



March 26, 2024
Midyear Report
Report of the District 2 Director
Honorable Bianka Perez

As the incoming District 2 Director I am hoping to work with National Association to achieve our goal to empower women and our next generation of leaders.

This year we had our Annual Fall Dinner at Giandos on the Water in October 2023 honoring the women appointed by Governor Kathy Hochul, Court of Appeals Associate Judges Hon. Shirley Troutman and Hon. Caitlin Halligan and the Appellate Division First Department Presiding Justice Dianne T. Renwick and Appellate Division Associate Justices Hon. Llinet Rosado, Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy, Hon. Janice Taylor, Hon. Lourdes Ventura, Hon. Helen Voutsinas, Hon. Lillian Wan, Hon. Lisa Fisher and Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden. In attendance at our annual fall dinner was our National Treasurer Hon. Carmen Velasquez, National Finance Committee Chair Hon. Leslie Stroth and District 2 Director Hon. Bianka Perez (see photos).



Pictured L-R District 2 Director Hon. Bianka Perez, Hon. Wanda Negron, Hon. Llinet Rosado, Hon. Taneka Frost, Hon. Marcia Hirsch, Hon. Joanne Quiñones, Hon. Debra Silver, Hon. Debra Givens, Hon. Lisa Fisher and Hon. Carmen Velasquez - National Secretary.

In November 2023, our District 2 Director was appointed the First Justice of Dominican Descent to the Appellate Term, First Department, see link to press release [PR23_44.pdf \(nycourts.gov\)](#).

In December 2023, our National Treasurer Carmen R. Velasquez was appointed by the Chief Judge as a Member of the New York State Court System's Ethics Commission, see link to press release [PR23_49.pdf \(nycourts.gov\)](#)



Pictured L-R District 2 Director Hon. Bianka Perez, Member Hon. Betty Lugo, National Past President Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy, National President Hon. Karen Sage, National Treasurer Hon. Carmen Velasquez and National Finance Committee Chair Hon. Leslie Stroth.

In January 2024 we welcomed our National President Karen Sage, she attended the New York State Bar Association Conference where we held a greet and meet with our District 2 members. At the Hilton we welcomed her with open arms and had an engaging meet and greet discussing issues of concern to our district members and pledged to work together to address the concerns discussed at the meet and greet. All our members attend the Judicial Section Luncheon where Past President of NAWJ Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy was sworn in as Assistant Presiding Member of the New York State Bar Association Judicial Section (see photos). Congrats to our Past President Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy.



In January 2024 we had the pleasure of attending the Appellate Division, First Department Presiding Justice Diane Renwick's Investiture (see photo). Congratulations to our Presiding Justice as the First Woman ever appointed as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENTS:



Pictured L-R Associate Justice Llinet Rosado, Associate Justice Helen Voutsinas, Judge Nancy Salcedo of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Dominican Republic, Surrogate Judge Rita Mella, Associate Justice Lourdes Ventura and Associate Justice Perez with several judges pictured above of the Dominican Family Court who participated in the event at the National Judicial Institute.

In March 2024 we celebrated Women's History Month and a delegation of New York State Justices and Judges of Dominican descent visited the Dominican Republic from March 5 to March 8, 2024, to participate in events organized by the National Judicial Institute and the Universidad Nacional Pedro Henriquez Urena (UNPHU) in celebration of International Women's Day. The delegation was composed of Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department Llinet M. Rosado, Associate Justices of the Appellate Division, Second Department Helen Voutsinas and Lourdes M. Ventura, Associate Justice of the Appellate Term, First Department Bianka Perez, and Surrogate Rita Mella, of the New York County Surrogate's Court.

The events included a dialogue with Supreme Court and Family Court Judges of the Dominican Republic about issues affecting women, children and families in Family Court cases in New York State, a presentation by Justice Perez on the subject of sexual and domestic violence, incest and femicides to Judges of the Supreme Court of Justice and Judges of the Gender Committee of the Judicial Branch, a lecture by Justice Ventura on the topic of the rights of women in the digital age as well as a panel discussion for UNPHU law students, in which all the Justices and Judges of the delegation participated, on their experience as Latinas in the New York State Judiciary and the judicial perspective on the use of technology to perpetrate gender-based violence.



In March 2024 National Treasurer Carmen R. Velasquez receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from Ecuador Assembly Speaker Henry Konfle.