



July 1, 2022
Report from District 7
Honorable Michelle M. Rick

Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia

MICHIGAN:

Michigan continues to work on the 2022 annual conference. The conference theme is: All Rise: Standing up for Global Justice in the City that Moved the World. Attendees will be pleased with the educational line up, as well as the entertainment at this 44th annual conference. The Detroit Visitors Bureau is working on a dedicated website for conference attendees. Attendees will find information on entertainment, touring, dining, and the many historic venues in metro Detroit at their fingertips!

The conference co-chairs are Michelle Rick mrick@courts.mi.gov or Zenell Brown Zenell.Brown@3rdcc.org

Save the dates:



NAWJ is coming to Detroit!

The Detroit Visitors Bureau has produced a video welcoming NAWJ to the Motor City. You can view it here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2awgxa874o6tfmi/NAWJ%20Welcome%20Video.mp4?dl=0>

On June 1, 2022, the Michigan Supreme Court acknowledged Juneteenth as a state court holiday. Chief Justice and NAWJ member Bridget Mary McCormack noted that making Juneteenth a holiday served “to commemorate and remember the struggle and the sacrifice so many have endured to achieve freedom and equality.” CJ McCormack’s complete remarks can be found here: <https://www.courts.michigan.gov/news-releases/2022/june/juneteenth-statement/>

This month, Michigan welcomed Oakland Judge Maureen Kinsella to our membership. Judge Kinsella was appointed by Governor Whitmer to the Oakland Circuit Court Family Division. Judge Kinsella replaces NAWJ member Judge Denise Langford Morris, who recently retired from the bench. Welcome Judge Kinsella!



Judge Kinsella

Upon her retirement, NAWJ member Judge Denise Langford Morris has joins JAMS after serving on the Oakland County (Michigan) bench for 30 years. She was the first African American and the first female dean of the Oakland County bench since its inception in 1848.

During her tenure on the bench, Judge Langford Morris presided over thousands of civil, business, family and criminal cases, including jury and bench trials. She managed every aspect of the cases assigned to her from filing to post judgment in a AAA-bond-rated county of over 1.2 million people. She retired as the first African American chief judge pro tempore to serve on the court.



Judge Langford Morris with her portrait at UDM Law School

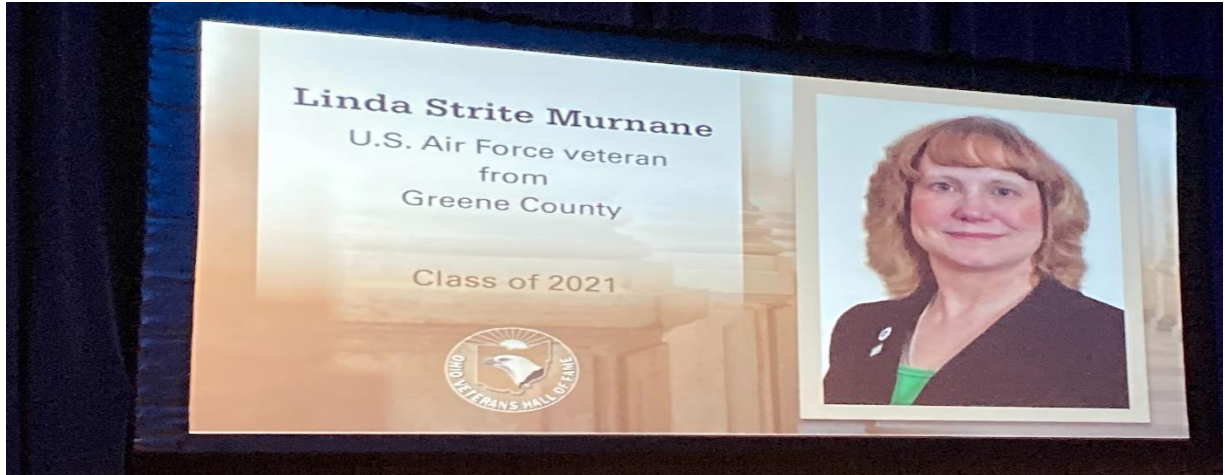
NAWJ member and Court of Appeals Judge Cynthia Stephens retired from her appellate post after 14 years of service. In addition to being the first African American woman to be appointed to the state Court of Claims bench, Hon. Cynthia Stephens served as a judge for Michigan's Third Circuit Court and the 36th District Court, in Detroit.



Judge Cynthia Stephens

OHIO:

NAWJ Secretary Judge Linda Murnane continues to be an inspiration and model in terms of her engagement with community and the profession. On March 16 she was interviewed by Spectrum News for Women's History Month. On March 26th she spoke at the "Salute to Women in the Military" hosted by the Woman's Club of Dayton Foundation and Children's Historical Publishing in honor of Women's History Month. On April 30, 2022 Judge Murnane was inducted into the Greene County Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. On June 7, 2022 Col (Ret) Murnane was enshrined in the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in Columbus, Ohio.



We are pleased to welcome Judge Gayle Williams-Byers to NAWJ. Judge William-Byers serves as Administrative and Presiding Judge of the South Euclid Municipal Court in South Euclid, Ohio. Currently, in addition to her judicial duties, Judge Byers has been appointed to serve as the only Judicial Fellow for the National Judicial College (Reno, Nevada) where she has honed expert skills in the area of Commercial Drivers, licensing and federal penalties. Currently, she primarily teaches under a partnership grant through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration focused on topics connected to Commercial Drivers in Criminal and Traffic courts. Beyond this, Judge Byers teaches courses on Access to Justice, Judicial Wellbeing and Procedural Fairness.



WEST VIRGINIA:

No Report.