



April 7, 2023  
Mid-Year Report from District 8  
Honorable Patrice Ball-Reed and Julie P. Verheye

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### **Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky**

#### **MEMBERSHIP:**

District 8 membership continues growing. Ten (10) new members have joined since the beginning of this year. Many of the new members are actively participating on the planning committees for the annual conference in Indianapolis.

#### **DISTRICT MEETINGS:**

District 8 has started holding bi-monthly meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month on zoom. In honor of Women's History month in March, Chief Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer of the Northern District of Illinois attended the meeting. Judge Pallmeyer shared that she became the first woman to hold the Chief Judge position in the NDIL when her predecessor in the position resigned on International Women's Day-March 8, 2019. Judge Pallmeyer shared how mentorship was important to her pathway to the bench first as an administrative law judge, a Federal Magistrate Judge and her appointment by President Clinton to the District Judgeship. She spoke on the importance of the continued support of women who want to pursue careers in the judiciary.

**Recognition of District Members:**

District 8 has had two members recognized for their achievements.

In February, Judge Ball-Reed was honored by the Chicago Bar Association as one of the recipients of the Earl B. Dickerson award which recognizes, and honors minority lawyers and judges whose careers at the bar emulate courage in making the law the key to justice for all in our society. Judge Ball-Reed serves on the Cook County Circuit Court in Chicago, Illinois.

Judge Heather Welch was elected to the American Law Institute. The ALI membership consists of eminent judges, lawyers, and law professors from all areas of the United States and from many foreign countries who are selected on the bases of professional achievement and demonstrated interest in improving the law. The selection of an individual to the ALI begins with a confidential nomination by an ALI member that is supported by two additional ALI members. Judge Welch serves on the Marion County Superior Court, Civil One in Indianapolis, Indiana. Judge Welch is the Chair of the NAWJ Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Conference dates are October 5-7, 2023, at the Westin Indianapolis.

Respectfully submitted:

Hon. Patrice Ball-Reed and Julie P. Verheye

District 8 Co-Directors