

**Tuesday, May 19, 2026**

*Building Bridges; Forging Pathways; Effective Leadership During Challenging Times*

Hear from both experienced NAWJ leaders and up and coming new leadership how NAWJ has navigated through external and internal challenges to continue to grow and thrive. Explore strategies to remain a relevant force both as individual judges and as an organization to support other judges, implement effective strategies, continue to provide cutting edge programs and remain a thriving force in American law.

**Speakers:**



**Hon. Amy Blake** - Chief Justice Amy Lyn Blake graduated from the University of Rochester, New York, in 1987. She attended New England Law School and graduated, *cum laude*, in 1992.

Admitted to the bar in 1992, Chief Justice Blake served as an Assistant District Attorney. From 1994 to 2008 she focused her private practice on domestic relations law. In 2008 Governor Patrick appointed Chief Justice Blake to the Probate and Family Court, and then in 2014 as an

Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court. In 2024, Governor Healey appointed Chief Justice of the Court, the first woman to serve in that role.

Chief Justice Blake was named "Distinguished Jurist" by the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers. She received the Jurist of the Year Award, the Judge Haskell Freedman Award for Outstanding Achievement and Dedication to the Law and, an Honorary Doctor of Laws from New England Law.

**Hon. Marcella Holland** - Marcella A. Holland received a B.A. (Political Science) from University of Maryland – Baltimore County in 1980; and a J.D. in 1983 from the University of Maryland School of Law.



Upon her admission to the Bar in December 1983, she was sworn in as an Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City and remained there for 13 years, before appointment on September 18, 1997, as Associate Judge on the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. On November 8, 2003, Judge Holland began her appointment as Circuit Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, the first African American woman to hold that position in the state of Maryland. In 2010, she became Chair of Maryland's Conference of Circuit Court Judges. Judge Holland retired from her position as an active judge on November 30, 2013, becoming a Senior Judge until July 31, 2025, when she fully retired.

Judge Holland is an active Bar member, belonging to and serving in many capacities with various bar associations. Among the national level bars, she is a member of the American Bar Association, Judicial Division, holding various positions over the years, the most recent one as Chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges, 2023-24; National Bar Association, Chair, Judicial Council, 2010-11, LifeMember. When she became a judge, Judge Holland joined the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and became President of the Maryland Chapter in June 2000. She is a Life Member and has served in many capacities over the years, currently as its Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates.

Judge Holland has received numerous awards and honors, including one of the two highest awards given by NAWJ, the Vaino Spencer Leadership Award, and in February 2025, the ABA's Spirit of Excellence Award.



**Hon. Miriam Perry** - The Hon. Miriam A. Perry was appointed to the 15th Judicial District Court bench by Governor Gretchen Whitmer on December 16, 2020. In November of 2022, she was elected to her term ending on December 31, 2028. She was appointed by the Michigan

Supreme Court to serve as the Chief Judge in 2026. Judge Perry received her Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Spelman College and Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School. Based on the recommendation from mentors, she became a member of NAWJ in 2021. Judge Perry has served on membership, strategic planning, and the Detroit annual meeting education committee. Currently, Judge Perry serves as a co- District 7 Director.

**Hon. Karen Sage**

**Hon. Vanessa Ruiz**

**Moderator: Hon. Lisa Walsh** - Judge Lisa Walsh is a Circuit Court Judge for the 11th Judicial Circuit in Miami-Dade County, Florida, assigned to the Complex Business Litigation and the International Commercial Arbitration divisions. For 16 years before becoming a judge, Judge Walsh was a trial and appellate lawyer. She has been rated “AV Preeminent” by Martindale-Hubbell, listed in *Super Lawyers* and *Florida Trend Legal Elite*.



Judge Walsh was the 2015-2016 President of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ). She was also the 2007 President of Miami-Dade Florida Association for Women Lawyers. From 2020-2025, Judge Walsh represented the United States as a Director for the North American region of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ).

Judge Walsh obtained her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and her law degree from the University of Miami School of Law.