



November Newsletter and District 14 Report  
Submitted by Judge Pennie K. McLaughlin

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## **1. NAWJ DISTRICT 14 MEMBERS HONORS, AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE TANI CANTIL SAKAUYE NAMED PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA**

Chief Justice Tani Cantil Sakauye has provided outstanding leadership to the California Supreme Court over the past 12 years. Serving as the 28th Chief Justice of the State of California, Chief Justice Cantil Sakauye is the first Asian-Filipina American and the second woman to serve as the state's chief justice. She will step down at the end of the year and begin her tenure as the President and CEO of the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). The PPIC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank. Their mission is to inform and improve public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research. Their stated vision is a "California with effective, efficient, and equitable public policies that improve the well-being of our state's people, communities, and environment." Congratulations Chief Justice Cantil Sakauye, well done!



**JUSTICE PATRICIA GUERRERO WILL TAKE THE HELM AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT MAKING HISTORY ALONG THE WAY AS THE FIRST WOMAN LATINA LEADER OF THIS PRESTIGIOUS COURT.**



Patricia Guerrero, appointed by Gov. Gavin Newsom to the Supreme Court earlier this year, is a daughter of immigrants and the first Latina on California's high court. A short time later, with the announcement of the pending retirement of Chief Justice Tani Cantil Sakauye, Governor Newsom nominated Justice Guerrero to become the Chief Justice. Chief Justice Guerrero will officially become Chief in January 2023. A native of the Imperial Valley, Justice Guerrero worked to help pay her way through the University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford Law School. Justice Guerrero commented, "I'm honored to be living in a state where a little girl who grew up in the Imperial Valley and raised by immigrant parents from Mexico could grow up, follow her dreams and become the first Latina associate justice on the California Supreme Court," she said in brief comments after her confirmation. "There has never been a Latino or a Latina to serve as chief justice until now. I am proud to be the first, and I look forward to the second, third and the fourth." For all who know Justice Guerrero, this display of humility is her nature, and California is fortunate to have her serve as their Chief of the highest court, following the stellar leadership of Chief Justice Cantil Sakauye.

**JUDGE TAMILA IPEMA, Ret., NAWJ LIFETIME MEMBER AND FORMER PRESIDENT, IS HONORED WITH THE NAWJ 2022 JOAN DEMPSEY KLEIN AWARD AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN DETROIT**



**NAWJ President Judge Elizabeth White Presenting Judge Tamila Ipema with the 2022 Joan Dempsey Klein Award in Detroit**

The awards, accomplishments, and achievements of Judge Tamila Ipema, who recently retired from the San Diego Superior Court, have graced these pages for years. It was a special moment at the NAWJ annual conference in Detroit for all present to watch this remarkable woman, trailblazer, community leader and inspiration to so many receive this most prestigious and well-deserved award. Congratulations Tamila!



## **LOS ANGELES ATTORNEY LAUREN LOFTON APPOINTED AS A SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE**



NAWJ member Lauren Lofton, of La Crescenta, California, has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Lofton has been an Attorney at Yoka & Smith LLP since 2011. She was an Attorney at Bonne, Bridges, Mueller, O’Keefe & Nichols from 2007 to 2011. Lofton earned a Juris Doctor degree from Pepperdine University School of Law.



## 2. DISTRICT 14 MEMBERS CONTINUE THEIR LEADERSHIP IN THE LEGAL COMMUNITY

NAWJ members in San Diego came out in mass to assist local elementary students in learning about civics and the courts. This program coincided with a statewide conference for the California Judiciary held in San Diego.



Front row: Attorney Jodi Clesattle, Judge Daniela Real-Ferrari, Justice Judith McConnell, Judge Pennie McLaughlin, Attorney Jeri Malana  
Back row: Judge Terrie Roberts, Attorney Tristan Higgins, Commissioner Erika Cortez, Commissioner Kelly Mertoc, Commissioner Lizbet Munoz, Attorney Heather Rosing



Justice McConnell added humor and got the attention of every student in the room.

**LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES HOLLY FUJIE, MICHELLE WILLIAMS COURT AND WENDY CHANG SERVED ON AN IMPORTANT PANEL TO INSPIRE DIVERSITY ON TRIAL TEAMS AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE IT PLAYS**





On October 26, NAWJ members Judge Michelle Williams Court, Judge Wendy Chang and Judge Holly Fujie, all of the Los Angeles Superior Court, together with retired Justice Candace Cooper and attorneys Elena Baca and Jamon Hicks, held a lively discussion at a well-attended panel on “The Competitive Edge of a Diverse Trial Team: Tips From The Bench and the Bar” at the ABA’s 2022 Professional Success Summit in Los Angeles. The panel examined not only the advantages of a diverse trial team, but also tips for diverse lawyers on how to get trial experience and how to convince clients and partners of the benefits of a diverse trial team. The panel was held at a Plenary Session of the Summit, which brought primarily younger, diverse attorneys from all over the country who were seeking to further their careers, as well as interested general counsel and partners. The program was developed by the NAWJ through its subcommittee on Diverse Trial Teams, and the panelists wish to thank NAWJ member **Lauren Woon** for her invaluable efforts to bring the panel to the Summit.

**CALIFORNIA JUDGES TERRIE ROBERTS, ERIKA YEW AND ELIZABETH MACIAS  
INFORMED NEW CALIFORNIA BENCH OFFICERS ABOUT THE NAWJ WHILE  
TEACHING AT THE CALIFORNIA JUDICIAL COLLEGE**



San Diego Superior Court Judge Terrie E. Roberts



CA Superior Court Judges Elizabeth Macias, Orange County, Erika Yew, Santa Clara County and Terrie Roberts, San Diego

**DISTRICT 14 JUDGES TERRIE ROBERTS (SAN DIEGO) AND MARIA PUENTE-PORRAS (LOS ANGELES) SERVED AS PANELISTS AT THE NAWJ ANNUAL CONFERENCE WITH ALASKA JUDGE PAMELA WASHINGTON**



Judge Terrie Roberts addressing the audience with Judge Maria Puente-Porras seated.

Judges Maria Puente-Porras and Pamela Washington continued their work with the next step in the NAWJ Racial Bias training series. For this session, Judge Terrie Roberts was an excellent addition, along with Ashe Card Alison, Associate Director, Diversity & Inclusion at Wake Forest University School of Law. The session focused on strategies for judges to use in their local communities. Using examples from judges in states that have taken steps to transform their justice systems, the panel demonstrated current best practice strategies. A pilot of the online training program is in development with funding from the State Justice Institute.

**NAWJ MEMBER AND SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE MARCELLA MCLAUGHLIN LED A COUNTY BAR PANEL ON THE TOPIC OF "COLORISM."**

NAWJ member and Judge Marcella McLaughlin worked with Dr. Sarah L. Webb of Colorism Healing, who is an expert in this area, and San Diego State University Professor Dr. Teresa Ford. Professor Ford teaches Africana Studies and I provided an historical context and background. This important concept focused on skin tone discrimination, which has deep roots in regions with colonial histories.





San Diego County Superior Court Judge Marcella McLaughlin

### **3. NAWJ PROJECTS CONTINUE TO THRIVE IN DISTRICT 14**

#### **SUCCESS INSIDE AND OUT SAN DIEGO**

Behind the leadership of Judges Terrie Roberts and Nadia Keilani, San Diego hosted its Annual Success Inside and Out at the women's jail in October, after a two-year dormancy from the pandemic. The event was a great success and involved many judges and leaders in the San Diego community, including NAWJ members Summer Stephan, San Diego District Attorney and Assistant Presiding Judge Maureen Hallahan. Public Defender Second-in Command Kate Braner gave an impassioned and inspirational speech about the force of a determined women.



Co-Chairs, Judges Nadia Keilani and Terrie Roberts, San Diego Superior Court



San Diego Judges Pennie McLaughlin, Terrie Roberts and Nadia Keilani

The workshops were plentiful with several NAWJ members serving as moderators. Judge Pennie McLaughlin moderated a panel on “Changing Behavior.” Two of the panelists once sat where the incarcerated women sat and knew the demise of one’s life at the hands of drugs, crime and the continuous cycle of release and reoffending. Their talks were remarkably frank, strong, and encouraging. One of these featured speakers was San Diegan Katie Hildebrant, who with three years sober has learned a new way of life. When first contacted by our NAWJ committee, she was in Peru hiking the Machu Picchu trail. She told the women they could find her every Friday night at a women-only NA meeting in San Diego. One young woman in the front row wrote down the information. Katie reported to us that this woman had made it to the meeting after her release a few days after the workshop and was committed to staying sober and finding a job. This is just one small example where the important work of the NAWJ continues to make a positive difference.



Judge Tilisha Martin (left) leading a panel on Establishing Healthy Relationships with Children Upon Release with Judge Rohanee Zapanta (right)





Dave Durocher, Founder of The Other Side Academy, Inspiring the audience with his own story and how change is possible.



Judge Michael Washington and San Diego Superior Court Research Attorney Lauren Woon lead an inspiring panel on "You Too Can Go to College."

## MENTORJET LOS ANGELES:

Los Angeles NAWJ members continue to host regular MentorJet programs at area law schools throughout the county. On October 27, 2022, the program was hosted at Loyola Law School with a tremendous and diverse turnout. NAWJ Immediate Past-President Elizabeth White was onsite with many judges, including Judge Laura Seigel, who has chaired many of these events for years.



Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Christopher Lui, left, Judges Laura Seigel and Elizabeth White, ret., on the right. Two Loyola Law students are in between.





MentorJet in action, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, CA

#### **4. SAN DIEGO REPORT FROM THE NAWJ ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN DETROIT**

*Reported by the Honorable Cindy Davis, Judge, San Diego Superior Court*

District 14 was well represented at the Annual Conference in Detroit! We were all so excited that one of our own – Judge Tamila Ipema (San Diego Superior Court, Ret.) was awarded the prestigious Joan Dempsey Klein Award. Judge Ipema gave an inspiring speech touching on the continued global struggle for justice as highlighted in the recent protests for women’s rights in Iran, and the challenges of the recently relocated Afghani Judges.

The conference was a wonderful opportunity to mingle with over 50 judges from a wide variety of foreign countries and catch up with our fellow NAWJ friends from across the country. The programming was exceptional. Many of our District 14 members spoke on a variety of panels: **Judge Maria Puente-Porras** (Los Angeles



Superior Court), **Judge Terrie Roberts** (San Diego Superior Court) spoke eloquently and with passion on “Strategies to Combat Racial Inequality in the Courts and Criminal Justice System.” **Judge Judy Chirlin** (Los Angeles Superior Court Ret.) moderated “Tea and Ethics” where we all had a chance to connect to our visiting foreign judges on a personal level. **Judge Elizabeth White** (Los Angeles Superior Court Ret.) gave us some wonderful tools for language in “Accountable Language: The Power of Words and the Importance of Using Language That Treats All People with Dignity and Respect.” The conference committee did a wonderful job with entertainment – The Detroit Youth Choir had everyone moving and dancing. Finally, District 14 salutes the work of our outgoing President Judge Elizabeth White for an inspired and successful term!



San Diego Judges Nadia Keilani, Tamila Ipema, ret., Terrie Roberts, and Alaska Judge Pam Washington, NAWJ Vice President of Districts



Friends from many districts enjoying dinner together.



Judge Maria Puente-Porras, Los Angeles Superior Court, with her son Christopher in Detroit





Judge Mariam Bazzi, Detroit, with San Diego Judges Tamila Ipema, Cindy Davis and Nadia Keilani



NAWJ Past Presidents/Judges Bernadette D'souza, Lisa Walsh and Tamila Ipema, with Judge Cindy Davis



Judge Jamoa Mobley, Ret. with President Elizabeth White





Retired Judges and NAWJ Superstars, Judy Chirlin with Tamila Ipema on either end, with Shibani Malhorta, India Internal Unit Chief





San Diego Judges Cindy Davis, Randa Trapp, ret., Tamila Ipema, ret., and Nadia Keilani, all enjoying the Gala.



Judge Jamoa Mobley, Ret., with International Judges attending the Detroit Conference, both from Surinam

