



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

Presents

COLOR OF JUSTICE

APRIL 17, 2021

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION

10:00 am - 1:30 pm

Program Sponsors

New Jersey Women Lawyers Association
New Jersey State Bar Foundation

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Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey
Garden State Bar Association
Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey
The Links, Inc. Bergen County (NJ) Chapter

AGENDA

10:00 am - 10:05 am **Welcome Remarks**

10:05 am - 10:07 am Keynote Speaker Introduced by
Associate Justice Helen E. Hoens (ret.)

10:07 am - 10:20 am **Keynote Speaker**
Hon. Fabiana Pierre-Louis,
Associate Justice New Jersey Supreme Court

10:20 am - 11:05 am **LEADERS IN THE LAW**

Moderator: Hon. Rosemary Gambardella, U.S.B.J.
Panelists: Hon. Joseph H. Rodriguez, United States District
Court; Hon. Victoria Pratt, Professor of Professional
Practice Rutgers Law School of Criminal
Justice; Karol Corbin Walker, Esq.-
Kaufman Dolowich Voluck, LLP

11:05 am - 11:15 am Q & A

11:15 am - 12:00 noon **CAREERS IN THE LAW**

Moderator: Hon. Lourdes I. Santiago, J.S.C. (ret.)
Panelists: Amrita Basu, Esq. General Counsel Wurth Group of
North America; Julia A. López, Esq. – Reed Smith;
Maria Vizcarrondo, President and CEO Council of
New Jersey Grantmakers.

12:00 am - 12:10 pm Q & A

12:10 pm - 12:55 pm **PATHWAYS TO THE LAW**

Moderator: Hon. Estela M. De La Cruz, J.S.C.
Panelists: Kathleen Boozang, Dean and Professor Seton Hall
University School of Law; David Lopez, Co-Dean
Rutgers Law School; Kimberly Mutcherson, Co-
Dean Rutgers Law School; Matthew Feinstein
Executive Director New Jersey Law and Education
Empowerment Project.

12:55 pm - 01:05 pm Q & A

1:15 pm **CLOSING REMARKS**

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Hon. L. Grace Spencer, J.S.C.
Co-Chair

Hon. Avis Bishop-Thompson, J.S.C.
Co-Chair

Hon. Helen E. Hoens, Associate Justice (ret.)

Hon. Rosemary Gambardella, U.S.B.J.

Hon. Mumtaz Bari-Brown, A.L.J. (ret.)

Elizabeth Davies, DAG

Hon. Estela M. De La Cruz, J.S.C.

Hon. Michelle Hollar-Gregory, J.S.C. (ret.)

Prof. Kyle Hollar-Gregory, Esq.

Hon. Sandra Ann Robinson, A.L.J. (ret.)

Hon. Lourdes I. Santiago, J.S.C. (ret.)

Hon. Siobhan A. Teare, J.S.C.

Hon. Sue Pai Yang, J.W.C. (ret.)

PARTICIPATING SCHOLARS

(As of 3.30.21)

- Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Montclair State University
- Morgan State University
- Rutgers University Camden, New Brunswick, Newark
- Fort Lee High School
- Glen Rock High School
- Hackensack High School
- Hasbrouck Heights High School
- Hoboken Charter School
- Infinity Institute, Jersey City
- Liberty High School
- Madison High School
- Mahwah High School
- Morris Hills Regional High School
- Newton High School
- North Arlington High School
- Park Ridge High School
- Randolph High School
- Renaissance Institute, Jersey City
- Bloomfield College
- Sparta High School
- Teaneck High School
- Vernon Township High School

BIOGRAPHIES

HONORABLE MUMATZ BARI-BROWN is a graduate of Rutgers Law School, Newark, NJ and Howard University, Washington, D.C. In 1990 she was appointed to with the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) as an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) where she presided over state agency matters such as Civil Rights, Lemon Law, Special Education, Environmental Protection (DEP), Welfare, Medicaid, and Public Utility rate increase petitions. She retired in 2015 and currently serves as an ALJ on “Recall”. Prior to her appointment to the OAL she served as a Deputy Public Advocate in the Department of the Public Advocate, concentrating in public utility law and civil rights litigation. Judge Bari-Brown began her career as a staff attorney with Harlem Assertion of Rights, Legal Services, N.Y., and also served as the Attorney to the Hillside Board of Health and Municipal Assistant Prosecutor, in Hillside, N.J. She has served as a panelist on *Traditional Values, Culture - Women’s Human Rights* at the U.N. General Assembly Session 68, United Nations, Headquarters, ECOSOC Chamber. She has also served as an Adjunct Professor at Montclair State University and taught “Race and the U.S. Legal System” and “Administrative Law”. Judge Bari-Brown is a fervent advocate for mental health education and appeared in the DVD and PBS Program, *Struggling in Silence, Physician Depression and Suicide* produced by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (afsp.org). Judge Bari-Brown is admitted to practice law in New York and New Jersey and a member of several legal and professional organizations. She is active in various civic organizations, currently serving on the East Orange Public Library Board of Trustees and on the Advisory Board of The Paralegal Studies Program at Montclair State University. She is a member Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and The LINKS, Inc.

AMRITA BASU, ESQ. was named vice president and general counsel of Wurth Group of North America, Inc. (“Wurth”) in January 2019. Ms. Basu serves as the chief legal officer of the company and oversees its team of attorneys responsible for all aspects of Wurth's legal affairs in the United States and Canada. Previously, Ms. Basu served in the positions of corporate counsel and vice president/associate general counsel with Wurth. In her positions with Wurth, Ms. Basu had broad responsibilities for the operation of the legal department and compliance. During her tenure at Wurth, Ms. Basu has guided the Wurth subsidiaries through numerous lawsuits, merger and acquisition activity as well as daily negotiation of contracts and employment counseling. Ms. Basu joined Wurth from the New Jersey law firm of Schumann Hanlon LLC, where she started in 2004. There she specialized in real estate development, commercial transactions and commercial litigation. Before joining Schumann Hanlon, Ms. Basu was a law clerk to the Honorable Lourdes I. Santiago, J.S.C., New Jersey Superior Court. Ms. Basu is a native of Jersey City and received a B.A. degree from Rutgers University (Douglass College) in 1998 and received a J.D. degree from Rutgers University School of Law in Newark, where she was also co-editor-in-chief of the Women’s Rights Law Reporter.

HONORABLE AVIS BISHOP-THOMPSON was appointed to the Superior Court of New Jersey by Governor Chris Christie in 2017. She was first assigned to the Family Division and served eighteen months. In November 2018, Judge Bishop-Thompson was temporarily assigned to the Civil Division during which time she continued to handle family cases. Since July 2019, she sits in the Civil Division. Judge Bishop-Thompson has participated in various professional associations including the Justice Morris Pashman American Inn of Court and Bergen County Bar Association. She is currently co-District III Director of the National Association of Women Judges. Judge Bishop-Thompson was also a committee member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Security Risks to Judges and Court Staff Associated with Public Access to Personal Information. Prior to coming on the bench, Judge Bishop-Thompson began her legal career as an associate attorney with DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole & Giblin and became a partner in 2006. While at the DeCotiis firm, she practiced in the areas of civil litigation, education and labor law representing both public and private-sector clients. She represented management in collective bargaining negotiations, unfair labor practice proceedings, grievance arbitrations, interest arbitrations as well as general labor counseling. She also represented public and private employers in a broad range of employment matters ranging from agency investigations, consent decree compliance, discrimination, and wrongful termination matters. In addition, Judge Bishop-Thompson provided employment counseling, drafted workplace policies, and training. She also represented K-12 and post-secondary institutions before various State and Federal agencies and courts. She received a juris doctorate from Santa Clara University Law School in Santa Clara, California in 1987. After graduation, she began her legal career in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. She then transitioned into private practice with an emphasis on public entity defense, employment and contract litigation. Judge Bishop-Thompson is an alumna of Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia where she received a Bachelor of Arts (cum laude) in Political Science and minored in International Relations.

KATHLEEN M. BOOZANG joined the Seton Hall Law School faculty in 1990, serving as Law School Dean since 2015. She earned her BS in 1981 with honors from Boston College where she studied in the School of Business Honors Program and was named a Scholar of the College of Arts & Sciences for her thesis in moral theology. Boozang graduated in 1984 at which time she was inducted into the Order of the Coif from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law where she was the managing editor of the law review. After representing Catholic health care systems for several years in private practice, Boozang earned her LL.M. from Yale Law School. She came to Seton Hall in 1990 to create a health law program which has been ranked as a top ten program by U.S. News & World Report for many years. Boozang's scholarship focused on issues related to Catholic healthcare and complementary and alternative medicine early in her career, but later transitioned to a focus on healthcare corruption and compliance. In

November 2018 she produced a co-authored Whitepaper entitled The Role and Place of Compliance within Life Sciences: The Imperative of Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer Independence. Boozang has served in a number of administrative capacities during her tenure including Associate Dean twice, Vice Provost and Dean. Boozang has focused since the beginning of her deanship on diversity, inclusion and equity issues. She has created the positions of Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, and Executive Director of Admissions for Diversity, Access and Weekend Division, as well as the Dean's Equity and Inclusion Committee early in her tenure.

ELIZABETH DAVIES, ESQ. graduated from Rutgers Law Newark 2012 and works as a Deputy Attorney General for the State of New Jersey Division of Law.

HONORABLE ESTELA M. DE LA CRUZ engaged in both defense and plaintiff litigation before her appointment to the Superior Court of New Jersey by Governor Christine Todd Whitman in 1997. She graduated from Seton Hall University in 1979 with a B.A. degree and earned her J.D. from Rutgers School of Law, Newark in 1982. She was sworn-in on June 9, 1997 by Assignment Judge Sybil Moses and has served on the Bergen bench to this date. Judge De La Cruz was first assigned to the Civil Division, serving for two years before being reassigned to the Family Division in 1999. She served in the Family Division for three and a half years and was then reassigned back to the Civil Division in 2002, where she has served to the present time. In 2013, Judge De La Cruz was temporarily assigned to the Chancery Division to preside over the estate trial involving the matters of Cohen v. Perelman, BER-C-94-12 and In the Matter of Estate of Robert B. Perelman, BER-P-211-12. This one bench trial on these two dockets lasted six months, and during which time, Judge De La Cruz also continued to otherwise carry and case manage all the civil dockets that already had been assigned to her. That litigation took nearly six years to come to a final conclusion. She has participated in various professional activities including the Justice Morris Pashman American Inn of Court and the New Jersey Supreme Court Civil Practice Committee. Judge De La Cruz has been a member and participant of numerous bar associations, including the New Jersey State Bar Association, the National Association of Women Judges, the Hispanic National Bar Association, the Bergen County Bar Association and the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey, of which she is a former President. Judge De La Cruz also completed a Supreme Court committee assignment on the New Jersey Judiciary Language Access Plan that resulted in the AOC Directive #01-17. Important to ensure streamlined judicial processes, that directive sets forth an organized plan for reasonable and fair access to language services to ensure all people, including persons with limited English proficiency and persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, to have equal access to court proceedings, programs, and services. 2021 marks her 24th year on the bench.

MATTHEW FEINSTEIN is the Executive Director of NJ LEEP. Mr. Feinstein has been involved with NJ LEEP from its inception and became Executive Director in 2014. He holds a B.A. from The University of Maryland at College Park and a J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law, where he was a Chancellor Scholar and a member of the Legislative Journal. He is also a graduate of the Rutgers Business School Institute for Ethical Leadership, Nonprofit Executive and Emerging Leader, and Executive Fellows Certificate Programs. He has also completed coursework in non-profit management at Harvard Business School. NJ LEEP stands for The Law and Education Empowerment Project. NJ LEEP is a college access and success program serving students and families in the greater Newark area. NJ LEEP helps students graduate, attend and graduate from competitive colleges, and begin careers. NJ LEEP serves 70 middle school students, 148 high school students, 127 college students, and over 300 family members. The College Bound Program serves first-generation and low-income students enrolled in grades 6-12 from more than 20 public, private, and charter schools across the greater Newark area. Most youth possess multiple risk factors to college matriculation and persistence. In Newark, college matriculation and success is the exception, not the norm. While approximately 25% of public school students in Newark earn a college degree, 100% of NJ LEEP program graduates have matriculated to college. 85% of NJ LEEP students are currently enrolled or have graduated from college. The College Bound Program empowers middle and high school students with both the academic and social-emotional skills necessary to succeed in college and beyond.

HONORABLE ROSEMARY GAMBARDELLA was sworn in as a United States Bankruptcy Judge on May 3, 1985, becoming the first woman to serve on the Bankruptcy Court in the District of New Jersey. A native of Newark, Judge Gambardella attended Rutgers University where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in history in 1976. After receiving her law degree from Rutgers Law School-Newark in 1979, Judge Gambardella served as law clerk to the late Chief Bankruptcy Judge Vincent J. Commisa from 1979 to 1980. From 1980 to 1985, she was senior staff counsel to Hugh M. Leonard, then United States Trustee for the Districts of New Jersey and Delaware. Judge Gambardella served as Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey from August 12, 1998 to August 11, 2005. Judge Gambardella was the Bankruptcy Judge liaison to the Judicial Conference of the United States (2009- 2011) and is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy.

JUSTICE HELEN E. HOENS (ret.) is a retired Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. During her lengthy career as a trial and appellate court jurist, Justice Hoens authored more than 100 published New Jersey Supreme Court opinions and served on numerous Supreme Court Advisory Committees. In addition, Justice Hoens has distinguished herself as an inspiring and dynamic speaker, addressing audiences about achieving work-life balance, overcoming

barriers to success and tackling topics that include “Searching for Justice In An Unjust World.” The mother of a now-adult son with autism, Justice Hoens has actively promoted autism awareness, advocacy and education and she has pursued and supported a wide variety of civic and charitable endeavors that have involved leading or co-leading humanitarian and disaster relief teams working in the United States, Africa and Haiti and, during the pandemic, working locally to combat food insecurity and creating on-line spiritual support and meditation groups. Justice Hoens was awarded a B.A. with High Honors from the College of William and Mary and earned a J.D. cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center. She is a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, the Co-Chair of the New Jersey State Bar Association’s Blue Ribbon Commission On Unmet Legal Needs and the recipient of numerous honors and awards.

HONORABLE MICHELLE HOLLAR-GREGORY is a retired New Jersey Superior Court Judge. Prior to her appointment to the Superior Court she served as the Corporation Counsel for the City of Newark. As Corporation Counsel, she was responsible for the direct administration of the Law Department for the State of New Jersey’s largest municipality. Serving as chief legal officer and attorney of record in all proceedings, she diplomatically represented the City, interacting with municipal council members, department directors, outside counsel, attorney, contractors and regulatory agencies on a daily basis. She also served as Associate Legal Counsel for the New Jersey League of Municipalities advising the League on legislation and complex legal issues affecting the municipalities of New Jersey. As past New Jersey chair of the National Association of Women Judges she continues to advance the mission especially with the Color of Justice Program. She currently serves as a board member on the Rutgers University -Newark Advisory Board and member of many professional and charitable organizations. She received her B.A. from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, a Masters in English from University of Pittsburgh and her J.D. from Rutgers University of Law. Judge Hollar-Gregory is admitted to the New Jersey Bar, United States District Court of New Jersey and the United States Court of Appeals-Third Circuit. She has served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable David S. Baime, J.A.D.; as an Assistant Essex County Counsel; and as an intern with the Public Advocate-Officer of the Public Defender prior to serving as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Newark. As an Assistant Corporation Counsel, she served as primary attorney for the Division of Tax Abatement and Special Taxes, Budget, Central Planning Board, Tax Assessment and the Watershed Corporation. Judge Hollar-Gregory has always been dedicated to public service and prior to entering the legal profession, she taught English and Theater Arts at Arts High School in Newark, New Jersey and other secondary public schools. She is a member of many organizations dedicated to public service and the welfare of children. Her proudest accomplishment is her family; being a wife, mother and grandmother.

KYLE HOLLAR-GREGORY, ESQ. received a Juris Doctor Degree from Rutgers Law School – Newark, New Jersey. Prof. Hollar-Gregory served as a law clerk for the Honorable Siobhan A. Teare in the criminal division of the Superior Courts of New Jersey in Essex County. Also, Prof. Hollar-Gregory worked as a paralegal for the Brandon J. Broderick, LLC law firm in New Jersey. As an attorney for the Freeman Law Center in Jersey City, New Jersey he practiced family law, personal injury law, and municipal court. Prof. Hollar-Gregory has been teaching for over 10 years. He has taught at the following institutions – Essex County College, East Side High School – Newark, New Jersey and now serves as an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at LaGuardia Community College in New York. Currently, Prof. Hollar-Gregory serves as an Amicus Judicii Member of the National Association of Women Judges.

JULIA A. LOPEZ, ESQ. is a partner in the firm’s Life Sciences Health Industry Group, practicing in the areas of products liability litigation and commercial litigation. She primarily defends pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers. Her experience includes working on single plaintiff matters, coordinated cases, and multidistrict litigation in both federal and state courts. Representative products in her mass tort litigation experience include contraceptives, hormone replacement therapy products and vaginal mesh. She has counseled clients in all aspects of litigation from early case assessments and initial filings through resolution including trials. Julia is a diversity and inclusion leader. Committed to Reed Smith’s diversity initiatives, Julia is the firm’s nationwide partner chair for the Hispanic/Latinx business inclusion group known as UNIDOS. She served as the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey’s (“HBA-NJ”) 39th President and founded the first Scholarship Endowment for the organization. She has been an active member of the HBA-NJ since 2003 and an active board member since 2008, serving in various leadership positions. Julia currently serves as the Hispanic National Bar Association’s (“HNBA”) National Finance Director, where chairs one of the organization’s most important committees. In this capacity, she leads a team of lawyers and legal professionals across the country who are tasked with communicating with the HNBA’s supporters and sponsors to ensure the financial sustainability of the HNBA. She is also a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association and has served on various committees. Julia has also served on the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns, as well as the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Civil Practice. For her leadership, sponsorship of others and legal acumen, Julia has received numerous awards and recognitions. She has been recognized by NJBIZ as one of the top 50 influential attorneys in NJ and on ROI’s Influencers List of the most impactful People of Color in New Jersey. The HNBA has also recognized her work in the legal profession as a Top Lawyer Under 40, as well as her leadership at the HBA-NJ with the Affiliate of the Year Award. Prior to joining Reed Smith, Julia served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Esther Salas, United States District Court for the District of New Jersey and the Honorable John E. Wallace, Jr., Retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey. Julia received her B.S.B.A. from Georgetown University and her

J.D. from Rutgers School of Law-Newark. While attending law school, Julia was Editor-in-Chief of the Rutgers Law Review, President of the Association of Latin American Law Students, and a judicial intern for the Honorable James R. Zazzali, Retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey. She is a proud Rutgers MSP graduate. Julia is admitted to practice in New Jersey and New York.

DAVID LOPEZ is a Co-Dean, Professor of Law and Professor Alfred Slocum Scholar. Co-Dean David Lopez, who joined Rutgers Law School in August 2018, was most recently a member of the firm of Outten and Golden, leading the firm's Washington D.C. Office. Until December 2016, he served for six years as the General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and thus acted as the lead lawyer for the nation's primary administrative agency charged with enforcing federal employment anti-discrimination laws. He has a rich and deep background in public interest law and using the legal system to champion the principles of equality and opportunity. He has also taught at Harvard Law School and Georgetown Law Center. As General Counsel of the EEOC, Lopez led the litigation program for the nation's primary administrative agency charged with enforcing federal employment anti-discrimination laws and oversaw 15 regional attorneys and a staff of more than 325 people. Prior to joining the EEOC, he was a senior trial attorney with the Civil Rights Division Employment Litigation Section of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington D.C. Previously, he was an associate with Spiegel & McDiarmid LLP in Washington D.C. He is a widely sought-after speaker who has made more than 50 speeches and presentations before the American Bar Association, state and local bar associations, and various advocacy, non-governmental organizations and universities. Lopez also serves on the board of the ACLU-DC, the Impact Fund (an Oakland-based non-profit offering support to public interest lawyers and communities through training, co-counsel and grants to advance civil rights and social justice), and Toward Justice, a Denver-based non-profit dedicated to advancing economic justice and advocacy. Lopez is a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Attorneys. In 2014, The National Law Journal named him one of "America's 50 Outstanding General Counsels." Among the organizations that have recognized him for his work on social justice issues are: the International Religious Liberty Association, which gave him its National Religious Freedom Award, Liberty Magazine, the North American Religious Liberty Association, which cited his work on civil, religious, and employment rights; the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, which gave him its Friend in Government Award in 2012. Lopez has been called a "Latino Luminary" by the magazine Diversity and the Bar and in 2011 Hispanic Business named him to its list of 100 "Influentials" in the Hispanic community. He earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School and graduated magna cum laude from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in Political Science.

KIMBERLY MUTCHERSON is Co-Dean and Professor of Law at Rutgers Law School in Camden. She is the first woman, the first Black person, and the

first member of the LGBTQ community to have this role at Rutgers Law. Dean Mutcherson is a reproductive justice scholar whose work focuses on assisted reproduction and abortion. Cambridge University Press released her edited volume, *Feminist Judgments: Reproductive Justice Rewritten* in 2020. In 2021, Dean Mutcherson received the Association of American Law Schools inaugural Impact Award as a co-founder of the Law Deans Antiracist Clearinghouse Project. She received the Center for Reproductive Rights Innovation in Scholarship Award in 2013, a Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award in 2011, and the Women's Law Caucus Faculty Appreciation Award in 2011 & 2014. Dean Mutcherson has been a Senior Fellow/Sabbatical Visitor at the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law at Columbia Law School and a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania. She received her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and her J.D. from Columbia Law School. She also received the Kirkland and Ellis Fellowship for post-graduate public interest work upon her graduation from Columbia. Prior to joining the faculty at Rutgers, Dean Mutcherson was a consulting attorney at the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy (now the Center for Reproductive Rights) and a Staff Attorney at the HIV Law Project.

JUSTICE FABIANA PIERRE-LOUIS was nominated by Gov. Phil Murphy on June 5, 2020 and was sworn in as an associate justice on Sept. 1, 2020. She is the first Black woman to serve on the New Jersey Supreme Court. At the time of her appointment, Justice Pierre-Louis was a partner at Montgomery McCracken, where she worked in the white collar and government investigations practice group. She focused her practice on complex commercial litigation, white-collar crime, and government investigations. Born on Sept. 9, 1980 in New York City, Justice Pierre-Louis spent her early childhood in Brooklyn and moved to Irvington when she was eight years old. She received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a law degree from Rutgers Law School. Justice Pierre-Louis began her legal career as a law clerk to New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice John E. Wallace Jr., whose seat she now occupies. In September 2010, she joined the U.S. Attorney's Office, where she served as the attorney-in-charge of the Trenton and Camden branches. Justice Pierre-Louis also worked in the Newark office in the general crimes and organized crime and gang units. Justice Pierre-Louis and her husband have two sons.

HONORABLE VICTORIA PRATT is recognized both nationally and internationally for her commitment to reforming the criminal justice system. She's been featured in media outlets such as The Guardian, Forbes, PBS to name a few. Her highly viewed TED Talk, *How Judges Can Show Respect*, has been listed as one of the Top 15 Most Viral Motivational Talks on Facebook, with over 36 million views. Considered a global expert, she's worked in Dubai, Ukraine, England, Scotland, Trinidad and Tobago, and Mexico. She is also working on her forthcoming book. Currently, she's a Professor of Professional Practice at

Rutgers School of Criminal Justice in Newark, NJ, and consults through her company, Pratt Lucien Consultants, LLC.

HONORABLE SANDRA ANN ROBINSON was appointed in 2001 to the Administrative Law Bench by Governor Christine Todd Whitman and Donald Thomas DiFrancesco, Acting Governor with the advice and consent of the New Jersey Senate. She holds a Doctorate of Jurisprudence degree from Howard University School of Law, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU). Judge Robinson is admitted to the bars of the Supreme Court of the United States of America; the Third Circuit Court of Appeals; United States District Court for the District of New Jersey; Supreme Court of the State of New Jersey; and the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Her legal experiences include a clerkship with the Honorable Irving Rubin, Superior Court New Jersey; a legal internship with the Reginald Heber Smith Graduate Fellow Program; member of the "Litigation and Appeals Unit" of Legal Services Corporation in New Jersey; Bergen County Assistant County Counsel; Bergen County Adjuster; Municipal Planning Board Attorney; Municipal and County Zoning Board Attorney; Deputy Mayor City of Hackensack; Councilwoman City of Hackensack; Adjunct Professor of legal studies at Farleigh Dickinson University. Ms. Robinson's legal internship with the Center for Clinical Legal Studies at Howard University led to an affiliation with Hudson and Leftwich Law Firm in Washington, DC and Mound Bayou Mississippi where she assisted with establishing a Federal Home Loan Bank. She has worked for McCarter and English Law Firm; Newark Legal Services as an Executive Director; Assistant Director and Associate Director; and Johnson and Johnson Law Firm. Ms. Robinson served as in-house Counsel for Newark Pre-School Council, Inc., and Computerland/Techniserv Companies in New Jersey. She was certified as a high school substitute teacher for the District of Columbia public school system; and a teacher and head dorm counselor for the Howard University Upward Bound Pre-College Program. Currently she serves as National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) District III Co-Director for New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virgin Islands; Co-chair of NAWJ National Audit and Compliance Committee; former chair and current member of NAWJ Resolutions Committee. Also, currently Trustee Bergen New Bridge Medical Center Board, Of Counsel with the law firm of Barbara B. Comerford, LLC in New Jersey and New York - focusing on Disability claims: Social Security Administration, Long-term disability insurance, individual disability and ERISA.

HONORABLE JOSEPH H. RODRIGUEZ was appointed United States District Court Judge for the District of New Jersey in 1985 and is now serving as a Senior United States District Court Judge since 1998. Judge Rodriguez graduated from La Salle University in 1955 and Rutgers University Law School in 1958. He went on to work in Private Practice as a Partner with Brown, Connery Law Firm in Camden, New Jersey till 1982. He was appointed a New Jersey Public Advocate and Public Defender (Cabinet Position) and served until 1985.

He also served as Chairman on the State Board of Higher Education and Chairman on the State Commission of Investigation. He was elected President of the New Jersey State Bar Association in 1978. He became an instructor at Rutgers University School of Law and was inducted into Rutgers University Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 1996. He served as Adjunct Professor on Trial Advocacy at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and lectured for the Professional Trial Lawyers Seminar for many years. In October 1994 he was a participant in the American Bar Association Central & Eastern Law Initiative in Moscow, Russia, to help institutionalize judicial prestige and autonomy through the establishment of an adversarial process using juror-citizens. He is a recipient of the 1985 Karen Ann Quinlan Center of Hope "Friend of Hospice Award", the 1992 National Hispanic Bar Association "Man of the Year" Award, the 1999 William J. Brennan, Jr. Award by the Association of Federal Bar of State of New Jersey, the 1999 Medal of Honor Award by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation Award, the 2007 Judge John F. Gerry Award by the Camden County Bar Association, the 2009 Thurgood Marshall College Fund Award of Excellence, and the 2019 New Jersey State Bar President's Award. His Honorary Doctor of Law Degrees bestowed are from: St. Peter's College, 1972; Rutgers University, 1974; Seton Hall, 1974; Montclair State College, 1985; and Kean College, 1985.

HONORABLE LOURDES I. SANTIAGO (ret.) has been a Judge of the Superior Court in Hudson County, since April 11, 2003. Currently retired, she previously sat in the Family Division as a Children in Court Judge since September, 2015, and previously in Criminal Division as the Drug Court Judge and has also previously served in the Family, Civil and Chancery Parts. Prior to 2003, and since August 1, 1999, she was a partner at the law firm of Mark & Santiago, P.C. in Jersey City where she concentrated her practice in the areas of Immigration and Elder Law. Since July, 1990, Ms. Santiago, had been a partner in the law firm of Korona, Beides, Eaton, Mark & Santiago, P.A. She is a graduate of Rutgers School of Law, Newark, where she received her Juris Doctor degree. She completed her undergraduate degree at Douglass College, Rutgers University in New Brunswick. She was born in Aibonito, Puerto Rico and came to the United States at the age of six. She is the youngest of nine children and despite her travels out of the United States, she always returns to her hometown, Jersey City. Prior to the Bench, she served as the Vice-President of Regions and Membership, and previously the Vice-President of External Affairs of the Hispanic National Bar Association. She served as Regional President of the HNBA from 1998 – 1999. She is also Past-President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. She has been the recipient of many awards and recognition citations including a 1999 Hispanic Heritage Award as the Hispanic Lawyer of the Year; the 1997 Congresswoman Mary T. Norton Memorial Award of Excellence presented by Hudson County United Way and recipient of an award for Outstanding Achievement in the Legal Field by Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey. She also served on the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Women in the

Courts, where she was reappointed and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Women of Color Subcommittee. In 2011, she served on the planning committee of the Conference for the National Association of Women Judges. Her professional appointments have included an appointment to the Supreme Court IOLTA Board in 2001; the Task Force on Minority Concerns in 1994, with a second term appointment in 1996 to 1998. She served for over four years as a panel member of the Fee Arbitration Committee in Hudson County. She served two terms as a Trustee to the New Jersey State Bar Foundation; and previously served on the Executive Committee of the General Council of the New Jersey State Bar Association; and the Nominations Committee. She also served as Vice-president of the Hispanic National Bar Fund and as a Trustee on the New Jersey Hispanic Bar Foundation, as well as a member of the Task Force on Diversity of the New Jersey State Bar Association and five years as Trustee on the board of Hudson County Community College. Currently, she serves as Vice-President of the Retired Judges Association of New Jersey.

HONORABLE L. GRACE SPENCER was appointed to the Superior Court in July 2016. Since her appointment she has handled matters in the Special Civil Part, which includes Landlord Tenant and Small Claims matters. Judge Spencer has also handled matters arising in the regular Civil Division as well. Presently Judge Spencer is assigned to the Family Part where she handles matter arising under the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act and those matters involving child abuse and neglect. Prior to her appointment Judge Spencer serve in the New Jersey State Assembly and was Deputy County Counsel for the County of Essex. Judge Spencer also served as Chief Prosecutor for the City of Newark. Judge Spencer is a graduate of Rutgers Newark College of Arts and Sciences and Rutgers School of Law in Newark.

HONORABLE SIOBHAN A. TEARE has been a Superior Court Judge for the State of New Jersey for over fifteen years. She currently sits in the Criminal Division of the Essex County Vicinage and presides over Criminal Jury trials and Domestic Violence detentions. She previously sat in the Civil Division and presided over cases involving Special Civil Part, Landlord/Tenant matters, Prerogative Writs and other Law Division motions. Judge Teare also sat in the Family Division for four years where she presided over Juvenile, Domestic Violence, Non-Dissolution cases and Post Judgment divorce motions. She also previously sat in the Criminal Division and served as the Drug Court Judge for the Essex County Vicinage.

MARIA VIZCARRONDO is the President and CEO of the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers since March, 2019. Prior to this, she was Director of Community Development and External Relations at Cabrini University in Philadelphia. She was inaugural Executive Director of the school's Nerney Leadership Institute, launched in 2013. Ms. Vizcarrondo brings more than 25 years of experience transforming service organizations and has served her

communities as both an appointed and elected official. In 2006, when he was first elected Mayor of Newark Cory Booker tapped Ms. Vizcarrondo to head Newark's Health and Human Service Department, the largest of its kind in New Jersey. One of her first actions in that role was to develop a Children's Bill of Rights to benchmark improvements in the lives of children and families throughout the city. Her accomplishments included securing state funding to establish Family Success Centers to provide neighborhood-based services, and launching a major citywide campaign to raise the immunization rates of Newark's children. Prior to her mayoral appointment, Ms. Vizcarrondo served as the first woman president and CEO of United Way of Essex and West Hudson. Her pioneer work in re-engineering the organization's mission into community building was documented in the United Way Transformation Diaries. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, Ms. Vizcarrondo led the New Jersey United Ways in a statewide coordination of services for affected families and managed the distribution of corporate funding for these efforts. She was elected Essex County Surrogate in 1993 and served four years of a five-year term before leaving to join United Way. Ms. Vizcarrondo has been listed among the "100 Most Influential People in New Jersey" and was a founding member of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.

KAROL CORBIN WALKER, ESQ. focuses her practice on business, commercial, employment, toxic tort, and product liability litigation matters. Her clients have included many Fortune 500 corporations as well as other publicly and privately held corporations, financial institutions, entertainers, and insurance companies. In 1995 Ms. Walker became the first African American woman to attain partner status at any major New Jersey law firm. She is a litigator with trial experience in the State and Federal Courts. She has argued many cases before the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey. Ms. Walker has also argued cases before the New Jersey Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Third and Seventh Circuits. The United States District Court for the District of New Jersey has certified and appointed Ms. Walker as an arbitrator and mediator. The New Jersey Supreme Court has appointed her to several committees including: Committee on Judicial Evaluation, Committee on Civil Practice, Committee on Character, District Fee Arbitration and Committee on the Tax Court. In 2003, Ms. Walker became the first African American President in the then 105-year history of the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA). She served as president for the 2003-2004 term, taking her oath of office before a record number of attendees. In 1998 she was the first African American appointed as Chair of the NJSBA's most prestigious Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee. Ms. Walker was the first African American female President of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, when she was installed in 2012. On June 18, 2015, she became the first African American President of the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey. In August 2015, Ms. Walker was the first New Jersey attorney appointed as Chair of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary

("SCFJ"). The SCFJ consists of 15 members who vet every Federal District and Circuit prospective judicial candidate pre-nomination, and every Supreme Court Justice post nomination. In August 2020, Ms. Walker became the first person of color and first woman to serve as a state delegate representing New Jersey on the Nominating Committee in the American Bar Association's House of Delegates. In that position, she chairs the New Jersey state delegation. Ms. Walker previously served as a member of the New Jersey State Ethics Commission. The Commission is responsible for ensuring that state employees adhere to ethics rules. New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine appointed Ms. Walker to this Commission.

HONORABLE SUE PAI YANG attended Rutgers Law School - Newark when her two daughters were in grade school. She clerked for Judge Marilyn Loftus in Essex County Superior Court and then worked as a Deputy Attorney General in Trenton before starting her own general law practice. She was the first Chinese American appointed as a judge in New Jersey. She served in the NJ Workers Compensation Court in Newark hearing cases involving workplace injuries until her retirement. Judge Yang was a founding member and officer of the National Workplace Bullying Coalition. She encourages everyone to help eliminate workplace bullying by signing the pledge at www.workplacebullyingcoalition.org as well as encouraging organizations to partner with NWBC to conquer this issue. Judge Yang has held numerous leadership positions and served on many boards including the National Association of Women Judges, the International Association of Women Judges, the NJ State Bar Association, and the National Girl Scouts USA. She initiated the founding of the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of NJ and became its first President in 1985. In addition, Judge Yang has received numerous honors and awards for her commitment to justice and the greater good of the legal community and the community at large. She is listed in Who's Who in American Law and Who's Who in New Jersey.

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The presence and support of District III State Chairs: Justice Maria M. Cabret - Virgin Islands, Judge Vivian L. Medinilla - Delaware; and Judge Barbara McDermott - Pennsylvania is welcomed and appreciated.

Overwhelming thanks to the students, educators and parents who encourage scholar participation year-after-year!

REGARDS

Hon. Avis Bishop Thompson and Hon. Sandra Ann Robinson , NAWJ District III
Co-Directors - Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the Virgin Islands{END}