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NAWJ 28th Annual Conference - President's Report

The following excerpt is from the President's Report presented by Hon. Vanessa Ruiz at the 28th Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. You can download the entire report as a [Word document](#) or [PDF](#).

It has been a real privilege for me to be NAWJ's President during the past year. We have had a very productive year, initiating new projects and projecting NAWJ into more issues of substance and interest to our members, extending our membership outreach efforts, and improving the organization internally. Our members' enthusiasm, dedication and skills are truly spectacular and make NAWJ an organization with real clout and tremendous potential. Support for our activities and strong voice for an independent, diverse and fair judiciary has resulted in a significant increase in membership this year – the first in three years.


This year, we have published our first *Annual Report*, summarizing NAWJ's history, mission and current activities. A copy will be mailed to all NAWJ members.

The Executive Committee has worked conscientiously during the year, making decisions by consensus after thoughtful and substantive discussions. Several Districts and Committees have been incredibly active implementing existing NAWJ programs such as the Color of Justice and Genome Justice, while developing new ones in the field of bullying in the workplace, and programs for incarcerated women. The District Directors have held programs and receptions in their regions and associated NAWJ with other local organizations to get maximum exposure for NAWJ. We could not possibly ask for more from volunteers who must also fulfill weighty judicial responsibilities.

We would be unable to do a fraction of what we have accomplished without the talents and professionalism of Dru Ramey, our Executive Director, Jeff Groton, our Chief Operating Officer, and Stephanie Brown, our Program and Publication Assistant. I owe them my personal gratitude for their incredible support. They are always available and always willing – and more than able – to do whatever is necessary.

This report summarizes highlights of NAWJ's activities during the past year. It is by no means an exhaustive compilation of every meeting, program or activity. There are many others covered in the reports from the various Districts and Committees.

Have You Moved to A New Court or A New Home?

If you're not getting e-mail, postal mail, or faxes from us,  it could very well be that we don't know where you are. Don't miss out on anything. If you have recently moved to a new court or a new home, please take a minute and send us an e-mail at nawj@nawj.org to let us know so we can update our membership database.

NAWJ Latest News

[Our Landmark Sponsors](#)

2006 Annual Conference Sponsors

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The report highlights the following NAWJ events, activities and positions taken:

- Judicial Appointments and Diversity on the Bench
- NAWJ Gala Reception honoring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor
- Inaugural Meeting between National Women Leaders from the Judiciary and the Congress
- Comments on the ABA Revision to Model code of Judicial Ethics
- Judicial Independence
- International Association of Women Judges
- NAWJ Committees
- NAWJ Internal Organization and Governance
- Representing NAWJ and Speaking Engagements

28th Annual Conference Thank Yous

Conference Chair

Hon. Miriam Shearing

Program Co-Chairs

Janet Berry
Valerie Cooke

Gala Coordinator and Gift Bags

Nancy Oesterle

Exhibitors

Betsy Gonzalez

Friends Committee

Gloria Sturman
Nancy Allf
Connie Ackeridge
Lisa Wyman

Food and Wine

Sylvia Beller

Clerk of Court

Janette Bloom, Nevada Supreme Court

Nevada Supreme Court

Tom Harris

State Bar of Nevada

Christopher Boadt
Michael James

2nd Judicial District Court

Christine Kuhl
Kristie Tappan

Security

John Walter and US Marshals Service
Sandman, ATF
8th Judicial District Court Bailiffs
Nevada State Troopers

Moskowitz, Edelman &
Dicker LLP
Jones Vargas

Host Sponsors

Supreme Court of
Nevada
State Bar of Nevada

Thank You!

New NAWJ Logo Pin Available



This stunning NAWJ logo pin, created by award-winning jeweler Judith Kinghorn for the 1999 NAWJ annual conference in Florida (Google "Judith Kinghorn jewelry" for samples of her work at museums/shows around the country), will be available on a one-time, advance order basis only and ready by the Philadelphia conference. To get yours, you must order now and pay in advance (\$250 for the silver; price to be determined for gold and gold/silver). You may send a check payable to "National Association of Women Judges" to NAWJ, ATTN: Pin Offer, 1341 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 4.2, Washington DC 20036, or call (202) 393-0222 to pay by credit card. Don't delay. Get your NAWJ pin today! Orders must be submitted before November 30, 2006. Because Judith is

2006-2007 Board of Directors Announced

The NAWJ Nominations Committee Presents the 2006-2007 Board of Directors:

Brenda Stith Loftin

President
St. Louis County Circuit Court
St. Louis, Missouri

Fernande R.V. Duffly

President-Elect
Appeals Court
Boston, Massachusetts

Margret G. Robb

Vice President-Districts
Indiana Court of Appeals
Indianapolis, Indiana

La Tia Martin

Amy L. Nechtem

District Director, 1
Lynn Juvenile Court

E. Jeannette Ogden

District Director, 2
Buffalo City Court

Sue Pai Yang

District Director, 3
NJ Workers' Compensation Court

Joan V. Churchill

District Director, 4

Diana S. Eagon

Vice President-Publications
Westchester County Supreme Court
White Plains, New York

Marjorie Laird Carter
Treasurer
Orange County Superior Court
Orange County, California

Joan K. Irion
Secretary
4th Appellate District, Div. 1
San Diego, California

Vanessa Ruiz
Immediate Past President
District of Columbia Court of Appeals
Washington, D.C.

Dana Fabe
Projects Committee Chair
Alaska Supreme Court

Sarah Sharer Curley
Finance Committee Chair
United States Bankruptcy Court

Sandra Thompson
Resource Development
Committee Chair

Bea Ann Smith
International Director

Carolyn Engel Temin
ABA Delegate until August 2007

Cara Lee Neville
ABA Delegate after August 2007

District Director, 5
Hennepin County District Court

Phyllis M. Keaty
District Director, 6
15th Judicial District Court

Shelia R. Johnson
District Director, 7
46th District Court

Jane Spencer Craney
District Director, 8
Morgan Superior Court 3

Ellen Levy Siwak
District Director, 9
Associate Circuit Court Judge

Renee Worke
District Director, 10
Minnesota Court of Appeals

Elisabeth Ashlea Earle
District Director, 11
County Court at Law #7

Eileen S. Willett
District Director, 12
Superior Court of Arizona, Maricopa Co.

Barbara A. Madsen
District Director, 13
Washington State Supreme Court

Donna Crandall
District Director, 14
Orange County Superior Court

providing the pins at cost, \$100 of your payment represents a charitable donation to NAWJ.

[Download the Latest Issue of Counterbalance \(PDF\)](#)

Upcoming Events

[Color of Justice](#)
October 14, 2006
Charleston, SC

[20th National College on Judicial Conduct and Ethics](#)
October 19 - 21, 2006
Chicago, IL

[Free Public Forum: New York's Selection of Voting Machines](#)
October 19, 2006
New York, NY

[Law School Outreach - Joint DC Area Women Law Students Networking Tea](#)
October 19, 2006
Washington, DC

Are you keeping up with all NAWJ events? If not, check out our NAWJ website at <http://www.nawj.org>

The NAWJ Web site will be updated with information on the new board of directors soon.

2006 NAWJ Award Presentations

Announcements

2006 Annual Conference Photos

Photos from the 28th Annual Conference held in Las Vegas are now available for free download and/or purchase at [Shutterbug](#). To access the photo album, enter password: *nawjdc* when prompted. If you have trouble accessing the site and you're not behind a

**The NAWJ Awards Committee Congratulates Its
2006 Award Winners**

The Joan Dempsey Klein NAWJ Honoree of the Year Award

Hon. Mary M. Schroeder
Chief Judge, US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

This award is to honor a judge who brings distinction to her office and to the NAWJ as exemplified by our founding mother, Justice Joan Dempsey Klein.

The Mattie Belle Davis Award

Colonel Linda Strite Murnane, USAF (ret.)

This award is to honor a member who has gone above and beyond his or her role as member and volunteer to help make a difference in the organization and further its mission, as the Honorable Mattie Belle Davis did.

The NAWJ President's Award

Hon. Miriam Shearing
Chief Justice of Nevada (ret.)

Recently retired from the Nevada Supreme Court as one of our nation's most distinguished judicial leaders, Chief Justice Miriam Shearing heroically took on the enormous responsibility of Chairing the 2006 Annual Conference, one in which she characteristically enlisted the talents of a great many of her leading colleagues in the Nevada Bench and Bar. NAWJ is most grateful to Chief Justice Shearing and her dedicated colleagues for such a glorious conference in Las Vegas.

firewall, please send an e-mail to Stephanie Brown at sbrown@nawj.org. More photos, taken by the on-site photographer, will be available soon.

2006 Annual Report

The 2006 Annual Report has been published. It will be sent to all members who did not attend the annual conference. Please allow 3 weeks for mailing. If you do not receive your copy, please send an e-mail to Stephanie Brown at sbrown@nawj.org.

Submitting Events for the NAWJ Web Calendar

Keep NAWJ Up-to-Date on your local activities!

If you would like to post events on the NAWJ Web calendar or in *Counterbalance*, please send an e-mail with "**NAWJ Calendar Submission**" in the subject line to sbrown@nawj.org and include the following information (in this format) in the body of that e-mail—

Event date:
Event time:
Event title:
Event description:
Contact:
Location:

E-mails without the above information may cause a delay or error in posting. You may attach flyers or registration forms to be posted along with your event, but it is most helpful if you can extract the required information and present it in the above format. Events are automatically included in the most current issue of *Counterbalance* if submitted by the deadline. Thank you for your help.

About NAWJ

The National Association of Women Judges is a non-profit organization which has for 27 years served as the nation's leading voice for jurists dedicated to preserving judicial independence; ensuring equal justice and access to the courts for women, minorities and other historically disfavored groups; providing judicial education on cutting-edge issues; and increasing the numbers and advancement of women judges at all levels to more accurately reflect their full participation in a democratic society. For more information, visit www.nawj.org or call 202.393.0222.

