



October 19, 2022
 Annual Report from District 4
 Honorable Gwenlynn D'Souza

District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia

The Annual Meeting was held in October 2021. Congratulations again to the Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, **Anna Blackburne Rigsby**, who received the Joan Dempsey Klein Award, named in honor of the NAWJ's Founding Mother. Attached is a photo from the award ceremony.



The District continues to partner with the District of Columbia Department of Corrections to create a series of podcasts, which are produced by the women inmates as a part of a certification course. Information about the podcast topic and participants is listed below. The podcasts are available to view in the member only area of the NAWJ website.

Date	Podcast Topic	Host/Speakers
October 2021	Accessing Food Stamps and Medicaid	Sharon Goodie Aida Fitzgerald
October 2021	Your Rights: Pay Equity and the D.C. Fair Criminal Records Act	Gwen D'Souza Erika Pierson
December 2021	Housing Conditions	Sharon Goodie Anthony Epstein Yewande Aderoju
December 2021	Access to Housing	Sharon Goodie Todd Edelman Anthony Epstein
January 2022	Reentry Job Search and Expungement	Kenia Seoane-Lopez Kaitlyn Mason Keisha Robinson Paula Thompson
March 2022	Wellness and Intention	Tanya Jones Bosier Robin Kenney Kamilah Way
June 2022	Mental Health Court	Heidi Pasichow Ann Keary Marina Sabett

A virtual District Meeting was held on January 6, 2022, by Zoom. Planning for upcoming events continued.

Thank you to all who participated and volunteered.



The Mid-Year Conference was held on March 10-12, 2022, in Crystal City, Virginia. District Four selected Maryland Court of Appeal Judge (Ret.) **Irma S. Raker** as the recipient of its Edna G. Parker Award in recognition of her dedication and service. The award was presented by President-Elect **Toni Clarke** and NAWJ District 4 Director **Gwen D'Souza**.



The three Afghani judges who resettled in Virginia, since the fall of Afghanistan to Taliban control, joined us for the conference, where the NAWJ Board voted for them to become new members. Congratulations to **Vanessa Ruiz** for receiving the Lady Justice Award for Humanitarian Aid. She has assisted many refugee judges, who fear for their safety in Afghanistan, in their efforts to relocate internationally.



A special thank you to District 4 members **Beverly Cutler**, **Lili Khozeimeh** and **Dania Ayoubi** for welcoming and mentoring the Afghani judges who are refugees in our area. Congratulations to **Beverly Cutler** for being the recipient of the 2022 NAWJ Norma Wikler Excellence in Service Award for her efforts in this and other endeavors!

On March 11, 2022, during the Mid-Year Conference, new District 4 member **Katherine R. Altenecker** of the Self-Represented Litigation Network moderated a panel about best practices for conducting hearings with self-represented litigants.

Joan Churchill hosted the NAWJ *Immigration Update* Webinar on April 12, which was organized by the NAWJ Immigration Committee. On April 21, 2022, District 4 co-sponsored a Bar to Bench webinar with the Administrative Judge Committee a program entitled "Paths to the Administrative Judiciary: Many Roads, Many Destinations" about how to join the administrative bench. New member **Carrie Bland** of the United State Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Law Judges spoke as a part of a panel.

In May 2022, NAWJ President-Elect **Toni Clarke** was featured in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* article "How Penn State's women's basketball's Toni Clarke became a trailblazer on and off the court." (Syntax in original).

On May 19, 2022, the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia recognized Anita Josey-Herring as the 2022 WBA Woman Lawyer of the Year. When she was elevated as Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court in October 2020, she became the first woman to hold the position.



The Women's Law Center of Maryland presenting the Legacy of Leadership Award to **Mary Ellen Barbera**, Chief Judge (Ret.), Court of Appeals of Maryland on May 19.

On September 8, 2022, **Sally Adkins**, Maryland Court of Appeals (Ret.) received the "Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera Judicial Excellence Award" at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law's Honors Banquet. Former Chief Judge **Barbera** introduced and presented the award to Judge Adkins. She gave the audience an excellent presentation on Judge Adkins' judicial history, her outstanding appellate work and her efforts to bring fairness and justice to the community at large. Judge Adkins thanked all for the honor and expressed her encouragement to lawyers and judges to continue fairness and access to justice efforts which will help the public increase its trust and confidence in the justice system. Judge **Marcella Holland**, a graduate and member of the Board of Visitors at the law school was present for the occasion.



The American Bar Foundation proudly established the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Endowed Fund for Research in Civil Rights & Gender Equality. Several District 4 members met at an ABF reception to pay tribute to this esteemed District 4 member and celebrate her legacy.

On September 22, 2022, District 4 presented for a short play entitled "Frederick Douglass's Last Day." Chief Judge **Robert M. Bell** (Ret.), Court of Appeals of Maryland starred as Frederick Douglass. Magistrate Judge **Tanya Jones Bosier**, Superior Court of the District of Columbia played his wife, Helen Pitts Douglass. **Rocelyn Halili**, Esq., attorney and actor, played **Susan B. Anthony**. Principal Administrative Law Judge **Paul B. Handy**, D.C. Office of Administrative Hearings, who is the author of the play, was the director and narrator.





The play was followed by an interesting panel discussion on voting rights. Panelist **Jon Greenbaum** is a Senior Attorney with the Lawyer's Project, who handled a number of high profile voting rights cases, spoke about the proposed amendments to the Voting Rights Act. Panelist **Caroline Van Zile** is the Solicitor General of the District of Columbia. She spoke about cases pending before the United State Supreme Court. Administrative Law Judge, **Fred B. Carney**, spoke about a 1970s class action lawsuit under the Voting Rights Act, about the challenges faced by attorneys of color in Louisiana when seeking election to a judicial position. The play and informative panel discussion are available at the [NAWJ website](#).

On October 1, 2022, the 12th Women Moving Forward Re-entry Conference was held at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCIW) in Jessup, MD. Initiated in 2008 by the National Association of Women Judges District 4, and working with numerous non-profit organizations and individuals, this conference provided approximately 100 women who are within 2 to 9 months of release, with resources and information necessary to support their successful return to the community.

The morning began with a plenary panel focused on employment challenges and opportunities. Over a dozen employment specialists joined the attendees at tables to discuss a variety of issues that the women are likely to face as they look for jobs. After a catered luncheon, speakers gave a lively tutorial on yoga and suggestions for addressing mental health needs.

The afternoon workshops offered programs on social media etiquette, connections as a source of support, dealing with reunification with family, self-advocacy to secure a healthy post-release life, and understanding parole & probation. In addition to workshops, the conference includes motivational speakers and commentary/guidance from formerly incarcerated women who have successfully transitioned back into society.

The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and an all-volunteer steering committee of passionate community activists are the heart of the initiative. The 2022 WMF Conference is co-chaired by Judge **Julia B. Weatherly**, **Shawn Flower**, Ph.D., and Acting Warden **Geneva Holland**. Both Judge Weatherly and Dr. Flower are among the founders of the program and longtime advocates for maximizing the individual opportunity of successful societal reentry.

The conference was enthusiastically received by the women at MCIW, affording them a unique opportunity to look at their plans to return home. Acting Warden Holland noted that this conference is one of the most anticipated events at the prison, and is well regarded within the Maryland Dept. of Corrections.

Former District 4 Director **Claudia Barber** hosts a podcast/tv program called *Being Well Informed*. See link to podcast website: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/2042031>. The television program airs Sundays at 7 pm on Roku TV through Rise Her Network. The podcast is currently premiering on such platforms as Google Podcasts, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Podcasts, iHeart Radio, Samsung Podcasts, Spotify, Podcast Index, and Podcast Addict.

Welcome also to our other newest members - **Carrie Bland**, **Margaret Deglau**, **Helivi Holland**, **Tiffany Cruz Oates**, **Jill Dash**, **Tyneka Flythe**, **Sephora Gray**, **Stacy Lee**, **Millicent Newhouse**, **Alecia Watson**, and **Alotha Willis**! Congratulations to our members and other local judges for their appointments and elevations:

Anne K. Albright, Maryland Court of Special Appeals
Loren AliKhan, District of Columbia Court of Appeals
Nicole Barmore, Circuit Court for Baltimore City

Bibi Berry, Circuit Court for Montgomery County
Monise Alexis Brown, Circuit Court for Charles County
Ketanji Brown Jackson, United States Supreme Court

Tanya Bullock, Virginia Beach Circuit Court
Lisa Butler, District of Columbia Department of Employment Services
Dominique Callins, Virginia Court of Appeals
Doris Causey, Virginia Court of Appeals
Vernida Chaney, Virginia Court of Appeals
Theresa Chernosky, Circuit Court for Montgomery County
J. Michelle Childs, United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit
Kimberley Cruz, District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings
Ana De la Hoz Hernandez, District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City
Kathleen Dumais, Circuit Court for Montgomery County
Angela Eaves, Maryland Court of Appeals
Kathleen Diane English, Circuit Court for Frederick County
J. Alexis Fisher-Rizk, Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court
Lydie Glynn, District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City
Elizabeth Hanes, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia
Kay Harding, District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City
Tara D. Hatcher, Chesterfield Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court
Rondelle Herman, Circuit Court of Henrico County
Carol Johnson, District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City
Jamilah LeCruise, Norfolk General District Court
Carolyn Lerner, United States Court of Federal Claims
Rian Lewis, Newport News General District Court
Amy Lorenzini, Circuit Court for St. Mary's County
Lisa Lorish, Virginia Court of Appeals

Jaqueline Lucas, Prince William Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Tameika Lunn-Exinor, District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City
Rachel McGuckian, Circuit Court for Montgomery County
Marissa D. Mitchell, Henrico County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court
Theresa Morse, District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City
Kathleen Murphy, District Court of Maryland for Baltimore County
Nicole Opkins, District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings
Florance Pan, United States District Court for the District of Columbia and the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
Stephanie Picard Porter, Circuit Court for Howard County
Heather Lynne Price, Circuit Court for Caroline County
Rupa Puttagunta, District of Columbia Superior Court
Ana C. Reyes, United States District Court for the District of Columbia
La Zette Charnae Ringgold-Kirksey, Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Angela Robinson, District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings
Julie Rubin, United States District Court for the District of Maryland
Ebony Scott, District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings
Kenia Seoane López, District of Columbia Superior Court
Jennifer Shupert, Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court
Rosalyn Tang, Maryland Court of Special Appeals
Kimberley S. White, Virginia Court of Appeals

