



February 6, 2024
Report from District 4
Honorable Bobbie J. McCartney

DC, MD, VA

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Chair of D4 Advisory Committee

Updates and Upcoming Events:

*In recognition of her outstanding contributions and tireless efforts on behalf of District 4 for many years, **Judge Julie Weatherly** has been selected as the 2024 recipient of the Edna B. Parker award! Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby will be making the award presentation at the DC Court of Appeals Historic Courthouse. A committee will be appointed to work on event details to make this a truly special event for her. Judge Weatherly has also agreed to serve as the Chair of our newly formed Advisory Committee which had a very productive first meeting via Zoom on January 22, 2024.

***The Irma S. Raker Dinner** is one of the most eagerly anticipated events for District 4 and is organized by D4 and the Women's Legislature of Maryland and Women's Caucus Foundation. Judge Gwen D'Souza, D4 Vice President, is the lead for NAWJ D4 and has confirmed that a date and venue have been agreed upon: Tuesday, March 26, 2024, from Six o'clock until Eight o'clock in the evening at the Government House of Maryland, 110 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401. While the details regarding cost, formal invitations, and seating

are still be worked out, it seems clear that the seating will be limited and will be made available to our D4 members on a first to register/pay to attend basis. We are hoping to send out a “Save the Date” announcement shortly.

* In recognition of President Sage’s emphasis on Judicial Safety, as Director of D4, I have been working closely with Anya Lynn-Alesker, Chief Counsel of ABA’s Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence (CDSV), Eryn Branch, Family Violence and Domestic Relations Program Director, and Jennifer Arsenian, JD, Senior Program Manager, both from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), to put together a very special program addressing “Judicial Safety Awareness”. The program will be centered around and build upon the well established and recognized DV AWARE project: <https://www.ncjfcj.org/dv-aware>. There are many different options to scale the DV Awareness program but after discussion the planning group has agreed to focus on organizing a 4 hour in-person presentation with experienced panel members to address the 5 segments of the core DV Awareness program and allowing interactive discussion and involvement with in-person attendees. The target date for the event is April 26, 2024, from noon to 4pm. Judge Channing Strother, Chief Judge at the United States Department of Agriculture, has graciously agreed to assist us in providing a venue space at USDA to host the event.

*In recognition of January as Human Trafficking month, our Executive Director and D4 member, Laurie Denham, sent out an email to NAWJ District Directors encouraging them to send a message to their District members, with links, encouraging members to take the opportunity to watch the video produced by NAWJ’s Human Trafficking Committee:

- [Identifying Human Trafficking Victims in Justice Systems](#) video
- [Human Trafficking Judicial Tip Sheet](#)

* The 2024 NAWJ Midyear Meeting will take place on April 4-6, 2024 at the [Hotel Van Zandt](#) in Austin, Texas. We will be reaching out to D4 members to determine interest in setting up a D4 reception during the conference.

JUDGES SERVING OUR COMMUNITY:

***Judge Beverly Cutler** has written a wonderful Counterbalance Article that Judge Joan Churchill, Chair of the Retired Judges Committee, persuaded her to write, describing the wonderful work that she and other NAWJ members are doing to mentor displaced Afghan Judges. It was March 2022 when our international director **Judge Lisa Walsh** contacted Judge Cutler regarding the first Afghan judges arriving in the DC area. Judge Walsh cobbled together a full Mentor Team for the DMV area to assist them. Nearly two years later, seven Afghan women judges have resettled in various parts of NAWJ District 4, with more coming, and mentoring efforts continue with Judge Cutler serving as the liaison for this initiative in District 4.

