



October 6, 2021
District 2 Report
Honorable Kathy King District Director

Closing Statement
by Kathy J. King

This fall brings the change of seasons and also marks the end of my term as District 2 Director. It has been a privilege to serve as your District Director for the past two years, and fulfill the mission of NAWJ notwithstanding the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is a summary of initiatives and projects undertaken during my tenure.

Since the pandemic limited physical gatherings, one of the first initiatives developed during my term was the Color of Justice Virtual Speaker Series. District 2 partnered with Monroe College to develop a program which consisted of four monthly sessions beginning February and ending on Law Day in May, where Past President Darcel Clark and Judge Jenny Rivera were Law Day presenters. The 98 participants included a mix of high school and college students from New York State and a few from different states. Certificates of Completion were distributed to participants who attended all four program sessions. The program was a success due to the creativity and team work of the COJ Planning Committee which included Monroe College faculty and NAWJ members Judges Doris Gonzalez, Lumarie Maldonado-Cruz, Bahaati Pitt, Lourdes Ventura, and Professor Yadhira Gonzalez-Taylor.

As a by-product of the COJ Virtual Speaker Series, District 2 is now working on a Resource Guide for college students who are interested in a legal career. The Resource Guide will be an on-line reference for students seeking a career in the legal field, with topics including LSAT prep, law school application process, surviving law school and bar exam prep. Once completed, this Resource Guide will be posted on the District 2 section of the NAWJ website.

Consistent with NAWJ's mission, a second mentoring program, the NAWJ/St. Barnabas High School pilot internship, is scheduled to be launched in the winter academic semester. NAWJ members, Judges Enedina Pilar Sanchez, Llinet Rosado, Christel F. Garland, Mary Ann Brigantti, Naita Semaj-Williams, LaTia Martin and Wanda Negron will participate in this pilot project.

For new members, one of the highlights of my tenure has been the *New Member Power Hour*. Virtual Power Hours were held in both 2020 and 2021 where new members networked and learned about member engagement from their District Director and Judge Marguarite Grays former President of NAWJ NY, and Judge Marcia Hirsh, President-Elect of NAWJ NY.

Most recently, I submitted a statement in support of the emergency travel resolution proposed by the NAWJ LGBTQ committee based on my belief that Anti-LGBTQ laws stigmatize, perpetuate stereotypes and impair the rights of the LGBTQ community to self-determination. My statement will be included in the submission to NAWJ members for the September 25, 2021 Town Hall meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the District 2 membership and the NAWJ NY Chapter Board for supporting me, especially in answering the call for financial assistance in NAWJ's time of need. Special thanks to my sisters in law Former Past President Marguarite Grays, President Shirley Troutman and President Elect Marcia Hirsch. Your collective assistance and guidance enabled me to fulfill the mission of this organization during these challenging times.