



December 2023
District Eight
Honorable Patrice Ball-Reed and Julie P. Verheye

Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky

MEMBERSHIP: Welcome to the new members joining NAWJ!

Chief Justice Loretta Rush of the Indiana Supreme Court. The Chief was honored at the NAWJ annual conference in Indianapolis with the Lady Justice Award. The award is given to a member of the NAWJ community who uses their position with equanimity, respect, transparency, and impartiality to advance and promote the judicial role in protecting the rights of individuals under the rule of law through strong, committed, diverse judicial leadership; fairness and equality in the courts and equal access to justice.

Sarah Glasser, Marion County Superior Court Magistrate. Judge Glasser She is a magistrate judge hearing cases involving estate administration, adoptions, and mental health case types.

Samantha DeWester is an Amicus Judicii member of NAWJ. She currently serves as General Counsel for Beam, Longest and Neff, LLC in Indianapolis, IN. Prior positions include serving as an adjunct professor at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University and with the Office of the General Counsel as Deputy Director, Chief Ethics Office, Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

District News:

On November 20, 2023, President Biden nominated St. Joseph Superior Court Judge Cristal Brisco to fill a vacancy in the Northern District of Indiana. Judge Brisco appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee on December 13, 2023, for hearing on her nomination. Judge Brisco was appointed to the Superior Court bench in 2021 hearing cases in the Civil Division of the Court. She was also designated to hear commercial court cases by the Indiana Supreme Court. Her first judicial position was as a magistrate judge in the St. Joseph Circuit Court. Prior positions include service as General Counsel for St. Mary's College, Corporation Counsel for the City of South Bend and as an associate with Barnes and Thornburg, LLP.

Judge Kimberly Dowling serves on the Delaware County, Indiana Circuit Court. She was recognized by the Indiana Judges Association for Excellence in Public Information and Education in 2023. She was nominated by fellow judges for her work in educating the public about child

victims of human trafficking. Judge Dowling has made presentations to law enforcement, probation officers, civic groups, teachers, physicians, nurses and counselors on identifying and protecting these victims.

SPECIAL THANKS: The St. Joseph County Indiana Bar Foundation sponsored the attendance of two international judges to the 2023 NAWJ Conference held in Indianapolis this past October. Judge Wahida Rahimi had to leave Afghanistan due to the recent regime change. She is a scholar in residence at Notre Dame. She hopes to be certified to practice law in the U.S. Judge Micheline Ilonga is a judge from the Democratic Republic of the Congo pursuing a degree in peace studies with the Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Judge Ilonga had the chance to connect with a younger judge from the DRC who attended the conference.



DON'T FORGET: All district 8 members should respond to the poll sent out regarding the scheduling of district meetings for 2024. Your responses are due by 12/31/23. The results will be sent out on 1/8/24.

DISTRICT 8 ACTIVITIES: The district is partnering with the United Council for Higher Education in Haiti (UCHEH) to build a center for higher education in Haiti where students are equipped through education, training, and community service, to become thinkers, problem solvers, and entrepreneurs, and to support the economic development of Haiti.

The benefit will take place on January 23, 2024, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Chicago, 9599 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, IL. The benefit consists of a reception from 5:30-6:30 p.m.(central) followed by a dinner program. Co-chairs of the event are Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and Dean Anita Krug of Chicago-Kent College of Law. Speakers at the event are Dr. Reynold Verret, President of Xavier University, HBCU, and Ron Guerrier, 4 times a Fortune 500 CIO and former Illinois Secretary of Technology and Innovation. Please attend if you can and share information about the benefit with judges, lawyers and community leaders to support real difference for the people of Haiti.

Thank you Yolaine Dauphin, NAWJ member, for bringing this partnership opportunity to District 8!

Respectfully submitted:

Hon. Patrice Ball-Reed and Julie P. Verheye

District 8 Co-Directors