

October 26, 2021
Report from District 4
Honorable Gwenlynn D'Souza

In October, we welcomed the new board of District 4. Judge Sharon E. Goodie of the District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings serves as Vice Chair. Judge Judy L. Woodall of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, is Treasurer. Judge Kenia Seoane Lopez, a Magistrate Judge on the Superior Court for the District of Columbia, is Secretary.

Recently, at the NAWJ Annual Meeting two of our District 4 judges were recognized. Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby received the Justice Joan Dempsey Klein Award in recognition for assisting women judges to become more proficient in their profession, helping to solve the legal, social and ethical problems associated with the judiciary, and working to increase the number of women serving as judges.

Judge Toni E. Clarke of the Circuit Court for Prince George's, Maryland (Ret.) was voted in President-Elect of NAWJ. Judge Clarke has been very active in NAWJ. She was a past Chair of the Maryland Chapter, former District 4 Director, recent NAWJ Treasurer, and NAWJ Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates. We look forward to working with Judge Clarke and the rest of the NAWJ Board, particularly regarding the upcoming NAWJ Mid-Year meeting in Northern Virginia.

District 4 recently partnered with the District of Columbia Department of Corrections to create a series of podcasts. Our first podcast on domestic violence, moderated by Magistrate Judge Tanya Jones Bosier, was well-received by the male and female inmates. On October 21, Judge Goodie hosted a podcast on public benefits. Planning for our upcoming podcasts is underway. Topics include public housing, reentry job search, expungement, mental health, and wellness.

Lili Khozeimeh, a Magistrate Judge for the Circuit Court in Montgomery County, Maryland, is coordinating several social outreach events through the Montgomery County Women's Bar Association (MoCo-WBA). The MoCo-WBA is working with Comfort Cases to provide donated items for children transitioning to foster care. They are also working with I Support the Girls to provide female hygiene items to provide relief and restore the dignity of homeless youth, women, and refugees, including Afghan refugees in our local area.