



March 10, 2022 UPDATED
Report from District 9 – Midyear Report
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, in conjunction with the Des Moines Public Schools and Drake University College of Law, is putting on their first Color of Justice event on April 20, 2022. This is the first Color of Justice in Iowa in recent history and all participants are excited for this opportunity.

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.





