



February 10, 2023  
Report from District 2  
Honorable Leslie A. Stroth

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

District Two's proudest accomplishment at the end of 2022 was the formation of a mentor team, led by former District 2 Director Kathy King, assisted by NAWJ recording secretary Hon. Carmen Velasquez, to meet with and offer friendship, hospitality and career assistance to Judge Rona, one of the Afghan judges who fled Afghanistan. With the assistance of an outstanding, committed group of judges, and with her own legal skills and determination, Judge Rona was hired as a court analyst in Queens County Criminal Court, which allows her to work in the courts, apply her legal knowledge, and support her family, as she begins a new, hopefully happy and safe life in the U.S. Acknowledgment and gratitude go out to Kathy, Carmen and the judges on Judge Rona's mentoring team for their commitment and hard work!

District 2 began 2023 with events that coincided with the New York State Bar Association's Annual Conference, held at the mid-town Hilton in New York City, which draws lawyers and judges from across the state. Our Holiday Party on January 18 was attended by judges from Buffalo, Westchester, New York City, and other NY State regions. All enjoyed the evening of great food, conversation, laughter, and sharing of professional and personal experiences.

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, the New York State Bar Judicial Section (Chaired by NAWJ Member Hon. Joanne Quinones) honored three of our judges at its annual luncheon with the Advancement of Judicial Diversity Awards: Hon. Erica Edwards, Hon. Lillian Wan, and Hon. Sallie Manzanet-Daniels. Congratulations to our sisters in law! The Keynote Speaker, Hon. Bernice Donald from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, gave an inspiring speech about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the obligation of judges to take an active role in promoting Fairness and Equality in our courts. If Judge Donald isn't a NAWJ member, we should reach out to her!

Following the New York State Bar Association luncheon, NAWJ-NY held its annual business meeting and installation of officers. New officers and board members for the "New York Chapter" were sworn in by outgoing president Judge Shirley Troutman, including the President-elect, Honorable Marcia Hirsch, Acting Supreme Court Justice, Queens County. Hon. Cheryl Gonzales updated the membership on the holiday gift bags and books donated to the women served by the NAWJ-NY Women in Prison Committee, and Hon. Lenora Foote-Beavers submitted her report about the ongoing successful internship program.

Elections, Appointments, Elevations and Awards: Please see the New York Sisters in Law Newsletter which has been uploaded to the District 2 page on the NAWJ website. Congrats to all! Please note retired NY Judge Heath's recent presidential appointment!

Upcoming: District 2 and the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association is co-sponsoring a networking event for law students to meet and speak with practitioners on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Spring Retreat: Hon. Marcia Hirsch announced that this year's NAWJ-NY Spring Retreat will be held in the Saratoga/Albany area May 7-9, 2023. More details will follow.