



October 14, 2025

Report from District 7

Honorable Linda Strite Murnane and Honorable Miriam A. Perry

Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia

2025 Events

1. NAWJ 2025 Midyear Meeting

Date: March 20-22, 2025

Location: University of Michigan Lawyers Club

The NAWJ 2025 Midyear Meeting took place at the Lawyers Club in the University of Michigan School of Law in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



2. Face of Justice Mentoring Session

Date: March 28, April 11, September 26 and 30, October 21 and 22, November 14

Face of Justice is an integral part of the State Bar of Michigan's mission to support students' transition into the legal profession. Throughout the year, students met with multiple volunteer attorney mentors in "jet-mentoring" events (networking version of speed dating), toured courts, and learned more about being a professional in the legal sector.

3. NAWJ Members Dinner

Date: May 7, 2025

Location: Joe Muer Seafood, Detroit



4. Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Webinar: Ethical Legal Research with Generative AI

Date: June 18, 2025

Time: 3:00 PM–4:15 PM ET

Location: Virtual

This webinar allowed legal professionals to gain a deeper understanding of the intersection of generative AI and legal ethics. The session began with an overview of artificial intelligence and its capabilities, followed by an in-depth discussion of ethical implications using the ABA Model Rules. Key rules covered include:

- Rule 1.1: Maintaining competence in evolving technology
- Rule 1.6: Preserving client confidentiality when using AI
- Rule 5.1: Supervising staff and AI-assisted legal work

5. NAWJ Committee Showcase

Date: July 9, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM ET

Location: Virtual

The NAWJ Committee Showcase provided members an opportunity to learn more about the important work being done by NAWJ committees. During the interactive session, committee chairs discussed current initiatives, upcoming projects, and opportunities to get involved. From judicial education to outreach, advocacy, and leadership development, these committees play a vital role in advancing NAWJ's mission.

6. 2025 ABA Annual Conference

Date: July 6-12, 2025

Location: Toronto, Ontario

On behalf of the NAWJ, President Michelle Rick accepted the Justice and Rule of Law Award which recognizes a positive national impact on the justice system and preserving the rule of law. The NAWJ received this award for their work with the Afghan Judges and the Informed Voters Project.

7. NAWJ and WLAM Mentoring Event

Date: October 15, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: MSU College of Law, East Lansing

The NAWJ and WLAM are hosting a “speed mentoring” event to connect students and emerging legal professionals with experienced members of the bench and bar. Mentors will share insights to help build a stronger, more diverse pipeline into the legal community.

Register Here:

<https://womenlawyers.org/events/#!event/register/2025/10/15/nawj-and-wlam-mentorjet-volunteer-opportunity>

Congratulations To Our Outstanding 2025 NAWJ Members!

Congratulations to Hon. Mariam Saad Bazzi!

Hon. Mariam Saad Bazzi was appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the Michigan Court of Appeals, becoming the state’s first Arab and Muslim appellate judge. She previously served as a Wayne County Circuit Court judge and as an assistant prosecuting attorney.



Image credit: Third Judicial Circuit Court

Congratulations to Zenell B. Brown!

Zenell B. Brown was promoted to the Fairness and Accountability Administration and received the Champion of Justice Award from the State Bar of Michigan. She also received the Elvan Forrest Distinguished Advocate Award.



Image credit: National Association of Women Judges

Congratulations to Hon. Megan K. Cavanagh!

Hon. Megan K. Cavanagh was selected as the next chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. She succeeded Chief Justice Elizabeth Clement at the end of April.



Image credit: Crain's Detroit Business

Congratulations to Hon. Wende C. Cross!

Hon. Wende C. Cross was honored by Ladies of Leadership. She serves on the Court of Common Pleas in Hamilton County and is recognized for her leadership, faith, and early service as a federal prosecutor. Her work reflects courage, compassion, and dedication to transforming systems through justice.



Image credit: Hamilton County Courts

Congratulations to Hon. Tricia Dare!

Hon. Tricia R. Dare had her investiture ceremony and joined the Oakland County Circuit Court in February.



Image credit: Oakland County Michigan

Congratulations to Hon. Shauna Dunnings!

Hon. Shauna Dunnings took on a new role as Chief Circuit, Probate Judge in January.



Image credit: Ingham County

Congratulations to Hon. Kameshia D. Gant!

Hon. Kameshia D. Gant received the Distinguished Service Award from the Oakland County Bar Association. She was recognized during the 91st Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony for her dedication to the organization and legal community.



Image credit: Oakgov.com

Congratulations to Hon. Elizabeth L. Gleicher!

Hon. Elizabeth L. Gleicher, Michigan Court of Appeals Judge, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Appellate Practice Section.



Image credit: CBSnews

Thank you to Hon. Nicole Goodson!

In February, Hon. Nicole Goodson presided over a mock trial with local high school students, opening the door for students to gain a better understanding of the legal system.



Image credit: Hon. Nicole Goodson, LinkedIn

Thank you to Hon. Maureen Hannon Kinsella!

We are happy to share that Hon. Maureen Hannon Kinsella spoke with high school students during Government Day in March, where she shared her insights about her role as judge in the Oakland County Circuit Court.



Image credit: Hon. Maureen H. Kinsella, LinkedIn

Congratulations to Hon. Allie Greenleaf Maldonado!

Hon. Allie Greenleaf Maldonado moderated a panel at University of Michigan's symposium on the 50th anniversary of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act in February.



Source: Hon. Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Gov. Whitmer Administration

Congratulations to Hon. Denise Langford Morris (Ret.)!

Hon. Denise Langford Morris presented at the State Bar of Michigan (SBM) Business Law Section Symposium's 7th annual symposium in February. She was also inducted into the National Bar Association's Fred D. Gray Hall of Fame on July 31st. This honor recognizes her excellence in advocacy, service, and the pursuit of justice.



Source: Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services

Congratulations to Hon. Linda Strite Murnane!

Hon. Linda Strite Murnane was named as the 2025 recipient of the Burnham “Hod” Greeley Award, which is presented by the Judicial Division Lawyers Conference. The award recognizes her dedication to promoting public awareness of the need for a fair and impartial judiciary.

She also authored an article published in the American Bar Association’s “Judges Journal” published on July 24, 2025. This edition of the ABA “Judges Journal” was dedicated to addressing Human Trafficking. Judge Murnane’s article, “Unique Challenges of Human Trafficking in the South Pacific” described experiences she had while serving as an Associate Justice on the High Court of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The article is available at this link: <https://www.americanbar.org/groups/judicial/resources/judges-journal/2025-summer/unique-challenges-human-trafficking-south-pacific/>.

Lastly, Co-District Director Murnane attended a strategic planning meeting for the U.S. Chapter of the Pan American Committee of Judges on Social Justice, where several members of the NAWJ past and present leadership were in attendance, including past NAWJ President Tamila Ipema and President-Elect Pamela Washington. The meeting was hosted by NAWJ member Judge Nadia Keilani.



Source: American Bar Foundation

Congratulations to Miriam A. Perry!

Miriam A. Perry was honored at the Annual Tribute to Women of Achievement, hosted by the Ann Arbor Ypsilanti Inkster Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., in conjunction with the Kappa Foundation. The event took place June 7, 2025, and celebrated women making significant contributions to their communities. She was also recognized for the Frederick Douglass Racial Justice and Harmony award by the Vanzetti M. Hamilton Bar Association. The award was presented at the Bias Awareness and Inclusion reception hosted by the Washtenaw County Bar Association on October 8, 2025.



Image credit: Judge Miriam A. Perry

Congratulations to Hon. Yasmine I. Poles!

Hon. Yasmine I. Poles was selected as a presenter with the 2025 Circuit-Probate Court Bench/Bar Conference, titled “Beyond Boundaries: Effective Lawyering in a Digital World,” which was held on March 7, 2025. She spoke on the panel for “New Standards for MIDC.”



Image credit: Wayne State University

Congratulations to Laura Polizzi!

Laura Polizzi received the Jona Young Judicial Excellence Award from the Women’s Bar Association. She was also named to the OaklandTogether 40 Under 40 Class of 2025 for her impact in Oakland County and beyond.



Image credit: Oakgov

Congratulations to Justice Alice Robie Resnick!

Justice Alice Robie Resnick was featured in the new Women in the Law exhibit announced by the Supreme Court of Ohio. The interactive exhibit, located in the Thomas J. Moyer Judicial Center, highlights the contributions of Resnick, Yvette McGee Brown, Evelyn Stratton, and other trailblazing women in Ohio’s legal history.



Image credit: Oakgov

Congratulations to Hon. Michelle M. Rick!

Hon. Michelle M. Rick was recognized by Michigan Lawyers Weekly for the Class of 2025 Influential Women of Law award. This celebration honors female attorneys and judges for their commitment to their communities, service to the profession, and excellent work on behalf of the justice system and their clients. She was also named Woman of the Year and celebrated at the Influential Women of Law event on September 26, 2025.



Source: NAWJ

Congratulations to Hon. Sara J. Smolenski!

Hon. Sara J. Smolenski (retired) received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Grand Rapids Bar Association in recognition of her decades of service and impact within Michigan's legal community.



Image credit: Photo by Jonathan D. Lopez

Congratulations to Hon. Kimberly A. Thomas!

Hon. Kimberly A. Thomas was welcomed to the Michigan Supreme Court in January during their first conference of 2025. With her extensive experience as a clinical law professor at the University of Michigan Law School and co-founder of the Juvenile Justice Clinic, we are confident that she will do great in her new role.



Image credit: Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society

Congratulations to Hon. Tracey A. Yokich!

Hon. Tracey A. Yokich received the 2025 Mary S. Coleman Leadership Award. This honor is given annually to a member of the Michigan federal, state, or tribal judiciary who exemplifies leadership, talent, and significant contributions to the advancement of women in the legal profession.



Image credit: Macomb County.Gov

Congratulations to Maya Younis!

Maya Younis, founder and principal attorney of Younis Law, PLLC, received the 2025 Regional Leadership Award from the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan (WLAM). She is a 2021 graduate and continues to show excellence in leadership and legal advocacy.



Image credit: Hillary Walilko