



# SISTERS-IN-LAW

## NEW YORK CHAPTER

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 1 | APRIL 2022

### COME JOIN US AT THE NAWJ-NY SPRING RETREAT!



It's not too late to make your plans to attend our conference on May 1-3 at beautiful Chautauqua Lake!

If you have not reserved a room yet, please do so by April 15th. You may call the hotel at (716)489-2800 and request the NAWJ-NY room block. A copy of our conference registration flyer and agenda is also included in this newsletter. Please send the conference registration fee of \$300 to our Treasurer, Hon. Debra Silber or VENMO: @NAWJ-NY by April 15th.

The conference begins at 6:00 pm Sunday evening, with cocktail hour, followed by dinner. We look forward to seeing you there!

NAWJ-NY Board of Directors  
Your Sisters-In-Law

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF WOMEN JUDGES  
NY CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HON. SHIRLEY TROUTMAN

Happy Women's History Month my Sisters In Law. As a New Yorker this year's celebration is especially significant due to the fact that our state has its first female governor, Kathy Hochul serving at the helm of our state government. In addition, New York has women serving in leadership positions as Chief Judge, Janet DiFiore; Attorney General, Letitia James; Senate Majority Leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins; and Majority Leader of the Assembly, Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes; one could most certainly say that New York has taken to heart the following words of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg:

**"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made".**

NAWJ-NY should also be proud of the fact that we do not simply rest on symbolism as a measure of how well women are doing professionally, we as a chapter have been busy doing the work necessary to ensure that for generations to come women will be empowered to pursue any vocation they choose.

Moreover, during this Women's History Month it is also important to consider the roles women have played in laying the foundation for not only women to succeed in New York but also in this nation as a whole. Women serve as care takers of the home, teachers, wives, mothers and in many more roles. I recently learned of the passing of my high school biology teacher, Mrs. Mary Lopian, I was reminded that she first met me as a shy ninth grader and then later as a judge pursuing a higher elective office. The important thing is not only did she nurture my thirst for learning as a student she offered both her assistance and encouragement when I was reunited with her as an adult as I pursued new dreams. Thus during this Women's History Month I salute Mary Lopian as an educator who cared and a woman who used her life in the classroom and beyond to make a difference in the world. This month I implore each of you to consider your own life's journey and take the time to celebrate the women you know who extended a hand to you and in doing so made it possible for you to be where you are today.

In closing, remind each of you that every women's voice has the power to make a difference in the world, so I encourage each of you to use yours.

## TALKING WITH HON. KATHIE E. DAVIDSON, DEAN OF THE JUDICIAL INSTITUTE

HON. MARCIA P. HIRSCH

Hon. Kathie E. Davidson was designated Dean of the New York State Judicial Institute on July 7, 2021 by Chief Judge Janet Di Fiore and Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks. According to the UCS website, she "oversees the creation and delivery of training seminars for newly elected and appointed ... judges, continuing education programs for UCS judges and lawyers, and cooperative education programs with state and federal judicial systems, legal academies and other interested stakeholders. "Prior to this appointment, Judge Davidson was the Administrative Judge for the Ninth Judicial District since 2018. Before that, she was Supervising Judge of the Family Courts in the Ninth Judicial District from 2007.

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I recently interviewed the Dean and asked her about her transition from court administration to leading the center for judicial education and her plans for the Institute. She said that in her prior administrative positions, she dealt with the everyday problems that come up in the courthouses and the district. Here she is embracing the challenge to make sure the judiciary remains current on developments in the law because it allows her to teach. "I can use problems faced by judges and teach in a different way," she said. The JI was created in 2003, she said, "to foster a 'think tank' atmosphere" and "elevate the thinking" where judges could fashion solutions on issues facing the legal system. She believes that environmental justice and juvenile justice issues are the most pressing at this time.

She also looks forward to addressing Judge Di Fiore's Access to Justice initiative from a new perspective with some different programming.

We discussed the results of the recent survey of all judges on their training needs. A big response was received and the top two items were legal updates in the practice areas and evidence. Judge Davidson will be introducing a new trial simulation series specific to each court, and evidence will be broken down into each topic area as encountered during a trial.

You will be happy to know that the Summer Seminar is in the planning stages and will hopefully be taking place in person this year over three designated weeks in June and July. Themes under discussion are case management, which includes taking care of yourself and mindfulness, criminal justice reform, and professional responsibility. Judge Davidson hopes that the in-person experience will allow judges to be able to learn from each other and take some time "to be able to sit and breathe," something that is elusive in our everyday judicial lives.

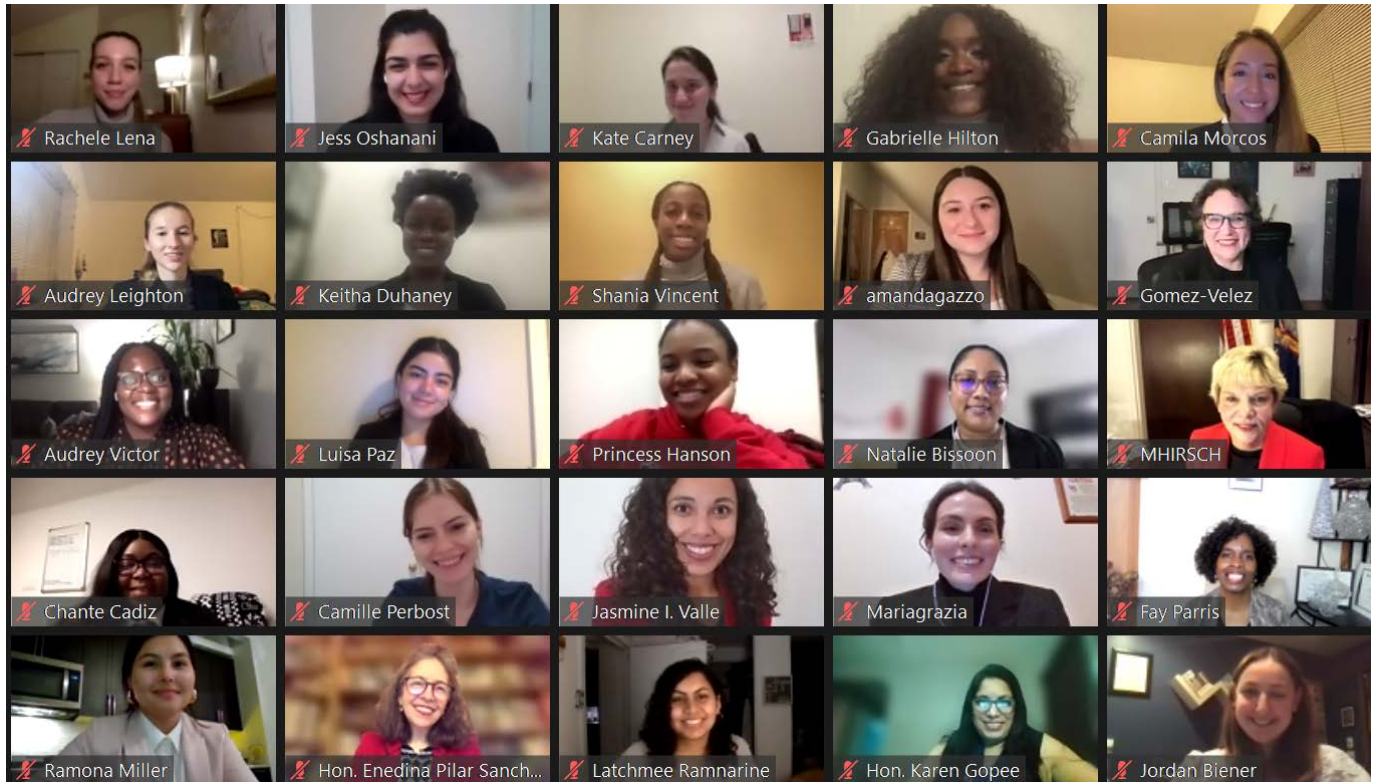
Lastly, I asked how our chapter, NAWJ-NY, could work with the JI to help advance its mission. Judge Davidson said she would love to collaborate with us on some programming of an educational nature; perhaps we could assist with the Legal Education Opportunity program (LEO) and we might be able to co-host some event for women judges and attorneys.

Thank you, Judge Davidson, for your leadership. Our chapter looks forward to working with you, attending the Summer Seminar, and advancing the goals of the Judicial Institute.



# SPEED MENTORING EVENT

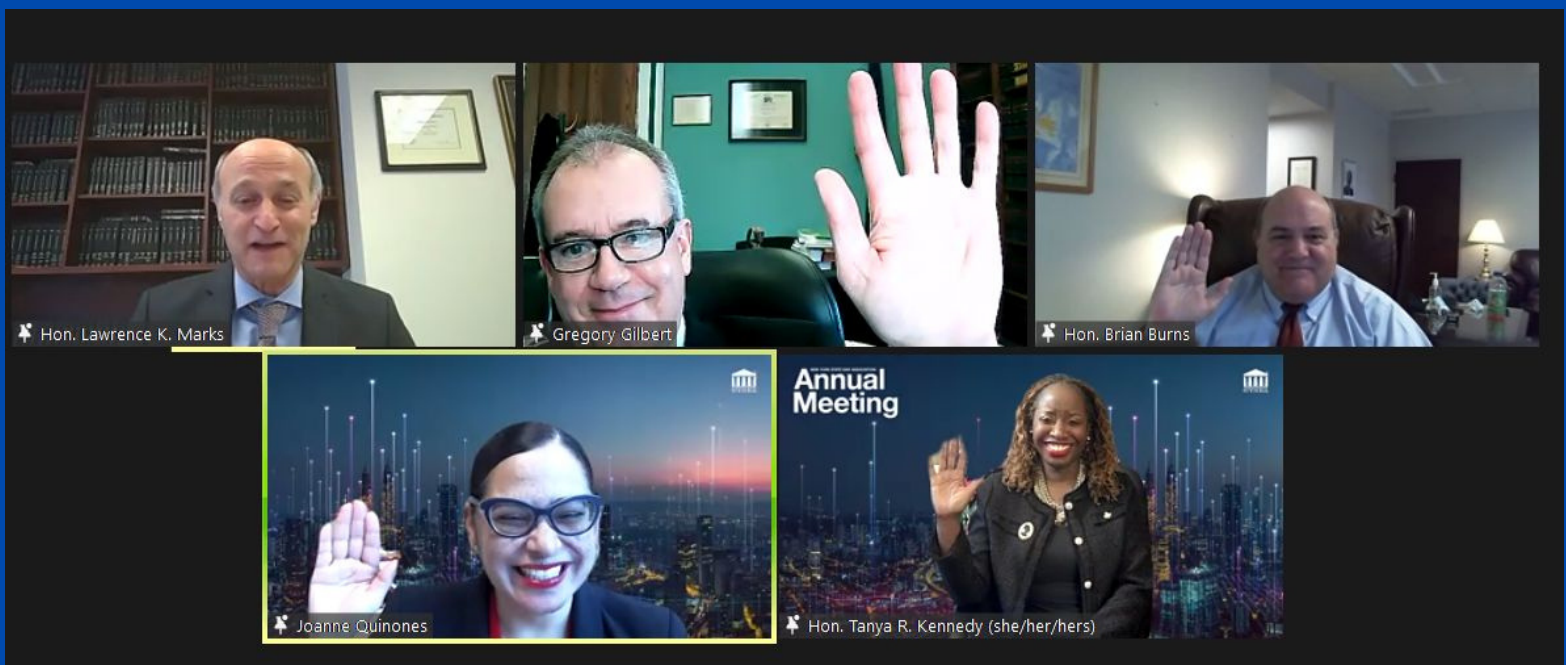
On February 8, 2022, the NAWJ-NY Second Department held another successful MentorJet program. The February program was co-sponsored by the Queens County Women's Bar Association (QCWBA) and three student groups at St. John's Law School: the Women's Law Society (WLS), the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and the Immigration Law Society (ILS). Fifteen judicial and lawyer mentors, including NAWJ-NY President-Elect Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch and QCWBA President Fay Parris, spoke with 30 students in five-minute intervals over the course of almost two hours via Zoom breakout rooms. The event was coordinated by Judge Joanne D. Quiñones and student leaders Nikki Grover, President of WLS, Carihanna Morrison, President of BLSA, and Brigitte Nuñez, President of ILS.



PARTICIPANTS OF THE SPEED MENTORING PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 8, 2022

# JUDICIAL SECTION OF NYSBA'S ANNUAL LUNCHEON

On January 28, 2022 at the annual luncheon of the Judicial Section of the New York State Bar Association, NAWJ-NY Vice President for the Second Department, **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**, was elected and sworn in as the Presiding Member of the Judicial Section by Chief Administrative Judge Hon. Lawrence K. Marks. When she commences her term in June 2022, she will be the first Latina to hold the position of Presiding Member of the Section. Other officers elected and sworn in that day were: Hon. Gregory R. Gilbert as Assistant Presiding Member; **Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy** as Secretary; and Hon. Brian D. Burns as Treasurer. The current Presiding Member of the Judicial Section **Hon. Denise A. Hartman** served as the Mistress of Ceremonies and provided a year-in-review report of the Section's activities. The Section's annual luncheon also featured **Hon. Leslie Stein** as Keynote Speaker and honorees Hon. Robert G. Main, Jr., who received the Distinguished Jurist Award, and **Hon. Kathie E. Davidson**, Dean of the New York State Judicial Institute, who received the Advancement of Judicial Diversity Award.



# NAWJ MIDYEAR MEETING: GATHERING AGAIN

HON. DEBRA SILBER

Every time I leave a NAWJ event, my mind is blown. This year's midyear meeting was no exception. There is a world out there not reported in the NY Times. I need to remember that! This year's midyear was held in Alexandria, VA, which enabled the participating judges to sightsee in Washington, a nice bonus. It was smaller than usual, due to the Pandemic, with about 150 judges attending. Nonetheless, I made several new friends and was thrilled to see people live and in person. Please consider coming to the annual meeting, to be held in Detroit, Michigan from October 19-October 22, 2022.

The conference started off on Thursday, March 10, the International Day of the Woman Judge, a day created to take place during Women's History Month by a United Nations Resolution. You can read it here:

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/106/34/PDF/N2110634.pdf>

There was a mentoring program in the afternoon, matching area law students with judges. This was followed by a reception for the law students and their deans, as well as all those attending the conference. Our special guests were three of the ten women judges who have relocated from Afghanistan and are planning to settle in the U.S.

The conference started on Friday morning, with breakfast and schmoozing. The first speaker was Jen Klein, Co-Chair and Executive Director of the White House Gender Policy Council. She was asked questions by NAWJ President Elizabeth White, in an interview format instead of a speech. She explained the goals of the council, which are both domestic and international, and how they interface with the other councils at the White House. They are seeking twice the funding that they received last year for international gender equality programs. She advised us to be prepared for many executive orders designed to further the goal of gender equality. She was very inspiring, needless to say.

Next was a panel on access to justice in a virtual world, which in part addressed how each speaker's court has handled the Covid-19 Pandemic, with suggestions for best practices.

Lunch was a delicious buffet followed by the presentation of the Lady of Justice award to Hon. Vanessa Ruiz of the D.C. Court of Appeals, for her work in helping bring the Afghani women judges to the U.S. Her description of the frenzy, urgency, and difficulties with this task, while still leaving 85 Afghani women judges stuck in Afghanistan trying to get out, was a sad tale. At this point we were told they are in hiding and were advised to use different identities and to hide or destroy all evidence of their being judges while trying not to get killed or arrested. Hopefully they will be relocated to their countries of choice soon, before it is too late. Some information here: Women Judges, and Women at Risk, Remain in Afghanistan - International Association of Women Judges ([iawj.org](http://iawj.org)) Much more information is, and has been, provided in Counterbalance, the national NAWJ newsletter.

The plenary speaker was Julia Olson, Executive Director and Chief Legal Counsel at Our Children's Trust, a not for profit which is described in her materials as "the world's only nonprofit public interest law firm that exclusively represents and supports youth from diverse backgrounds in constitutional climate lawsuits and legal actions to secure their legal rights to a safe climate.

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"Their plaintiffs are children with illnesses or who are immune compromised or want to prevent the destruction of their way of life, and to sue for clean air and an end to climate change, or an end to Arctic drilling or interference with indigenous land, or other anti-environmental practices, as a human rights issue. Their website is <http://youthvgov.org> and the documentary film about one of their suits, *Juliana v United States*, is at <http://youthvgovfilm.com>. Suits have been filed in 25 countries.

The State of Washington has denied the children standing, an issue on its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. At each stage of the litigation, amazing dissents have been written, all definitely worth reading. They are available here: [2022.03.07ourchildrenstrust\\_dissentingopinions.pdf](#) Many of the writers are NAWJ members, as, no surprise, women are more likely to want to protect Mother Earth.

Next up was a panel of "retired" women judges, who described their post-judge lives. One judge has now written many mystery novels, and enjoys book signing tours, another reported that alternate dispute resolution can be part time and pays well, another is enjoying the joys of caring for her grandchildren.

The last panel was a discussion of policies with regard to self-represented litigants. The excellent panelists brought everyone current on appropriate judicial leadership, ethics rules, and programs available in some jurisdictions which could be set up in others. Studies have been done, and are ongoing. In brief, there is little trust in a good outcome in a Zoom-type appearance for an important matter, such as child custody, but self-represented litigants are more willing and comfortable with virtual appearances with matters involving debt or traffic tickets. Also important is the choice. Virtual appearances can be preferred by litigants with child-care issues or mobility or travel issues. As the future of technology in the courts is developed, the panelists felt that virtual appearances should not be eliminated, but the choice should be provided. If you are interested in more information, I suggest you contact panelist Katherine Altender of The Self-Represented Litigants Network (SRLN). See here for more information: <https://www.srln.org/node/21/about-srln>.

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## JULIA OLSON OF OUR CHILDREN'S TRUST



PANEL ON LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT



With our heads spinning with new and exciting information, we split off into three groups and went out to dinner. Then, we took over the lobby bar and chatted until last call at 11:00 p.m.

On Saturday, there was breakfast and one program, which I skipped to tour the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. We stayed until closing and could not see it all. Ironically, the program was on racial disparity in the courts, presented by an African American judge, Hon. Pamela Washington, from Alaska. Several women told me it was a terrific presentation and discussion.

I look forward to the annual conference in October, which will no doubt be fantastic.

## GRACE UNDER PRESSURE

NIKKI GROVER  
J.D. CANDIDATE 2022

On Monday, March 21, the Women's Law Society at St. John's University School of Law hosted a "Women on the Bench" virtual panel. Featured on the panel was the Hon. Vanessa Fang, the Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch, the Hon. Cassandra Johnson, and the Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones. Each judge represented a different realm of the judiciary process and different court system. The event was organized by WLS President Nikki Grover, 3L, and Secretary Julianny Monegro, 2L. Julianny moderated the event.

To begin the panel, each of the judges walked the students through their career and briefed the process of their appointment/election to the bench. The judges highlighted the importance of networking, persistence and the different ways their particular backgrounds influenced their decision to become a judge.

Julianny then opened up the panel for Q&A with the students. One student asked about the judges' experience as clerks and how important it was to their path. The judges remarked on the quasi-judicial role that a clerk has and the different qualities they look for in a clerk.

The event was concluded by one question, "What advice would you give your law school self?" Judge Quiñones, who admitted she thought she would die of embarrassment during cold calls, would tell herself that she belongs and to be confident in that. Judge Fang added on to that and explained that confidence does take time to foster and it comes from practice - students are allowed to make mistakes and rectify them. Judge Johnson would tell her law school-self to not apologize before speaking, accept credit for work, and keep in contact with colleagues. Finally, Judge Hirsch concluded the event by telling students to find their passion and work towards it.

Throughout the evening, the judges illustrated to the students their career and experiences through the lens of a woman in the judiciary. This event presented a wonderful opportunity for students to start developing their professional relationships, as well as served as a safe space to ask about and discuss the challenges and achievements of being a female attorney in the judiciary. The advice we received from these accomplished women will bring us one step closer to embodying Judge Hirsch's advice to have grace under pressure.

Women's Law Society is grateful for the judges taking their time out to speak to St. John's Law students. Throughout the semester, we host multiple panels featuring alumnae and non-alumnae. If you're interested in joining a future panel for WLS, please reach out to Julianny Monegro at [julianny.monegro20@stjohns.edu](mailto:julianny.monegro20@stjohns.edu).



**IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**



The Women's Law Society of St. John's Law  
presents

## Judicial Perspectives



Hon. Vanessa Fang  
NYC Housing Court



Hon. Cassandra Johnson  
NYC Civil Court



Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch  
NYS Court of Claims



Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones  
NYC Criminal Court

**MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022**  
**6:00 PM VIA ZOOM**

Co-sponsored by  
The National Association of Women Judges – New York Chapter



Women's Law Society event at St. John's University School of Law on March 21, 2022

# "THE POWER OF WOMEN'S VOICES"



**International Women's Day**

**# Break The Bias**

On Friday, March 25, 2022, NAWJ -NY Chapter and the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts Eighth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee held its program in recognition of Women's History Month 2022.

**IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

**NAWJ-NEW YORK CHAPTER**  
presents:

**THE POWER OF WOMEN'S VOICES**  
"There are so many silences to be broken."  
-Audre Lorde



**Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix**  
Associate Justice, Appellate Division, 2nd Dept  
NYC Corporation Counsel Nominee



**Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan**  
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge  
for New York City Courts



**Verónica Guerrero, Esq.**  
Counsel to Committee  
on Character & Fitness, 1st Dept

**THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022**  
**6:00PM-7:15PM**  
**(MICROSOFT TEAMS)**



**Gehad Abdelrehim**  
CUNY School of Law  
Class of 2022



**Sharmin Yousof**  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
Class of 2022

Members of the sponsoring organizations are eligible for 1 free CLE credit in the area of diversity, inclusion and elimination of bias. Pre-Registration Required.

[PLEASE REGISTER HERE](#)



**MODERATORS**



**Hon. Joanne D. Quillones**  
Vice President  
2nd Dept, NAWJ-NY

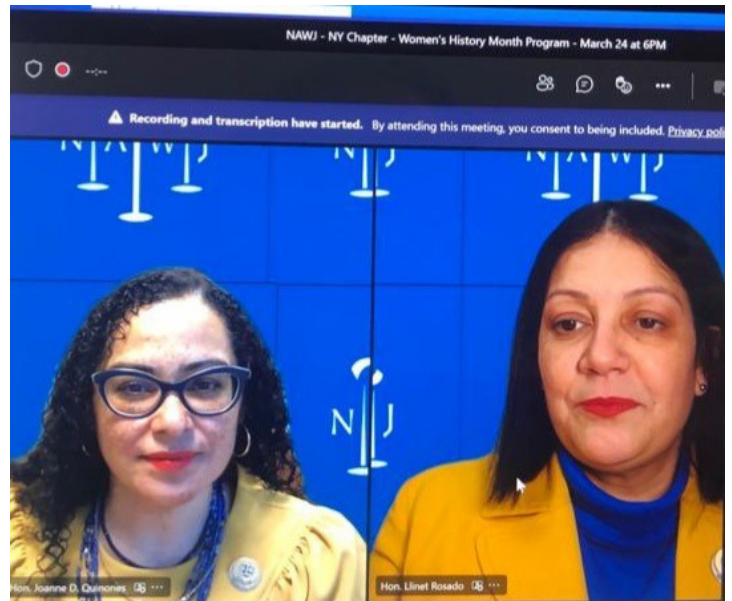


**Hon. Linet M. Rosado**  
Vice President  
1st Dept, NAWJ-NY

**CO-SPONSORS:**







On Thursday, March 24, 2022, NAWJ -NY Chapter held its program for the 1st and 2nd Departments in recognition of Women's History Month 2022.

# "THE POWER OF WOMEN'S VOICES"

## REMARKS FROM THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROGRAM

### MARCH 25, 2022

Welcome to the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts-8th JD Gender Fairness Committee's virtual Women's History Month Program - The Power of Women's Voices - Providing Healing, Promoting Hope.

Our program is co-sponsored by the NAWJ - NY Chapter. The Hon. Shirley Troutman, Associate Judge of the NYS Court of Appeals and President of the NAWJ - NY Chapter has joined us this afternoon.

The New York State Unified Court System, comprised of various levels of trial and appellate courts, provides legal services involving nearly 4 million cases a year, that are heard throughout the state's 62 counties. Most of the legal issues are resolved in the trial level courts.

Here, in the 8th Judicial District, the courts provided in-person legal services for residents of the 8 counties of Western New York. Erie and Niagara Counties are the largest of those 8 counties, having the largest citizen populations and the largest number of court users. The legal services provided by the courts are essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens that it serves.

Without warning, COVID-19 changed the court system's ability to provide legal services. At the onset of the pandemic, the chief clerks, deputy chief clerks and court security were required to change the way legal services were provided because COVID-19 required in-person court operations to cease for the benefit of the health and safety of everyone. However, crime, family disputes, housing issues, business disputes and legal matters affecting the health, welfare and safety of the citizens residing in the 8th Judicial District did not cease. Not only did those issues continue, some escalated.

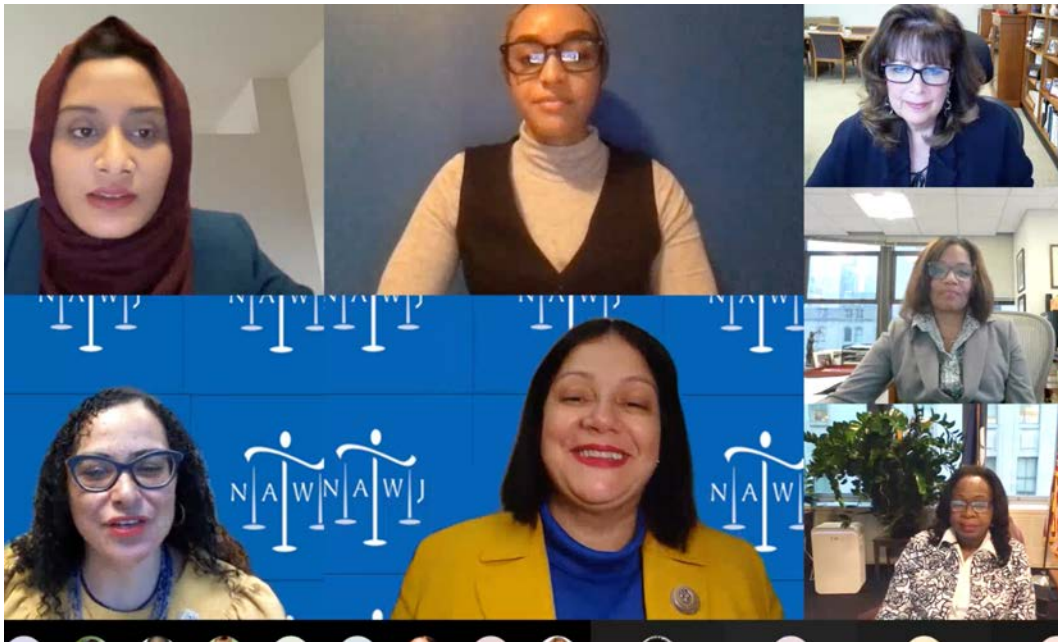
The ability of the Court to provide those continuous services was performed by a group of court clerical staff members and managers, court security, court reporters and the District Technology Unit; led by the District Executive Andrew Isenberg and former Administrative Judge Paula Feroletto. Many of these individuals are women. They worked efficiently and effectively despite the uncertainty of the fluid situation and the potential exposure, on a daily basis, to people infected with the virus and the resultant harm to themselves and their families. The IT Department worked non-stop to implement operational changes behind the scenes, without fanfare.

Continuation of the ability to provide essential legal services during the on-going pandemic constantly changes, with little to no notice. This is year three of the evolving pandemic. This group of frontline workers, now joined by the full court staff, continue to work tirelessly to provide legal services to the citizens of Western New York, pursuant to the leadership of the Erie County Department of Health Commissioner, Dr. Gail Bernstein, whose voice coordinated the court and communities' response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Hon. Rebecca Wydysh, Chairwomen of the Niagara County Legislature, was the face and voice of the coordinated response to the covid-19 pandemic for the court and communities in Niagara County.

The power of the voices of these two women combined with the court's front-line workers to provide healing and promote hope for the citizens of Western New York. Therefore, the NYS Association of Women Judges - New York Chapter and the 8th Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee are honored to pay tribute to the ceaseless work they all performed during the ongoing pandemic.





Panelists and moderators from the Women's History Month program on Thursday, March 24, 2022

## 2022 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION CEREMONY UNITED PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIC CLUB

On March 27, 2022, NAWJ-NY Secretary Hon. Wendy Li and fellow judges Hon. Joy Campanelli and Hon Lillian Wan were honored at the 2022 Women of Distinction Ceremony of the United Progressive Democratic Club.



# HON. SHIRLEY TROUTMAN: OUR NEWEST JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS



On January 11, 2022, NAWJ-NY President, **Justice Shirley Troutman** appeared before the New York State Senate Judiciary Committee, where she faced questioning by the senators on a wide-variety of topics in connection with her nomination to the Court of Appeals. Her stellar responses resulted in a unanimous vote to advance her nomination before the full Senate, where she was confirmed the next day, after glowing accolades by many members. Shortly thereafter, Chief Judge Janet DiFiore wasted no time in swearing in our newest Judge of the Court of Appeals and only the 10th woman in the Court's history!

On April 5, 2022, at 11:00 am, a formal investiture of our three newest Court of Appeals Judges, Madeline Singas (our NAWJ sister), Anthony Cannataro, and Shirley Troutman will take place at the Court of Appeals. The link to view the ceremony will be available on April 5, and can be accessed through the Court of Appeals website: <https://www.nycourts.gov/ctapps/live.html>.

## **JUSTICE LISA FISHER APPOINTED TO THE APPELLATE DIVISION, THIRD DEPT.**



On January 3, 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul appointed NAWJ-NY chapter's Vice-President 3rd Dept., Justice Lisa Fisher, to the Appellate Division, Third Dept. Justice Fisher was elected to the Supreme Court in the Third Judicial District in 2015. Prior to that, she was an Assistant Public Defender of the Family Court Division at the Ulster County Public Defender's Office from 2011 to 2014. Previously, she worked as a Sole Practitioner from 1994-2013. Lisa also served as a Court Attorney for Hon. Edward T. Feeney at the NYS Office of Court Administration from 1999 to 2007, and a part-time Staff Attorney for Ulster County department of Social Services until 2001. Justice Fisher earned a J.D. from Shepard Broad College of Law at Nova Southeastern University and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of South Florida. Congratulations, Lisa!!



# SISTERS IN LAW SPRING RETREAT AGENDA

## "I DISSENT"

### **Sunday, May 1, 2022 Welcome**

6:00 pm	Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails (cash bar)
7:00 pm	Dinner in the lakeview reception area
	After dinner
8:30 pm	Sister-to-Sister chat/discussion
9:15 pm	Viewing of the movie, "Being the Ricardo's" (optional)

### **Monday, May 2, 2022**

8:00 am	Continental Breakfast
9:00 am- 10:15 am	Hon. Edwina G. Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives Presentation regarding the 5 divisions of the Office for Justice Initiatives; implementation of the Equal Justice in Courts Initiative; implementation progress of the Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts 2020 survey.
10:30 am- Noon	President Kristan McMahan, of the Robert H. Jackson Center Robert H. Jackson was a U.S. Supreme Court Justice and Chief U. S. Prosecutor at Nuremberg. The Center's mission is to advance public awareness of the principles of justice and the rule of law as embodied in the achievements and legacy of Justice Jackson. The presentation will focus on the history and relevance of his work to our world today.

# SISTERS IN LAW SPRING RETREAT AGENDA

## "I DISSENT"

### **Monday, May 2, 2022 (Continued)**

AFTERNOON ON YOUR OWN

Suggested activities

Explore the National Comedy Center, the Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum.

OR

Explore the Lake Erie Wine Trail, OR visit Bemus Point for local restaurants and shopping in locally owned stores, antiques, crafts, etc., OR various outdoor activities (hiking, boating etc.)

OR book a spa appointment.

Evening

Group Dinner at The Chop House on Main  
Monday is Jazz Night which begins at 5:30 pm.

### **Tuesday, May 3, 2022**

7:30 am - 8:30 am

Continental Breakfast

8:30 am - 10:45 am

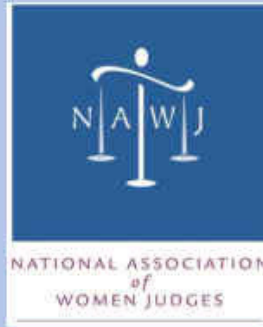
Dean Aviva Abramovsky from the University of Buffalo Law School will show the video of Ruth Bader Ginsberg's visit to Kleinhan's Music Hall in Buffalo and the law school on August 26, 2019. During her presentation, the Dean will provide commentary on some of RBG's cases and famous dissents; and will speak generally on the topic of Women and the Law.

11:00 am - Noon

Reflections of an RBG clerk. Professor Amanda Tyler from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, will join us virtually. She is the co-author, with RBG of the book, *Justice, Justice Thou Shalt Pursue: A Life's Work Fighting for a More Perfect Union*. Her bio is available on the school website.

Noon - 12:30 pm

Conference wrap-up.



**New York Chapter  
REGISTRATION**

**Sisters in Law Spring Retreat**

Honoring the legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

**“I Dissent”**

**May 1-3, 2022**

Chautauqua Lake Harbor Hotel

10 Dunham Avenue, Celoron, NY 14720

To reserve your Room CALL: (716) 489-2800 and request  
NAWJ-NY room block.

Registration Fee: \$300.00 – includes conference attendance,  
2 breakfasts and 2 dinners

**Program Agenda and Suggested Activities Include:**

Presentations by

Hon. Edwina G. Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives

Kristan McMahon, President, Robert H. Jackson Center

Dean Aviva Abramovsky, University of Buffalo Law School

Professor Amanda Tyler, University of California Berkeley School of Law

- Reflections of an RBG clerk

Explore the National Comedy Center, the Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz Museum,  
the Lake Erie Wine Trail or visit Bemus Point for local restaurants and shopping.

Various outdoor activities available, or book a spa appointment.

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NAME..... PHONE No .....

ADDRESS.....EMAIL.....

Please send check for \$300.00 to Treasurer, Hon. Debra Silber, Kings County Supreme Court, Civil Term,  
360 Adams St., Brooklyn, NY 11201 by April 8, 2022 or VENMO: @NAWJ-NY



# NOTEWORTHY NEWS

## **First Department:**

- On Thursday, December 7, 2021, Judicial Friends Association, Inc. Executive Board held its 40th River Toney Watson Dinner at Terrace On The Park.
- December 15, 2021, the Bronx legal community bid a surprise farewell to the **Hon. Marian Doherty** at the Rotunda of 851 Grand Concourse. Judge Doherty retires after over two decades of being a judge. Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for within NYC, the **Honorable Deborah Kaplan**; Supervising Judge of Bronx Civil Court, the **Hon. Myrna Socorro**; and Supervising Judge of Bronx Housing Court, the **Hon. Miriam M. Breier**, spoke at the event about Judge Doherty and her accomplishments during her tenure as judge. Bronx Supreme Court **Justice Llinét M. Rosado** read a beautiful letter written by the **Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin** to Judge Doherty.
- On Thursday, December 16, 2021, New York State Supreme Court Justice, the **Hon. Patsy Gouldbourne**, held her induction ceremony at Pelham Bay & Split Rock Golf Course in the Bronx.
- On Saturday, December 18, 2021, New York State Supreme Court Justice, the **Hon. Naita A. Semaj**, held her induction ceremony at Pelham Bay & Split Rock Golf Course in the Bronx.
- The following judges were appointed Acting Supreme Court Justices in the First Department: the **Honorable Angela Badamo**; the **Hon. Beth Beller**; the **Hon. Tara Collins**; the **Honorable Denise Dominguez**; the **Hon. Judy Kim**; the **Honorable Sabrina Kraus**; the **Honorable Phaedra Perry**; the **Honorable Leslie Stroth**; and the **Honorable Kathleen Waterman**.
- On December 23, 2021, **Judge Elena Goldberg** swore in her sister-in-law, Majorie Velazquez as the first Latina to be elected to the New York City Council, 13th Council District in the Bronx.
- **Judge Jessica I. Flores** and **Judge Verena C. Powell** were elected to Civil Court, Bronx County in 2021. Judge Flores was assigned to Criminal Court, Bronx County and Judge Powell was assigned to Civil Court, Bronx County.
- On January 18, 2022, **Hon. Marsha D. Michael** was appointed Chair of the Gender Fairness Committee for the 12th Judicial District.
- On January 20, 2022, the Puerto Rican Bar Association swore in their board which included Board of Directors the **Hon. Jessica Bourbon**, **Hon. Wilma Guzman**, **Hon. Betty Lugo**, **Hon. Wanda Negron**, **Hon. Mary V. Rosado**, and the **Hon. Enedina Pilar Sanchez**.
- On January 27, 2022, **Justice Bianka Perez** swore in the Board of the Dominican Bar Association at the 809 Lounge in the Bronx at 6pm.
- On February 19, 2022, the **Hon. Fiordaliza Rodriguez**, Bronx Family Court, was a panelist on the Fifth Seminary on Domestic Violence induced by alcohol and drugs.

- On February 25, 2022, **Justice Marsha D. Michael** was appointed to the Appellate Term, First Department, Appellate Division.
- On March 2, 2022, **Judges Jessica Flores, Wilma Guzman, Beth Beller, Patsy Gouldbourne, and Llinét Rosado** participated in the Bronx Women’s Bar Association’s Read Across America event and read virtually during their lunch hour to 172 students in grade P-K to 2nd at St. Angela Merici’s School.
- On March 7, 2022, N.Y.S. Court of Appeals Associate **Judge Shirley Troutman** and Appellate Term, First Department **Justice Marsha D. Michael** were bestowed with the Kate Stoneman Award by Albany Law School on its 28th Kate Stoneman Day. Judge Troutman, Class of 1985, and Justice Michael, Class of 2002, were honored for their demonstrated commitment to seeking and expanding opportunities for women.
- NAWJ members **Hon. Carmen Beauchamp-Ciparick; Hon. Carmen R. Velasquez;** and Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark were recognized by the City & State New York’s 2022 Law Power 100: The legal minds influencing New York City and State politics. Chief Judge Janet DiFiore and Corporation Counsel Sylvia Hinds-Radix were also recognized.
- On March 8, 2022, International Women’s Day, there was a ribbon-cutting for the Santaella Gardens building located at 1230 Metcalf Avenue in Bronx County. The building was named in honor of **Justice Irma Vidal Santaella**, the first Latina Supreme Court Justice elected in the County of the Bronx.



From L to R: Hon. Lumarie Maldonado-Cruz, Treasurer; Hon. Cheryl J. Gonzales, First Vice-President (Dinner Committee Chairperson); Hon. Verna L. Saunders, President; and Hon. Seth Steed, Secretary. (Not Pictured-Hon. Jeanine R. Johnson, Second Vice-President)

Justice Goulbourne sworn in by Justice Laura Douglas as Justice Goulbourne’s family watches.



Justice Semaj addresses the audience after being sworn in by Justice Laura Douglas.



Board of the Dominican Bar Association sworn in on January 27, 2022

**Dattner Architects**  

**Save the Date** **03.08.22**  
11:00 AM

Acacia Network and Phipps Houses cordially invite you to:  
***Santaella Gardens Ribbon-Cutting***



**Address: 1230 Metcalf Ave, Bronx, NY 10472**

*Join us on International Women's Day as we officially inaugurate our newest affordable housing development, named in honor of Justice Irma Vidal Santaella, the first Puerto Rican female Supreme Court Justice in the state of New York*

The Santaella Gardens building was named in honor of Justice Irma Vidal Santaella, the first Latina Supreme Court Justice elected in the County of the Bronx.





From L to R: Judges Llinét M. Rosado, Judge Marian Doherty, and Judge Myrna Socorro.



On January 20, 2022, the Puerto Rican Bar Association swore in their Board of Directors.



On December 23, 2021, Judge Elena Goldberg swore in her sister-in-law, Majorie Velazquez, the first Latina to be elected to the New York City Council, 13th Council District in the Bronx.



Judge Troutman, Class of 1985, and Justice Michael, Class of 2002, were honored by Albany Law School for their demonstrated commitment to seeking and expanding opportunities for women.



## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)

### Second Department:

- In December 2021, **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones** was appointed Chair of the Equal Justice Committee of the Second Judicial District.
- Congratulations to **Hon. Giyang An, Hon. Carolina Holderness and Hon. Melissa T. Lewis** who were appointed as Judges of the Criminal Court on December 23, 2021.
- Congratulations to **Hon. Marty J. Lentz, Hon. Srividya Pappachan, Hon. Rachel S. Pauley, and Hon. Stephanie Schwartz** who were appointed as interim Judges of the Civil Court on December 23, 2021.
- Congratulations to **Hon. Hon. Patria Frias-Colón** who was appointed Supervising Judge of the Civil Court of Queens County, effective January 3, 2022.
- Congratulations to **Hon. Tamiko Amaker** who was appointed Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support in January 2022.
- Congratulations to **Hon. Toko Serita** who was appointed Statewide Coordinating Judge for Problem-Solving Courts in January 2022.
- Congratulations to **Hon. Phyllis Chu, Hon. Abena Darkeh, Hon. Claudia Daniels-Depeyster, and Hon. E. Niki Warin** who were designated as Acting Justices of the Supreme Court in January 2022 and currently sit on the Criminal Term of Kings County Supreme Court.
- Congratulations to **Hon. Cenceria Edwards and Hon. Odessa Kennedy** who were designated as Acting Justices of the Supreme Court in January 2022 and currently sit on the Civil Term of Kings County Supreme Court.
- Congratulations to **Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix**, former Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, who was confirmed as Corporation Counsel on February 24, 2022 by a unanimous vote of the City Council.
- Congratulations to NAWJ-NY Boardmember **Hon. Carmen R. Velasquez** and to members **Hon. Janet DiFiore, Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Hon. Darcel Clark, and Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix**, who were among those named on the City and State New York 2022 Law Power 100!
- Congratulations to **Hon. La Tia W. Martin**, who has been selected to receive the inaugural Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Award at the 2022 convention of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY).
- Congratulations to **Hon. Andrea Phoenix**, recipient of the 2022 Judith S. Kaye Access to Justice Award which will be presented at the annual WBASNY convention in June.
- Congratulations to **Hon. Theresa Whelan**, recipient of the 2022 Marilyn R. Menge Award which will be presented at the annual WBASNY convention in June.

## *In Celebration of Women's History Month*

The Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission  
Second Judicial District Advisory Group  
presents

### *Standing on the Shoulders of Judge Constance Baker Motley: The Historic Nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the United States Supreme Court*

**Wednesday, March 30, 2022**

1:00PM-2:00PM—Virtual program via Microsoft Teams

#### **Opening Remarks**

**Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**

Acting Supreme Court Justice, Kings County, FHW Commissioner

**Hon. Letitia James**

New York State Attorney General

#### **Moderator**

**Hon. Deborah Dowling**

Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department

#### **Panelists**

**Jennifer Jones Austin, Esq.**, CEO, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies

**Professor Natalie Gomez-Velez**, CUNY School of Law, Director of Center  
on Latinx Rights and Equality

**RSVP by Monday, March 28, 2022.** For further information about the event,  
please email [FHWWilliams@nycourts.gov](mailto:FHWWilliams@nycourts.gov). For more information about the Franklin  
H. Williams Judicial Commission, please visit [www.nycourts.gov/FHW](http://www.nycourts.gov/FHW).



**CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER**



#### **Members of the FHW 2nd Judicial District Advisory Group**

**Hon. Cheryl Gonzales**, Supervising Judge, Kings Housing Court  
**Ada Dejesus-Milam**, Associate Court Clerk, Kings Supreme Court  
**Paula McFarlane, Esq.**, Assistant Law Clerk, Queens Supreme Court  
**Toshia McKnight, Esq.**, Principal Law Clerk, Kings Supreme Court

## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)

- Our immediate past District 2 Director, **Hon. Kathy King** has been re-assigned to Supreme Court, New York County, effective January 1, 2022, and is presiding judge in a Medical Malpractice Part. She wanted her Sisters In Law to know that she can be found at 60 Centre St., Part 6, Courtroom: Room 351, Chambers: Room 663.
- In January, **Justice Cheree A. Buggs** was appointed to the Appellate Term for the 2nd, 11th, and 13th Judicial Districts. Justice Buggs was elected to Queens Supreme Court in 2016, after having been appointed an Acting Supreme Court Judge in 2012. Her prior judicial experience included serving as a Judge of the Queens Civil Court and Judge of the Queens Family Court.



Justice Cheree A. Buggs

### **Third Department:**

- On January 3, 2022, the **Hon. Sara McGinty** of the Ulster County Surrogates Court was appointed Acting Justice of the Supreme Court.
- On March 31, 2022, the **Hon. Karen Peters** received the 3rd Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee's Hon. Leslie E. Stein Gender Equity Award.
- The NAWJ-NY 3rd Dept. held a Women's History Month presentation on the power of a woman's voice. The panel members were the **Hon. Keri Savona**, Ulster County Family Court; **Hon. Susan Kushner**, Albany County Family Court and Acting Supreme Court Justice; **Hon. Jill Kehn**, Rensselaer County Family Court and the **Hon. Andra Ackerman**, Albany County Court. These judges discussed the power of a woman's voice in their specialty courts.
- On January 3, 2022, the **Hon. Keri Savona** of Ulster County Family Court was appointed Coordinating Judge of the Specialty Courts for the Third Judicial District.
- On March 11, 2022, the **Hon. Christina Ryba**, Albany County Supreme Court, was appointed by Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks as Chair of the Judicial Hearing Officer Selection Advisory Committee for the Third Judicial Department.
- On March 25, 2022 the Ulster County Bar Association held a ceremony for the retired **Hon. Karen Peters**, former Presiding Judge for the Appellate Division Third Dept., unveiling her portrait to be hung in the ceremonial courtroom of the Ulster County Courthouse.



## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)

- **Hon. Elizabeth A. Garry**, the Presiding Justice of the 3rd Dept. was added to the Albany Law School Board of Trustees on January 10, 2022.
- Former Court of Appeals **Judge Leslie E. Stein**, director of the Government Law Center at Albany Law School, has been chosen to receive the Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award from the New York State Bar Association's Women in Law Section.

The Government Law Center at Albany Law School is a nonpartisan law and public policy center based in Albany, N.Y. The Center produces independent legal research and analysis to help state and local governments better serve their communities. It prepares students for distinguished public service careers through the Government Law Center Fellowship Program. It also explores emerging issues and informs government officials through the annual Warren M. Anderson Legislative Breakfast Series and other programs.



Judge Leslie E. Stein, Director of the Government Law Center at Albany Law School



Hon. Elizabeth A. Garry, Presiding Justice of the Third Department



#### **Fourth Department:**

- On March 25, 2022, NAWJ-NY Chapter and the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts Eighth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee held its "The Power of Women's Voices" program in recognition of Gale R. Burstein, MD, MPH, **Hon. Paula L. Feroletto**, Rebecca J. Wydysh, and **Hon. Erin P. DeLabio**.

THE POWER OF WOMEN'S VOICES  
FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022  
12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.



**WELCOME:** *Honorable E. Jeannette Ogden, J.S.C.*  
*New York State Supreme Court*  
*Chair of the 8th Judicial District*  
*Gender Fairness Committee*

**REMARKS:** *Honorable Shirley Troutman, Associate Judge*  
*New York State Court of Appeals*  
*President of the National Association of Women Judges-*  
*New York Chapter*

#### **RECOGNITION OF:**

*Dr. Gale R. Burstein, MD, MPH*  
*Erie County Commissioner of Health*

*Hon. Paula L. Feroletto, J.S.C.*  
*New York State Supreme Court*  
*Past - 8th Judicial District Admin. Judge*

*Rebecca J. Wydysh*  
*Chairwoman of the*  
*Niagara County Legislature*

*Hon. Erin P. DeLabio*  
*Niagara County Family Court*

#### **CLOSING REMARKS:**

*Honorable E. Jeannette Ogden, J.S.C.*  
*New York State Supreme Court*

#### **Other News:**

- "Women in the Highest Courts: History in the Making," a free CLE course sponsored by the Women Judges Committee of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY) took place on Thursday, March 31, 2022, from 6-7:30 pm and featured our very own president, the **Hon. Shirley Troutman**, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals.

# EDITOR'S NOTES

Greetings, Sisters In Law! Looking at all of the fabulous events from Women's History Month is awe-inspiring!! We truly stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, while we lift up the future members of the profession in our law schools and mentoring programs. Thank you for all of the terrific work you are doing in your communities and in our state.

Next month, we will be having our upstate Spring Retreat at the beautiful Harbor Hotel on Chautauqua Lake. This issue contains the agenda and the registration form. Please consider joining us!! It's not too late!

I would like to take this opportunity to place one of our own on the "Her Honor Roll." Our treasurer, Justice Debra Silber, has enabled us to accept payment via VENMO, and she has applied for our Tax-Exempt Status, something our chapter has talked about for several years. As we go to print, our application is pending, but once approved, this will benefit our organization for years to come. Thank you, Debra!! Please be sure to read Debra's great article about the NAWJ mid-year conference in this issue.

I would also like to thank my former St. John's Law School intern, Ciara Langan, for her hard work on our newsletter, and congratulate her on her upcoming graduation from law school!! Without her, there would never have been a Volume 1 of this publication. We wish you good luck and all the best on the bar exam and with your legal career, Ciara!! At this time, I would like to welcome Brittany Jones to the newsletter team! Brittany put this issue together with the assistance of Ciara. You have to admit, the transition was seamless!! Thank you, Brittany, for your willingness to work with us!

Please remember to share your Good News items with us. This is your newsletter and we'd love to hear from you. Maybe you'd even like to write an article! Happy Spring, and I look forward to seeing many of you at our Spring Retreat!

Best wishes,  
Marcia