



October 5, 2023  
Annual Report  
Report of District 8

Honorable Patrice Ball-Reed and Julie Verheye, Co-Directors

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**Membership:** The membership in District 8 has grown during 2023. The annual conference in Indianapolis has been a significant reason for the increase in Indiana members. Judge Heather Welch, the conference chair, recruited many judges throughout Indiana to serve on the conference planning committees. The judges who were not NAWJ members have become members. The conference agenda is full of topics relevant to all NAWJ members.

Laurie Denham facilitated an introduction to Kristen Miller, the executive director of the Louisville Bar Association. District 8 has only one member in Kentucky. District 8 is going to continue working to expand membership in Kentucky with the assistance of Judge Annette Karem and the bar associations in Louisville and Jefferson County.

**District 8 meetings:** Meetings are currently held on zoom on the fourth Wednesday of a month. The meetings are held bi-monthly at 7:30 p.m. eastern/6:30 p.m. central. In honor of women's history month in March, Chief Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer of the Northern District of Illinois spoke at the meeting about the importance of supporting women pursuing judicial careers.

The meetings have been sparsely attended. A survey of district members is a topic for discussion at the district meeting scheduled for the annual conference. An additional topic for discussion is presenting NAWJ programs like the Informed VoterProject, the Color of Justice or Mentor Jet within the district.

**Recognition of Members:** Judge Patrice Ball-Reed received the Earl B. Dickerson award from the Chicago Bar Association. The award is given to judges and lawyers whose careers emulate courage making the law key to justice for all. Judge Ball-Reed serves on the Cook County Circuit Court.

Judge Heather Welch was elected to the American Law Institute this year. All members are selected based on professional achievements and demonstrated interest in improving the law. Judge Welch has been nominated to serve as a national officer of NAWJ for 2023-2024 as the Vice President of Publications. Judge Welch serves on the Superior Court of Marion County.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Patrice Ball-Reed and Julie Verheye