of the importance of exercising this valuable right.

Many of our members throughout the District are continually engaged with local schools in teaching about the three branches of government. This is a state-wide program that our NAWJ members value because it is an opportunity to teach about the three branches of government in an interactive program. These programs take place monthly around the state at hundreds of schools.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR DISTRICT:

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

SUCCESS INSIDE AND OUT SAN DIEGO- Going Strong!

Behind the leadership of Judge Renee Stackhouse and Commissioner Chandra Reid, a large group of San Diego judges and NAWJ members are presenting panelists on issues to help our locally incarcerated women learn about services and to inspire them to become their best selves. This year will once again include NAWJ members Summer Stephan, San Diego District Attorney and Assistant Presiding Judge Maureen Hallahan.



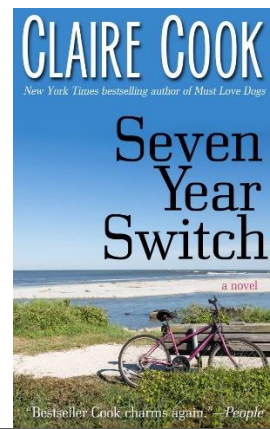
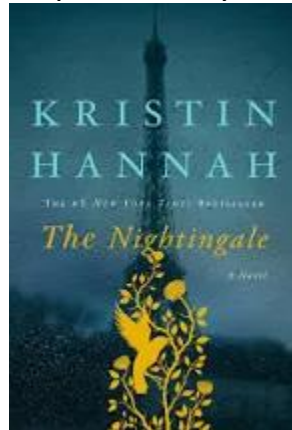
Co-Chairs, Judge Renee Stackhouse and Commissioner Chandra Reid,
San Diego Superior Court



The large team who work together to make this annual event a success!

NAWJ FREEDOM THROUGH WORDS BOOK CLUB CONTINUES EACH MONTH

NAWJ member Judge Pennie McLaughlin is thrilled that the book club hosting roster fills up quickly each year. Judge McLaughlin hosted the first session for this NAWJ local project exactly 8 years ago with the help of Judge Terrie Roberts. Each month, two enthusiastic judicial officers host an evening book club session with 12 incarcerated women. The women receive the books the month before and discuss the selection over tea and cookies provided by the jail.



San Diego Judges Pennie McLaughlin, Terrie Roberts

**NAWJ DISTRICT 14 MEMBERS STEP UP TO HELP RESETTLE
AFGHAN WOMEN JUDGES, *CALL FOR HELP* IN THE
AFGHAN JUDGES' NEW COMMUNITIES**



Ninth Circuit Judge and NAWJ Member Margaret McKeown with Afghan Judge Basira Qazizada, who with the help of the amazing women of the NAWJ will begin an LLM program at Berkeley

Former NAWJ President and Miami Judge Lisa Walsh through the NAWJ and IAWJ, has overseen the resettlement of over 26 women judges who have fled Afghanistan since their very lives were threatened. San Diego Superior Court Judge Nadia Keilani and Los Angeles Commissioner Doreen Boxer have teamed up to help six different teams of Afghan women judges who have settled in different parts of California. These courageous women are in many states and California has become home to many of them. Senior Appellate Attorney Mytili Bala have been actively assisting with the day-to-day practical matters. Commissioner Boxer reported:

"Since forming in late 2022, NAWJ's California Teams for Afghan Women Judges has helped our six (soon seven) mentee Afghan judges address many of their needs, achieve important personal and professional goals, and understand how to navigate our justice system. Our mentor pods which include NAWJ members and other allies, work closely with their assigned mentee Afghan woman judge to help her formulate a plan for a successful professional future. We have also arranged for Zoom meetings and webinars with inspirational leaders, essential advice, and to help our mentees build a community."



Senior Appellate Attorney Mytili with Afghan Judge Basira Qazizada, Judge Nadia Keilani

These courageous women need our help and luckily through the persistent work of former NAWJ President and former Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elizabeth White, JAMS has come through with critical funding. Elizabeth recently reported, “**JAMS Foundation** has agreed to provide the Afghan Women Judges emergency relief funds up to \$125,000. Application forms have been developed along with informational material, and with the assistance of the NAWJ mentors, Afghan women Judges may apply for funds for critical emergency needs such as housing, food and medical expenses.”



Judge Basira Qazizada and Commissioner Doreen Boxer, with the feast Judge Qazizada prepared along with Judge Golshan Sawary

OTHER NAWJ SISTER MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT:

NAWJ MEMBER MARIA PUENTE PORRAS, JUDGE, LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT, CONTINUES TO SERVE ON THE CALIFORNIA JUDGES ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD



Judge Maria Puente Porras at the California State Capitol with other CJA Board Members

CJA's Executive Board met in Sacramento Monday, May 15 and Tuesday, May 16 for a Board meeting and "Day at the Capitol." The Representatives met with a quarter of the Legislature and discussed pressing issues including remote appearances, court reporters, the Extended Foster Care Program, Military Diversion and the Judicial Branch Budget.

SAN DIEGO NAWJ MEMBERS TEAM UP FOR THE 4TH NAWJ ANNUAL WOMEN'S RESOURCE FAIR AT THE LOCAL WOMEN'S JAIL

San Diego Superior Court Judge Pennie McLaughlin and San Diego Superior Court Attorney Lauren Woon co-chaired this year's NAWJ resource fair. Through this event, the incarcerated women who are within a few months of release were able to meet with agency and local organizations who provide services the women need upon release. Jail Re-entry Supervisor Bridget Wright remarked at the event's close, "The ladies really loved the event and got a lot of valuable information that will really help them with their reentry plans. It was also amazing to see all the providers exchanging information and collaborating."



Re-entry Supervisor Bridget Wright, left, with NAWJ members, left to right,: Attorney Lauren Woon, Attorney Patricia Taitano-Valdovinos, Commissioner Deborah Cumba, Judge Pennie McLaughlin, Judge Sherry Thompson-Taylor and other members of the jail re-entry team, Patricia Ceballos and Rebecca Cardenas

NAWJ MEMBERS TRAVELED TO MOROCCO TO ATTEND THE **IAWJ Biennial Conference in Morocco:**

San Diego had a contingent of judges attend the International Association of Women Judges Biennial Conference in Morocco. San Diego Superior Court Judges Nadia Keilani, Cindy Davis, Euketa Oliver, Patricia Garcia met up with former NAWJ President and San Diego Superior Court Judge Tamila Ipema, Ret., and her husband Hank.



Immigration Judge Hank Ipema, Ret., Judge Nadia Keilani, Judge Tamila Ipema, Ret., Judge Cindy Davis



Judges Euketa Oliver, Tamila Ipema, Cindy Davis, Nadia Keilani, Patricia Garcia

**RETIRED JUDGE ANN BREEN-GRECO CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NAWJ
AS A BOARD MEMBER AND NOW WITH HER SERVICE ON AN AD HOC
COMMITTEE ON THE TRAVEL BAN RESOLUTION**



Judge Breen-Greco

As mentioned in a recent newsletter, Judge Breen-Greco has joined District 14 after relocating to California upon her retirement from her judicial post in Chicago. We are lucky to have Ann on the west coast. Most recently, Judge Breen-Greco has been working on the NAWJ Ad Hoc Committee on the Travel Ban Resolution. The California legislature has recently repealed the state's travel ban for California government employees.

**LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE MARGUERITE D. DOWNING IS
HONORED FOR HER RELENTLESS WORK IN THE COMMUNITY**



Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Marguerite D. Downing

Judge Marguerite D. Downing is well known to many families in Los Angeles, where she tirelessly presides over dependency court cases. It is always nice to see a hardworking and caring judge like Judge Downing honored. This time, she was selected to receive an award as a Top Lady of Distinction, from the Inglewood Chapter of the Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated, at their Status of Women Luncheon. This award was bestowed upon Judge Downing for her commitment to service on the bench and to her community. Congratulations Judge Downing, nicely done.

**NAWJ PARTNERS WITH THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE IN MONTEREY,
CALIFORNIA**

Judge Elizabeth White, Los Angeles, Ret., worked closely with the National Judicial College and was instrumental in the NAWJ's partnership with the NJC in an Environmental Law Course which was presented in Monterey May 8-11. Judge White noted, "A unique field trip to view the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research

Institute allowed us to experience the creatures of the deep ocean floor and hear about efforts to gauge climate change using sophisticated buoys which measure its effects. We were also treated to a cruise by electric catamaran through the Elkhorn Slough to see the sea otter population which is now thriving despite the recent risk of extinction. Top notch faculty in environmental law gave us insight into this rapidly evolving and important field.”



Judge Elizabeth White with a group of NAWJ Members at the Monterey Event