

**NAWJ - DI4**

Winter 2020



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NAWJ**

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what the size.**

# District 14 News

## National Association of Women Judges

**We Zoomed!!** We zoomed as part of the National Conference and we zoomed again for a social hour.



**DI4 National Conference: Crack of dawn for this crew on Zoom**



**DI4 Zoom Social: Friday 10/23/2020 at 6:00 PM**

# DI 4 Dues

## Looking ahead to 2021

**Please send a check payable to:**

## "NAWJ District 14"

NAWJ

PO Box 3363

Warrenton, VA 20188

# THANK YOU!!



## Connect: D14 is on Facebook & Instagram

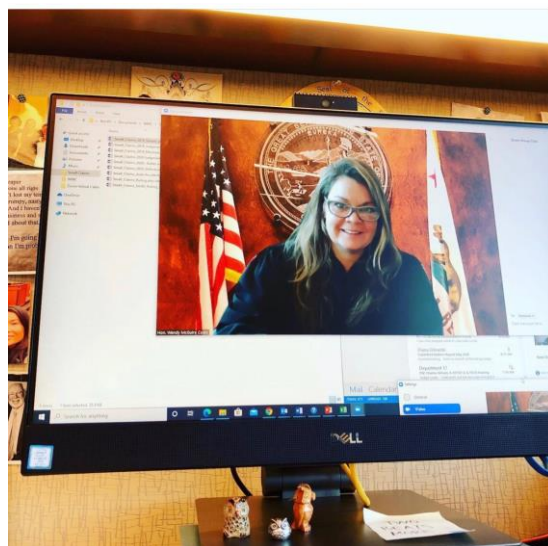
## To find us: Facebook

- Login to your facebook account.
- Search: NAWJ D14 (be sure it's in ALL CAPS). And you may need to narrow your search by clicking on the "Groups" button.
- Once you're at our NAWJ D14 PRIVATE Group page, please request to join by clicking on the "Join Group" button.
- Then, **PLEASE**, email me ([wcoat@contracosta.courts.ca.gov](mailto: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.

## To find us: Instagram

1. Login to your Instagram account.
2. Search: nawjd14
3. You should see Lady Justice. This is a private account

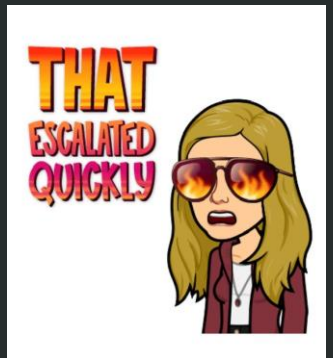
These are great places to connect, promote activities, post successes, ask questions, etc.



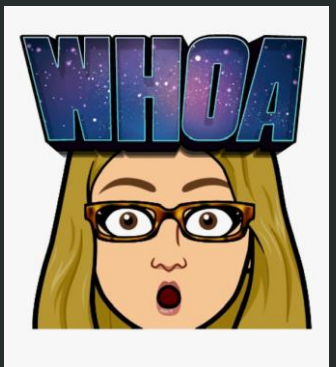
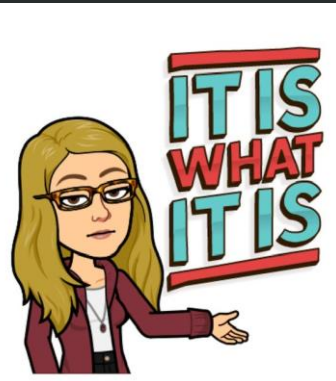
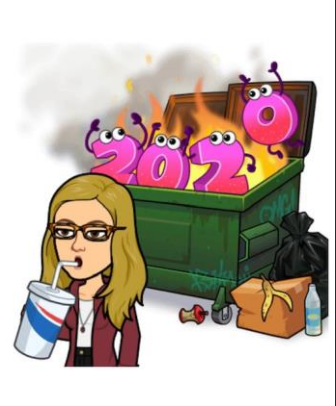
**Thank you to all who responded. I hope you enjoy our Recap & Reconnect as much as I enjoyed receiving and compiling them.**

# Our 2020 Recap & Reconnect

## One lesson 2020 has taught me:



- We are NOT in Control! - Hon. Nancy Wieben Stock- Orange County (ret.)
- 2020 has brought us face to face with the fact that we are not invincible and must take care of each other and the planet. - Hon. Pennie K. McLaughlin, San Diego Superior Court
- Our children are more selfless and resilient that we could ever have imagined. – Hon. Marian F. Gaston, San Diego Superior Court
- No matter how hard, if you are lucky, life goes on and you adapt.
- That life can change very quickly, and we need to be ready to adapt and grow on a moment's notice. Flexibility is key, and certain change can be positive. - Heather Linn Rosing, Shareholder at Klinedinst PC – San Diego, California
- Patience. Everything takes longer if we can do it at all. Patience is the key to some semblance of happiness. – Hon. Randa Trapp, Supervising Judge Civil Division - San Diego Superior Court
- A quarantine is a good time to start a workout routine and to go grey. - Hon. Sharon Mettler, Retired, Kern
- Our democracy requires our attention.
- To be grateful for basic things – the ability to breathe freely, a view of the mountains. There are more, but you asked for ONE. - Hon. Lia Martin, Los Angeles
- My resilience is not dependent on others, but takes a lot of my own attention. - Hon. Carol A King, Immigration Judge (ret.), Alameda Co.
- Family and friends are a priority. - Susan Finlay Marrinan, ret. San Diego
- That Life is too short and we have to live in the moment.
- To simplify life and enjoy the everyday moments.
- That remote hearings and meetings can work. - Holly Fujie, Los Angeles (CA) Superior Court
- Whenever you think that things can't get any worse—they do. - Hon. Phyllis Hamilton, Chief Judge, US District Court, ND California
- I am the master of my destiny and my computer is my car/plane/boat/train. - Hon. Elizabeth Allen White
- NAWJ President Elect



- Patience. – Hon. Rebecca Westerfield (ret.) San Francisco
- The value of disconnecting from computers and being present for humans. - Comm. Jennifer Lee, Contra Costa
- Children are resilient. - Sarah London – Alameda
- You can never take your health for granted. – Hon. Joan P. Weber, San Diego Superior Court
- We can't take anything for granted. – Hon. Julie Emede, Santa Clara County
- Never take anything for granted. - Hon. Michael J Popkins, San Diego Superior Court
- Patience, Patience, Patience and how many idiots there are out there! But I keep wondering why none of the news people don't ask those who protest wearing masks with signs that say "my Body, my Choice" how they feel about a woman's Right to Choose! - Judge Judy Chirlin, Los Angeles Superior Court – Retired.
- Take nothing for granted.
- 2020 has reminded all of us of the importance of working together and sacrificing for the common good. Even though the pandemic forced us all into small bubbles, in some ways it helped more of us think outside of our bubble – to contemplate how our actions affect everyone, not just those close to us. - Jodi Cleesattle – Supervising Deputy Attorney General, California Department of Justice, San Diego
- Is to be thankful for good health. Really not much else matters if you aren't in good health. I am also thankful for steady employment and financial stability while so many others have lost their jobs or are struggling. - Hon. Karla D. Kerlin, Los Angeles County
- We cannot take "normalcy" for granted. – Hon. Terrie E. Roberts, San Diego Superior Court
- Delay is not an option, you might not have tomorrow. - Hon. Maria Puente-Porras, Los Angeles County
- Meaningful discourse with others of different viewpoints requires patience, respect, and seeing the other person's humanity. - Fanny Yu, Esq. – San Diego
- Home, friends and family are the heart of life. It also has taught me that normal living and working pre-Covid burned more calories! -Hon. Jamoa Moberly (Ret.) – Orange County
- Friends & Family, those we inherit as well as those we choose, are the most cherished and important aspects of our lives. – Hon. Anita Santos, Contra Costa County
- Be courageous. – Comm. Sheryl M Beasley, Los Angeles
- To patiently problem solve. – Hon. Wendy McGuire Coats, Contra Costa

## Currently, I'm most grateful for:

- The ability to have been able to see my kids and grandkids throughout the pandemic. - Hon. Nancy Wieben Stock- Orange County (ret.)
- I am grateful that I have a great job, family and friends. I see poverty and struggle all day in my courtroom from family to family and I never forget how much easier I have it during this pandemic due to a steady and secure paycheck. - Hon. Pennie K. McLaughlin, San Diego Superior Court
- The wonders of science. – Hon. Marian F. Gaston, San Diego Superior Court
- My parents and my sister – who banded together to ensure that I could take the necessary steps I needed to.
- The way the legal community has come together. I have seen unprecedented levels of cooperation and dialogue. The profession really stepped up, which is wonderful in so many ways. - Heather Linn Rosing, Shareholder at Klinedinst PC – San Diego, California
- Family. Sheltering in place with my family has not been without its challenges, but it has also been very rewarding to spend time with my 3-year-old grandson. – Hon. Randa Trapp, Supervising Judge Civil Division - San Diego Superior Court
- My granddaughter who is expected to make her appearance in February. - Hon. Sharon Mettler, Retired, Kern
- My community.
- Belief in the faithfulness of God (it would be difficult for me to maintain my sanity without it) - Hon. Lia Martin, Los Angeles
- Being retired and having security enough to last this out. - Hon. Carol A King, Immigration Judge (ret.), Alameda Co.
- A roof over our heads, my husband's company and spending time with our two dogs. – Susan Finlay Marrinan, ret. San Diego
- My friends and family members that I keep in daily communication with. They are my life line and keep me going. COVID might have created physical distancing but has brought me emotionally closer to my family and friends.
- My health and the health of my loved ones.
- The health of my family and staff and friends. - Holly Fujie, Los Angeles (CA) Superior Court
- So much—my spouse who I never tire of spending time with, my comfortable home, enough to eat, and stimulating work. There are so many with so little, I am grateful for everything that I have. - Hon. Phyllis Hamilton, Chief Judge, US District Court, ND California

GRATEFUL



DON'T TOUCH



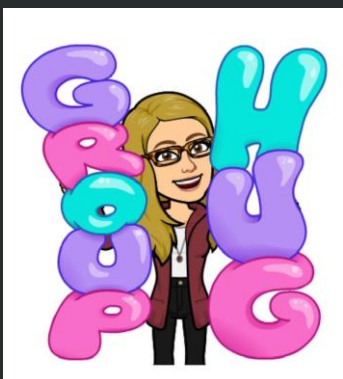
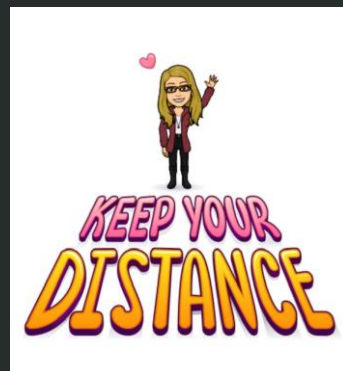
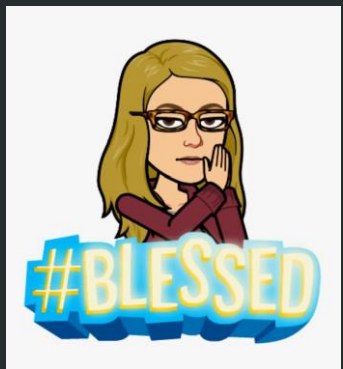
YOUR FACE!

stay healthy

helpful & calm

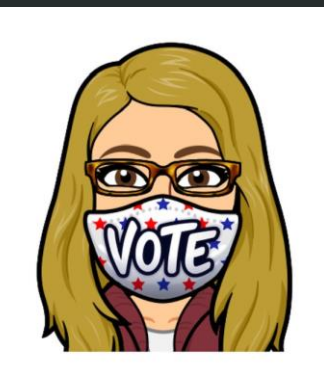
working from home





- My computer. - Hon. Elizabeth Allen White
- NAWJ President Elect
- Family. – Hon. Rebecca Westerfield (ret.) San Francisco
- That my dad is healthy. - Comm. Jennifer Lee, Contra Costa
- The natural beauty around me in Northern California. - Sarah London – Alameda
- You can never take your health for granted. – Hon. Joan P. Weber, San Diego Superior Court
- Being able to shelter in place with my wife in a safe and loving home, where we can share binge-watching mindless television shows and, at the same time, share conversations, shows, and books about the difficult issues our county, state, and country are facing. – Hon. Julie Emede, Santa Clara County
- My health and the health of my family members Hon. Michael J Popkins, San Diego Superior Court
- The fact that we'll have a new president after Jan. 20th. - Judge Judy Chirlin, Los Angeles Superior Court – Retired.
- I have a job that I love, family who mostly has the sense to hole up in their homes, and a husband who does the grocery shopping for us.
- I'm most grateful that both my young adult children and my older parents are responsible, safety-conscious, and – so far – healthy. - Jodi Cleesattle – Supervising Deputy Attorney General, California Department of Justice, San Diego
- For my health. I recently got Covid-19, but fortunately had a mild case and since I am in good health, I made it through the quarantine period with no long-lasting effects - Hon. Karla D. Kerlin, Los Angeles County.
- My family's health and the fact that our country now has a vaccine. – Hon. Terrie E. Roberts, San Diego Superior Court
- My health and having a job. - Hon. Maria Puente-Porras, Los Angeles County
- My family and my health. - Fanny Yu, Esq. – San Diego
- After good health, friends and family, I am most grateful to be living in a comfortable home in an environment with access to many walking paths, and to nature in our backyard, and beyond. - Hon. Jamoa Moberly (Ret.) – Orange County
- My health and that of my family & friends. – Hon. Anita Santos, Contra Costa County
- My family and the opportunity to grow where I am with the courts. – Comm. Sheryl M Beasley, Los Angeles
- My healthy family! – Hon. Wendy McGuire Coats, Contra Costa County

## These days, one item I can't live without is:

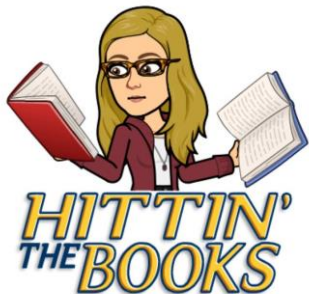
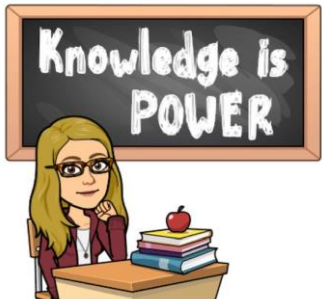
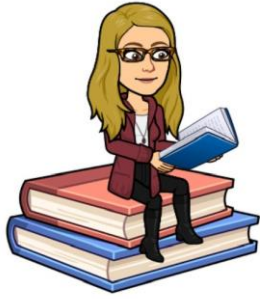


- Homemade cappuccinos made every morning by my husband, Ron Stock. He adds a custom design, usually a heart, a sun, or even a peace symbol. - Hon. Nancy Wieben Stock- Orange County (ret.)
- Audible, whose books, memoirs and essays have kept me company on miles and miles of runs and walks. - Hon. Pennie K. McLaughlin, San Diego Superior Court
- My to go coffee mug! – Hon. Marian F. Gaston, San Diego Superior Court
- TikTok videos! They never fail to make me laugh and lift my spirits, in nice quick little spurts.
- My absolutely favorite leggings, which are comfortable beyond belief. - Heather Linn Rosing, Shareholder at Klinedinst PC – San Diego, California  
Bonus link: <https://goodhyouman.com/collections/leggings>
- It's a toss-up between Zoom church and Netflix – Hon. Randa Trapp, Supervising Judge Civil Division - San Diego Superior Court
- My Kindle - Hon. Sharon Mettler, Retired, Kern
- Zoom/Bluejeans
- My burgundy “Lana” boots from M.M. LaFleur. Obviously, I CAN live without them. It's just that my life with them is both more comfortable and more stylish. - Hon. Lia Martin, Los Angeles  
Bonus link: <https://mmlafleur.com/shop/product/shoes/lana-boot-3d-knit-burgundy>
- Daily meditation (and Zoom, of course! 🇺🇸) - Hon. Carol A King, Immigration Judge (ret.), Alameda Co.  
Bonus link: <https://insighttimer.com>
- Grocery delivery from Whole Foods - Susan Finlay Marrinan, ret. San Diego
- My mask. If we all wear our masks and follow the rules of social distancing we can control the spread of the virus and hopefully get it under control quicker.
- My iPhone!
- Internet recipes and food-related videos. - Holly Fujie, Los Angeles (CA) Superior Court
- It is a tie between Zoom and my pilates reformer. - Hon. Phyllis Hamilton, Chief Judge, US District Court, ND California
- My computer. - Hon. Elizabeth Allen White
- NAWJ President Elect



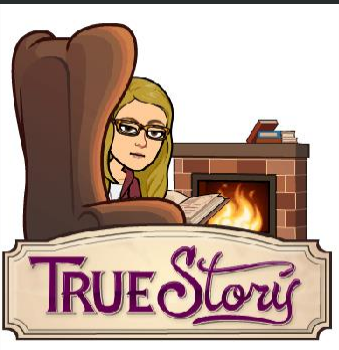
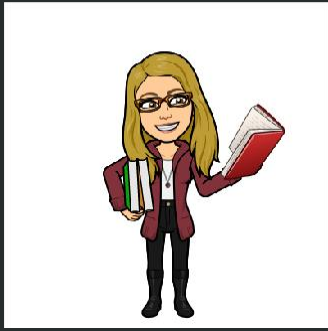
Bonus Link: <https://www.law.com/ctlawtribune/2020/08/06/the-future-of-justice-is-court-a-service-or-a-place/?slreturn=20201116085035>

- Netflix. – Hon. Rebecca Westerfield (ret.) San Francisco
- A hug. - Comm. Jennifer Lee, Contra Costa
- Cozy pajamas! - Sarah London - Alameda  
Bonus Link: <https://www.eberjey.com/pj-sets/slouchy-sets.html>
- Katie Brauer youtube yoga- Namaste! – Hon. Joan P. Weber, San Diego Superior Court
- My camera! I use nature photography for stress relief. Fortunately, birds and wildlife continue to go about their business regardless of what we humans are facing. – Hon. Julie Emede, Santa Clara County
- My wife and my golden doodles - Hon. Michael J Popkins, San Diego Superior Court
- My Robot Bunny face masks (RBG & Dr. Fauci!) - Judge Judy Chirlin, Los Angeles Superior Court – Retired.  
Bonus Link: <https://www.robotbunnies.com/collections/face-masks>
- My Costco sherpa blanket, not only for warmth, but for comfort.
- The Internet and Zoom (and other video conference programs). I mostly work at my office, but the team of attorneys I supervise mostly work at home using remote access. - Jodi Cleesattle – Supervising Deputy Attorney General, California Department of Justice, San Diego
- My laptop. I wasn't sure when work handed them out that I would ever use it as I'm a desktop person. Then COVID hit and everything was on Zoom. Also, I taught Trial Ad on Zoom using my laptop and was able to keep in touch with work during my quarantine with COVID. - Hon. Karla D. Kerlin, Los Angeles County
- Hello Fresh meals delivered to my home. – Hon. Terrie E. Roberts, San Diego Superior Court
- FaceTime or Duo to have visual contact with family and friends. - Hon. Maria Puente-Porras, Los Angeles County
- My dependable wifi connection at home " - Fanny Yu, Esq. – San Diego
- My cell phone and internet connectivity. - Hon. Jamoa Moberly (Ret.) – Orange County
- Patience – Hon. Anita Santos, Contra Costa County
- My fuzzy warm socks! - Comm. Sheryl M. Beasley, Los Angeles
- My Spotify account. – Hon. Wendy McGuire Coats, Contra Costa County

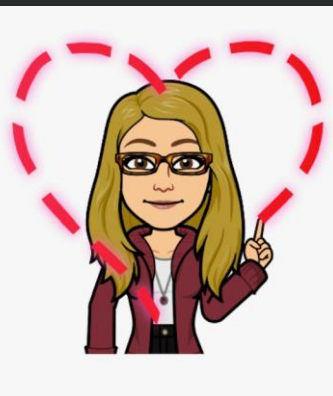


## Best book I read in 2020:

- *Disloyal: A Memoir: The True Story of the Former Personal Attorney to President Donald J. Trump*, by Michael Cohen - Hon. Nancy Wieben Stock- Orange County (ret.)
- *Caste, The Origins of Our Discontent*, by Isabel Wilkerson - Hon. Pennie K. McLaughlin, San Diego Superior Court
- *Miracle Creek* by Angie Kim - Hon. Marian F. Gaston, San Diego Superior Court
- *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi
- *The Women's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* by Elaine Weiss - Heather Linn Rosing, Shareholder at Klinedinst PC – San Diego, California
- *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo – Hon. Randa Trapp, Supervising Judge Civil Division - San Diego Superior Court
- *D-Day: the Battle for Normandy* by Antony Beevor - Hon. Sharon Mettler, Retired, Kern
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini (a reread - with my daughter this time around)
- “Unsheltered” by Barbara Kingsolver, still reading “Caste: The Origin of Our Discontents” by Isabel Wilkerson - Hon. Lia Martin, Los Angeles
- *Nancy MacLean, Democracy in Chains. (Explains a lot)* - Hon. Carol A King, Immigration Judge (ret.), Alameda Co.
- *Beartown* by Fredrick Back - Susan Finlay Marrinan, ret. San Diego
- *CASTE* by Elizabeth Wilkerson
- *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*
- *Olive, Again* by Elizabeth Strout - Holly Fujie, Los Angeles (CA) Superior Court
- *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernadine Evaristo, which is a real celebration of black womanhood. - Hon. Phyllis Hamilton, Chief Judge, US District Court, ND California
- *The Plot Against America*, Philip Roth - Hon. Elizabeth Allen White NAWJ President Elect
- *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson – Hon. Rebecca Westerfield (ret.) San Francisco
- *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama - Comm. Jennifer Lee, Contra Costa
- *The Revisioners* by Margaret Wilkerson - Sarah London – Alameda
- *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson – Hon. Joan P. Weber, San Diego Superior Court



- The Deepest Well, by Nadine Burke Harris – Hon. Julie Emede, Santa Clara County
- A Promised Land by President Obama - Hon. Michael J Popkins, San Diego Superior Court
- The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson - Judge Judy Chirlin, Los Angeles Superior Court – Retired.
- Parable of the Sower, by Octavia Butler - Jodi Cleesattle – Supervising Deputy Attorney General, California Department of Justice, San Diego
- The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates - Hon. Karla D. Kerlin, Los Angeles County
- How to be an Anti-Racist by Ingram X. Kendi and White Fragility - Why it's So Hard to get White People to Talk About Racism, by Robin DiAngelo. – Hon. Terrie E. Roberts, San Diego Superior Court
- Deported American: Life After Deportation to Mexico by Beth C. Caldwell - Hon. Maria Puente-Porras, Los Angeles County
- The Gifts of Imperfection by Brené Brown - Fanny Yu, Esq. – San Diego
- The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah - Hon. Jamoa Moberly (Ret.) – Orange County
- The Body Keeps the Score by Dr. Bessel van der Kolk – Hon. Anita Santos, Contra Costa County
- The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander - Comm. Sheryl M Beasley, Los Angeles
- I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown – Hon. Wendy McGuire Coats, Contra Costa County



## I'm hopeful 2021 will:

- Bring more compassion and tolerance within our diverse population. - Hon. Nancy Wieben Stock- Orange County (ret.)
- Bring an end to the day to day struggle for basic necessities for so many, and that we come together as a community to find solutions to help families and people in need. - Hon. Pennie K. McLaughlin, San Diego Superior Court
- Include a vaccine – Hon. Marian F. Gaston, San Diego Superior Court
- Be normal-ish again
- Be a year filled with joyous gatherings of family and friends. - Heather Linn Rosing, Shareholder at Klinedinst PC – San Diego, California
- Heal the ills of COVID 19, the widening racial divide, and our broken democracy. – Hon. Randa Trapp, Supervising Judge Civil Division - San Diego Superior Court
- Be healthy and have reconciliation. - Hon. Sharon Mettler, Retired, Kern
- Be the rainbow after the storm.
- Find children returning to their classrooms and playgrounds - Hon. Lia Martin, Los Angeles
- Be a little easier for immigrants and those who represent them. - Hon. Carol A King, Immigration Judge (ret.), Alameda Co.
- Be vaccinated - Susan Finlay Marrinan, ret. San Diego
- Put an end to the Covid virus and the death and distraction it has caused in the works.
- Lessen the polarization we feel towards one another.
- See the world completely healthy and opened up for travel. - Holly Fujie, Los Angeles (CA) Superior Court
- Bring an end to the pandemic and permit me to widen my world again. - Hon. Phyllis Hamilton, Chief Judge, US District Court, ND California
- Bring us all together! - Hon. Elizabeth Allen White
- NAWJ President Elect
- Mean the revival of the teaching of civics with special emphasis on the critical role of the independent judiciary.– Hon. Rebecca Westerfield (ret.) San Francisco
- Ease the mental, physical and financially suffering that so many people are dealing with around the world. - Comm. Jennifer Lee, Contra Costa
- Bring back togetherness - Sarah London – Alameda
- Bring sanity and peace back to the world. – Hon. Joan P. Weber, San Diego Superior Court
- Bring some peace and a coming together (both literally and as Americans) amidst the many challenges we will continue to face. – Hon. Julie Emede, Santa Clara County



- Allow our lives to get relatively back to normal so we can dine out again & travel. We shall see!!! - Hon. Michael J Popkins, San Diego Superior Court
- Bring an end to the pandemic of the virus (of course) and of the pandemic of ultra partisanship in our politics. - Judge Judy Chirlin, Los Angeles Superior Court – Retired.
- I hope 2021 will bring an end to the pandemic with widespread availability of the vaccines. I hope the new year will bring an end to the political roller coaster we've been riding and, hopefully, bring a new sense of stability, calm, and confidence in government. And I hope that all those who experienced job loss, closure of businesses, and economic hardship during the pandemic will recover and enjoy prosperity. - Jodi Cleesattle – Supervising Deputy Attorney General, California Department of Justice, San Diego
- Eventually see a return to normalcy. It would be great to have almost everyone vaccinated so we can fully reopen our courts, kids can return to school, and everyone can feel safe going out. It will be really nice to see friends in person, and eat and drink out in public when it is safe to do so again. - Hon. Karla D. Kerlin, Los Angeles County
- I'm hopeful we will turn the corner regarding the pandemic with less people dying and suffering and that families and businesses suffering financially, will be put back on track. I'm also hopeful students can safely get back to in person classes. – Hon. Terrie E. Roberts, San Diego Superior Court
- Restore our ability to have gatherings and hug our loved ones without the health risks. - Hon. Maria Puente-Porras, Los Angeles County
- Allow us to reconnect face to face with family, friends, and colleagues. I've really missed giving others a hug. - Fanny Yu, Esq. – San Diego
- Bring us universal recovery from Covid-19. - Hon. Jamoa Moberly (Ret.) – Orange County
- Full of hugs, reunions, travel and the end of the pandemic! – Hon. Anita Santos, Contra Costa County
- Racial fairness and criminal justice equality. – Comm. Sheryl M Beasley, Los Angeles
- Give us a chance to breathe deeply without fear, see smiling faces not just smiling eyes, and to hold hands and hug our friends again. – Wendy McGuire Coats, Contra Costa County



**Save  
the Date!!!**

**43<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Conference**

**October 6, 2021 -  
October 10, 2021**

**Nashville, TN**

***Our Redux***

## WE REMEMBER



*The Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States*

**2020 proved to be a year of great loss.**

May we always remember and  
continue to be inspired by her life  
and her decades of public service.

*You can't spell "truth" without Ruth.*

**Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg  
Associate Justice  
of the  
Supreme Court of the United States**

(March 15, 1933 - September 18, 2020)

**Click here for:  
[Tributes to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#)**

## NAWJ COVID-19 Resources

- Webinars
- Articles
- Videos
- Podcasts

This expanding library of resources is at your fingertips.

[Click here](#)



## How COVID-19 Changed My View

**Dept. 17  
Contra Costa Superior Court  
Richard E. Arnason Justice Center  
Pittsburg, CA  
Hon. Wendy McGuire Coats**

Since returning in June from the COVID-19 closure, our team has handled 11 jury trials in this courtroom. Navigating the pandemic has shifted our mental focus and perspective about so many things. Below, I capture some of the physical changes that have changed my literal view.



To start, that wall of Plexiglas was not there when the courts closed on March 13, 2020. It creates a barrier between me and the witness as well as the witness and the rest of the courtroom. Now when a witness sits down, I explain to them that because of the Plexiglas they will sound louder to themselves than they sound out here so they may have to speak even louder than what feels comfortable.

A quick walk around my courtroom this morning tallied 11 canisters or packets of hand sanitizing wipes and 15 bottles (big and small) of hand sanitizer. We still have jurors answer questions using the microphone. Because everyone is masked, using the microphones is even more important - - for everyone to hear. So it's like passing a baton during a relay. First pass the wipes, so the next juror takes a wipe. Then with the

wipe the juror receives the microphone. I tell them the canister of wipes and microphone are married, like a salt and pepper shaker. “Please pass the canister of wipes, followed by the microphone, to the juror on your left.” I’ve never said the word “wipes” so many times in my life until doing voir dire during this pandemic.



And with witnesses, after being sworn in but before sitting down, I now say: “I ask you to pause. I’m going to direct your attention to the Purell and the canister of hand sanitizing wipes. Before you sit down, I invite you to wipe down the chair, the desk, and the microphone, including the base, the arm, and the microphone itself. Please take your time and once you have cleaned the area to your satisfaction, there is a waste basket right behind you and then please have a seat and look up and I’ll give you the next set of directions.”



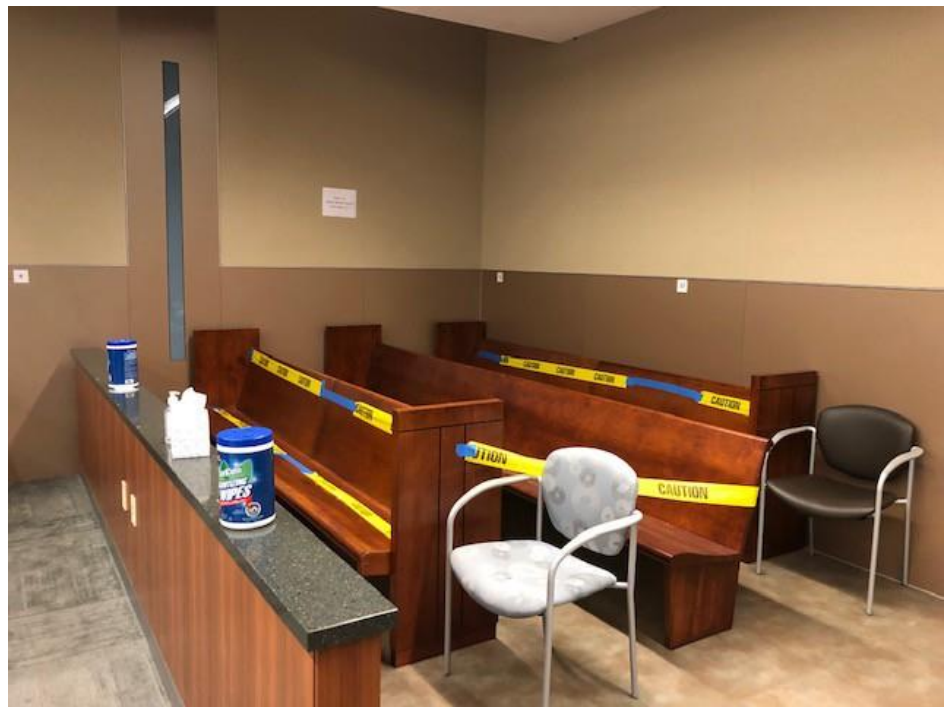
We move our podium for trial to the location pictured above. For voir dire, openings, witness testimony, and closings, the attorneys speak from the podium. They don't have to lock themselves behind it but I've asked them to be close enough to reach it. This gives counsel some opportunity to move but also keeps them socially distanced within the courtroom and especially away from jurors. It also ensures that the lawyer standing during questioning isn't blocking the jury's view of the witness.

Our jury is now spread out through the courtroom. Instead of a tight audience of 12-14 sitting shoulder-to-shoulder in the jury box, our jury is spread out throughout our courtroom - - more theater in the round. So, the view from the podium of our jurors, includes not only our jury box but the entire front and back row of half the gallery.



Only 7 jurors sit in the jury box. 2 jurors sit in chairs to the right of the jury box in front of the gallery. And 3 sit in the gallery on our wood pews, along with 2 alternates.

Yellow caution tape, means you cannot sit there. Blue is an open seat. So, pictured below, the front row of the gallery is juror #10, and the light grey chair is juror #11. The middle row is blocked off. And the back row has juror #12 in the corner, alternate 1 in the blue spot, and alternate 2 in dark grey chair.



If you're curious about the yellow caution tape, I understand. This literally is what was in my courtroom when we returned from the closure and has been "replaced" as it has worn out. It's not fancy. But it has worked. To some extent, I'm glad this seat designation has felt (still feels) "temporary." This has felt long but not permanent. I'm also glad it says

caution. It's served as a sometimes not-so-subtle visual reminder that the reason things are different is because we're navigating a pandemic together. And the blue painter's tape has been great because it is easy to remove and doesn't damage this gorgeous wood.



To really understand the change in the physical view of this trial, I've taken this picture (above) from the seat of juror #12. Before the pandemic, when questioning a witness our prosecutors liked to stand off to the right of their table, standing just off to the side and behind the jury box. If they stood there today, they would stand literally in the middle of the jury and would block half of the jury's view of the witness. Also, these wood pews are very uncomfortable for hours and hours of sitting. I invite our jurors in these seats to bring something to sit on, like a stadium cushion used at a sporting event.



Gone from the courtroom are the water carafes and plastic cups. But here is my box of face shields for witnesses, who testify during trial with a face shield and from behind Plexiglas after de-masking *only* when giving testimony. Practice tip: I provide the attorney the face shield and ask them to have the witness put the face shield together and on outside of the courtroom. Assembling the face shield is a fine motor skill (like buckling a belt but around the circumference of one's head) that a

nervous witness should not have to with an audience watching and without a mirror. Before I started this process, we navigated some very unfortunate hair situations. Now, witnesses enter wearing both a face shield and a mask and then de-mask for testimony and then re-mask before departing.



Finally, everyone's view in front of me has changed too. My courtroom can only hold about 19 to 20 people (total) in the jury box and the gallery. So during jury selection and during trial, our public seating is drastically reduced. To ensure full public access, our court is now live streaming these court room proceedings. In my courtroom, our proceedings typically include this at the beginning of the calendar:

Madame Clerk: Are you ready to go live?

Judge: Yes, Madame Clerk. Thank you. (lifting sign up and turning light on)

Madame Clerk: We are live, your honor. (clerk turning on live stream)

And at the end, of the calendar, I typically start us:

Judge: Madame Clerk we are off. (turns off sign and lays it face down)

Madame Clerk: We are off the air, your honor. (turns off live stream)

Being off the record does not mean that we are not live broadcasting. Our microphones are very sensitive. This alerts everyone in the courtroom that we are live streaming the proceedings. We are literally – On the Air. It also ensures that we have a process in place for when we are in court, on the record, but in a confidential hearing. All of us (counsel, court, and clerk) confirm that we are not broadcasting.

I bought that \$20 sign off of Amazon and it plugs into my computer's USB port for power. We all needed and continue to benefit from the formal "on/off" of the live broadcast and the lit sign reminding us that the very sensitive microphones are LIVE! STREAMING.



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## From Our Family to Yours

It's hard to believe that it was just 2 years ago this month that I received that hoped for call regarding my judicial appointment. It's even harder for me to believe that with 2021, I'm transition from a criminal to a family assignment, including a courthouse move.

I am so grateful for NAWJ. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in this capacity. I look forward to seeing you - - hopefully in person - - in Nashville.

From our family to yours, I hope this year comes to a safe and healthy close and I wish you continued health and a renewed sense of joy and purpose as we head into 2021 together.



The Coats Family: Daniel, Wendy, Hermione (age 12) and Porkchop.