



September 16, 2021
Annual Report from District 9
Honorable Celene Gogerty

Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin

On October 28, 2020, a local women' bar association in Iowa (Polk County Women Attorneys) sponsored a zoom meeting on the impact of Justice Ginsburg. It was well attended and sparked vigorous discussion.

Retired Judge Mary Pat Gunderson was awarded the distinguished Arabella Babb Mansfield award from the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys for not only her distinguished career as a lawyer and judge, but also her recent Georgetown Law Review article where she documented the issue of gender disparity in the legal profession and called for reform.

U. S. Magistrate Judge Celeste F. Bremer will move to "Recall Status" on May 31, 2021, after 36 years of service in the Southern District of Iowa. In addition to civil and criminal case management, and civil trials, Judge Bremer has been active in judicial education programs for local and federal judges, including the NAWJ district meetings. In 2002, she obtained her doctorate in Adult Education. She regularly teaches at the Federal Judicial Center. Recently she has participated in designing judicial education through ABA ROLI programs in Egypt, and has taught mediation for judges in India, Malaysia and Poland. She has been a member of NAWJ since 1985, and is a member of IAWJ. She can be contacted at celeste_bremer@iasd.uscourts.gov.

The Infinity Project had a virtual CLE on December 9, 2020 called "From Graduation to Gavel". The project is an organization dedicated to increasing the number of women on the bench (both state and federal) throughout the Eighth Circuit.

The Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, is happy to welcome Judge Kelly Broniec to our court. With her appointment, we now have seven women, six men and one vacancy on the court. This is the largest number of women judges on this court and the first time there is a majority of women.

The Honorable Donna L. Paulsen has formally stepped down as a senior district court judge in Polk County, Iowa. Judge Paulsen was the first woman appointed as a district court judge in the Fifth Judicial District.

United States Magistrate Judge Celeste F. Bremer and United States District Judge Rebecca Goodgame Ebinger will be speaking on January 28, 2021 on judicial security for the Polk County Bar Association in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys held a judicial boot camp on January 16, 2021 to encourage women attorneys to apply for judicial positions. Another boot camp is scheduled for April.

The Polk County (Iowa) Women's Bar Association sponsored a presentation on March 11, 2021 on the CROWN Act and race discrimination based on natural hair.

Iowa Senior Judge Annette Scieszinski passed away on February 26, 2021.

The Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys is hosting a Judicial Bootcamp on April 10, 2021 to encourage women attorneys to pursue judicial careers.

NAWJ member Susan E. Block was recently elected to the board of Missouri Foundation for Health. In addition, she was named to the inaugural LGBTQA class of awardees by the St. Louis Business Journal for her leadership in the community and support of members of the LGBTQA community as well as at large. She was also selected as the Woman of the Year for the Greater Missouri Leadership Institute.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Celeste F. Bremer moves to Recall Status effective June 1, 2021. She was appointed as a half-time U. S. Magistrate Judge in 1985 for the Southern District of Iowa. She has held the position full-time since January 1990. She will continue to work in the Southern District of Iowa, and other Districts as requested. She can continue to be reached at Celeste_Bremer@iasd.uscourts.gov. She's been a member of NAWJ since 1985. She completed her Doctorate in Adult Education in 2002 at Drake University; her dissertation topic was on Judicial Occupational Stress. Not surprisingly, she found that women judges had higher stress levels than male judges. She hopes to continue her work with ABA ROLI on judicial education projects.

The Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys (I.O.W.A.) and District 9 of NAWJ plan on joining the ABA in participation in the 21-Day Grit & Growth Mindset Challenge. The 21 Day Grit and Growth Mindset Challenge was created to help women attorneys and judges develop and enhance their grit and growth mindset by consistently engaging in short, daily challenges: reading thought provoking articles, watching videos, reviewing case studies, and taking concrete, habit-forming actions. We plan on arranging for facilitated Zoom conversations in support of the challenge.

Judge Robin Ransom was just appointed to the Missouri Supreme Court by Governor Mike Parson on May 24, 2021. She is the first African American woman and fifth woman appointed to that court, replacing Judge Laura Stith who retired in March. Before J. Ransom's recent retirement, the court had seven women and seven men.

Judge Sherri Sullivan will become the Chief Judge of The Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, effective July 1, 2021.

Chief Judge Mary K. Hoff will be retiring in August of this year after more than 25 years on this court and over 6 years on the trial court. She is the Chief Judge of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District.