



# SISTERS-IN-LAW

## NEW YORK CHAPTER

VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 1 | MARCH 2023

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HON. MARCIA HIRSCH

Happy Women's History Month!

I am humbled and honored to write this first message to you in my new role as President. I am grateful for your support as we work together to plan programs and events that inspire, educate and enhance our sisterhood. Our chapter owes an enormous debt of gratitude to our immediate past President, the Honorable Shirley Troutman. Her vision was to form a community of women judges, reaching out to lawyers and law students, uniting us all as "Sisters In Law." Our members have bonded in the process and we increased our numbers. Thank you, Shirley, for your hard work and your leadership!

I would also like to thank the Honorable Jeannette Ogden, our President-Elect, for taking on the responsibility of this quarterly newsletter. Please submit your news items, articles, events, etc. to her or the Vice-President for your Department. A list of our current board members is included in this issue.

We have a very exciting program coming up to celebrate Women's History Month. On March 29th, we will be co-sponsoring a program with the Franklin H. Williams Commission on the life and times of Constance Baker Motley, "Civil Rights Queen." It will be held both in person at the New York City Bar and virtually. The flyer, containing the link for registration, is in this issue. It promises to be a wonderful event, thanks to Shirley Troutman, who came up with the idea and assembled a committee of our 4 Vice-Presidents, while working with the Franklin H. Williams commissioners and the City Bar.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF WOMEN JUDGES  
NY CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER

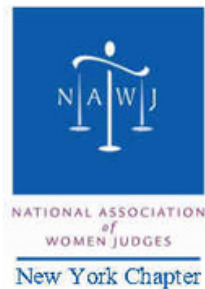
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Our Spring Retreat will be held in Saratoga Springs at the Embassy Suites Hotel from May 7-9. The theme this year is "Women Who Wouldn't Take 'No' for an Answer." A block of rooms is being held for us until April 7th. The very favorable room rate of \$116/night includes a made-to-order breakfast and a complimentary evening reception! Please make your reservation now by calling 518-290-9090. Watch your email for the full agenda, which will include a tour of the Court of Appeals in Albany, talks by Albany Law School faculty, visits to local sites of interest, and best of all, the opportunity to bond and relax with your Sisters.

In the meantime, enjoy the many Women's History Month events scheduled throughout our state, as we all look forward to spring!

With warmest personal regards,  
Hon. Marcia Hirsch, President



**SAVE THE DATE**

***NAWJ - New York Chapter***

Spring Retreat  
"Women Who Wouldn't Take 'No' for an Answer"

May 7-9, 2023

Embassy Suites Saratoga Springs  
86 Congress Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
[saratogasprings.embassysuites.com](http://saratogasprings.embassysuites.com)

Call (518) 290-9090 to reserve your room by April 7, 2023  
Ask for the New York Women Judges Room Block  
(\$116 per night)

Program Agenda and Activities to Follow

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

## NAWJ-NY LEADERSHIP 2023

President	Hon. Marcia Hirsch
President Elect	Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden
VP 1st Dept	Hon. Llinét Rosado
VP 2nd Dept	Hon. Joanne Quiñones
VP 3rd Dept	Hon. Taneka Frost
VP 4th Dept	Hon. Debra L. Givens
Secretary	Hon. Wendy C. Li
Treasurer	Hon. Debra Silber

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

*Save the date for  
A Conversation*

CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY

*The Civil Rights Queen*

Wednesday, March 29, 2023 - New York City Bar Association

5:30 pm (light refreshments) / 6:00 pm (program)



*Why All American Women  
Owe Her a Debt of Gratitude.*



**CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO REGISTER**

[The Civil Rights Queen \[nycbar.org\]](https://www.nycbar.org/events/civil-rights-queen)

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

**NAWJ-NY in Collaboration with the Gender Fairness  
Committee of the Twelve Judicial District and the Bronx's  
Women's Bar Association present:**

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH  
NAWJ-NY Sisters-in-Law Program**

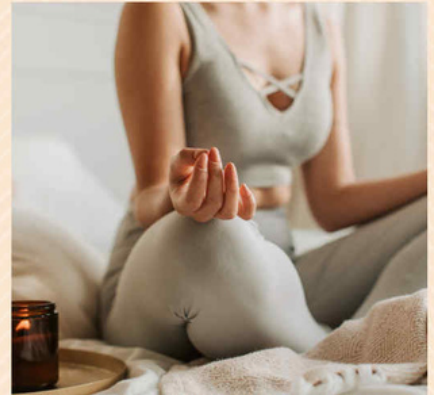
**LET'S TALK WELLNESS & MINDFULNESS**

**March 16, 2023 FROM: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Michelle Cintron-Breathwork  
Facilitator & Sound Healer**

**Taquetta "Tiki" Andrews-  
Holistic Life Coach**

VIRTUAL EVENT. TO REGISTER PLEASE  
RSVP AT [IPENA2@NYCOURTS.GOV](mailto:IPENA2@NYCOURTS.GOV)





# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE  
&  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES-NY  
Sisters in Law

## CELEBRATE *Women's* HISTORY MONTH

Join us in recognizing women's history month and learning about the contributions of women in the Unified Court System. As we celebrate progress made in the courts and the community for women's rights, we also reflect on the work that still needs to be done to create true and lasting equity for women who engage with the courts in the Eighth Judicial District. Our program theme is *"How far we've come, and how far we've yet to go - Interpreters and IT careers in the Courts"*. We will feature two women change makers in the court system in the Eighth JD: *a Principal Court Interpreter and a Senior LAN Administrator in the Information Technology(IT)Department*.

Learn the importance of their positions, how far we've come since the courts began utilizing the positions and how far we've yet to go for other women to pursue these careers in the courts.

**Thursday, March 23, 2023**

**1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**Ceremonial Courtroom - 2nd Floor**

**92 Franklin St., Buffalo, NY**

[Click here to join the program](#)



# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENTS



## *Women's* **HISTORY MONTH**

*Celebrating Women  
Who Tell Our Stories:  
From Trauma to  
Healing*

**MARCH 23, 2023**

**6:30pm**

**Zoom Meeting ID:**

**854 3453 4922**

**Guest Speakers:**

**Dr. Tamara D'Anjou Turner, Ph.D. Licensed Psychologist;**

**Dr. Kimber Shelton, Ph.D. Licensed Psychologist.**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

In Celebration of Women's History Month  
The New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts  
Presents

## WOMEN IN THE NEW YORK STATE COURT SYSTEM: MILES YET TO GO



Credibility Determinations • Judgment Awards  
Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act • Resource Shortages

**MARCH 30 • 12:45–2:00 PM • VIA TEAMS**

[Click Here to Join the Meeting](#)



Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin  
Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden  
Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman  
Hon. Deborah Karalunas  
Hon. Bruna DiBiase

Eligible for 1.5 Diversity, Inclusion,  
and Elimination of Bias CLE Credits  
through the Nassau County Equality  
in the Courts Committee. This  
program is appropriate for both newly  
admitted and experienced attorneys.



# **PRESIDENT BIDEN TAPS JUDGE HELENA HEATH TO LEAD JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S SMART OFFICE**



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**The DOJ released the following on January 26, 2023.**

WASHINGTON – Office of Justice Programs Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Amy L. Solomon announced today that President Biden has appointed Judge Helena Heath of Queens, New York, as Director of the Office of Justice Programs' Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking Office. Her appointment is effective Monday, January 30.

"Judge Heath is an accomplished legal professional with deep roots in her community who will bring to her new role a wealth of courtroom experience, a record of sound judgment and a proven commitment to fairness and equity," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Solomon. "I could not be more pleased to have someone with her impressive credentials and sensitivity to local needs directing the critical mission of our SMART Office."

Heath was appointed an Albany City Court Judge in 2005, becoming the first female of African descent to serve in the position in the city's 319-year history. She was elected in November 2005 to a full term of office and re-elected in 2011 and 2017. The court is part of the New York State Unified Court System.

Judge Heath served on the bench for 16 years, presiding over trials and proceedings in the Criminal, Civil and Traffic parts of the court. She implemented the first DWI court in the city of Albany. The court focused on accountability and participation in victim impact programming. She also had a lead role in creating user-friendly court practices to implement the eviction moratorium provision of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES, Act and related state laws.

Judge Heath has 33 years of public service legal experience. Before ascending to the bench, she served as a court attorney at the New York Court of Appeals, the highest court in the state; an Assistant Attorney General in the Litigation Bureau of the New York State Department of Law; an Assistant Counsel to the New York State Department of Economic Development; a Law Guardian representing children in Albany County Family Court; and a Senior Counsel for the New York State Assembly Speaker.

Judge Heath's community service dedication is longstanding. In 1994, she organized a local effort in Albany that resulted in the establishment of a Children's Center at Albany County Family Court. From 1995 to August 2022, she served as the founding chair of the center's Advisory Committee to ensure that children are cared for in a safe and nurturing environment while their families take care of court business. She has served for 15 years as a board member for the Capital Area Boys and Girls Clubs and been involved for decades with organizations committed to the empowerment and mentorship of youth.

As co-chair of the Diversity and Gender Fairness Committee of the Capital District Women's Bar Association, she coordinated programs for law students of color to expose them to a variety of career paths, share keys to becoming successful lawyers and explore how attorneys can overcome gender and racial barriers in the legal profession.

"I am deeply grateful to be appointed by President Biden and serve with the outstanding staff at the Office of Justice Programs to protect children, enhance public safety and empower communities in furtherance of the mission of the SMART Office," said Judge Heath. "It is a dream come true to continue my public service legal career at the Department of Justice and make a positive difference in the lives of families across our great nation."

Judge Heath graduated from New York University School of Law in 1987. She was awarded the prestigious Root-Tilden-Snow Scholarship based on her academic excellence and her commitment to public service law. She attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice and received her Bachelor of Science in 1984.

Judge Heath takes over the leadership post from Dawn Doran, who has served as the SMART Office's acting director and will resume her role as the office's deputy director. The SMART Office was authorized by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 to implement the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. The office provides assistance to criminal justice professionals across the entire spectrum of sex offender management activities needed to ensure public safety.

#### About the Office of Justice Programs

The Office of Justice Programs provides federal leadership, grants, training, technical assistance and other resources to improve the nation's capacity to prevent and reduce crime, advance racial equity in the administration of justice, assist victims and enhance the rule of law. More information about OJP and its components can be found at [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov).



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HON. WAVNY TOUSSAINT

Congratulations to **Hon. Wavny Toussaint**, who was appointed Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term, Second Department for the 2nd, 11th, and 13th Judicial Districts in January 2023.

Congratulations also extended to **Hon. Marina Mundy**, **Hon. Lisa J. Ottley**, and **Hon. Lourdes M. Ventura** who were designated as Associates Justices of the Appellate Term in January 2023.



(L-R) Hon. Cheree A. Buggs, Hon. Lisa S. Ottley, Hon. Wavny Toussaint, Hon. Lourdes M. Ventura,, and Hon. Marina Mundy



# NYSBA JUDICIAL SECTION ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Congratulations to Hon. Erika M. Edwards, Hon. Sallie Manzanet-Daniels and Hon. Lillian Wan, who were each presented with the 2023 Advancement of Judicial Diversity Award at the Annual Meeting of the Judicial Section of the New York State Bar Association on January 20, 2023.



Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones, the NYSBA  
Judicial Section Chair

Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones with the Hon.  
Lillian Wan





Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones with the Hon.  
Erika M. Edwards



Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones with the Hon.  
Sallie Manzanet-Daniels

# JUDICIAL FRIENDS GALA

In November 2022, the Judicial Friends Gala took place at Giando on the Water in Brooklyn



Hon. Robin K. Sheares, Hon. Sharen D. Hudson, Hon. Lisa Lewis, Hon. Genine D. Edwards and Hon. Dweynie E. Paul at the Judicial Friends Gala at Giando on the Water in November 2022

Hon. Kathie Davidson, Hon. Carol Sharpe, Hon. Keri Fiore and Hon. Wavny Toussaint at the Judicial Friends Gala at Giando on the Water in November 2022





# FALL 2022 COURT OF CLAIMS CONFERENCE AT THE OTESAGA



NAWJ-NY Officers Hon. Debra L. Givens (VP - 4th Dept), Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones (VP-2nd Dept), and Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch (President) donned in their NAWJ-NY Sisters-in-Law fusion jackets at the Fall 2022 Court of Claims Conference at The Otesaga

NAWJ-NY Officers Hon. Debra L. Givens (VP - 4th Dept), Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch (President), and Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones (VP-2nd Dept) at the Fall 2022 Court of Claims Conference at The Otesaga



Latina Court of Claims Judges plus one: (l-r) Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones, Hon. Linda K. Mejoas-Glover, Hon. Ramon E. Rivera, Hon. Alicia Gerez, and Hon. Carmen St. George



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HON. KATHY KING

The Hon. Kathy King is the recipient of the Monroe College of Criminal and Social Justice Local Legendary Leaders in the Legal Profession award commemorating Black History Month



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# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HON. KATHY KING



## Monroe College School of Criminal and Social Justice

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH: A Celebration of Local Legendary Leaders in the Legal Profession**

**Monday, February 27, 2023**

#### **Welcome Remarks**

**Guylane Harrison, Esq.**

Dean, School of Criminal and Social Justice

#### **Opening Remarks**

**Dr. Karenann Carty**

Senior Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs

#### **Presentation of Awards**

Ceremony led by Dean Guylane Harrison

#### **TODAY'S HONOREES**

**Honorable Kathy J. King**

Justice, New York State Supreme Court, New York County

*Introduced by Honorable Doris M. Gonzalez*

**Honorable Jared R. Rice**

Justice, New Rochelle City Court

*Introduced by Kevin Brickle, Jr.*

#### **Moderator/Q&A**

**Faye Roberts-Paul**

Assistant Director, Student Activities and Events

#### **Concluding Remarks**

**Guylane Harrison, Esq.**

Dean, School of Criminal and Social Justice

# NOTEWORTHY NEWS

## First Department:

- On March 4, 2023, the Judicial Friends attended "*Fictions of Emancipation: Carpeau Recast at the Metropolitan Museum of Art*."
- Congratulations to the **Hon. Kathy King** who was honored by Monroe College School of Criminal and Social Justice as a "Local Legendary Leader in the Legal Profession" in observation of Black History Month.
- Congratulations to the **Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson**, the **Hon. Tamiko Amaker**, and the **Hon. Lillian Wan** who are 2023 Honorees at the Asian American Judges Association of New York's Second Annual Gala!
- Congratulations to the **Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson** who received the Henry B. Northup Award for Excellence in Enhancing Equal Justice in the Courts at the Inaugural Solomon Northup Ceremony on February 10, 2023.
- On February 15, 2023, **Judge Janette Cortes-Gomez** was appointed to the Family Court by Mayor Eric Adams.

## Second Department:

- Congratulations to the **Hon. Erika Edwards** and the **Hon. Elizabeth Taylor** who were honored for their extraordinary leadership and achievements by Kappa Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.!

## Third Department:

- Congratulations to **Hon. Lisa Fisher** who took her very first surf lesson. She is now able to take surfing off of her bucket list!



The Hon. Lisa Fisher surfing in Honolulu!



L-R: Hon. Norman St. George, Hon. Elizabeth A. Garry, Hon. Kate B. Hogan, Hon. Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson, Hon. Teneka E. Frost, and Hon. Felix J. Catena

## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)

### COME CELEBRATE WITH THE ASIAN AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK (AAJANY)

JOIN US AT OUR 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GALA AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY & ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER (AAPI) HERITAGE MONTH  
**2023 Honorees**

#### Judicial Excellence Award



Acting Chief Judge  
Anthony Cannataro

#### DEI Champion Award



Deputy Chief  
Administrative Judge  
Edwina Richardson-Mendelson

#### Allyship Award



Acting Chief Administrative  
Judge Tamiko Amaker

#### AAPI Recognition Award – AAPI Judges of the Appellate Division



Jeffrey Oing  
1<sup>st</sup> Dept.



Anil Singh  
1<sup>st</sup> Dept.



Lillian Wan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dept.

#### Special Acknowledgements by:

Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Deborah Kaplan  
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George

Date: May 3, 2023

Location: Golden Unicorn, 18 East Broadway, NY, NY

Time: 5:30pm – 9pm

Cost: \$100 – tickets are going (have gone) fast! – get yours before they sell out!

Buy your tickets and RSVP here:

<https://asianjudgesgala2023.rsvpify.com/>

Congratulations to the 2023 Honorees!

Congratulations to Judge Janette Cortes-Gomez on her appointment to the Family Court.





## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)



Hon. Betsy Barros, Hon. Llinét Rosado and Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones at the PRBA Dinner at Giando on the Water in Brooklyn in September 2022

## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)

### **Fourth Department:**

- On December 2, 2022, the Supreme Court Judges in the 8th Judicial District held their Holiday Party!
- Congratulations to **Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas**, who was presented with the Justice Martin Evans Award for Judicial Excellence and Outstanding Service and Leadership at the annual meeting of the Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York on January 20, 2023.



L-R (Standing): Hon. Donna M Siwek, Hon. Debra Givens, Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres, Hon. Kelly Vacco, Hon. Catherine Nugent Panepinto, Hon. Paula L. Feroletto, and Hon. Amy C. Martoche

L-R (Seated): Hon. Diane Devlin, Hon. Deborah A. Chimes, Hon. Tracey Bannister, Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, Hon. Erin M. Peradotto, Hon. Shirley Troutman, Hon. Peggy Wolfgang, Hon. Deborah A. Haendiges, Hon. Lynn W. Keane, Hon. Mary Slisz, and Hon. Stephanie Saunders

## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)



Hon. Mary M. Farley, Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas and Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick



## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023



THE FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS JUDICIAL COMMISSION IS PLEASED TO  
PARTNER WITH THE LATINO JUDGES ASSOCIATION  
TO PRESENT

### EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BECOMING A JUDGE



**Time: 9AM-5PM**

**Location: University at Buffalo School of Law  
O'Brien Hall, 211 Mary Talbert Way, Buffalo**  
*(In-Person Viewing and Virtual Options)*  
*Registrants may attend for partial or full day.*

**Topics covered: *16 CLE Credits to be Provided - pending.***

Ensuring a Pipeline for Diversity in the Judiciary; Securing the Nomination in Supreme Court; Appointment Process for New York State Court of Claims and for Federal Magistrate Judges and District Court Judges; Election Law Overview & Related Ethical Requirements and Rules; Q&A Regarding Evaluation Processes; Making the Ballot in Supreme, City, County, Town & Family Courts

OTHER CO-SPONSORS INCLUDE: ASIAN AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK • BAR ASSOCIATION OF ONE COUNTY • JUDICIAL FRIENDS ASSOCIATION • MINORITY BAR ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN NEW YORK • NEW YORK STATE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS • EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE • PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION • ROCHESTER BLACK BAR ASSOCIATION • WESTERN NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION • THE RICHARD C. FAILLA LGBTQ COMMISSION •



BAR ASSOCIATION  
OF ERIE COUNTY



MBA WNY



THE RICHARD C. FAILLA  
LGBTQ COMMISSION

4 credits in Professional Practice; 1 credit in Ethics and Professionalism; and  
1 credit in Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias  
CLE CREDITS TO BE PROVIDED THROUGH THE NEW YORK STATE JUDICIAL INSTITUTE  
(APPLICATION PENDING).

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** Please register here by April 17 to join in person  
or virtually via TEAMS: [\*\*CLICK HERE TO REGISTER\*\*](#)



# EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Sisters In Law,

I hope this message finds you well! As your new editor, I would like to thank you all for your contributions to this newsletter. Please send newsworthy items my way so that we can ensure that they make this quarterly newsletter. I am looking forward to our connecting with one another and sharing the events, stories, professional accomplishments of our women judges.

Happy Spring.

With gratitude,  
Jeannette