



October 19, 2022
Annual Report of District 8
Co-District Directors: Hon. Patrice Ball-Reed and Hon. Ann Breen-Greco

Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky

District 8 had a busy year. We had a number of collaborative efforts this year. We worked on the planning and participated in a Child Marriage Seminar sponsored by the Illinois State Bar Association and hosted by Loyola University Chicago School of Law at their Ceremonial Courtroom. The seminar noted the premise that, “We tend to operate under the misconception that child marriage is something that happens ‘over there’. not in the United States.” The seminar was a comprehensive look at child marriage internationally and nationally, including how child marriage intersects various areas of law. Immigration lawyers, child law practitioners, human rights counsel and a number of organizations participated, including those working with the United Nations. This full day CLE seminar focused on:

- How child marriage impacts those involved.
- The connection between child marriage, human trafficking and immigration;
- The factors influencing child marriage internationally and nationally;
- Legislative initiatives to end child marriage;
- How attorneys and judges can help shape the law and the culture surrounding the practice.

The seminar was also available at a later date as a webinar.

We also did outreach programs, one with Polished Pebbles, which is a not-for-profit mentoring young girls on the south and west side. Judge Breen-Greco also did an outreach with Polished Pebbles involving members of the American Bar Association Judicial Division.

Judge Julie Verheye of Indiana conducted a Color of Justice program which was held in person in a court room. The program provided much one on one contact between students and judges.

District 8 has added a new “international” member, Judge Micheline Ilongo of the Democratic Republic of the Congo who has relocated to Illinois.

Judge Breen-Greco spent six days at the American Bar Association annual meeting including two days at the House of Delegates meeting casting votes on resolutions. Judge Breen-Greco provided the report and resolutions for distribution to District Directors.

Judge Breen-Greco talked with Judge Heather Welch, District 8 Indiana State Chair, who is heading the planning efforts for the 2023 conference to be held in Indianapolis. Judge Breen-Greco pledged District 8's support and asked individual members to get in touch with her if they feel they are able to make a contribution to the conference planning.

Judge Breen-Greco also participated in the Youth Outreach program for the ABA Judicial Division Standing Committee on Diversity in the Judiciary program. The Committee met with youth from One City Chicago, a program sponsored by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot. 80 young people were in attendance.

Judge Breen-Greco also participated in the business meeting for the ABA's Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, of which she is a Commissioner, discussing the many anti-trans gender legislative initiatives in at least 26 states. Additionally, as the ABA Judicial Division's liaison to the Commission on Women in the Profession Judge Breen-Greco attended the business meeting to discuss some opportunities for collaborative work.

District 8 is happy to announce that Judge Verheye will become the new co-District Director at the annual meeting in Detroit, replacing Judge Breen-Greco. Judge Breen-Greco will be attending the board meeting by zoom.