



October 19, 2022
Annual Report from District 9
Honorable Celene Gogerty

Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin

Judge Donna Paulsen fully retired in January 2021 after serving 29 years as an Iowa District Court Judge and Senior Judge. She is an NAWJ member and has been throughout her judicial career. She served on the Board of NAWJ and spearhead several projects in Iowa co-sponsored by NAWJ including a regional NAWJ meeting held in Des Moines. She founded a book club for women residents at The Iowa Correctional Institution for Women involving judges and lawyers meeting at the prison twice a month four years. Over \$13,000 worth of books were donated to the prison and the group meet over ninety-two times. She also led a project to provide the visiting room at the prison with furniture, books and toys for the women and their children.

The Honorable Laura Stith retired in March of this year on her 20th anniversary as a judge of the Supreme Court of Missouri. She was the second woman to be appointed to the Court, replacing Ann Covington in 2001. Her replacement was Robin Ransom, the first black woman and only the third black person to serve on the Supreme Court of Missouri. The other two female judge on the Court are Patricia Breckenridge and Mary Russell.

On December 16, 2021, District 9 had a Zoom holiday mixer. All District 9 members were invited to attend, as well as invite any potential members.

On January 28, 2022, Recalled U. S. Magistrate Judge Celeste F. Bremer, Southern District of Iowa, presented a program for the Berkeley Judicial Institute with California Architect Susan Oldroyd, FAIA, entitled Gendered Justice: Are Courthouses Male or Female? Setting Expectations for Inclusive Courthouse Design to Improve Equity in Access to Justice and Community Support for the Rule of Law. District 9 members were proud to be actively involved in the 2021 NAWJ Annual Conference. On Thursday morning, Celeste Bremer and Emily Chafa participated in the Woman's Suffragist March to begin the conference. On Thursday afternoon, they attended the breakout session Karen Romano planned and organized, entitled "Pathways to Justice: How Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Impact Court Proceedings". On Friday morning, they all attended Iowan Mary Pat Gunderson's "Gender Equity in Judicial Writing" program, based on her law review article. On Friday afternoon, Emily Chafa moderated a panel entitled "Access to Justice for LGBTQ Youth" organized by the NAWJ LGBTQ Committee. Later on Friday afternoon, Emily Chafa moderated and served as a speaker for a panel program entitled "Expecting the Unexpected: Managing Obstacles Involving Self-Represented Litigants" organized by the NAWJ Administrative Judiciary Committee. On Saturday morning, Celeste Bremer and Emily Chafa participated in the reader's theatre presentation of "The Perfect 36: A Reenactment of the Tennessee Vote on Ratification of the 19th Amendment" Celeste Bremer portrayed Carrie Chapman

Catt. Emily Chafa portrayed two different anti-suffrage men. Lastly, they visited the Hermitage Hotel, where much of the important action took place during the summer of 1920.

District Director Celene Gogerty attended the mid-year meeting in Washington D.C. in March 2022. She reports it was a wonderful event and was thrilled to get to know some of her sister judges in person.

District 9 is also going full steam ahead on their first Color of Justice event in recent memory. We have a lot of legal professionals who are chomping at the bit to participate and inspire the next generation on April 20, 2022 in Des Moines, Iowa.

NAWJ member Emily Chafa reports the following accomplishments this month:

Today, March 30, at noon, I participated in an ABA JD SCDJ (Standing Committee on Diversity in the Judiciary, chaired by Marcella Holland) Women's History Month program with fellow NAWJ members Ann Breen-Greco, Linda Murnane, Vivian Medinilla, as well as Judge Romonda Belcher, Henry Hamilton, and Judge Peter Reyes. The program was entitled "Trailblazing Women in the Legal Profession: Their Stories and Legacies For Us" We featured Margaret Brent, Myra Bradwell, Arabella Mansfield and Gertrude Rush. The program was recorded and will soon be available to view free of charge.

I'm moderating a panel for an ABA JD program on April 13, entitled "Recognizing Impaired Attorneys, Parties, and Witnesses" as part of the Wellness Wednesday series. Panelists are ALJ Sharon Steckler and Prof. Amy Stark.

I'm participating and moderating a panel for an ABA JD program on May 11, entitled "All Hands on Deck: We're All in the Judicial Outreach Business" as part of the Wellness Wednesday series. Panelists include NAWJ member Kristin Rosi, Nicole Colbert-Botchway, Prof Greg Parks, Judge Paul Wilson, and Judge Andra Sparks.

The ABA JD Wellness Wednesday programs are offered free to charge and are recorded for later viewing.

I'm participating in the NAWJ Webinar on April 21st, "Paths to the Administrative Judiciary: Many Roads, Many Destinations" which includes NAWJ members Dorothy Chou Proudfoot, Kristin Rosi, Susan Formaker, Gwen D'Souza, and two others.

All the ABA JD programs can be searched and found at this link:

<https://www.americanbar.org/groups/judicial/>

The NAWJ webinar is included in the NAWJ e-newsletters and on the website.

I'm also involved in numerous Diversity CLE programs for the Iowa State Bar Association.

Senior Judge Celeste Bremer attended Law Day in Yosemite in May 2022, which was sponsored by the Federal Bar Association and U.S. Magistrate Judge Helena Barch-Kuchta. Judge Bremer reports it was a wonderful event.

On April 20, 2022, Des Moines Public School students attended the Des Moines First Annual Color of Justice event at Drake University. Our opening speaker was Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Susan Christensen and we had two lively and interactive panels of judges, lawyers, professors and law students.

Our DMPS students described the experience as “great”, “amazing”, “insightful”, and “encouraging”. Plans are already in progress for the 2023 event. Below are some photos. More photos are posted on the DMPS website, found [here](#).



DMPS students listening to panel discussions



District 9 Director Judge Celene Gogerty with Judge Romonda Belcher



Judges and lawyers panel



Attorney Kevin Patrick

NAWJ member Emily Chafa was honored with a featured article in the Iowa Lawyer magazine this month for her many speaking engagements. She also moderated the NAWJ Administrative Judiciary Committee's webinar on April 21, 2022, titled "Paths to the Administrative Judiciary: Many Roads, Many Destination". Below is a screen shot of Emily's article. Congratulations Emily!



The Iowa State Bar Association "Speaker spotlight" series highlights continuing legal education presenters who go above and beyond by volunteering their time and talent for the advancement of Iowa's legal community. This month Emily Chafa is in the spotlight!

Emily Gould Chafa has spent most of her legal career in state and local government practice, retiring in July 2019. She remains actively involved in numerous professional associations, including serving as chair of the ISBA Diversity & Inclusiveness Committee.

Emily attended Wartburg College for one year, and then received her B.A. degree from Drake University in 1982. She received her J.D. degree from Loyola School of Law in Chicago in 1987. She is licensed to practice law in Iowa and Illinois.

Emily is actively involved in several professional associations at the national, state and local level. These include The Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, Blackstone Inn of Court, ABA Judicial Division National Conference of the Administrative Law Judiciary, ABA Civil Rights & Social Justice Section, National Association of Women Judges and Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys. Emily is also a long-time member of the Iowa Supreme Court's Interpreter Advisory Committee. She is an active member of the Infinity Project, a multi-state group advocating for gender equity on the bench throughout the 8th Circuit.

Emily frequently presents CLE programs on a variety of topics, focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion, the importance of preserving the rule of law; voting rights history; language access; judicial ethics on and off the bench; and administrative hearing processes. She is a frequent speaker on diversity, equity and inclusion for the ISBA, and is one of the driving forces behind the ISBA Diversity & Inclusiveness Committee.

In 2021, Emily presented and organized more than 11 diversity, equity and inclusion presentations for the ISBA. Emily is presenting this May at the Government Practice Seminar on "Effective respectful communications in diverse government workplaces." She will be co-presenting and moderating three annual meeting topics which include "Juneteenth - commemoration and celebration," "Raising awareness: pride, pronouns and gender identity 101" and "Update on HF 8022."

Currently, Emily is part of the following ISBA on-demand programs:

- Iowa's new law governing diversity and inclusion training and teaching
- Advancing diversity, equity and inclusion as corporate counsel
- Interrupting bias, welcoming diversity and reclaiming civility: making the Iowa Bar truly welcoming and inclusive

If you would like to nominate an ISBA CLE presenter for the "Speaker spotlight" series, please email communications@iowabar.org



Emily Chafa presenting an ISBA on-demand CLE program titled "Advancing diversity, equity and inclusion as corporate counsel"

Landex Research, Inc.
 PROBATE RESEARCH
*Missing and Unknown Heirs Located
 With No Expense to the Estate*
 Domestic & International Service for:
 *Courts *Trust Officers
 *Lawyers *Executors
 1345 Wiley Road, Suite 121, Schamburg, Illinois 60173
 Telephone: 800-844-6778 FAX: 847-519-3636
www.landexresearch.com

NAWJ member Celeste F. Bremer was featured in a profile of trailblazing judges who broke barriers, as the first woman on a federal court in Iowa, in the June issue of the *Federal Lawyer* (Vol. 69, Issue 3). www.fedbar.org

Magistrate Bremer has also been cross-designated to serve in the Middle District of Florida in Orlando. Although she is on recall status, she will be serving in Florida for approximately six months.

Chief United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa and NAWJ member Helen C. Adams has been elected as the Secretary of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association. Congratulations Helen!

On October 6, 2022, Iowa NAWJ members are assisting with The Infinity Project's program From Grad to Gavel, aimed at increasing diversity and equity on the bench. The G2G Program is presented at University of Iowa College of Law, Drake University Law School and via Zoom in order to reach a wide audience of law students and recent grads. At G2G, judges and lawyers will discuss the importance of filling the judicial applicant pipeline, including seeking/providing opportunities for internships, clerkships, court appointments, and court committees. The Iowa and federal judicial selection processes will be discussed, including the role of attorneys on Merit Selection Panels.

Small group discussions will allow participants to explore options for engaging in judicial selection and service. The Infinity Project's goal is to increase diversity and equity in judicial selection in all of the states comprising the 8th Circuit, in order to increase diversity on the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, which only has one woman. Contact The Infinity Project, www.theinfinityproject.org, for G2G materials. NAWJ members Emily Chafa, Celeste Bremer, Susan Christensen, Anu Vaitheswaran, Mary Tabor, Celene Gogerty, Sharon Greer, and Rebecca Goodgame Ebinger are participating in the Grad to Gavel program.

United States Magistrate Judge (Recall) Celeste Bremer recently spoke to the Polk County Women's Bar Association in Des Moines, Iowa, on the issues of collegiality, mentoring and good will.