



Midyear, March 2022  
Report from District 14  
Honorable Pennie K. McLaughlin

---

California and Nevada

District 14 members continue to organize and present on educational panels in our District and throughout the country.

Judge Marguerite Downing, Los Angeles Superior Court, will be a part of a special panel to celebrate Black History Month along with NAWJ member Judge Patricia Titus and Judge Erithe Smith. The presentation is called “Celebrating Women Jurist” at the University of West Los Angeles School of Law (Judge Downing’s alma mater) on February 24<sup>th</sup>. It is important to note another honor bestowed upon Judge Titus, as she was recently inducted into the John M. Langston Bar Association’s Hall of Fame for the outstanding impact and positive influence she has had in the legal profession and the community for over 35 years.



Judge Marguerite Downing



Judge Patricia Titus

Judge Downing will also be an integral part of two programs on children of incarcerated parents. The first will be at the 2022 NCJFCJ National Conference on Juvenile Justice on March 14, 2022 in Pittsburgh. On April 8, 2022 in McLean, VA, Judge Downing will be part of a panel on the same program at the ABA National Parent Representation Conference in conjunction with the ABA Children in the Law Conference.

It is important to note that Judge Downing has chaired the Incarcerated Parents Working Group for Los Angeles County at Edelman Children’s Court which was established to address barriers affecting incarcerated parents seeking to reunify with their children in foster care. Her expertise and knowledge in this area is extensive.



Commissioner Nadia Keilani



Judge Najla Ayoubi, Ret.

San Diego Superior Court Commissioner Nadia Keilani, who also serves as the Co-Chair of the NAWJ Fairness and Access Committee, will moderate a panel entitled: “Empowering Our Voices: Perspectives from Afghan Women Judges on February 27, 2022 in a collaborative event with the NAWJ and Women of Color in Law. The panelists are Judge Vida Qayoumi and Judge Najla Ayoubi. Judge Qayoumi serves as a Legal Advisor in the Afghan Women’s Network and is an Assistant Professor at Kabul University. Judge Ayoubi was the 215 recipient of the Women Peacemaker award at the USD Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. In addition, she serves as the Chief of Coalition and Global Programs at Every Woman Treaty.

Several other District 14 judges served as panelists or moderators at conferences, local Bar events and through the NAWJ webinar series since our annual conference in October. These activities were listed in each month’s NAWJ Newsletter updates, and District 14 is proud of all of our sisters on the bench who step up and make a difference.

Both San Diego and Los Angeles members kept the Mentorjet and Color of Justice programs going in a virtual format behind the leadership of Judges Tamila Ipema and Laura Seigle. These events take place at regular intervals throughout the year.

District 14 welcomes our newest members, San Diego Superior Court Commissioners Chandra Reid and Deborah Cumba. We are excited to have them join our local efforts in San Diego and look forward to their participation in our many committees.



Commissioner Chandra Reid



Commissioner Deborah Cumba