

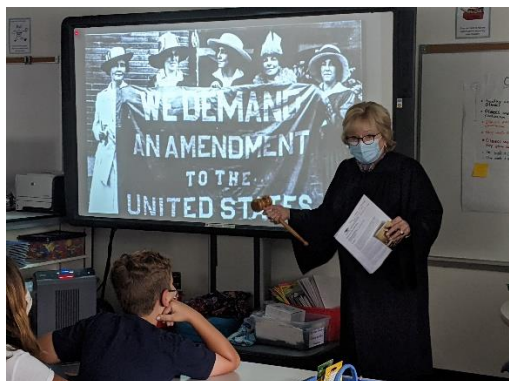
October News from District 14

Submitted by District 14 Director, Comm. Pennie McLaughlin:

Justice Judith McConnell and the NAWJ Informed Voter Project:

This past September found Justice McConnell, along with NAWJ attorney members Virginia Nelson and Jerrilyn Malana at a local city library to present a program to the community called “The Constitution, Judicial Branch and Fair and Impartial Courts.” This program was developed jointly by the American College of Trial Lawyers and the NAWJ Informed Voters Project under a grant from ACTL. The program is being given all over the country. At this particular event, the community had the added benefit of a simultaneous Spanish translation for the presentation. The attendees were both in person and remote and were engaged with several questions throughout the program.

September 17th was Constitution Day and Justice McConnell was in the classroom with fifth graders at a local elementary school as part of the “Judges in the Classroom” program put together by the California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye’s Power of Democracy committee. Commissioner Pennie McLaughlin presented the same program to two third grade classes as well. The students were lively and prepared with their newly obtained knowledge of the three branches of government.



Justice McConnell in the classroom.

District 14 had several members at the Annual Conference and shared some photographs:



District 14 Judicial officers (left side) at dinner with the Kader's (2nd and 4th from back on right) and International Judges.



Los Angeles Judiciary was present in large numbers in Nashville.



President Elizabeth White, District 14, sworn in by Ret. Judge Judy Chirlin, also District 14



San Diego Judicial Officers Keilani and Davis with a group of International Judges.



Dedicated morning walkers, Judges Davis, Ipema and Keilani from San Diego.



Hon. Keilani and Hon. Chirlin with two Iraqi Judges in attendance.



Past President D'Souza with new President Elizabeth White and Judy Chirlin.



Hon. Mary Becnel, Hon. Tamila Ipema, and Hon. Bernadette D'Souza

Meet the Member from District 14, a new monthly feature:

November 2021 Member in the Spotlight: **Judge Maria Puente-Porras, Los Angeles Superior Court**



Judge Puente-Porras in Nashville

- Why is the NAWJ important to you?
 - I joined the organization at the suggestion of a friend and colleague [Pennie McLaughlin 😊]. I found it to be an organization of very dedicated women with a keen eye to explore all topics to further our education and understanding of the **impact of our work. The importance of this approach is that it involves ongoing evolution and we continue to grow as individuals and as an organization.**
- Please list three noteworthy people (living or dead) you'd want to have dinner with and why.
 - My mother, Reyna Puente, who passed in 2016. I would love to share with her what her sacrifice and work ethic did for me as a woman, mother and professional. I don't think she really understood the culmination of my success because she had been quite ill in her last year of life and I ascended to the bench at around the same time.



Judge Puente-Porras with her Mother

- Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, California Supreme Court. There are so many questions I'd love to ask. She is brilliant, poised and an excellent speaker. I'd like to know what her interests and hobbies were as a child.

- Jacqueline Kennedy. I have been fascinated by her life story. The strength and courage she exhibited in her personal struggles as a wife, mother and as First Lady were limitless. I'd want to know what advice she'd give to young women entering politics, not as spouses but as leaders, in today's world.
- What is one item on your bucket list?
 - Dedicating 3 months to travel throughout Mexico.
- Your favorite quote?
 - "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Maya Angelou
- Favorite place on earth?
 - Anywhere, so long as I am with family.
- Favorite place in your own community?
 - I don't have a particular favorite place in my community. However, I enjoyed the summer street fests that the city hosted before COVID. It allowed my extended family the opportunity to meet and enjoy the events for a few hours every week.
- Cherished advice that you have received from a loved-one, mentor or colleague?
 - You lead by example, you're never too old to learn something new and don't forget where you come from.
- If you could magically change one thing about the world, what would it be?
 - Prejudice
- Any book recommendation, fiction and non-fiction?
 - Becoming, Michelle Obama