



May 13, 2021  
Report from District 7  
Honorable Michelle Rick

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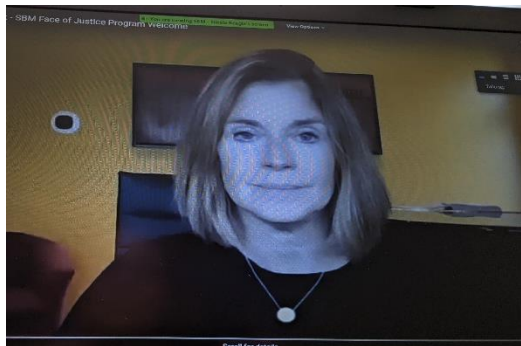
## Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia

### Michigan:

#### 1. Color of Justice:

Michigan held a virtual Color of Justice Program with the State Bar of Michigan and high school students from L'Anse Creuse High School on May 12, 2021. Chief Justice Bridget McCormack welcomed students and mentor. Participants also viewed an insightful video interview by SBM Diversity and Inclusion Director Greg Conyers with former MI Supreme Court Chief Justice/ABA President/Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer. After a break, students and mentors participated in an hour of jet mentoring. The program closed with final remarks by Jerome Crawford, Esq., Director of Legal Operations and Social Equity, Pleasantrees.. There were roughly 40 mentors and mentees in total. The SBM staff did a superior job with planning the event and running technology.

Here are a few photos:





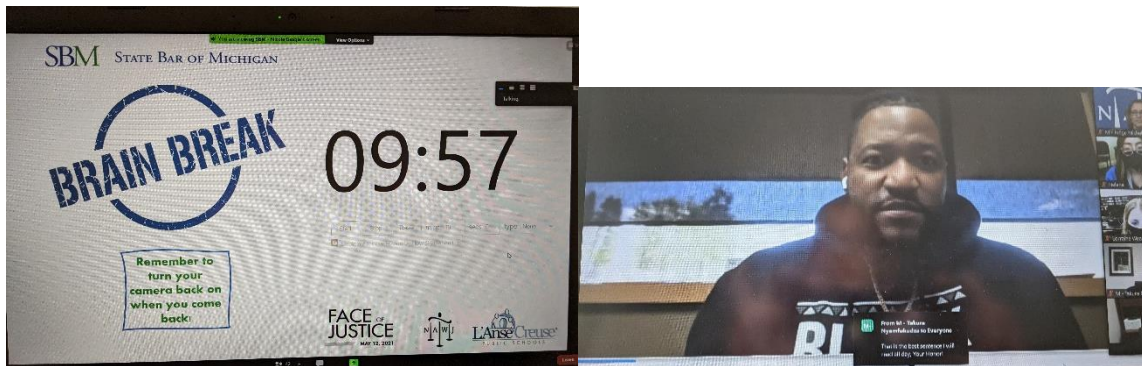
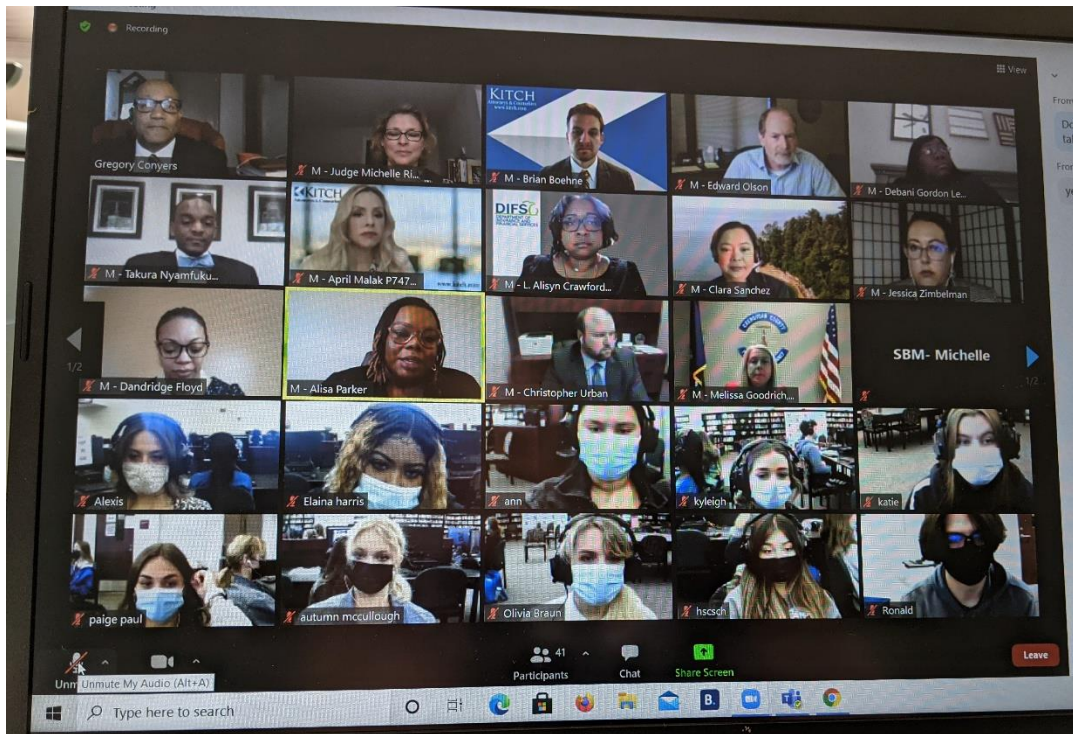
Host is sharing poll results

1. What career most interests you?

| Career                         | Percentage |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Lawyer                         | 33%        |
| Judge                          | 4%         |
| House Representative of Senate | 4%         |
| Corrections officer            | 0%         |
| Parole/Probation officer       | 9%         |
| Military                       | 9%         |
| Other                          | 35%        |

Close

Participants visible in the background:  
M - Judge Michelle Ri...  
M - L. Alisyn Crawford...  
SBM- Michelle  
Chad  
Lorraine Weatherly  
Olivia Braun  
chay m.  
Daysia  
Debani Gordon Le...  
Alisa Parker  
Dandridge Floyd



The next virtual FOJ event will take place June 1 with students from Southfield. In-person FOJ events are also being planned in Sault Ste, Marie and Marquette, both in Michigan's upper peninsula, for the school year 2021-22. MI also hopes to have a FOJ program during the 2022 NAWJ annual conference.

2. 2022 Annual conference planning:

Law students are completing their tasks of compiling information for various planning committees. Once these are completed, committees will engage. MI is waiting to hear from the Detroit Visitor's Bureau regarding the venue selected.

### 3. Member Accomplishments/highlights:

Michigan is pleased to add the following members to its roster since February 1, 2021: Supreme Court Justice Megan Cavanaugh, and University of Detroit Mercy law students Samantha Coulter, Danielle Anderson, and Jocelyn Flemons.

In other news, Wayne County Circuit Judge Miriam Bazzi is the recipient of the Hon. Kirsten Frank Kelly Award from the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan-Wayne region. The Honorable Kirsten Frank Kelly Award is presented to a WLAM-Wayne member in good standing who not only contributes to WLAM-Wayne, but has exemplified dedication to leadership and actively champions justice in the Wayne County legal community. This award will be presented at the WLAM-Wayne Region Annual Meeting in May on Zoom.

Judge Bazzi and Michigan co-chair Zenell Brown recently presented at the Michigan Supreme Court's all court conference. Their topic was creating diversity and inclusion plans or strategies for courts.

In recognition of Arab American Heritage month, Judge Bazzi also penned an article on contributions of Arab American judges of metro Detroit, past and present. Her article is attached.

On April 21, 2021, Michigan co-chair Zenell Brown was recognized by receiving the Sojourner Truth Award from The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs. The Sojourner Truth Award is the pinnacle of The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. Founders' Day which is celebrated each April. The Detroit Club's 2021 Founders' Day Co-Chairs were Jeanette Dunmore and Patricia Moncrease.

Judge Michelle Rick will be honored at the Women Lawyers of Michigan annual meeting in June. She is receiving the Mary S. Coleman Award. Justice Coleman was the first female justice on the Michigan Supreme Court. The award is given to a current or former member of the Michigan federal, state, or tribal judiciary whose leadership, talent, and significant contributions to women provide a role model for women in the profession and women in general. Last year's award was presented to Michigan Supreme Court Justice and NAWJ member Bridget McCormack. NAWJ lifetime member Judge Susan Moiseev was the first recipient of the award in 2012.

CJ Bridget McCormack, together with Arkansas Justice Rhonda Wood, Justice Eva Guzman of Texas and Justice Beth Walker of West Virginia have a podcast, aptly titled "Lady Justice: Women of the Court". The podcast discusses the law and its real-world implications. Here is a link to a recent discussion on judicial wellness and civility. <https://ladyjustice.podbean.com/>



## Ohio

No report.

## West Virginia:

Thanks to MI CJ McCormack and her Lady Justice podcast connection, District 7 is pleased to announce that West Virginia Supreme Court Justice Beth Walker has joined NAWJ. We are delighted to have Justice Walker, and look forward to working with her to build a West Virginian membership! Justice Walker attended undergraduate in Michigan before attending law school in OH.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Rick



Arab American  
Heritage month.docx