



May 7, 2025
Report from District 4
Honorable Francine L. Applewhite

MD, VA, District of Columbia

On Thursday, November 13, 2024, District 4 honored Judge Julia Weatherly with the Edna B. Parker award in recognition of her outstanding contributions, tireless efforts (creating, growing, and maintaining The Women Moving Forward Reentry Program), and dedication. The event was held at the DC Court of Appeals Historic Courthouse.

In February, the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission redesignated the Honorable Anna Blackburn-Rigsby as Chief Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals for a third consecutive term.

On March 13, 2025, the First Lady of Maryland hosted District 4, the Women Legislators of the Maryland General Assembly, and the Women Legislators of Maryland Foundation Inc. at Government House for the Justice Irma S. Raker dinner. Justice Raker, the second woman appointed to the Maryland Court of Appeals, was this year's honoree. Governor Wes Moore attended and offered remarks. First Lady Dawn Moore, who dined with us, acknowledged the significance of the gathering during Women's History Month.

Also in March, the VA Chapter hosted a statewide Happy Hour to commemorate the International Day of the Women Judge.

On April 11, 2025, I and several members of District 4 attended and celebrated the investiture of the Honorable Tanya M. Jones Bosier, as Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

On April 28, 2025, MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) presented its Excellence in Legal Service Award to Judge Kenia Seoana Lopez, Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Lastly, the VA Chapter reconstituted its scholarship program and will be awarding three scholarships at school awards night next month. The high school applicants had to address the topic: Do Virginia laws adequately protect and address the needs of those in our society who experience mental health issues? Thirty applications were received.