



February 7, 2024
Report from District 14
Honorable Victoria Kolakowski

California and Nevada

I was appointed to fill a vacancy left after the last annual conference, and I am trying to meet the high standards of my predecessor, Judge Pennie McLaughlin, who is spending the year organizing this year's conference (see below).

New Members:

Welcome to Judges Elizabeth Scully and Gabriela Shapiro of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, and Stacey Haro of the California Office of Administrative Hearings!

District News:

SAVE THE DATE! The NAWJ Annual Conference will be in District 14 in 2024!

The NAWJ 26th Annual Conference will be held in beautiful San Diego, California from October 17 to 19, 2024 with the theme of *"Bridging the Past, Present and Future of Justice."* San Diego County Superior Court Judges Terrie Roberts and Pennie McLaughlin are serving as Conference Co-Chairs. They are leading a wonderful team of Subcommittee Co-Chairs comprised of judges and attorneys who are working hard to make the San Diego conference both memorable and impactful. The conference will be held at the Omni San Diego Hotel located downtown in the historic Gaslamp Quarter. Some of the highlights include Chief Justice of California Patricia Guerrero as a keynote speaker, as well as several exciting educational programs on cutting-edge issues including Artificial Intelligence. There will also be many opportunities to actively engage and connect with each other during the conference. On a lighter note, Judge Sherry Thompson-Taylor will share her talented vocals with her band at the Welcome Reception. A fun wine tasting event featuring many of California's delicious wines will be held on Friday evening. Registration will open in May on the NAWJ website with more details. Mark your calendars now and join us in San Diego in October!

San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan was honored with the very 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