



April 2, 2023
Report from District 8
Honorable Patrice Ball-Reed and Julie P. Verheye

Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky

District 8 membership has increased with ten (10) new members joining since December, 2022. District 8 members meet bi-monthly on Zoom on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. central/7:30 p.m. eastern. The next meeting is May 24, 2023.

At the March 22, 2023 meeting Women's History month was celebrated with a special guest, Chief Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer, the first woman to serve as the Chief Judge of the Northern District of Illinois. Her district is one of the three largest districts in the U.S. District Court System. Judge Pallmeyer spoke to the members about the importance of mentorship in her career and the continued support of women who want to pursue careers in the judiciary and the importance of community outreach by judges.

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 basis' 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.