

NAWJ Mid-Year Report
District 2 (NY, CT, VT)
Leslie A. Stroth, Director

District 2 is an extremely active district, primarily due to the membership and programming of the NAWJ-New York Chapter, led by its President, Honorable Shirley Troutman. District 2 has over 158 members, and its membership continues to grow. The highlights of District 2 News from the past six months appear below.

1. Justice Shirley Troutman Appointed to New York Court of Appeals

On November 24, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul, New York's first female governor, nominated NAWJ-NY Chapter President Shirley Troutman to the New York State Court of Appeals, and on January 12, 2022 she was confirmed. Justice Troutman previously served as an Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Fourth Dept. (2016-2021), as a Justice of the Supreme Court, 8th Judicial District (2010-2016), as a Judge in Erie County Court (2003 to 2009), and as Judge on the Buffalo City Court beginning in 1994. She is also co-chair of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission. In her press release, Governor Hochul said, "I am proud to nominate Justice Shirley Troutman to New York State's highest court. Justice Troutman has a brilliant legal mind, a fair-minded judicial philosophy, sterling qualifications, and a commitment to equal justice that guides her approach from the bench. I am confident she will serve with distinction on the New York State Court of Appeals."

2. Justice Lisa Fisher appointed to the NYS Appellate Division, Third Department

On January 3, 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul appointed NAWJ-NY Board Member Hon. Lisa Fisher to New York's Appellate Division, Third Department. Justice Fisher was elected to the Supreme Court in 2015, after serving as an Assistant Public Defender in Ulster County and as a solo practitioner for many years. She has been an active member of NAWJ for many years.

3. Justice Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix nominated for NYC Corporation Counsel

On January 7, 2022, newly elected New York City Mayor Eric Adams nominated Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix, Associated Justice, New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department, for NYC Corporation Counsel. Her confirmation hearing was February 25, 2022. Justice Hinds-Radix was appointed to the Appellate Division by the NYS governor in 2012 after serving as the Administrative Judge for Civil matters in the Second Judicial District, New York State Supreme Court.

4. Other District 2/NAWJ-NY Promotions, Elevations, Recognition

On October 1, 2021, Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks announced the appointment of the Honorable Justice Deborah A. Kaplan as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts. Justice Kaplan oversees management and day-to-day operations of New York City's trial courts, among the largest and busiest in the country.

On October 7, 2021, Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks announced the appointment Honorable Anne-Marie Jolly as Administrative Judge of the New York City Family Court. Judge Jolly oversees the daily operations of courts in New York City serving at-risk families and handling some of the most difficult matters that come before the Court System.

Appointed as Supervising Judge of Kings County Civil Court: Hon. Jill Epstein.

Appointed as Supervising Judge of Queens County Civil Court: Judge Patria Frias-Colon.

On Tuesday, October 26, 2021, a dedication ceremony was held for "The Honorable Betty Weinberg Ellerin Children's Center" at the Civil Court in lower Manhattan, dedicated to this trailblazing judge who continues to work for the good of New Yorkers as she has for over seven decades. Judge Ellerin's notable achievements include her appointment as the first woman law clerk in the New York State Courts, and first woman Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department.

On October 12, 2021, Honorable Juanita Bing Newton (retired Supreme Court Justice) was awarded the Fund for Modern Courts Career Public Service Award.

On November 3, 2021, Acting Supreme Court Justice Lisa Headley was elected to the Board of Directors of the Judicial Friends. On July 1, 2021 she was appointed to the New York County Supreme Court's Equal Justice in the Courts' Diversity Equity and Inclusion Working Group.

On November 7, 2021, The Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County honored NAWJ-NY board member Justice Carmen Velasquez at its Annual Hispanic Heritage Breakfast.

On November 16, 2021, The Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission honored Judge La Tia Martin, Supreme Court Justice, Twelfth Judicial district, with the Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam Outstanding Jurist Award at their Diversity Awards Gala. Also honored at the Gala was Chief Internship Liaison and Principal Law Clerk Jasmine I. Valle, who was awarded the Advancement of Diversity Award.

On November 19, 2021, NYC Family Court Judges Association Board of Officers and Directors Elected Honorable Karen M.C. Cortes as Vice President; Honorable Margaret Morgan as Treasurer; and the Honorable Liz Fassler as secretary.

On November 30, 2021, the Queens County Women's Bar Association hosted its Annual Judiciary Night, honoring Judges Bruna DiBiase, Marcia Hirsch, Elisa Koenderman, and Toko Serita for the work that they do in the various problem-solving courts.

On November 28, 2021, Bronx Supreme Court Justice Bianka Perez administered the Oath of Office to the Honorable Assemblywoman Yudleka Tapia at the School located at 1930 Andrews Avenue in the Bronx.

On December 1, 2021, the Puerto Rican Bar Association hosted its annual Scholarship Fund Award Ceremony. Honorable Sallie Manzanet-Daniels, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, First Department. Justice Manzanet-Daniels presented Sabrina Jorge, Class of 2022, St. John's School of Law with the ninth Honorable Sallie Manzanet-Daniels' Dare to Dream Scholarship, established in 2013. Shown: Justice Manzanet-Daniels and Sabrina N. Jorge.

In December, 2021, the following Civil Court judges were appointed as Acting Supreme Court Judges in NY County: Hon. Leslie Stroth, Hon. Sabrina Kraus, Hon. Denise Dominguez, Hon. Judy Kim, Hon. Phaedra Perry, Hon. Kathleen Waterman-Marshall.

5. District 2 Welcomes the following new members (since January, 2022):

Hon. Allison Aviki, Hon. Cassandra Johnson, Hon. Jill Kehn, Hon. Veronica Gorman, Hon. Sara McGinty, Hon. Grace Hanlon, Hon. Ricja Rice, Hon. Madeline Singas, Hon. E. Danielle Jose-Decker, Hon. Liberty Aldrich, Hon. Giyang An.

6. District 2 congratulates newly elected and appointed District 2 judges.

We wish you a long and rewarding judicial career and an enriching membership experience with NAWJ!

November 2021 Elections:

Justice of the Supreme Court, New York County: Hon. Margaret A. Chan

Justices of the Supreme Court, Kings County: _____ Hon.

Gina Levy Abadi

Hon. Joy Campanelli

Hon. Dena Douglas

Hon. Consuelo Mallafre Melendez

Hon. Carolyn Walker-Diallo (and appointed Administrative Judge of New York Civil Courts) Hon.

Lillian Wan

Justices of the Supreme Court, Bronx County:

Hon. Patsy Gouldborne, Hon. Marissa Soto, Hon. Naita Semaj

Surrogate, Kings County:

Hon. Rosemarie Montalbano

Supreme Court, 3rd Judicial District:

Hon. Laura Jordan, Rensselaer County.

Supreme Court, 6th Judicial District:

Hon. Elizabeth Athern, of Ithaca, NY

Supreme Court, 8th Judicial District:

Hon. Grace Hanlon, Chautauqua County

Supreme Court, 9th Judicial District:

Hon. Christie D'Alessio

Supreme Court, 10th Judicial District (Nassau and Suffolk Counties):

Hon. Susan Heckman,

Hon. Danielle Peterson

Hon. Eileen Daly Supraicone

Hon. Elizabeth Fox-McDonough

Supreme Court, 11th Judicial District (Queens County):

Hon. Karen Gopee

Hon. Laurentina McKetney Butler

Hon. Michele Titus

Ulster Family Court:

Hon. Sarah E. Rakov

Family Court Rensselaer County:

Hon. Jill Kehn

Broome County Family Court:

Hon. Veronica Gorman

Civil Court, New York County:

Hon. Kim Parker

Civil Court, Kings County:

Hon. Sharen Hudson

Hon. Heela Capell

Hon. Lisa Lewis

Hon. Inga O'Neale

Civil Court, Queens County:

Hon. Cassandra Johnson
Hon. Andrea Ogle
Hon. Soma Syed

Civil Court, Bronx County:

Hon. Jessica Flores
Hon. Verena Powell

Albany City Court:

Hon. Ricja Rice

Buffalo City Court:

Hon. Carrie Phillips
Hon. Rebecca Towne

Elected/Re-Elected as Town Justice:

Hon. Jodi Kimmel (Bedford)
Hon. Kimberly Ragazzo (Cortlandt)
Hon. Bonnie Orden (Greenburgh)
Hon. Renee Motola (Pound Ridge)
Hon. Aviah Cohen Pierson (Yorktown)

Elected as Village Justice:

Thea Beave (Larchmont)

Appointed Judges:

Appointed by NYC Mayor DeBlasio in December 2021:

Hon. Giyang An
Hon. Carolina Holderness
Hon. Melissa T. Lewis
Hon. Marty J. Lentz
Hon. Srividya Pappachan
Hon. Rachel S. Pauley
Hon. Stephanie Schwartz

Appointed by NYC Mayor DeBlasio in August 2021:

Hon. Germaine Auguste
Hon. Valentina Morales

(Sincere apologies to anyone overlooked. Please contact District 2 Director Leslie Stroth at laastroh@nycourts.gov and you will be included in the next District 2 Report)

7. District 2/NAWJ-NY Programming

New and established NAWJ members worked together to carry out their ambitious agenda “...to promote the judicial role of protecting the rights of individuals under the rule of law through strong, committed, diverse judicial leadership; fairness and equality in the courts; and equal access to justice.”

- NAWJ-NY fulfilled its mission this past year by strengthening its internship program with a goal to create a diverse pipeline into the legal profession and the judiciary. The internship program was broadened and refined under the leadership of Judges Hilary Gingold, Lenora Foote-Beavers, and Linda Kevins with invaluable assistance from Principal Law Clerk and Chief Internship Liaison Jasmine Valle and Associate Court Attorney Jamie Hyman. The Spring Internship program is underway.
- In Celebration of Women’s History Month, NAWJ-NY is presenting virtual Women’s History Month Programs, “The Power of Women’s Voices,” across the state throughout the month.
- On Monday, December 6, 2021, NAWJ-NY chapter hosted its first Sisters In Law program for the Second Department: a virtual speed mentoring event co-sponsored with the Westchester Women’s Bar Association, the Women’s Association of Law Students at Haub Law, and the Latin American Law Students at Pace Law School. Hon. Joanne Quinones reported that fourteen members and twelve students participated. A second speed mentoring event was held in Queens on February 8, 2022 and was equally successful.
- NAWJ-NY Women in Prisons committee (led by Judges Cheryl Gonzalez, Betty Williams and Betty Williams, ret) presented “Belly of the Beast”, which educated attendees on the importance of protecting the right of women to have informed consent before they are subjected to medical procedures, and how that right is especially fragile when women are imprisoned. Ongoing programming “Beyond the Bars” continues, with seminars, mentoring, educating, providing gift bags and books to women in local prisons.
- District 2 and the New York Women’s Bar DEI committee will be conducting a speed-mentoring program with District 2 judges and local lawyers, law graduates and law students in Manhattan in March.
- District 2 will be holding a “power hour” meet and greet for new members and newly elected and appointed judges in April.

- NAWJ-NY will be holding its Sisters in Law Spring Retreat, “I Dissent”, Honoring the legacy of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. It will be held May 1-3 at Chautauqua Lake (see attached flyer).

8. District 2 NAWJ-NY Judges Participate in NAWJ coordinated effort to aid Afghan Judges:

When the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan in August of this year, the more than 270 female judges of that country became potential targets to a violent regime that is openly hostile to women’s basic freedoms. In a show of solidarity and in an effort to safeguard these women judges, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals Madeline Singas, with the support of Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, drafted what is now known as the “Resolution in Support of Assisting the Resettlement of Afghanistan’s Women Judges and Other Vulnerable Justice System Refugees.” This resolution asked state court systems across America to cooperate with the State Department to identify opportunities for these at-risk Afghan women judges and encouraged the National Center for State Courts to establish “Afghan Justice Sector Clearing Houses” to facilitate the resettlement of these judges in this country. In early November, top judicial officers of every U.S. state and territory unanimously adopted the resolution.