



September 20, 2023
Submission for Counterbalance
Honorable Phinia Aten
District Director 5

Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina

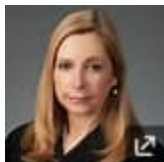
District Five NAWJ Members have supported relief efforts, through donations and other acts of kindness, to victims of the wildfire disaster in Maui, Hawaii and devastating earthquake near Marrekesh, Morocco. These contributions demonstrate our empathic connection and solidarity with our sister NAWJ and IAWJ members living and working in these areas.



Welcome New Members

- Judge April Woods, North Carolina Court of Appeals
- Attorney Charis Zimmick, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia

We would like highlight some of the judicial outreach of our District Five Luminaries:



Judge Ann Barnes, Georgia Court of Appeals

In April, Judge Barnes and her colleagues hosted an open appellate court proceeding, attended by 700 high school students at RiverCenter for the Performing Arts in Columbus, Georgia, to promote public access and illuminate the Court of Appeals' business beyond its traditional gallery of courthouse spectators in Atlanta. In her interview with WRBL Channel 3 News, Judge Barnes stated that "she wanted them to see that an appeal is not just an abstract

concept, but something real.” <https://www.wrbl.com/news/local-news/georgia-court-of-appeals-opens-court-at-rivercenter-for-local-student-viewing/>



Judge Chiaka Ihekwaba, Florida Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court

Judge Ihekwaba served as an interviewed jurist in a virtual CLE Course on professionalism and gender empowerment offered by the Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism in August. The Center Director and Program Producer Rebecca Bandy was interested in exploring the intersectionality of gender and professionalism through the prism of empowerment rather than bias. She believed that Judge Ihekwaba and the other featured women judges would provide inspiration and motivation. They were called upon to explain, “How do these women make the impossible look routine?” <https://www.floridabar.org/the-florida-bar-news/professionalism-program-on-gender-empowerment-explores-the-roles-of-women-judges-in-the-11th-circuit/>