



April 7, 2023  
Report from District 2  
Honorable Leslie A. Stroth

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### **New York, Connecticut, Vermont**

District 2 has had an exciting, productive first four months of 2023! Please see District Director reports dated February 10 and March 9, 2023 for a summary of events in January and February. See also the March 2023 “Sisters-In-Law” New York Chapter Newsletter posted on the NAWJ website under District 2 Reports for March news.

Throughout January, there were swearing-in ceremonies for newly elected judges in New York throughout NYC and the rest of the state. To see the list of the newly elected and elevated judges who stepped into their new position this year, please refer to the “Sisters in Law” Newsletter cited above.

On January 20, 2023, new officers of the “New York Chapter” were sworn in following the New York State Bar Association’s annual Judicial Section’s luncheon at which three women judges, including NAWJ member Hon. Sally Manzanet-Daniels, received the 2023 Advancement of Judicial Diversity Awards. NAWJ member Hon. Marcia Hirsch was elected President of the “New York Chapter”.



Photo of New York Chapter members at Annual Meeting.

In January, February and March 2023, the NAWJ District 2 Mentoring Team continued to offer mentoring to Afghanistan Judge Rona Sabawoon, who fled the Taliban with her family in 2021 and moved to Queens, New York. Following the hands-on assistance from judges in Queens, including NAWJ Secretary Hon. Carmen Velasquez, in obtaining housing, employment and asylum status for Judge Sabawoon and her family, the mentoring team, organized by Hon. Kathy King, came together to offer moral support through monthly Teams meetings. Hon. Carmen Velasquez, Hon. Leslie Stroth and approximately forty New York NAWJ judges are members of the mentoring team.

On March 6, 2023, Judge Sabawoon was honored at the annual Conference on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York City in a high-level side entitled event by NAWJ District 2 member Salwa Kader, Founder and President of the International Federation for Peace and Sustainable development, entitled “Let women and girls have access to education,” focusing on the Taliban’s educational ban for women and girls. For detail on the event, see the March 9, 2023 District 2 Report.



L-R, Judge Rona Sabawoon, Hon.Carmen Velasquez (NAWJ Secretary), Hon.Salwa Kader, Hon Kathy King (NAWJ Projects Chair), Hon.Leslie Stroth, (District 2 Director)

On March 9, 2023, District 2 co-sponsored the Brooklyn Women’s Bar Association Foundation’s “Build and Grow” Women’s Professional Conference Networking event, held at Brooklyn Law School, which featured NAWJ member and New York City’s Corporation Counsel, Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix as keynote speaker. The event focused on empowering young women professionals and students by connecting them with lawyers, judges and other professionals as they explore and pursue their career interests. This event mirrored NAWJ signature Mentorjet and Bar to Bench programs, and was very well attended. Many NAWJ members were in attendance.

In March 2023, NAWJ Secretary Carmen Velasquez was given the prestigious award of the United Nations G-100 Global Chair for Law and Justice. G100 is an influential group of 100 women leaders from across the world who champion powerful advocacy, awareness and impact across governments and global organizations for a gender equal future. Justice Velasquez has led meetings at the UN of hundreds of members who support the G-100 mission. Separately, Justice Velasquez was also acknowledged as one of the City and State’s 2023 Law Power 100, which recognizes the most influential legal professionals in the world of New York politics and government. Congratulations!







Outstanding Women’s History Month Events were held statewide in New York. Details about several events may be found in the March “Sisters in Law” newsletter referenced above. Most recently, on March 29, 2023, NAWJ co-sponsored an event celebrating the life of Judge Constance Baker Motley “The Civil Rights Queen-Why All Women Owe Her a Debt of Gratitude,” held at the New York City Bar Association, The Franklin Williams Commission was a co-sponsor with NAWJ and the NYC Bar Association.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, District 2 will hold its 2023 Color of Justice Law Day Celebration Event, “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility and Collaboration,” featuring a panel of distinguished legal professionals, including District Attorneys, Public Defenders and others. Deborah Enix-Ross, President of the American Bar Association, will be giving opening remarks and moderating the panel. Over 120 students from area schools are expected to attend.



District Two's "New York Chapter" will be holding its Spring Retreat, "Women Who Wouldn't Take 'No' for an Answer" on May 7-9, 2023 in Saratoga Springs.

District Two's membership continues to grow, with 10 new members joining last week!