



September 12, 2023
District 4 Annual Report
Honorable Gwenlynn D'Souza

District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia



It was great to see all the District Four members in person during the Mid-Year Conference in Annapolis in April 2023. Maryland Governor Wes Moore graciously welcomed us at the U.S. Naval Academy. Thanks to those of you who participated in the Planting the Seed event with the University of Maryland and University of Baltimore law students. Special thanks to **Julie Weatherly** who coordinated the Planting the Seed program and the specialized courts panel.

A little good news. One of the University of Maryland Law School students at the Planting the Seed program was interested in human rights law. During the event, she was introduced by **Penny McLaughlin**, of San Diego to an attorney in a New York organization, Safe Passage. As a result, the law student worked there as a legal intern this past summer. She assisted immigrant children who face deportation.

On April 26, 2023, at a joint event hosted by the William & Maryland Family Law and Domestic Violence Clinics, **Lida Kharooti Sayeed** and **Judith Kline** spoke to students about their experiences in the law.

President **Toni Clarke**, **Marielsa Bernard**, **Laurie Denham**, **Marcella Holland**, **Beverly Nash**, and other District 4 members travelled to the IAWJ Biennial Conference in Morocco.



District 4 members met on June 24, 2023, at Teamania in Rockville, Maryland. Good times with **Judy Woodall**, **Cathy Serrette**, **Gwen D'Souza**, **Bev Cutler**, **Judy Wheat**, **ShaRon Kelsey**, **Toni Clarke**, **Tanya Jones-Bosier**, **Francine Applewhite**, **Jacinta Alves**, **Kamila Noori**, and **Julie Weatherly**.



Congratulations to **Judy Wheat**! On June 29, 2023, she became the Chief Judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit in Virginia, serving Arlington County and the City of Falls Church.



Congratulations to Chief Judge **Anna Blackburne-Rigsby**, District of Columbia Court of Appeals, on being named the next president of the Conference of Chief Justices for 2023-2024!

Congratulations to **Gwen D'Souza**, who will be joining the Maryland Office of Administrative Hearings as an Administrative Law Judge in October 2023!