

NAWJ - D14

Spring 2020



District 14 News

National Association of Women Judges

2020 Mid-Year Meeting NAWJ Meeting Update: COVID-19

As your District 14 Director, I was in New Orleans the second week of March 2020 when the world tilted. The week started with the awkwardness of not hugging good friends or not shaking hands with new ones. Hand sanitizer was suddenly harder to find. But by Thursday, the world had shifted. Schools were closing. The NCAA cancelled March Madness. And emails and text alerts started buzzing on conference room tables: Courts Closing.

There was something extra surreal to experience this cascade of closures far away from home but simultaneously in a room full of women judges. "What does this mean," quickly moved to, "What do you we do?" The conversations quickly recognizing the unprecedented require creative, thoughtful, problem-solving like never before

Get Connected: D14 is on Facebook

To find us:

1. Login to your facebook account.
2. Search: NAWJ D14 (be sure it's in ALL CAPS). And you may need to narrow your search by clicking on the "Groups" button.
3. Once you're at our NAWJ D14 PRIVATE Group page, please request to join by clicking on the "Join Group" button.
4. Then, **PLEASE**, email me (wcoat@contracosta.courts.ca.gov) and let me know your profile name. Many judges (me included) use a profile name that differs from their real names. I am actively moderating the approval of entry into the group and so I won't approve, until I receive the email verification.

This is a great place to connect, promote activities, post success, ask questions, etc.

SAVE THE DATE

NAWJ 42nd Annual
Conference

October 12th -16th

Nashville

[Details](#)



Thank You

District 14 Members for paying your
\$50.00 Dues

(as of June 9, 2020)

| | | |
|------|-----------|---------------|
| Hon. | Monica | Bachner |
| Hon. | Teresa | Beaudet |
| Hon. | Wendy | Behan |
| Hon. | Alicia | Blanco |
| Hon. | Doreen | Boxer |
| Hon. | Carolyn | Caietti |
| Hon. | Marjorie | Carter |
| Ms. | Jodi | Cleesattle |
| Hon. | Anita | Dymant |
| Hon. | Julie | Emede |
| Hon. | Nancy | Fineman |
| Hon. | Susan | Formaker |
| Hon. | Holly | Fujie |
| Hon. | Catherine | Gallagher |
| Hon. | Patricia | Garcia |
| Hon. | Mary | Greenwood |
| Hon. | Donna | Groman |
| Hon. | Laura | Halgren |
| Hon. | Phyllis | Hamilton |
| Hon. | Joyce | Hinrichs |
| Hon. | Peggy | Hora |
| Hon. | Patricia | Hunter |
| Hon. | Audra | Ibarra |
| Hon. | Lisa | Jaskol |
| Com. | Nadia | Keilani |
| Hon. | Karla | Kerlin |
| Hon. | Elizabeth | Lee |
| Hon. | Judith | McConnell |
| Hon. | Hillari | Merritt |
| Hon. | Sharon | Mettler. |
| Hon. | Jamoa | Moberly |
| Hon. | Charlaine | Olmedo |
| Hon. | Maria | Puente-Porras |
| Hon. | Lynn | Scaduto |
| Hon. | Ramona | See |
| Hon. | Laura | Seigle |
| Hon. | Sheila | Sonenshine |
| Hon. | Therese | Stewart |
| Hon. | Nancy | Stock |
| Hon. | Emily | Vasquez |
| Hon. | Debre | Weintraub |

2020 Mid-Year NAWJ Meeting Recap

A conversation with powerhouses!

Judy Perry Martinez, Esq. (bio [here](#))

President of ABA (2019-2020)

& Paulette Brown, Esq. (bio [here](#))

Past President of ABA & National Bar Association



Past-President Brown:

“You don’t know what you don’t know.” Even in law school, she didn’t know lawyers and didn’t know some of the things she should have been doing while in law school. But got active in bar service.

She said she tries to “always treat people as they come to you, not in any other way.”

What she’s learned over time, “The potential that was within me that I didn’t realize that was within me.”

President Martinez:

A undergraduate professor pulled her aside and said, “You need to go to law school.” And that moment changed everything.

Past-President Brown:

Worked for a firm that had two African American partners, which was unheard of and I thought, “They must be doing something right.”

Hon. Elizabeth White

A Brief History of D14 Dues

D14 has collected district dues for several years. Our national organization does not have the resources to support all of the programming taking place in our districts. Our D14 dues used to be \$25.00 but about two years ago, D14 members voted to raise our D14 dues to \$50.00. Our dues help our members develop community programs. For example, our dues help provide lunch for Color of Justice or MentorJet programs, supplies for Women in Prison programs, and transportation costs for speakers attending Bar to the Bench or #wetoopresentations. And each year, CJA and NAWJ collaborate on a reception at California's B.E. Witkin Judicial College.

If you haven't yet, please send a check payable to:

"NAWJ District 14"

NAWJ
PO Box 3363
Warrenton, VA 20188

THANK YOU

President Martinez:

"I wanted to do work in the organized bar. I stayed with my firm because of their commitment of all that I wanted to do with pro bono and bar work."

"If you can stay with an institution and change it, do so."

Past-President Brown:

I was hoping, as my nephew says, "I was going to hang up my heels." But there's still stagnation of how women and women of color are doing.

She referenced the following:

Walk Out the Door Report

A report from the American Bar Association and ALM Intelligence, authored by Roberta Liebenberg and Stephanie Scharf, "Walking Out the Door" addresses why senior women are far more likely than men to leave the practice of law. (available for download [here](#)) #whywomenleave

Women of Color Research Initiative

This research and accompanying toolkit explore the unique experiences of women of color in the law, who face bias and other obstacles due to the intersectionality of their gender and race. (available [here](#)).

President Martinez:

My frontline. I'm visiting law schools about their need to be engaged in the organized bar. "Women and men alike are looking to see what the courts are doing."

To the women judges and judges of color, "Your statement and commitment of public service is powerful."

Big believer of "no ladders up" and "we can't leave others behind so we have to constantly be bringing others into the room."

President Martinez referenced this podcast (available [here](#)) on the Walking Out the Door study.

ABA President Judy Perry Martinez and attorneys and study authors Stephanie Scharf and Roberta Liebenberg discuss the recently released research on why women are leaving the law and how it is impacting firms.

Elimination of Bias Resources

As I finalize this newsletter, I cannot overlook our country's current conversation on race and racism.

I often present on elimination of bias and my resource list has been expanding a lot these last few weeks.

In the column below, I offer just a handful of resources that I have found helpful.

- Wendy McGuire Coats

**TEDxBeacon Street
Verna Myers**

**How to Overcome Our Biases?
Walk boldly toward them.**

https://www.ted.com/talks/verna_myers_how_to_overcome_our_biases_walk_boldly_toward_them?language=en

**TEDxYouth@KC
Kori Carew**

**Just Belonging: Finding the
Courage to Interrupt Bias**

https://www.ted.com/talks/kori_carew_just_belonging_finding_the_courage_to_interrupt_bias?utm_campaign=tedspreed&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

**TEDGlobal2009
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
The Danger of a Single Story
Oct. 2009**

<https://youtu.be/jhSAgTcLFbE>

President Martinez: 4 Goals. Stay focused.

Gift to us this year is a celebration of the 19th Amendment.

“We’re empowering lawyers to engage as polling officials, voting rights, and ensuring the right to vote is realized.”

Fundamental focus on judicial independence and the Rule of Law because “it is critically important that the bar speaks out on the independent of our co-equal branch.”

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, we’re just starting to see the ripple effects and we know that.

This profession will be fine and we’re needed in all corners

Past-President Brown:

“Sometimes you can’t know what you can be until you see what you can be.” So, as the ABA President, she visited all 50 states, including Boys & Girls Clubs and law schools and took law students with her when visiting Boys & Girls Clubs.

Diversity & Inclusion 360 Commission: Implicit Bias Toolkits

([available here](#))

“When you talk about inclusion, you have to include everybody. And you have to always share what you have. And when you serve others, you will always succeed.” Here’s a great read:

Chris Guthrie, Jeffrey J. Rachlinski, & Andrew J. Wistrich, *Blinking on the Bench: How Judges Decide Cases*, 93 Cornell L. Rev. 1 (2007) (click [here](#))

There is a place for judges in the ABA.

President Martinez:

Be sure to connect with the Judicial Division (available [here](#)). “Please give us a look, if you haven’t.”

And [here’s](#) a link to President Martinez’s statement regarding threats against U.S. Supreme Court justices.

Past President Brown:

The ABA’s Rule of Law Initiative (ROLI). If you’re not familiar with ROLI, the mission of the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative is to promote justice, economic opportunity and human dignity through the rule of law. (learn more [here](#)).

TEDWomen2017**Luvvie Ajayi****Get Comfortable with Being Uncomfortable**

https://www.ted.com/talks/luvvie_ajayi_get_comfortable_with_being_uncomfortable?utm_campaign=tedspread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

TED@NYC**Clint Smith****(2014)****The Danger of Silence**

https://www.ted.com/talks/clint_smith_the_danger_of_silence?utm_campaign=tedspread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

TED2019**Baratunde Thurston****How to Deconstruct Racism One Headline at a Time**

https://www.ted.com/talks/baratunde_thurston_how_to_deconstruct_racism_one_headline_at_a_time

Book Talk: White Fragility
Dr. Robin DiAngelo Seattle Central Library (06/28/2018)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45ey4jgoxeU>

Emmanuel Acho:**“Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man”****Episodes 1 & 2**

<https://youtu.be/h8jUA7JBkF4>

San Diego’s District Attorney: Summer Stephan

Average age of sex trafficking victim: 16.1. These are girls in our schools.

These aren’t someone else’s kids. These are our kids.



“How do you fight a monster, if you don’t know the size of it?”

– San Diego DA, Summer Stephan (bio available [here](#))

Key Resources Shared by DA Stephan

- Understanding the Organization, Operation, and Victimization Process of Labor Trafficking in the United States, Oct. 2014 (available [here](#))
- The Nature and Extent of Gang Involvement in Sex Trafficking in San Diego County, Ami Carpenter, Ph.D. and Jamie Gates, Ph.D. April 2016 (available [here](#))
- San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF) (available [here](#))
- San Diego Trafficking Prevention Collective (available [here](#))
- San Diego’s The “Ugly Truth” Awareness Campaign (available [here](#))

NAWJ Resources

- Trafficking in Persons – Modern Day Slavery (A Program Manual available [here](#))

If this is an issue on which you are called to serve locally, statewide, or nationally,

please consider joining

NAWJ’s Human Trafficking Committee.

Under Our Skin: Getting Real About Race and Getting Free from the Fears and Frustrations that Divide Us
by Benjamin Watson

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Race
by Robin Diangelo

Why are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria
by Beverly Daniel Tatus, PhD

Between the World and Me
by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning
by Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi

The Hate U Give
by Angie Thomas

Dear Martin
by Nic Stone

I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness
by Austin Channing Brown

One Crazy Summer
by Rita Williams-Garcia

How to Be an Antiracist
by Ibram X. Kendi

San Diego's U.S. District Court Judge Dana Sabraw

The Family Separation Case

COVID-19 disrupted much of the Mid-Year Meeting. One casualty was the loss of our Keynote speaker, First Lady Donna Edwards, State of Louisiana. But in her place, we had the distinct pleasure and privilege of hearing from Hon. Dana Sabraw, United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.

Judge Declares Original Family Separation Class Action Reunifications Concluded, March 6, 2020 (article available [here](#))

Access to Justice: Judges Facing the Threat to the Rule of Law

District 14's own and long-standing NAWJ member, Hon. Judith C. Chirlin, former Executive Director, Western Justice Center; neutral, Judiciale West; Los Angeles Superior Court (Retired) moderated this wonderful panel.

Hon. Jay C. Zainey, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana spoke passionately about Project H.E.L.P. (Homeless Experience Legal Protection).

To learn more about Project H.E.L.P. click [here](#). If you're interested in starting a Project H.E.L.P program in your jurisdiction, please take a look at the website and then

1. Identify well-run homeless shelter in your location and/or a local lawyer who may spearhead the program.
2. Judge Zainey will come to you and help facilitate a meeting/seminar will give a free CLE on professionalism.

While Hon. Michelle M. Rick, Pro Tem, 29th Circuit Court, Michigan was unable to make it, we heard from Hon. Lisa S. Walsh, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida. She shared information regarding Judge Rick's expungement efforts in Michigan through Project Access.

To learn more, please go [here](#) to find Judge Rick's article, A Personal View: Project Access - - A Collaborative Expungement Clinic.

Judge Walsh referenced the July 2018 study published in Unequal Treatment: Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Miami-Dade Criminal Justice (Research Report – ACLU Florida Greater Miami), which is available [here](#). She also referenced progress being made in Florida to diversify the bench by The Judicial Diversity Initiative (see [here](#) and [here](#)).

"Each of you has the power to change people's worlds." | Hon. Jay C. Zainey

**Weekly Newsletter:
New York Times
Race/Related, a weekly
email focused on race,
identity, and culture
straight to your inbox,
to subscribe:**

<https://www.nytimes.com/spotlight/race>

Podcast:

**NPR's Code Switch
(Race and Identity,
Remixed) podcast:**

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/>

Resource List:

Justice in June 2020

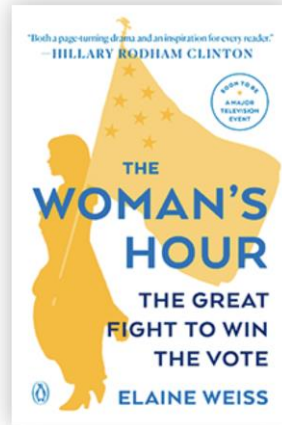
**By Autumn Gupta &
Bryanna Wallace**

<https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1H-Vxs6jEUByXyIMS2BjGHlkQ7mEuZnHpPSs1Bpaqmw0/mobilebasic>

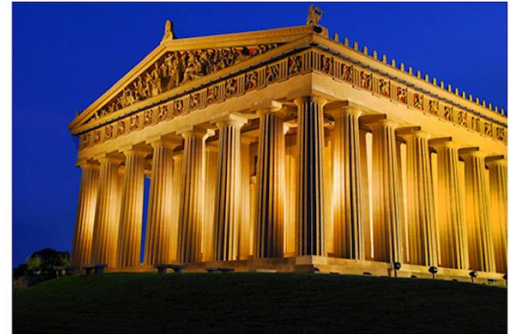
See You in Nashville in October 2020!

The Power of an Invitation!!

Reception at The Parthenon confirmed. Nashville's Centennial Park is home to The Parthenon and to the 42-foot statute of Athena, the Greek Goddess of wisdom, fertility, the useful arts, and prudent warfare. Click [here](#) to learn more about this wonderful location.



The Parthenon



Love to read? Here's one to put on your list because Elaine Weiss is confirmed to speak to us in Nashville: *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*.

Congratulations Judge Louise A. LaMothe

On March 13, 2020, celebrated Hon. Louise A LaMonthe with the 2020 Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award.

NAWJ CALLS FOR 2020 AWARD NOMINATIONS

The NAWJ Awards Committee requests nominations for this year's Honorable Joan Dempsey Klein Honoree of the Year Award and Florence K. Murray Award. Awards will be presented during NAWJ's Annual Conference, October 12-15 in Nashville, Tennessee. To submit a nominee for one or both of these awards, please [complete our nomination form here](#). Nominations should be submitted no later than JULY 24, 2020. To learn more about these award, [click here](#). Hon. Cindy Davis and Hon. Ariane Vuono are the co-chairs for the Awards Committee. If you have any questions on the awards or the nomination process, please contact Janelle Mihoc, Member Coordinator at jmihoc@nawj.org.

NAWJ members shined at the Inaugural (and First Annual) Bay Area Women Lawyers Retreat (BAWLR)



Still Breaking Down the Glass Ceiling After All These Years Judicial Perspective on Gender and the Law

(from L-R) Alameda County Presiding Judge Tara Desautels, California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Lupe Garcia, Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge Anita Santos, Court of Appeal First Appellate District Justice Therese Stewart, San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Monica Wiley

The First Annual Bay Area Women Lawyers Retreat kicked off Friday February 28, 2020 at The Lodge of Sonoma

The inaugural event hosted by the Alameda County Bar Association, California Women Lawyers, Contra Costa County Bar Association, Women Lawyers of Alameda County, Queen's Bench, and San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association SOLD OUT. The weekend kicked off Friday night with a reception, dinner, and a judges panel, Still Breaking Down the Glass Ceiling After All These Years Judicial Perspective on Gender and the Law, addressing the need of achieving equality for women in the profession but especially on the bench at all levels of the judiciary. Saturday included panels addressing the elimination of bias and including Magistrate Judge Donna Ryu, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California and Alameda County Superior Court Judge Gail Bereola, Alameda County Superior Court Commissioner Bentrish Satarzadeh. Sunday closed out an inspirational and empowering weekend of connectivity and networking with a morning session on Mindfulness and Well-Being and then a brunch panel, Power of Networking: Benefits of the Positive Approach.