



November 29, 2022
Report from District 4
Honorable Gwenlynn D'Souza

District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia

National Association of Women Judges - Maryland Chapter

Welcomes New Judges

Join us for virtual
Coffee, Cocktails, & Conversation
Thursday, December 1, 2022
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Join us to celebrate the newly appointed and newly elevated Maryland Judges
and showcase the NAWJ projects, conferences, and professional opportunities

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84280178942>

Meeting ID: 842 8017 8942

Passcode: 814225

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Some first-time conference attendees were District 4 members. Vivian Henderson of the Virginia Beach General Court and Jacinta Alves of an Administrative Law judge at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Departmental Appeals Board joined us.

On November 9, 2022, District 4 with the Women’s Bar Association of the District of Columbia held a Bar to Bench event. NAWJ President **Toni Clarke** welcomed everyone. **Monica Bhattacharyya** of the U.S. Court of International Trade, Bibi M. Berry of the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland, **Tanya Chutkan**, of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, **Deborah J. Israel** of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia spoke about the paths to the bench. **Bridget Bailey Lipscomb**, WBA Immediate Past President, moderated.



The Women's Bar Association of Maryland, Inc. will present the 2022 RITA C. DAVIDSON AWARD to the Honorable **Angela M. Eaves** on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at the The Hotel at Arundel Preserve. A cocktail reception begins at 6:00 p.m. Dinner commences at 7:00 p.m. Register [here](#).

On November 29, 2022, the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia held a program entitled Pathways to Leadership: Inspiration from Women in Power. Magistrate Judge **Tanya Jones Bosier** spoke on a panel about her career path.

Summary of NAWJ Annual Conference
By **Joan Churchill**:

The most riveting speaker was **Tonier Cain**, a survivor of trauma/drug addiction/prostitution/domestic abuse — you name it. I had not recalled her clearly, but **Judy Kline** reminded me that Cain spoke at a District 4 mini conference at the Hyatt in Cambridge, Maryland, a few years ago. Cain hails from Annapolis, Maryland, where our midyear will be held April 20-22 during **Toni Clarke's** year as NAWJ President. Tonier Cain is now a successful businesswoman, author, speaker, etc., who owns several companies.

The opening plenary and a breakout on the Innocence Project were also quite riveting. It included speakers who were later found innocent of crimes for which they were incarcerated for up to 30 years.

A session on critical race theory was very informative. I had no idea previously what it was about.

Also very informative, as usual, was Prof. **Erwin Chemerinsky** who laid out numerous legal challenges likely to come to the courts across the country as a result of this past year's and next year's likely Supreme Court decisions changing constitutional law about the establishment and freedom of religion and speech clauses, affirmative action, and privacy rights. He set out 4 categories for the blockbuster cases in the current term: affirmative action, elections, same sex marriage, and the Indian Child Protection Act [ICPA].

The proposed bylaws change, that was tabled, would allow Tribal Judges to be voting members of NAWJ. Currently they can be nonvoting members, only, because our Bylaws limit eligibility of voting membership to those who sit on courts that require that its judges be admitted to a bar. **Judith McConnell**, who was one of the founding members of NAWJ, explained that the founders wanted to assure that NAWJ's voting members were all legally trained. Discussion ensued with speakers asserting that tribal judges are trained in tribal law. The vote on the bylaws change was tabled due to time pressure for further discussion.

District 4 is honored to have once again one of our own members at the helm of NAWJ. At the Gala banquet, Toni presented a spirited agenda of what she wants to work on during her term.

The banquet also featured awards to a variety of inspiring awardees. **Beverly Cutler** who now caucuses with District 4 after retiring from her judicial career in Alaska, received the President's Vaino Spencer Award for Bev's inspiring pro bono work helping members of the U.S. Military and veterans with

naturalization and related immigration issues as well as her help to women judges who were evacuated from Afghanistan and are facing challenges reestablishing their lives in our country.

Information was presented during the conference about the upcoming IAWJ Biennial in Marrakech, Morocco next May 11-14, 2023, and options for pre & post conference tours of Morocco, which have been organized by NAWJ members. I assume all have noticed the email this week from IAWJ announcing that registration for the Biennial is now open. The early bird fee, valid until December 31, is \$875. I have registered.

Photos from the NAWJ Annual Conference on October 19-22, 2022, in Detroit, Michigan

