



October 5, 2023
Annual Report for District 2
Report of
Honorable Leslie A. Stroth

It has been my honor to have been the District 2 Director for the past two years. District 2 has a robust and active membership in its New York Chapter, which includes over 130 members. I wish the next District Director and my fellow District 2 judges all the best in the coming year/s.

Through the leadership of Judges Shirley Troutman and Marcia Hirsch, President and President Elect of the New York Chapter during my tenure, there have been statewide events that included Spring and Fall internships, Mentorjet and other Bar to Bench Programs, various presentations about prominent New York women judges, and Women's History events. We welcomed many "Sisters in Law" to the bench and celebrated elevations, and joined in the historic election of New York State's first woman governor, Kathy Hochul.

The Spring Retreats begun by former President Renee Minarik have continued with great success. In 2022 the Retreat took place on beautiful Lake Chautauqua in Jamestown, New York, home to Lucille Ball, the national comedy museum, and District 2 Director's father Norman. Her grandfather Samuel Stroth, son of Swedish immigrants, was mayor for several years.

This year's May retreat was held in Saratoga Springs, NY, and NAWJ judges were recognized on the floor of the New York State Assembly and invited to meet with Governor Hochul! NYC's Deputy Chief Admin. Judge for Justice Initiatives Edwina Richardson-Mendelson joined as well!

District 2 Judges Leslie Stroth, Carmen Velasquez and Kathy King represented NAWJ at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Conference where NAWJ member Salwar Kader honored Judge Rona Sabawoon and other Afghan women at her event, "Let girls & women have access to education." The honorees gave chilling accounts of the plight of women.

District 2 co-sponsored "Build and Grow", at Brooklyn law school, a bar to bench networking event attended by several NAWJ Judges, attorneys and law students, with Corporation Counsel Sylvia Hinds-Radix (NAWJ member) giving the keynote speech.

District 2 held the most well-attended Color of Justice Program yet with Monroe College in the Bronx (130 local high school students attended). ABA President Deborah Enix-Ross moderated, and a panel of esteemed judges and lawyers discussed their paths to the legal profession and the bench during an interactive presentation with the students. The students were thrilled!