



April 16, 2021
Report from District 7
Honorable Michelle Rick

Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia

MICHIGAN

1) Planning a Face of Justice program at 2 venues in Michigan's Upper Peninsula continues for the fall 2021. It is intended to coincide with Constitution Day activities. One site involves public school children in Marquette; the other involves Tribal children in Sault Ste. Marie. State, federal, and tribal judges are working with local schools and NAWJ state co-chair, Judge Cori Barkman.

There are also plans underway for 2 virtual programs. They are scheduled for May 12 and June 1. These will be half day events.

2) Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently appointed State co-chair Judge Cori Barkman to the 29th Circuit Court bench. The Governor's press release follows:

Cori E. Barkman currently serves as First Assistant Attorney General in the Michigan Department of Corrections Division of the Attorney General's Office. In her role, Ms. Barkman oversees a team of lawyers and support staff who practice in the federal and state courts across Michigan and handle a wide variety of cases. She previously served as an administrative law judge at the St. Louis Correctional Facility and as a senior litigation attorney in the Attorney General's Office.

Ms. Barkman holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan and earned her Juris Doctor degree from Wayne State University Law School. She is the Michigan co-chair of the National Association of Women Judges, a life member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference, and a member of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, the Western District of Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, and the Ingham County Bar Association. She lives in DeWitt with her husband Russell and their two middle school aged children.

"I am thrilled to receive this appointment so that I may serve the citizens of Clinton and Gratiot Counties," said Barkman. "I know that when a litigant appears in court, it is because they have experienced a difficulty that needs resolution. I pledge that I will put in the work to deeply understand the issues and circumstances surrounding each case so that I may make sound

decisions that serve justice and bring closure and resolution to the parties."

This appointment was made to fill a partial term, which expires at twelve o'clock noon on January 1, 2023, after Judge Michelle Rick was elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals. If Ms. Barkman wishes to seek a full six-year term, she would be required to run for reelection in November of 2022.

3) Michigan kicks-off NAWJ 2022 conference planning. Judges and lawyers from Michigan and Canada have (finally) held the kick-off meeting to begin planning the 2022 conference. There is great enthusiasm to show case Detroit, its rich history and culture, as well as Windsor, Canada. This is certain to be an extraordinary international event. We look forward to seeing NAWJ in Detroit October 19-22. PLAN ON BRINGING YOUR PASSPORTS!

4) District 7 Director Judge Michelle Rick receives the Michigan Women Lawyer's Association Mary S. Coleman Award. This award is presented in recognition of significant contributions as a judiciary role model for women in the legal profession. The award will be presented at WLAM's annual conference in June.

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