

District 2

In Memoriam

Judges of the Eighth Judicial District at memorial observance on Friday, September 25, 2020 in recognition of the Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg. **Hon. Shirley Troutman**, NAWJ NY Chapter, President Elect, presented remarks at the event.



Recognition and Awards

Former District 2 Director, **Hon. Cenceria Edwards**, was installed as the 50th Chair of the National Bar Association (NBA) Judicial Council on July 28, 2020. The NBA is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominantly African-American attorneys and judges.

Hon. Marguerite Grays was appointed Administrative Judge for Civil Matters in the Eleventh Judicial District by Chief Judge Janet DiFiore. Prior to her appointment, Justice Grays served as Deputy Administrative Judge. Justice Grays presently serves as NAWJ NY Chapter President

Past NAWJ President **Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy** was appointed as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. Justice Kennedy has served as a Justice of the Supreme Court, New York County, since January 2016.

Hon. Carol R. Sharpe, who presently serves as the Supervising Judge, NY County Civil Court was appointed Acting Justice of the Supreme Court, New York County, by Deputy Chief Judge Administrative Judge Larry Marks.

Metropolitan Black Bar Association presented the **Hon. Carol R. Sharpe** with the 2020 Jurist of the Year at its 36th Anniversary Gala.

Programming

Mentoring

District 2 Director Judge King and Judge Quinones held virtual summer internship programs in their respective courts where interns participated in virtual court hearings and engaged in virtual group discussions about cases to assist them in completing their writing assignments.

Regular programming in District 2 was expanded to include social justice and access to justice issues arising during the pandemic. Innovative platforms were utilized to programming to the members.

NAWJ NY Chapter, in conjunction with the Albany County Bar Association Center for Women in Government, co-sponsored a CLE webinar on June 16th, 2020 entitled Girls & Girls of Color in the Juvenile Justice System.

Hon. Lucy Billings was one of several panelists participating in NAWJ's webinar, "Bridging the Justice Gap in a Pandemic" on July 22, 2020. The webinar served as a resource for judges on building strategies that prioritize access to justice with a commitment to safety in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Hon. Cenceria Edwards was a panelist on a virtual program sponsored by the NBA on August 27, 2020 entitled "*The Long Shadow of the Nineteenth Amendment: Women Leaders in the Judiciary*" which addressed the involvement of African American Women leaders in the passage of the 19th Thursday Amendment.

Hon. Edwina Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, Office for Justice Initiatives, participated in a NAWJ webinar on August 12th, 2020 on The Critical Roles of Child Welfare, Judicial Leadership and Community Collaboration: Building Resilience in the Wake of COVID-19. On Sept. 25, 2020 Judge Mendelson was one of four panelists participating in a virtual roundtable addressing the NYS Family Court's response to the pandemic and analyzed the implications, both now and in the future, for virtual representation.

Hon. JoAnne Quinones participated in a virtual CLE on *Implicit Bias: What is it? Do I Have it? Can I Get Rid of It?* on July 29, 2020.

Hon. Ruth Shillingford served as co-chair on a committee of Black and other minority judges for preparation of a report to identify institutional racism and implicit bias and recommend proposed solutions. The report was submitted to New York State Court's Commission on Equal Justice in the Courts, which former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson served as Special Advisor. The recommendations of the committee will be incorporated into the Secretary's final report to Chief Judge Janet DiFiore. [Click here](#) to read.

Upcoming Events

District 2 is planning to host a virtual networking party in November 2020 for new members to discuss membership engagement and the challenges faced as a judge during the pandemic.

NAWJ NY Chapter will be co-sponsoring a 2-hour virtual CLE program on October 28, 2020 with the Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee on Domestic Violence Trends in the Context of Bail Reform and the COVID-19 Pandemic