



October 6, 2021  
District 5  
Honorable Tanya Brinkley

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We have had an exciting year in District Five. Despite the pandemic, our members have been engaged and committed to the National Association of Women Judges. We are a strong group of 113 members. The largest membership to date. I am forever grateful for the leadership and support of the following, Florida State Co-chairs Judges Lody Jean, Judge Laura Cruz, Judge Yery Marrero – all of Miami; Georgia State Co-chairs Judge Kimberly Esmond Adams and Judge Shana Malone Rooks – both of Atlanta; North Carolina State Chair Judge Kimberly Best (Charlotte), And South Carolina former State Chair Judge Danette Mincey (Charleston), who we will miss.

We kicked off the year on January 12, 2021, with a teambuilding session where we built volunteer teams for programming, the newsletter, and membership recruitment/retention. We adopted the theme of “mentorship and inclusion” which served as the umbrella to our programming. To that end, all 2021 programming served to include and bridge the gap between college students, law students, practicing attorneys, and judges. We had an exciting year!

On April 6<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a two-day session, “A Day in the Life”, which was a recorded webinar featuring 16 lawyers and 5 judges. This event was geared towards students and young professionals. The panelists discussed their private and public sector career paths and the work they do. It showcased NAWJ and served to establish mentorships. On March 18, 2021, we co-sponsored “Black Women in the Judiciary”, with the Georgia Association of Black Women Lawyers and it was very successful and attended by over 100 participants. Our Georgia State Co-Chairs Judges Malone and Judge Adams put together an amazing program in collaboration with their local bar. The program featured many judicial legends of Georgia. On March 8, 2021, “Women of the Appellate Court” was held and featured all the female judges of Florida’s Third District Court of Appeal. It was well attended by over 100 participants and involved several members in planning and presentation.

We rolled out our first newsletter on April 1, 2021 with South Carolina State Chair Judge Mincey as the editor and supported by member Katherine Chin, Esq. They did a phenomenal job. We are using the newsletter to engage members and recruit new ones. We were very fortunate to have had Jabari Caldwell, a 2L at St. Thomas Law school and Kayla Mosquera, a member young lawyer who engaged with the law students to encourage participation in NAWJ programming. During the NAWJ midyear conference, I moderated a breakout room discussion regarding “How the Courts can Promote Equity in the Legal Profession” which was well attended, interesting, and hopefully empowering for the entire legal community.

We are looking forward to the fall programming which will include North Carolina State Chair Judge Kimberly Best who will be hosting “Women First” on October 13, 2021. This program will showcase the judicial leaders and icons of North Carolina. On November 16, 2021, in conjunction with the

Florida Association of Women Lawyers, Miami-Dade chapter, we will be presenting “Good Guys” featuring our legal partners who support the efforts of NAWJ and the women in our community.

We invite you to join us on October 13<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup>! We also encourage you to get engaged, stay engaged and share your ideas and thoughts about how to make NAWJ our go-to organization for all matters related to improving the justice system and how we serve our communities. Thank you for your support and for allowing me to serve.