



January 2026  
Report from District 14  
Honorable Renee Stackhouse

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### California and Nevada

**NAWJ's mission is to promote the judicial role of protecting the rights of individuals under the rule of law through strong, committed, diverse judicial leadership; fairness and equality in the courts; and equal access to justice.**

### **Welcome!**

#### **Your District 14 Team:**

District 14 Chair [Hon. Renée N.G. Stackhouse](#)

California State Chair [Uche Enenwali, Esq.](#)

Nevada State Chair [Hon. Kendra Bertschy](#)

Whether you are a new or returning member we are thrilled to be able to represent you this year. Please do not hesitate to reach out with suggestions or questions. We would love to hear from you!

We welcome our newest NAWJ members:

**Hon. Ericka Wiley** (Los Angeles)

**Hon. Doreen Boxer** (Los Angeles)

**Hon. Maria Jhai** (Los Angeles)

**Worried your membership has lapsed? [Email us](#) to find out!**

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of the California Judiciary appointed by California Governor Newsom on [November 24, 2025](#) and [December 22, 2025](#):

**Hon. Rise Donlon** (Kings)

**Hon. Karine Mkrtchyan** (Los Angeles)

**Hon. Tahmina Morrow** (Sutter)

**Hon. Katrina Brownson** (Tulare)

**Hon. Sarah Ellenberg** (Los Angeles)  
**Hon. Erin Donovan** (Los Angeles)  
**Hon. Erin Reed** (Los Angeles)

### **Get Involved**

- Join an NAWJ Committee! Committees include:
  - Administrative Judiciary
  - Ensuring Racial Equity in the Justice System
  - Fairness and Access
  - Human Trafficking
  - LGBTQ
  - Military and Veterans

A full list of the NAWJ Committees is listed [here](#) and Committee meetings are listed [here](#). You are welcome to join and participate at your comfort level. Joining a committee is a great way to forge connections across the country and learn from each other.

- Enjoy the Counterbalance Magazine. You can access the latest issue, Preserving the Rule of Law, Summer 2025, [here](#). Please feel free to forward Counterbalance to friends and colleagues, membership is not required to view it.
- Create programs in your area!

Do you want to get more involved in NAWJ but don't have an active group...yet? We can work with you to give you the help you need to start one of these programs in your area. Just reach out!

Programs include: [Color of Justice](#), [MentorJet](#), [Women in Prison](#), and the [Women's Resource Fair](#).

### **Upcoming Events and Resources**



Register for the NAWJ 2026 Midyear Meeting and cruise Alaska! The 2026 Midyear meeting will take place on an Alaska Cruise, Vancouver to Whittier/Anchorage [May 17-24, 2026](#), on the Holland America Signature Class ship, Nieuw Amsterdam. This will be the 15th anniversary of our first NAWJ Alaska cruise in 2011. Click [here](#) for additional details on the cruise.



**Save the Date!** NAWJ will hold its 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, "Rooted in Justice, Rising in Rhythm," October 15-17, 2026, at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Conference Committee is now accepting proposals for 75-minute breakout sessions, and they are particularly interested in session related to the Rule of Law, Family Courts, AI, Judicial Security, and helpful tips for courtroom management. The proposals should consist of the session title, 100-word description, 3 learning objectives, and potential speakers. You can submit your proposal [here](#).



### Domestic Violence and the Judiciary Toolkit

With funding from the State Justice Institute, you can access the domestic violence toolkit Beyond the Basics: Domestic Violence and the Judiciary Toolkit by clicking [here](#). This resource was produced by Kelsey McKay.



### Civil Justice in Rural Communities: The Role of Courts in Reducing the Justice Gap

With funding from the State Justice Institute, NAWJ developed a course to enhance judges' and other court staff's awareness of issues affecting rural civil courts and the litigants that are seeking justice within them. This online, self-paced course is 14 chapters and available [here](#). Each chapter takes approximately 5-10 minutes on average. Enrollment is enabled through self-service and requires signing up with a login.

### Past Events

#### 2025 Annual Conference

**California State Chair Report and Reflections on the National Association of Women Judges Conference, October 23-26, 2025, Boston**  
By Uche Enenwali, Esq.

Attending the 3-day NAWJ Annual Conference for the first time was both humbling and enlightening. It provided a unique opportunity to interact with accomplished women in the American judiciary. The educational sessions addressed real challenges, from personal security

to technological changes in the courts. Also, visiting Boston for the first time provided a glimpse into the city's rich history and culture.

The conference began with a meeting for new members. I was fortunate to be paired with former NAWJ president, the Retired Hon. Churchill, as my mentor. Her insights on NAWJ's history, mission, and her own journey to the judiciary were truly inspiring. The welcome reception that followed was a fantastic opportunity to connect with other attendees on a personal level.

The following day featured district meetings where I had the opportunity to meet fellow District 14 members and briefly discuss our District's goals. The next session included discussions on balancing justice and well-being, as well as an award session that recognized members for their contributions to the NAWJ. We then attended breakout sessions that covered relevant, cutting-edge topics impacting the judicial system before visiting the Massachusetts Appeals Court, where Hon. Amy Blake serves as Chief Justice.

The final day began with additional district meetings and various breakout sessions that offered insightful programs and presentations. Regrettably, I had to miss the last event —the gala reception — due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict.

Overall, the conference exceeded my expectations. The quality of the programs, the distinguished participants, and the relevance of the topics discussed made the event an invaluable professional development opportunity. I am so proud and honored to be part of the NAWJ.

I look forward to future events that foster NAWJ's goals and promote equal access to justice. Below are some of the photos I took at the event!



## 2025 Success Inside & Out- San Diego

San Diego held its annual Success Inside & Out program on November 7, 2025. This program takes place the local women's detention facility and provides participants with a full day of programming to assist them in re-entry to the community. Programs include topics such as reconnecting with children, ending destructive relationships, life skills on money, credit, and housing, and starting fresh. Many of these panels include "lived experience" speakers who were, at one point, in the same seats as the participants and now choose to give back and share their stories. The panels also include attorneys and judges who provide practical tips from the perspective of the legal system.

This year, approximately 110 women participated in the program. The Committee Chairs, NAWJ members Hon. Chandra Reid and Hon. Renee Stackhouse, would like to thank the many volunteers who gave their time and energy to make the program a success year after year:

Advisory Committee: Hon. Judith McConnell, Hon. Susan Finlay, Hon. Tamila Ipema, Hon. Randa Trapp, Hon. Nadia Keilani, Hon. Terrie Roberts, and Hon. Pennie K. McLaughlin.

Committee: Parisa Ijadi-Maghsoodi, Esq., Hon. Rosy Meyerowitz, Jerrilyn Malana, Esq., Hon. Maureen Hallahan, Hon. Margaret Mann (Ret.), Tracy Prior, Esq., Hon. Daniela Reali-Ferrari, Mayor Alysson Snow, Esq., San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan, Esq., Patricia Taitano-Valdovinos, Esq., Chief Deputy District Attorney Tracy Prior, Hon. Jami Ferrara, Dave Durocher of The Other Side Academy, Betty Mohlenbrook of Reading Legacies, Hon. Brigid Campo, and Hon. Rachel Jensen.

If you are interested in learning how to put a program like this on in your D-14 County, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are happy to help you establish a program!







## Webinars

The following webinars have recently aired. If you missed them the replays are now available on the [NAWJ website](#). You will need to log in to be able to watch. *Note: The webinars are in chronological order, please scroll to the bottom of the page to access the 2025 webinars.*

### **Why Access to Justice Matters: What Judges Can Do**

Watch NAWJ's Fairness and Access Committee webinar recording on Why Access to Justice Matters. In this program, our esteemed panelists discuss the populations most affected by limited access to the justice system, the impact on those individuals, and initiatives courts have implemented across the country. Hear from experts about what judges can do to identify and improve access to justice for all who come before our courts. Featuring: **Renee Danser** | Associate Director of Research and Strategic Partnerships at Access to Justice Lab, Harvard Law School; **Eric Helland** | Professor of Economics and Senior Economist at RAND's Institute for Civil Justice; **Ashley Lowe** | Chief Executive Officer at Lakeshore Legal Aid; **Deborah Greenspan** | Attorney at Law (Moderator)

### **Court Appointed Neutrals (Special Masters): When to Use them, How to Pick Them, How to Benefit from Them**

The NAWJ has been at the forefront of efforts to rethink and rename the "special master" profession to make it more useful for judges. This webinar will be a practical discussion that will help attendees better understand this rule, when to use neutrals, how to choose excellent neutrals fairly and how they can help the administration of justice. Featuring: **Merril Hirsh** |

Executive Director, Academy of Court-Appointed Neutrals; **Hon. Vivian Medinilla (Ret.)** |  
Delaware Superior Court; **Hon. Heather Welch (Ret.)** | Marion County Superior Court

**Watch Out!: Circulating Law/Court Related Scams**

[Fake traffic ticket texts](#) (NV)

[Failure to Appear citation](#) (NV)

[Fake court documents, traffic court fees, jury duty and warrant scams](#) (CA)

**Recognitions & Congratulations**



**Hon. Euketa Oliver (San Diego)**

Judge Oliver will receive the Judicial Excellence Award from San Diego Voice & Viewpoint at the Celebrating Our Voices, Shaping Tomorrow Gala, which will take place on Friday, February 13, 2026.