



Annual Report from District 6
Honorable Judge Lynda Jones

Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee

November 2019 - October 2020

2019



Judge Bernadette D'Souza was awarded the 2018 Icon Award. The magazine "City Business", honored Judge D'Souza as one (1) of twenty (20) business leaders who have had a lasting influence on the city's economic development and made his or her mark on the city of New Orleans overall.

Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson has asked Judge Sheva M. Sims to lead the Women in Prison Initiative in District 6.

Judge Ree Casey-Jones was awarded the Angels in Adoption Award in November in Washington, DC. This Congressional Award is given based on the person's outstanding work within the child welfare system.

NAWJ 41st Annual Conference - Oct 15, 2019 - All day - Oct 19, 2019 - Los Angeles, CA



2020

Chief Judge Felicia Toney Williams has been nominated to become part of the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) Oral History. She is the first woman and African American to serve as Chief Judge of the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal.

On Wednesday, February 5, 2020, Chief Judge Yvette Mansfield Alexander received the Honorable A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Award at the National Bar Association Judicial Council Luncheon. She is currently a candidate for judge at the 19th Judicial District Court in Baton Rouge, LA, in the special election to be held on April 4, 2020. The A. Leon Higginbotham Award is presented in recognition of judicial excellence and an outstanding commitment to the achievement of justice and equality.



On Wednesday, February 5, 2020, the incomparable Chief Judge Yvette Mansfield Alexander received the Honorable A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Award at the National Bar Association Judicial Council. Over 100 judges, attorneys and business professionals from all over the United States and South Africa were present to celebrate.



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NAWJ member, Nashville-Davidson County General Sessions Court Judge Allegra Walker on February 14, 2020, turned her Domestic Violence Courtroom into a wedding chapel and married 15 couples.



The Honorable Aleta A. Trauger, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, in Nashville, Tennessee, has been selected to receive the 2020 American Inns of Court Professionalism Award in the Sixth Circuit.

The Honorable Pammela S. Lattier is the first woman and first African American Chief Judge for the Shreveport City Court. Chief Judge Lattier was sworn in at Shreveport City Court on May 22, 2020.

Davidson County Presiding Judge and President Elect of the Tennessee General Sessions Judge Conference, Lynda Jones has been invited to speak on COVID - 19 in the court system by NCJFJ. Tennessee currently has over 25,000 cases with the largest percentage in Davidson County. Innovations and safety measures implemented with the Department of Health and Vanderbilt University have kept infections low in the court system.

NAWJ President Bernadette D'Souza Appoints NAWJ Members to the Advisory Council of the National Association for Court Management's "Courts in the Era of #WeToo" Education Initiative, "Courts in the Era of #WeToo" will highlight the need for court education and resources to address the need to combat sexual harassment, transgender, and LGBTQ issues in the nation's courts. The National Association for Court Management's partners include National Association of Women Judges and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

2020 Lifetime Liberty Achievement Award Recipient Judge Bernice B. Donald Circuit Judge - United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

The Honorable Sheva M. Sims spearheads the Women in Prison Program. On August 11, 2020, Judge Sims delivered toiletries to the Louisiana Transitional Center for Women and she toured the completed cosmetology facility. Judge Sheva Sims advocates for addressing recidivism through the Women in Prison Program by implementing skills and educational reentry programs for incarcerated women at the Louisiana Transitional Center for Women (LTCW) in Tallulah and the Caddo Correctional Center (CCC) in Shreveport. Secretary James M. Le Blanc and Andrea Buttross of the Louisiana Department of Corrections are instrumental in furnishing supplies for the cosmetology class and modifying the building. Armed with skills, education and the possibility of a clean slate, incarcerated women reentering their communities will have a better chance to find employment, a place to live and the opportunity to live successful lives.

A **NEW** pilot program aimed at keeping homeless individuals from cycling in and out of jail launched September 2020, in Nashville. The court will be presided over by General Sessions Judge Lynda Jones. Proceedings will be held at Room in the Inn, a local homeless shelter. The new court will offer people the chance to wipe certain minor charges from their record if



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they engage with local service providers. But unlike other specialty courts, defendants will not be required to complete a specific program of treatment.

On October 2, 2020, a walk **HONORING RUTH BADER GINSBURG** was held at the Metro Courthouse. A group gathered at Public Square Park at 1 p.m. to honor Justice Ginsburg. The event marked the end of “shiva,” which is the seven-day period of initial mourning following someone’s burial. The group hosted a short program of speakers and walk around the Metro-Nashville Courthouse. Upon returning to the park, they said the ‘Mourner’s Kaddish.’



Nashville-Davidson County General Sessions Court Judge Allegra Walker, will spearhead the the Color of Justice in Nashville, Tennessee.