

District 14 News:

Submitted by the Hon. Pennie K. McLaughlin, District 14 Director

Our NAWJ members have been very busy, serving on panels, publishing articles and winning awards. Please see below to read the latest updates on our remarkable sisters on the bench and in the law.

AWARDS:



Congratulations to San Diego Superior Court Judge Sharon Kalemkiarian, this year's recipient of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Southern California Judicial Officer of the Year award. This prestigious award will be presented to her on January 16, 2022 at the AAML Annual Trial Institute.

ELEVATIONS:

Congratulations to one of California's newest Judges- the Honorable Christine Donovan, who was appointed by Governor Newsom to serve as a Superior Court Judge for Solano County. Judge Donovan served as a Superior Court Commissioner for the last 3 years in Contra Costa County. We are very proud of Judge Donovan's appointment!



Judge Christine Donovan, Solano County

PUBLISHED ARTICLES/OPINION PIECES:



Alameda Superior Court

Judge Noel Wise

The Honorable Noel Wise, who is no stranger to being published, recently had a front page guest column published in the Los Angeles Daily Journal. This remarkable and well-written opinion piece focuses on the great need for resources for the mentally ill and addicted members of our communities who cycle from homelessness to incarceration. Please read Judge Wise's column at the link below:

<https://www.dailyjournal.com/articles/364992-think-outside-the-prison>

The Honorable Patricia Garcia, San Diego Superior Court, was recently profiled in the California Judges Association Online Newsletter. Please read about her interesting career and outlook at the link below.



Hon. Patti Garcia, San Diego, with her partner in life and fun, Ruben

<https://files.ctctusercontent.com/fd2c84d9001/ba801124-d003-4b24-aac5-03a96b495a5e.pdf?rdr=true>

MEET SOME OF DISTRICT 14 NEWEST NAWJ MEMBERS:

Welcome to the NAWJ ladies, we look forward to your involvement in our community programs and getting to know you at our mid-year and annual conferences.



*San Diego Superior Court Commissioner
Lizbet Munoz*



*Contra Costa Superior Court
Commissioner*



*CA Administrative Law Judge
Unemployment Ins. Appeals Bd*

NAWJ UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR DISTRICT:



Hon. Laura Siegle, Los Angeles

The Honorable Laura A. Siegle, Judge, Los Angeles County reports that their NAWJ group has organized two MentorJet events for Southwestern and Pepperdine Law Schools in January and February. They have been actively hosting these events even throughout the pandemic and successfully held these events at Pepperdine and UCLA last year. This is one of the NAWJ's signature events, and it is our hope that each of you can work to bring this event to your own courts in the coming year. It is an inspirational event that focuses on mentoring students who may aspire to a career in the law. For more information on this program, please see this link:

<https://www.nawj.org/catalog/community-outreach-programs/mentorjet>

JUDGES GIVING BACK: WEBINARS, PANELS AND TEACHING:

NAWJ WEBINAR:

"Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline, Part 2. Moderated by the Honorable Terrie E. Roberts, Judge, San Diego Superior Court, NAWJ Ensuring Racial Equity and Juvenile Justice Committees. You can access this webinar at the link below if you missed it. Judge Roberts and her committees put together an impressive panel of speakers who focused on effective solutions in combatting the phenomenon of children of color going from school suspensions to juvenile detention facilities. These series open our eyes about the many ways our current systems of justice can change for the better.



Hon. Terrie E. Roberts, San Diego

Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline, Part 2_(Aired November 18, 2021)



Hon. Maria Puente-Porras, Los Angeles

Judge Puente-Porras excels as a public speaker and has served on several panels, programs and as an instructor at conferences. She is an inspiration to all of us and a good reminder to help out on panels when we have the opportunity to move the quality of the practice of law forward. Judge Puente-Porras taught family support commissioners from throughout California at their recent annual conference. Her session focused on ethics and was entitled “*Judicial Ethics: Self-Awareness Required*.” A few of her recent extracurricular activities include:

Los Angeles County Bar Association and South Bay Women Lawyers Panels:

1. Moderator of the Judge’s Panel discussing “The Bench View of Minor’s Counsel”
2. Judicial Panel member on Family Law Training for new family law attorneys
3. Featured guest and speaker at the “Her Honor Series,” where Judge Puente-Porras was spotlighted in this unique series where she spoke about her path to the bench and her insights on women evolving in the legal profession. Fellow NAWJ member and **Judge Ramona See** was also featured in this same series.



Hon. Puente-Porras teaching children

Many California judges are active in the “Judges in the Classroom” Series, and above is a photo of Judge Puente-Porras teaching children civics at Lowell Elementary School in Los Angeles. The lesson plans include voting rights, the constitution, a mock trial, and a presentation involving the Cesar Chavez boycott/union efforts. The program allows the children to engage with a bench officer and ask questions and allows the bench officers to work within the community and allows for civic engagement and education.



Hon. Marion Gaston, San Diego

Judge Gaston of the San Diego Superior Court is another NAWJ superstar who in any given month is serving on a panel or teaching. Her recent efforts include the following presentations:

Los Angeles County, Alternate Public Defender:

Presentation on “Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and the Justice System” for juvenile court attorneys, paralegals, and social workers

Children’s Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego School of Law

Panel discussion on “Roads to Resilience: Identifying FASD in Court-Involved Youth” for attorneys, social workers and probation officers working in the juvenile court system. This program garnered more than 200 virtual attendees from all over the country.

Maryland CASAs 15th Annual Conference on Child Well-Being

Presentation on “Identifying the Physical, Neurological, Behavioral and Cognitive Impairments in Children with FASD” for Maryland Court Appointed Special Advocates and social workers.

Judge Gaston is also working with a local non-profit organization which provides pro bono legal services to human trafficking survivors, Free to Thrive, on helping other CA counties create a collaborative court for commercially sexually exploited youth. It was called “The San Diego County Juvenile RISE Court Model”, and was presented to Ventura County (California) judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and probation officers.