

COUNTERBALANCE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

GLOBAL JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP

IMMIGRATION

SOCIAL RIGHTS

**Innovative
Efforts
to Improve
Access to
Justice**

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

OPIOIDS LITIGATION

THREAT TO
THE RULE OF LAW

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SEPARATING
MIGRANT FAMILIES



MISSION

NAWJ's mission is to promote the judicial role of protecting the rights of individuals under the rule of law through strong, committed, diverse judicial leadership; fairness and equality in the courts; and equal access to justice.

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Innovative Efforts to Improve Access to Justice through Global Judicial Leadership
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**COUNTERBALANCE is published by:
National Association of Women Judges**

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
of
WOMEN JUDGES

President's Message



“ I am proud to lead our organization, and grateful for the community we have created. I hope that our experiences and memories made at the NAWJ 2020 Midyear Meeting continue to bolster your spirits in the year to come, as they have mine.

Dear NAWJ Members,

First, I want to express my sincere hope that each of you are safe and well in these challenging times. Your leadership and dedication are a credit to your communities, and I take heart in knowing each of you are undoubtedly sharing your knowledge and abilities with those who need it most. I remain in awe of the compassionate and talented members of our organization.

While each of us experiences a rapidly changing global landscape, I wanted to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to you for joining at the NAWJ 2020 Midyear Meeting here in New Orleans: Bringing Access Into Harmony with Justice. I was humbled and inspired by your presence and participation and am grateful to each and every one of you that contributed to our successful gathering. Now more than ever, community and compassion are of vital importance as we face uncharted territory together.

Though current global challenges kept us on our toes, the grace and adaptability demonstrated by our facilitators and attendees ensured that our Midyear Meeting provided education, empowerment, and expansion of our legal community. As I reflect on the experience, I am overwhelmed by the generosity of spirit and perseverance demonstrated by our attendees and presenters. Thank you.

Our 2020 Midyear Meeting was full of unexpected

opportunities, and it was a great honor and pleasure to welcome U.S. District Court Judge Dana Sabraw this year. When we found ourselves in need of a keynote speaker on short notice, Judge Sabraw stepped into the role to deliver a powerful address to our attendees. My sincere thanks to Judge Sabraw for enriching our experience with your words, a true highlight of our time together.

Many of you volunteered your wisdom and expertise when scheduled panel participants were unable to join us, and I would like to thank you for your demonstrated and unwavering commitment to our mission and values in doing so. Several participants throughout the week expressed their gratitude to NAWJ for the opportunity to learn and grow together, and I believe that our gathering offered much-needed inspiration and empowerment to all in attendance.

I am proud to lead our organization, and grateful for the community we have created. I hope that our experiences and memories made at the NAWJ 2020 Midyear Meeting continue to bolster your spirits in the year to come, as they have mine. Take good care, and I am excited to witness what we are all capable of next.

With warm regards,

Bernadette D'Souza

Honorable Bernadette G. D'Souza

Judge, Orleans Civil District Court
President, NAWJ

Interim Executive Director Message



Since this message was originally written for this issue of *Counterbalance*, we have continued to experience change in the way we live and work. We do not yet know what “normal” will look like for us, but I do know how hard all the NAWJ members are working to provide safe and equitable access to justice. As the “Leading Voice of Women in the Judiciary”, NAWJ is quickly yet strategically addressing the issues members have prioritized. The COVID-19 Taskforce is working collaboratively with other NAWJ committees, to provide valuable resources to members and to the greater judicial community. The Taskforce will be providing opportunities on both local and national levels for each of you to discuss the innovative ways

your courts are operating as well as techniques you are using for your own self-care.

I am honored to serve you during this uncertain and challenging time. The complexities you face are daunting. The entire staff continues to seek and secure opportunities for NAWJ. We are all deeply committed to caring for the health of the organization. I believe NAWJ will emerge as a stronger and more cohesive community empowering women at all levels of the judiciary.

Stay safe and be well,

Laurie Denham

Laurie Denham, CAE

Interim Executive Director

Vice President of Publications Message



“Counterbalance is one of the NAWJ resources that assists with our staying “plugged in” about the work of our colleagues in the USA and abroad. This is an extraordinarily important year. There are profound issues in the forefront during this election cycle and the equally if not more compelling health crisis.

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles and reports for this Spring 2020 issue of Counterbalance. We are especially grateful this season, as we imagine many of you are predominantly focused on your own well-being and that of your families, friends, and colleagues. We will strive to keep you well informed of our Association’s activities and the fine work and contributions each of you makes toward the mission of NAWJ.

We are looking forward to an exciting year for Counterbalance. As we continue to work with our web design company, I expect that the two issues we publish this year will be lively and compelling both substantively and visually. In addition, we hope to work on some new features that will make Counterbalance more accessible and usable on the NAWJ web site, such as indexing and searching of all issues.

I am grateful to our NAWJ Staff Program Manager, Lavinia Cousin, for her continuing excellent work on Counterbalance, and I am enthusiastic by the new and future contributions in these efforts by Maureen Gelwicks, our new Operations Manager. I also expressly thank Laurie Denham, NAWJ’s Interim Executive Director for her sharp focus and management of our team effort.

Counterbalance is one of the NAWJ resources that assists with our staying “plugged in” about the work of our colleagues in the USA and abroad. This is an extraordinarily important year. There are profound issues in the forefront during this election cycle including issues surrounding the compelling health crisis and the continued and the more recent escalation of law enforcement aggression toward minorities. Though the world is changing significantly, our mission remains focused and strong. We each are challenged as never before in the life of NAWJ also to be focused and strong, and to remain

informed and enlightened when we are most separate and disconnected. These challenges must not hinder our mission to protect rights, promote fairness, and to provide access to justice for all.

The NAWJ 2019-2024 Strategic Plan recognizes the importance of internal and external communications, with focus specifically on web site improvements, consistent content, more stories about members via new technologies, collaboration with outside organizations on relevant articles, and the like. Counterbalance, and other NAWJ “publications,” can have significant roles in fulfilling these goals and strategies, all toward keeping us connected and knowledgeable and educated about our activities locally and worldwide. Continue checking the NAWJ web site and the NAWJ Monthly News updates for announcements about webinars scheduled through the summer on the pandemic and the courts. I hope you were able to attend the first webinar, ***Courts on the Front Line: Providing Access to Justice While Protecting Public Health During a Pandemic.***

I am enjoying working with NAWJ Leadership, Districts, Committees, Resource Board, and each of you as members. Together we are making Counterbalance and other NAWJ communication tools the go-to resources for the greater judiciary community.

Honorable Heidi M. Pasichow

Judge Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Vice President of Publications NAWJ

Q&A with Judge Ann Breen-Greco Co-Chair Human Trafficking Committee



Judge Ann Breen-Greco is an Independent Administrative Judiciary Professional. Previously, she was an Administrative Law Judge with the City of Chicago Department of Administrative Hearings, an Administrative Law Judge / Hearing Officer with the Illinois State Board of Education, presiding over special education hearings, and an Administrative Law Judge with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, hearing child abuse cases. She is also a mediator with the Illinois State Board of Education for special education cases and is a labor arbitrator. She has organized a number of seminars on human trafficking and violence against women and was a presenter on "Human Trafficking in Persons", to the Mid-East and North Africa Judges (MENA) for the International Association of Women Judges.

NAWJ's The Human Trafficking committee works toward eliminating human trafficking, especially women and children trafficked for sexual and labor exploitation. The committee is chaired by the Honorable Ann Breen Greco, and Summer Stephan, San Diego District Attorney.

In 2011, NAWJ President Honorable Dana Fabe, appointed NAWJ Past President Hon. Carolyn Engel Temin, Chair of a group to explore what was being done on human trafficking by other entities, and to determine what unique contribution NAWJ could do to confront the terrible problem that results in enslaving thousands of individuals of both genders and all ages. After investigating, committee members decided NAWJ could add to the field by filling a vacuum that existed with respect to the Judiciary by developing programs that addressed the role the Judiciary should play in ending human trafficking. To this end, the committee decided to design a training program that can be presented throughout the United States and promoted by District Directors. The committee surveyed NAWJ members to determine topics trainings should cover, and designed a manual geared to the needs of judges, *Trafficking in Persons - Modern Day Slavery A Program Manual* created and compiled by committee members Hon. René Forgensi Minarik, Hon. Arline Pacht and Hon. Elizabeth Lee.

Q: In 2011, then President of the ABA, Laurel Bellows, designated human trafficking as one of the most important subjects to be addressed during her presidency. You were NAWJ District 8 Director, and ABA President

Bellows appointed you liaison to NAWJ from the ABA Taskforce on Human Trafficking. Here you are in 2020, back to serving as District 8 Director and co-chair of NAWJ's Human Trafficking Committee. What do you think about where the committee is now?

A: The committee is more actively engaged than ever in work on human trafficking. In this time of COVID-19 we are also looking for ways to gear our activities toward addressing the developing and intensifying human trafficking and domestic violence resulting from COVID-19. Additionally, we reached out to other



entities working on these critical matters to bring all of our strengths together. I am a member of the American Bar Association Judicial Division's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence and Human Trafficking. I am also a Commissioner on the ABA's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence (CDSV). Those two entities are also bringing judges and lawyers together to work on the issue. Particularly, CDSV does trainings across the country for attorneys, advocates and judges. We have also been in touch with United Against Slavery, which is doing a survey among judges across the country to determine the need for human trafficking courts. The specialized courts in which the NAWJ human trafficking committee has worked specialize in matters such as domestic violence and trafficking. Over the years since I first became NAWJ's liaison to the ABA Task Force on Human Trafficking, I have worked to develop a number of programs on human trafficking both here in Chicago where I am located and in Washington D.C. during NAWJ meetings. Judge Virginia Kendall who is on the Northern District bench in Chicago

is an internationally renowned expert on human trafficking and has spoken at a number of our programs. She is also an author of two texts on the subject. We continue to work with her. I also gave a presentation on human trafficking to the MENA (Middle East North Africa) judges when we were in D.C. at the International Association of Women Judges conference.

Q: During the Midyear in New Orleans, I noticed Summer Stephan's powerful presentation, HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A Global Problem with Local Initiatives/Solutions, had everyone's complete attention. New judge. Veteran judge. Eyes were peeled, "where can I get that presentation?" What is it about where we are with tackling the foothold human trafficking claims in communities across the United States that holds so much interests for judges today?

A: The presentation by the Human Trafficking Committee co-chair, San Diego District Attorney, Summer Stephan, was outstanding. This holds so much interest for

judges today because of the increase that they have seen in cases across the years. There was a time when we did not have specialized courts for this horrific crime. In fact, the victims of human trafficking were being charged with crimes, designating these victims as prostitutes. It was often judges themselves who began to be alarmed at seeing women returning to court so often having been arrested on prostitution charges. Judges in various parts of the country began to find a connection between the fact that women were being re-arrested, and frequently a man would show up to bail a woman out. It was clear that the purpose was to get a woman back on the street as quickly as possible so that the trafficker, also known as pimp, could derive benefit from the use of women in trafficking and prostitution.

Q: Last year's committee work was interactive, in the sense that you invited leaders of allied interests and from other organizations to speak and share during NAWJ's Human Trafficking Committee

meetings. Members may think of committees as a vehicle for planning or development. What was it like to bring in a guest speaker of sorts?

A: In the course of collaborating with other entities we have invited members of those entities to speak to us just as we are asking members of our committee to speak to the Task Force and to CDSV. We also had the representative of United Against Slavery speak at one of our meetings. Currently I have asked one of our members, Judge Bobbie McCartney, to be our coordinator/liaison for work on a project discussed at our last human trafficking committee meeting. It has been suggested that we work on developing a webinar that would not only address human trafficking but how we can work together on trafficking and domestic and sexual violence, all of which have increased during COVID-19.

Independent IMMIGRATION Courts

After advocating for years, judicial and legal groups stepped up their call for America's immigration courts to become independent. At present, immigration courts operate under the U.S. Department of Justice, and are vulnerable to political interests. In February, with over one million unheard cases backlogging the immigration courts across the country, immigration judges are buckling under the pressure of high quota numbers and what many argue is a highly politicized court process. Some judges are calling for an independent immigration court

separate from the Department of Justice. Led by NAWJ Past President and former Immigration Judge Joan Churchill, NAWJ joined the movement in asking Congress to "establish an Article I Immigration Court system independent of the Department of Justice, or any other prosecutorial agency, in order to guarantee due process and a fair hearing with justice for all." A sample of the letter written to members in both houses is below. NAWJ member, Judge Ashley Tabaddor, current President of National Association of Immigration Judges, appeared on public radio's WBUR to make the case, as president of the National Association of Immigration Judges.

Here is the letter's full text:

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The National Association of Women Judges [NAWJ], which I have the honor to serve as President, writes in support of the creation of an independent Immigration Court. We respectfully call on Congress to establish an Article I Immigration Court system that is independent of the Department of Justice, or any other prosecutorial agency, in order to guarantee due process and a fair hearing with justice for all.

Currently, the Immigration Courts are housed in the U.S. Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review [EOIR], which manages the Immigration Courts at both the trial and appellate levels. This structure presents an inherent conflict of interest. The Immigration Courts are adjudicatory bodies tasked with providing due process hearings to respondents in removal proceedings. It is essential that its judges be neutral adjudicators who are not subject to the policy making chain of command of an executive agency, or to direction by a party to the cases before them.

NAWJ has been the leading voice of women jurists across the country for over forty years. Founded in 1979, our non-partisan membership includes over 1,000 judges, women and men, serving at all levels of the state and federal judiciary. Our membership includes judges on administrative, military, tribal, and other specialized courts, in addition to the regular state and federal courts. NAWJ has, since our founding, championed the advancement of women and minorities in the legal profession, the independence of the

judiciary, and equal access to justice.

NAWJ's support for an independent Immigration Court outside the Department of Justice is long standing. We adopted a resolution in support on April 16, 2002 stating that:

"The NAWJ supports an independent structure for the Immigration Courts (at both the trial and appellate levels) outside the Department of Justice, to assure fairness and equal access to justice, and to assure both the appearance and reality of impartiality."

We followed up with another resolution adopted on October 18, 2008 stating:

"The National Association of Women Judges supports the enactment of federal immigration legislation that provides for full and fair administrative adjudication and review of deportation orders."

We are pleased to hear that Congress is currently considering introduction of legislation on this important topic.

Due process by adjudicatory tribunals requires

case by case adjudication in which a neutral decision maker, using his/her independent judgment, renders a decision based entirely on the record before him/her, the facts of the case, the submissions of the parties, and the governing law and regulations, without direction from above or consideration of outside (ex parte) influences. The current structure of the Immigration Courts, however, presents a systemic problem to neutral adjudication, as the structure allows:

- (1) a supervisory role regarding the content of Immigration Judges' rulings and decisions, as a factor in their performance evaluations, and
- (2) participation in the adjudicatory process by policy makers who are, in turn, answerable to one of the parties, an executive agency of the Government.

We respectfully urge Congress to establish an independent Immigration Court system, under Article I of the United States Constitution, that would assure due process and judicial independence.

Thank you for consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Bernadette D'Souza
President National Association of Women Judges



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

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February 26, 2020

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¹ The appellate level of the Immigration Court system is known as the Board of Immigration Appeals or BIA.

Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein
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Sincerely,

Bernadette D'Souza
The Honorable Bernadette D'Souza
President
National Association of Women Judges

NAWJ RESOURCE BOARD

The Resource Board is committed to supporting NAWJ both financially and programmatically, for the purposes of (a) assuring that NAWJ has sufficient economic and human resources to execute its strategic plan; (b) developing bonds of mutual support and respect between and among Resource Board members and NAWJ members; and (c) promoting the professional advancement and elevating the standing of women from both the bench and bar.

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RESOURCE BOARD PROFILE

Cathy Winter-Palmer

*Chair, Community Engagement Committee,
Western Justice Center
Principal, CWP and
Associates*

Many of us know Cathy Winter-Palmer as the thoughtful knitter of NAWJ community. Cathy is an observer who, while attending NAWJ's recent 2020 Midyear Meeting in New Orleans, obtains a beautiful, desired keepsake of NAWJ's 2013 New Orleans Annual Conference to share with NAWJ co-founding mother, Justice Joan Dempsey Klein, upon return to California. She is an ingenious organizer of experiences. While part of the planning team for NAWJ's 2019 Annual Conference in Los Angeles, Cathy found a way to welcome international judges to Los Angeles, through partnership with her fellow Resource Board member, Chris Poole of JAMS. Chris hosted a reception and shared trends and resources available internationally.



firm dedicated to making remote court appearances "simple, accessible and affordable for all parties." The firm's technologies allow courts and judges to carry out their roles applying the law and overseeing legal processes for all communities, regardless of each constituent's location. The service is widely used today, servicing hundreds of State, Federal, Bankruptcy, and Provincial

Courts across the United States and Canada. CourtCall is a Landmark Sponsor whose multi-year pledge of support provides crucial stability, and enables NAWJ's influential voice to be heard throughout the judiciary and the broader legal and education communities.

Cathy, then CourtCall's Chief Business Development Officer, joined the Resource Board in 2012. Since she joined NAWJ, CourtCall has provided NAWJ scholarship funding, teleconferencing services, and professional expertise. She is not only active on the Resource Board, a vital advisory arm of the NAWJ Board of Directors, she contributes as a member of the NAWJ ADA Compliance Committee. In addition to conference planning committees, she has been involved in numerous initiatives all of which have greatly benefited the organization. Cathy served on the Planning Committee for NAWJ's 36th Annual Conference in San Diego, was an active member of NAWJ's developmental Website Committee, and was instrumental in realizing the 2015 Meeting with the Congressional Women's Caucus on Capitol Hill. Her achievements for NAWJ were recognized with NAWJ's prestigious Mattie Bell Davis Award at

“Cathy began her membership in NAWJ as its steadfast champion, who served as the Resource Board representative for CourtCall LLC., a Los Angeles-based firm dedicated to making remote court appearances “simple, accessible and affordable for all parties.”

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Continued on page 23

Doing the Impossible:

NAWJ work with the Pan-American Commission of Judges on Social Rights

Renee Stackhouse (*née Galente*) is a serious force in San Diego's legal community, recognized equally for her tenacity, diligence, legal knowledge, and exceptional trial skills. As an advocate, Renee is lauded for her strategic and empathetic approach, and she is known as a leader in the profession and the community.

In her years as a practicing lawyer, Renee has successfully represented clients in civil matters ranging from business disputes to construction defect and personal injury cases, while also growing a significant criminal defense practice. In addition, Renee has a strong military defense practice, and is recognized for her understanding of military processes and protocols, and the nuances involved in representing service members in various matters. Her knowledge and understanding of the United States Military stems from her work as a civilian employee working in Marine Corps Community Services at Southern California's largest base, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, from 1997-2007. Her substantial volunteer experience also has included leadership roles with the San Diego County Bar Association, serving as the 2020 President-Elect on the Board of Directors, and inaugural Chair of the Association's high-profile Law and Technology committee. She is Chair of NAWJ's Mothers in Court Committee.



By Renee N.G. Stackhouse

The murky, brown river water swirls around the debris that fills it. On a small island in the middle of the river, rough strewn buildings sit partially sunk into the mud. The small, repurposed

those who know Judge Ipema, they know she would never have said “No” to this work anyway, as it is both her passion as well as the embodiment of her 2019 NAWJ Presidential Theme: Global Judicial Leadership.

“Start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

— Francis of Assisi

boat filled with judicial officers from across the Americas slowly makes it way to its destination - a remote village where justice is making a new home.

When Judge Tamila Ipema, Immediate Past President of the National Association of Women Judges, was appointed by His Holiness Pope Francis to a newly formed standing committee in June (Jodi Cleesattle, *NAWJ Visits Vatican for Pan-American Judges' Summit on Social Rights*, Counterbalance, Fall 2018, Issue 2), she never imagined that her journey would lead to this small boat deep in rural Peru.

The appointment itself, in fact, was a complete surprise. But as she acknowledged, “When the Pope asks you to do work, you don’t say ‘No.’” And for

Doing the necessary.

When appointed, Judge Ipema joined a group of seven diverse judges (three men and four women, including LGBTQ+, from the United States, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Columbia, and Brazil) who began to communicate daily via



NAWJ Past President, Judge Tamila E. Ipema with members of the Pan-American Commission including Peru's Supreme Court Justice, Dr. Janet Tello Gilardi (white jacket) and an indigenous judge (far right) from the town of Pucallpa.



GLOBAL JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP

“WhatsApp,” a secure and free messaging phone app. The standing committee was named the Pan-American Commission of Judges on Social Rights, but other than that the committee members were given wide latitude to determine the mission, goals, and scope of their work. Complicated by language barriers and differing rules of governing ethics, the group knew that their work had to focus on access to justice in the Americas. They brainstormed the issues facing their various countries and began to see where there was overlap.

In November 2019, the committee reunited in person in Brazil to begin work on the formalities of their standing committee and to formulate a plan of action. The main purpose was determined to be to educate and train judges and attorneys in Pan-American countries on the notions of social rights, access to justice for all, particularly the poor, homeless, and vulnerable, and indigenous populations, the environment, and judicial independence. The importance of an independent judiciary, especially, was a topic that resonated across countries and legal systems and tied in perfectly with the conference in which they participated while visiting Brazil.

NAWJ Past President (center right) with indigenous tribes leaders from Peru attending the commission conference of 200 judges, attorneys and legislators.



Doing the possible.

Next, Judge Ipema was tasked, along with the other women members of the standing committee to participate and present at a two-day human trafficking summit organized by the Vatican Academy for the women judges of several African countries. This summit led to the creation of another standing committee called the Pan-African Commission on Social Rights dedicated to helping the destitute and vulnerable in Africa to get access to justice and find their voice.

In December 2019, Judge Ipema travelled to Peru. Fresh off the plane from a 10+ hour trip and still in travel clothes, she, along with the other members, were greeted and then asked to change immediately into suits as they were to present to the Supreme Court. After meeting and being greeted by the members of the Supreme Court Justice of Peru, Judge Ipema and the group were led to a door, just past which were two steps up to a dais set with tables and chairs. Once on the dais, Judge Ipema came face-to-face with 200 people patiently waiting for a presentation! Without a translator, her colleague from Brazil translated

for Judge Ipema. She took the unexpected opportunity to speak about access to justice and the work of their own Supreme Court Justice of Peru, Janet Tello, who formed a travelling court that she takes to remote areas and how this concept has now been implemented in Michigan after Justice Tello's presentation at NAWJ and IAWJ conferences. Judge Ipema noted for the group, “We all have much to share and much we can learn from each other.”

From the Supreme Court, the group traveled to the “Justicia para transformer Vulnerabilidad en Igualdad” (“Justice to transfer Vulnerability into Equality”) conference at Pucallpa, a city on the Ucayali river in the Amazonian Rainforest. There gathered more than 200 judges, attorneys, and legislators, as well as the Chiefs of the local indigenous tribes to talk about issues facing the tribes. Given the remote nature of most of the tribes, they still rely heavily on unregulated tribal justice, usually dispensed by an elder. Judge Ipema presented on collaborative court systems and the need to treat and train, versus punish, the accused who come from a trauma background. After the presentation she was approached by a local who surprised her by saying, “I always thought Americans didn't have any heart. It's so nice to see you up there. You have a heart. You care. You are taking care of people.” Bolstered by the feedback, when Justice Tello asked if she wanted to come with her on another trip, Judge Ipema was eager.

And that is how she ended up on a small, repurposed boat in the middle of the Amazon river. A boat that a local tribe had found abandoned, put in seats, and called “seaworthy.” The group of judges were its inaugural passengers. Not one to back down, Judge Ipema said, “I prayed, I put on a life jacket, and I got on the boat!” A military escort followed behind.

The rotor of the boat constantly jammed from the flotsam in the river, as they slowly made their way to an Amazonian village in the Masisea District with no running water or



Peru's Supreme Court Justice, Dr. Janet Tello Gilardi

electricity. That village was opening its first courthouse. The small building contained a couple closet-sized rooms for a judge (they wear a medal, instead of a robe). Solar panels were installed to provide electricity which work for four hours a day.

Previously, villagers had to navigate the river to get justice, a trek which had led to the death of a few people on the same day as Judge Ipema's arrival. Celebrating the new courthouse, and everything that it represented, the villagers put

on a spectacular program, including a ribbon cutting and a fashion show/art presentation of costumes made from recycled materials. As the delegation of judges slowly made their way back to Pucallpa an hour and a half away, and barely missed being sucked into a whirlwind on the river, they truly felt the impact this courthouse would make.

They also realized how important it was to turn their gazes inward. Each judge on the standing commission agreed to create their own social justice commission in

their home countries in order to train people to become experts on access to justice, on the rights of the poor, the environment, and judicial independence in order to create change from within. A chapter has already been created in Argentina and Judge Ipema is working to create a USA chapter on Social Rights, Access to Justice, and Judicial Independence. In March, Judge Ipema traveled to Argentina to meet with the members of their chapter, as well as speak about human trafficking.

In April, she attended a two-day social justice conference in Columbia, speaking on the topics

of access to justice and collaborative courts. The work continues.

The standing committee was scheduled to return to the Vatican in June for the next summit on colonialism, decolonization, and neo-colonialism. American linguist, scientist and philosopher Noam Chomsky will attend, along with seven other experts from around the world, to talk about the affect of colonialism, particularly in Africa and South America; how it affects the indigenous people currently and how it continues to psychologically affect generations to come.

Doing the impossible.

Judge Bernadette D'Souza said in her Fall 2019 President's message, "My theme for this year is Innovative Efforts to Improve Access to Justice through Global Judicial Leadership. Now more than ever we are equipped with the ability to lead by example on a global scale." NAWJ members are doing exactly that and making Judge D'Souza's theme a reality.

When asked what Judge Ipema wanted the NAWJ membership to take away from her work, she said, "As the most powerful country in the world, we need to be more engaged in it. We cannot be willfully ignorant. We cannot believe we have nothing to learn. We cannot believe we have nothing to give." She takes inspiration from Pope Francis, who took his name in honor of Francis of Assisi and is known for his concern for the well-being of the poor, noting that it was when he was willing to step down as a Cardinal, that he was elevated to Pope.

Work, life, family, and trying to find that elusive balance can make the idea of taking on global leadership seem daunting. Judge Ipema's advice: Start with doing what's necessary and see where it takes you.

If you are interested in working on these projects, please contact Judge Ipema at tamila.ipema@sdcourt.ca.gov.





To Africa, With Love!

By The Honorable Michael Washington

I had been a trial advocacy teacher with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) for 12 years when I shared my desire to teach trial advocacy internationally. While I knew that teaching opportunities in Western Europe and Asia were highly coveted, I wanted to choose a place that called out to my spirit; I chose Africa. I had no idea what it would be like to teach there, I had never visited the continent, but I figured it would be interesting. Never did I imagine that it would change my life.



In 2010, the Honorable Ann Claire Williams in collaboration with Lawyers Without Borders (LWOB), agreed to direct a trial advocacy program in Liberia; and she invited me. The program was to be conducted for lawyers and judges in Liberia. I knew very little about Liberia except, it was founded by repatriated Blacks from the U.S. and the capital was named Monrovia, after our U.S. President, James Monroe.



Office of the Public Defender in Nigeria.



Honorable Ann Claire Williams

Prior to my trip, scheduled for November 2010, I was struck with how little I knew about the country to where I was headed, so I conducted a Google search. The news was good and bad. The good, English was the official language (I was concerned about communication problems), and they accepted the U.S. dollar as legal tender (no need for currency exchange).

The bad, Liberia had only recently ended a bloody and protracted civil war, and the country was one of the poorest in the world. Liberia is located on the Western coast of sub-Saharan Africa. Liberia was never under colonial rule, but that may be because the country has few resources that Europe and the U.S. are interested in.

I got my brand-new passport and international shots and headed enthusiastically into the mostly unknown. I knew how to teach direct and cross examination and opening statements and closing arguments, but I knew nothing of how the Liberian court system worked. However, equipped with the knowledge that the Liberian lawyers and judges had committed to his week's worth of trial advocacy training, coupled with the sage advice of Judge Williams, who said not to worry, I was confident that I had all that I needed.

Eleanor Roosevelt once famously said, "If you want something said, ask a man. If you want something done, ask a woman." She clearly had Judge Ann Claire Williams in mind. Judge Williams was no stranger to getting things done, having been President of the Federal Judges' Association and a valued trainer of new federal judges at the Federal Judicial Center and lawyers through NITA. She had also already conducted judicial case management and lawyer advocacy training programs in Africa, having taught in Liberia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Judge Williams is a passionate, relentless and inspirational force of nature; and her experience with working with and training lawyers and judges in the importance of the Rule of Law, makes her an unmatched Phenom. Her experience and her role as a U.S. Circuit Court judge on the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit,





Judge Washington at the Kenyan Judicial Training Institute, 2016

allowed her and LWOB to recruit fellow federal judges, partners of several Big Law firms in the U.S. and U.K. and assorted trial attorneys to join her teaching team. While some members of our team had taught in Africa previously, most of us had not.

Because some of the funding of the program was provided by the U.S. Department of State, the program started with a security briefing at the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia. Due to the crushing national poverty, petty property crimes were common, so State Department employees encouraged the members of Judge Williams' faculty to stay close to our hotel and to only go out in groups. Violent crimes against foreign visitors were unlikely, but the faculty traveled from our hotel to the courthouse with United Nations peacekeepers armed with AK-47 automatic rifles.

Once the trial advocacy training started, I noticed something uncommon, the judges in the program were going through the trial advocacy part of the program along with the lawyers. The judges were training with the lawyers. I had all but assumed that the judges were only going to attend the case management and judgment writing portion of the training, but the Liberian judges

specifically requested that they be included in the trial skills training.

During our scheduled program breaks the faculty and the judge and lawyer participants shared information about each other's systems, cultures, and rules of law. During these collective and shared experiences, I learned that Liberia, as a country, struggled with issues I had never considered. Like

much of Africa, Liberian courts do not have the benefit of court reporters. They also do not have the opportunities offered by jury trials. As a result, all the testimony is taken down by the judge by hand. Once we learned that, we assumed that perhaps the notes of the testimony were being transcribed by typists, only to learn



Judges Marina Gaston and Washington

that the national power grid was unreliable, so there was no consistent provision of electricity (the power went out nearly every day we were there). Subsequently, we were shown a room where booklets of trial notes were stacked floor to ceiling, all handwritten. Despite these challenges, those involved in the Liberian justice system were universally optimistic. As a faculty member I found myself focused on what was lacking, but the Liberians were focused on what they were building. They were excited that we came, giving our time, to help them.

As I felt my perspective changing, my eyes opening, my horizon broadening, I then had the conversation that changed my future. During our collective sharing, I learned that judges had taken a significant pay cut from their previous earnings as attorneys to serve as judges. I asked, "Why would you do that?" No matter who I asked, the response was universal, "I do this as a way to serve my country!" I had never viewed judges quite that way. Servants of their country? Before this conversation, I viewed judges like referees in a sporting event, not really involved in the activity, just more of a passive observer checking the boxes to make sure the rules were followed in court and forgotten outside the courthouse. I never looked at judges like someone in the military that we thank for their service. It was the last response I received, however, that put a lump in my throat. A young judge replied, "I am active in my community talking about the value of our court system. I want when people see me, to see Justice." As I returned home after a week in



Judges Gaston and Washington with Nigerian and Ethiopian advocates.

Liberia, I couldn't stop thinking about what the young judge said. I thought, yeah, I want that too, when people see me, I want them to see Justice.

In 2011, I traveled with Judge Williams again to Africa, this time to Kenya. Unlike Liberia, Kenya is on the Eastern coast of sub-Saharan Africa. Unlike Liberia, Kenya is one of the most prosperous countries in Africa. Before liberation, Kenya was a British colony, and Kenya has plenty of local resources and a tourist



GLOBAL JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP



Namibian teaching group.

economy that helps support their national economy. However, in 2010, Kenya had just concluded a contentious election, wherein they adopted a new constitution. As a result, when we arrived in Kenya, we were arriving in a country that was adjusting to changes that come with constitutional change.

Sadly, many of the changes that accompanied the newly adopted constitution did not include changes in the administration of the Kenyan court system. The court system was abundant and lacking at the same time, for instance, the judges in the capital city of Nairobi were eager



Kenyan teaching group.

to show off their new technology, a state-of-the-art videoconferencing system that allowed appellate judges in the coastal resort city of Mombasa to be seen in the courthouse in Nairobi; while, inside the Nairobi courts and throughout Kenya, judges still took down testimony by hand, into booklets. The Kenyan court system had no computerized way to keep track of defendants in custody, who they were, when they came into custody, when they should leave. Neither did the Kenyan system allow for plea bargains or even opening statements.

Less than three years after my first trip to Liberia, Governor Edmund "Jerry" Brown appointed me to the San Diego Superior Court. By then, I had already returned to Africa five more times. Since being appointed Superior Court Judge, I have traveled back to Africa an additional 14 times, teaching in the African countries of Tanzania, Nigeria and Namibia, and returning to some that I had visited previously.

I have Judge Ann Claire Williams,



Kenyan advocates



Honorable Michael Washington and Judge Williams.



Judge Washington in Tanzania.

Lawyers without Borders, and the National Institute of Trial Advocacy to thank for giving me the opportunity to teach across the seas. I also thank my local court for allowing me to use my vacation time to participate in these trainings. But I also have Africa to thank, for calling to my heart and leading the transformation of my spirit; helping me understand my place, my role, my desire to be seen as a tangible manifestation of justice. I am thankful for the many friends I have made in Africa and for the love they have shown me. I first went to Africa because I thought I could help bring positive change to the continent, but I know that I am the one who has been changed for the better.

I also have a much greater appreciation for the American justice system. I understand and embrace the irreplaceable value of the rule of law. And I am now more convinced than ever that communities function better, for the good of all of its members when the judiciary is respected, respectful and intentionally mindful of the heightened sense of responsibility for the role it plays. I am filled with hope as I see that the many countries of Africa are experiencing these same revelations. I am even more excited to be a part of the teams of like-minded legal professionals that want to bring justice to the world. As Judge Williams always says, "We come because of the light that we see in your eyes. The light that yearns for justice for all." As a life member of NAWJ, when people see me, I want them to see Justice.

The Honorable Michael D. Washington is a Judge for the San Diego County Superior Court. In 2013, he was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to serve in the San Diego County Superior Court. Before his appointment, he had served as Deputy Public Defender at the San Diego County Public Defender's Office since 1994. He has been an adjunct professor at the University of San Diego School of Law since 2003. He earned a doctorate degree from California Western School of Law, and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from San Diego State University.

SUMMARY OF SESSIONS

Near 100 intrepid members, supporters, and friends of NAWJ gathered together in the French Quarter's historic Hotel Monteleone to explore the meeting's theme "Bringing Access into Harmony with Justice" in a series of discussions and gatherings that address how the legal community can ensure the basic right of access to justice. Both cognizant of the emerging health crises and fearless in a desire to address ongoing challenges some may face in gaining access to justice, meeting participants examined the ongoing crises in opioid use, human trafficking, trauma in the courts, and combating recidivism.

Midyear Meeting

"Bringing Access into Harmony with Justice"

The Midyear Meeting opened with a lively musical procession by the Mardi Gras Indians, and a Presentation of Colors by young students. NAWJ President, Judge Bernadette D'Souza, warmly welcomed the attendees who filled the beautiful room that was the setting for all of our programs, and who had traveled from as far as Alaska and Massachusetts to gather and share information they could use toward better serving their courts. In addition, Judge D'Souza offered a special tribute to her mentor and friend Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, as she presented Chief Justice Johnson the Lady Justice Award for her long-committed service to her community and the legal profession.

Also, during this Midyear Meeting, NAWJ launched its inaugural Planting the Seed: Pathways to a Legal Career diversity outreach program as developed by Judge Toni Clarke, with the assistance of Judge Julie Weatherly and Judge Lorraine Lee. It is modeled on an ABA Judicial Division program of a similar name. Judge Marcella Holland directed the program at the Midyear Meeting. At the meeting, law students were joined by an equal number of judges who

enthusiastically shared their stories and career trajectories while offering treasured advice.

The program was a "speed dating" type format, with law students from local law schools spending ten minutes with judges from all over the country across many court types at a table, then moving from table to table providing them with an opportunity to speak with all of the judge participants. The program provided the students with an opportunity for open dialogue on topics such as navigating law school, judicial clerkships, the practice of law, the pitfalls of social media, the path to the bench, career paths, the legal profession, and the value in active participation in bar associations. The program culminated with the law students joining meeting attendees, bar leaders and government officials for a welcome reception at the top of the Hotel Monteleone, whose windowed walls included sweeping views of the majestic Mississippi River, to honor NAWJ President, Judge Bernadette D'Souza, and her caring spirit within its justice system.

The students were thrilled for the opportunity to have access to our members in an informal, supportive setting.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



NAWJ's Human Trafficking' Committee Co-Chairs Judge Ann Breen-Greco and San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan opened the education portion of

the program with an inspiring presentation. While the country struggles to identify people caught up in trafficking's heinous web, the presentation offered strategies that make a difference.

In 2010, NAWJ identified human trafficking as one of its primary initiatives, and the presentation in New Orleans was a sobering and compelling update on the trafficking scenarios and issues. Human trafficking lies in plain sight, but it lies in the intersections of harm – domestic violence, sexual abuse, child abuse, foster care system breakdowns -- all creating vulnerabilities and creating challenges for the courts. Judges are key in bringing together all the elements and in speeding up the processes and solutions.

Noting that the FBI has a report that highlights San Diego as a leading hotspot for child prostitution, Judge Breen-Greco and attorney Stephan described several San Diego initiatives and organizations that are focusing on the trafficking issues, such as the Trafficking Prevention Education Collective, the Human Trafficking and Commercial Child Sexual Exploitation Advisory Council, and the Human

Trafficking Task Force (comprising State, Federal and Local Law Enforcement).

They also highlighted the expanding scope of work with collaborations between the ABA Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, ABA Judicial Division Taskforce on Domestic and Sexual Violence, and the nonprofit United Against Slavery, which is surveying judges to determine their needs in the courtroom with respect to human trafficking cases.

Other discussion points revolving around the trafficking issues were addressed by the immediate NAWJ past president the Honorable Tamila Ipema, Judge for the San Diego County Superior Court, on international initiatives including discussions with Pope Francis. The Honorable Elizabeth Lee, Judge for the San Mateo County Superior Court, emphasized the value and importance of multidisciplinary work, such as involving child welfare organizations, juvenile justice organizations, and education initiatives. The current pandemic environment and the related economic environment both present difficult challenges in addressing all the elements of human trafficking.

Summer Stephan is District Attorney for the County of San Diego, California. As District Attorney, she leads the second-largest DA's office in California, managing a professional staff of 1,000 employees for its more than three million residents. DA Stephan rose through the ranks. As a trial prosecutor, she tried more than 100 jury trials. She served as Chief of the DA's North County Branch and Chief of the Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking Division, a special-victims unit she pioneered. In June 2018, San Diego County voters elected her as District Attorney. She is co-chair of NAWJ's Human Trafficking Committee.

The Honorable Tamila E. Ipema is a Judge for the Superior Court of California in San Diego County. She has served as a judicial officer for nearly 15 years. She has experience in family, criminal, and civil courts. She previously practiced as an immigration defense attorney; as an Assistant District Counsel with the U.S. Department of Justice in immigration matters; as a judicial research attorney; and as a supervising research attorney for the Los Angeles Superior Court. She also served as a California Superior Court Commissioner in both Los Angeles and San Diego Counties prior to her appointment as a Judge to the San Diego Superior Court. She was President of NAWJ for the 2018-2019 year. She is active in numerous NAWJ Committees.

The Honorable Elizabeth K. Lee is a Judge for the Superior Court of California in San Mateo County. She was appointed to the bench in July of 2005. She is currently Juvenile Supervising Judge assigned to the Juvenile Court in San Mateo County handling both delinquency and dependency matters. She is the Chair of San Mateo County's Blue Ribbon Commission on Foster Care Youth and has worked with other stakeholders in the court system to address the problem of human trafficking of minors. Prior to joining the bench, she worked as an Assistant United States Attorney for the United States Attorney's Office in the Northern District of California assigned to the Organized Crime and Racketeering StrikeForce. She served as the Deputy Chief of the Strike Force from 1999–2005.

SEPARATING MIGRANT FAMILIES - RIGHT OF DUE PROCESS



Over lunch US District Judge Dana Sabraw, United States District Court for the Southern District of California, discussed issues around separating migrant families and the right of due process.

In 2018, Judge Sabraw learned about the allegations that the federal government had embarked upon a policy to separate family members. The evidence came through the media, and via a suit by ACLU, in support of an immigrant mother seeking asylum who had been separated from her young daughter. Judge Sabraw was assigned the case. He eventually dismissed the government's motion to dismiss the case, claiming that existing caselaw, the Fifth Amendment and due process laws applied to all states, and any person in our country regardless of status is entitled to constitutional rights. More caselaw established under the Fifth Amendment the right to family integrity, bonds between parent and child, unless there is a lack of fitness from the parent. Judge Sabraw ordered an end to most family separations at the southern border and stated that it is the responsibility of the federal government to reunite separated families. During the week of March 10, 2020, the federal government finally dropped its appeals to Judge Sabraw's rulings against family separation.

The Honorable Dana Sabraw is a U.S. District Court Judge for the United States District Court for the

Southern District of California. Judge Sabraw was born in San Rafael, California. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from San Diego State University in 1980, and a Juris Doctor from the McGeorge School of Law at University of the Pacific in 1985. He began his judicial career as a judge on the North County Municipal Court in San Diego County, 1995 to 1998. From 1998 to 2003, he was a judge on the Superior Court for the State of California, County of San Diego. In 2003, he was nominated by President George W. Bush to the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, and confirmed in September, 2003.

AN OVERVIEW OF OPIOIDS LITIGATION



Issues and cases revolving around opioid use were addressed by a three-member panel: The Honorable Susie Morgan is U.S. District Judge for the

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana; Celeste Brustowicz, Esq., an attorney at Cooper Law Firm LLC, New Orleans; Jennifer Fountain Connolly, Esq. a Shareholder in Baron and Budd, Washington, D.C.

In 2017, attorneys filed a petition for an MDL, a multi-district litigation. At the time there were 61 cases pending in 11 federal districts across the country, and the MDL movement asked the panel to consolidate the cases in one federal court. There were common issues about who started the opioid epidemic and who was responsible for cause. The original motion was filed by municipalities in West Virginia, heavily affected by the opioid crisis. This MDL was unique as it was the first time that municipalities asked the court for such consolidation. The tobacco litigation years earlier was led by attorneys general, and the West Virginia municipalities wanted to bring their own cases because they are the entities responding with or in need of expanded public services to combat the crisis. (Individual cases, with few exceptions, were not successful, and people who were addicted were viewed as unsympathetic plaintiffs.)

The over 2700 cases present very complex issues, and were referred to a U.S. District Court for Northern Ohio, where there was experience in addressing addiction litigation; such as the use of bellwether plaintiffs for fast tracking cases, to show the strength of the claims

or defenses; separate MDL cases for children who are born opioid dependent; then eventually “strategic remands” back to Chicago, West Virginia, San Francisco, Oklahoma, thus defeating the hope of the bellwether approach.

A separate MDL for children was initiated, as these instances present especially troubling challenges. Children born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) will likely have learning disabilities among other health traumas. Hospital bills for babies born addicted may be \$150,000. NIH estimates that every 15 minutes a baby is born suffering with opioid withdrawal, and yet according to the CDC in January 2019, no national program exists to collect data on opioid births. Other legal elements enter into these scenarios, such as those around foster care, rights of children and parents in foster care scenarios (both state and federal laws are in play here). Some opioid cases are being brought to state courts, there are mini MDLs in some states, and there are complicated coordination challenges among judges, attorneys general, and municipalities, manufacturers and distributors, and including the idea of a federal judge declaring a nationwide class of municipalities.

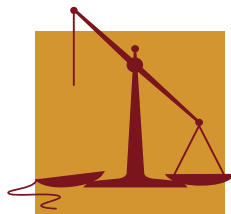
The Honorable Susie Morgan is U.S. District Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. She graduated from the Louisiana State University Law Center where she was a member of the Order of the Coif. After graduation, she clerked for Judge Henry Politz who served as Chief Judge of the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal. Judge Morgan handled complex civil litigation cases before becoming a United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana in 2012. During her eight years on the bench, Judge Morgan has handled class actions, mass actions, and other cases with large members of claimants. In that context, she has dealt with many of the issues frequently encountered in MDLs, including detailed case management orders, complicated discovery disputes, and selection of bellwether plaintiffs.

Celeste Brustowicz, Esq., is an attorney at Cooper Law Firm LLC, New Orleans. She has managed all aspect of civil litigation, including Mass Tort and Class actions. Prior to joining Cooper Law Firm, she managed all aspect of civil litigation, including medical malpractice, commercial litigation, insurance defense, insurance coverage, construction, government entities defense, products liability, premise liability and civil rights matters for Burglass & Tankersley, LLC, having rejoined the firm in 2011 through 2018. She performed

similar roles for Rinos & Martin, LLP in Tustin, California from 2005-2011. At Burglass & Tankersley, LLC, she managed medical malpractice litigation for hospitals, physicians, and other health care providers in state and federal court as lead counsel from 2000-2004. At Bienvenu, Foster, Ryan & O'Bannon she served as lead counsel for the firm, who specialized in insurance defense, as its first and only female partner from 1987-2000.

Jennifer Fountain Connolly, Esq. is a Shareholder in Baron and Budd, Washington, D.C. She has two decades of experience leading national, complex litigation matters including antitrust, pharmaceutical and consumer fraud class actions, qui tam cases, and cases brought by state attorneys general and other governmental entities. Ms. Connolly has held significant roles in many of the largest pharmaceutical class actions and state attorney general cases in the last ten years. She currently represents the States of Ohio, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana, as well as several municipalities in their cases against manufacturers and distributors of opioids, and leads the litigation filed by those entities. She is a graduate of the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law (J.D. 1998), and the University of Chicago (B.A. 1993).

JUDGES FACING THE THREAT TO THE RULE OF LAW



At an afternoon session, four panelists addressed the difference and the gap between justice and the law. Panelists were The Honorable Judith Chirlin retired from the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2009 and currently Executive Director of the Western Justice Center in Pasadena, California. Bill Quigley is a law professor and Director of the Law Clinic and the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center at Loyola University New Orleans. The Honorable Jay C. Zainey is Judge to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. The Honorable Lisa Walsh is a Circuit Court Judge, currently presiding in the criminal division of the 11th Judicial Circuit of Miami-Dade, Florida, and NAWJ President for 2015-2016 year.

We heard about the following relatively common scenarios: for civil cases in general, three quarters of cases have at least one person not represented, for example women asking for protective orders by themselves without counsel; most people who lose

their homes never had counsel; demographics of members of the bench in many jurisdictions are not representative of the population served.

The panelists described a variety of needs and services and organizations that are beginning to address this gap. For example, we need to quantify the problem of a frequent mismatch between bench and community demographics. We need to find ways to make pro-bono work more attractive. Perhaps some type of work can be “de-lawyered” by modifying the idea of “the unauthorized practice of law”, such as with foreclosures. One program described has lawyers and law students and law firm secretaries volunteering to provide legal assistance in homeless shelters. Another program makes it easier for persons who have served their sentences to have their liberties restored where allowed, with the assistance volunteer lawyers, law and administrative clerk support, etc.

The Honorable Judith Chirlin retired from the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2009. In November of 2011, she became Executive Director of the Western Justice Center in Pasadena, California. WJC designs and promulgates programs to foster alternative dispute resolution in the courts and peaceful resolution of conflicts in schools and communities; she retired from that role in 2019. She also works part-time in private dispute resolution; she has started a non-profit foundation to support justice system improvement projects that enhance the rule of law. She also continues in her work in the international arena.

Bill Quigley is a law professor and Director of the Law Clinic and the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center at Loyola University New Orleans. He has litigated numerous cases with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., the Advancement Project, and with the ACLU of Louisiana where he was General Counsel for over 15 years. He has been an active lawyer with School of the Americas Watch and the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti. He served as Legal Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights in NYC from 2009 to 2011 before returning to Loyola.

The Honorable Jay C. Zainey was appointed Judge to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana in 2002 after many years as a busy attorney and an active member of the community and the Louisiana State Bar, of which he served as President in 1995-96. While pursuing his successful legal career, Judge Zainey has always found both the time and the means to help those in need, and to enlist others in doing the same. In addition to H.E.L.P., Judge Zainey created SOLACE, and co-founded St. Andrew's Village,

a long-term residential community for adults with developmental disabilities.

The Honorable Lisa Walsh is a Circuit Court Judge, currently presiding in the criminal division of the 11th Judicial Circuit of Miami-Dade, Florida, and has previously served in the civil and dependency divisions. From 2008-2011, Judge Walsh was a County Court Judge assigned to the civil division. Before becoming a judge, she practiced law for sixteen years, in both the trial and appellate state and federal courts, and also served as a Special Master for the City of Miami Beach. Judge Walsh was NAWJ President for 2015-2016 year.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LEADING WOMEN OF THE BAR



Added to the New Orleans meeting were two very experienced, committed, and community-focused attorneys who energized the room during a panel

discussion facilitated by the Honorable Marcella Holland (ret), Senior Judge on the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and a member of the NAWJ Executive Committee.

Paulette Brown is a Senior Partner, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, and a member of the labor and employment practice group of Locke Lord, LLP, and past president of both the American Bar Association and the National Bar Association. Judy Perry Martinez is Of Counsel and former Partner at Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfern, and current president of the American Bar Association.

From humble backgrounds in Baltimore and New Orleans, respectively, our panelists followed different paths through and to corporate positions while being effective activists and advocates in their chosen area of the law, for both the community of attorneys and the public. Ms. Brown and Ms. Martinez emphasized the importance of their undergraduate and professional educations. During their education years, they sought and accepted opportunities as they arose or were found or created. Being in the right place at the right time also played a role; they recognized that timing is important, and that timing is not only a passive occurrence.

As they described a variety of legal events and

issues, they emphasized that regardless of job and regardless of the specific issue at hand, we must stay nimble and stay the course. In the full range of our law and legal endeavors and responsibilities, including our awareness of long-term projects and our immediate more current environment, such as pandemic issues in the law, we must do our best not only to know the full universe of our court system and both attorney and non-attorney participants, but also we must know the full universe of our public who depend on the judicial process and our ability to provide equal justice.

When we are well informed about all the services and tools and actors in the law, and are both in and of public we serve, we can then draw the connections between these two communities.

For example, Ms. Brown talked of her efforts, outside of her law practice, to visit all 50 states, engaging with a variety of attorneys (public defenders, prosecutors, etc.) and law students AND also with members of the public such as Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and she asked the attorneys and students to join her in these meetings. Ms. Martinez noted the importance of attorneys knowing the importance and role of all levels of the courts, with particular attention to "entry-level" courts, as typically these are where the public has its first encounters with the judicial system.

Both emphasized giving back. It is imperative that we do something to empower someone younger or newer in our profession, to ensure that ladders are always available for colleagues.

"Bringing Access into Harmony with Justice"



Reaching Out to All Our Constituents

Military and Veterans Committee

It is an honor to have been appointed by President Bernadette D'Souza to serve as co-chairs of the NAWJ Military and Veterans Committee. We would like to provide a short introduction of ourselves as co-chairs, and outline the focus of this committee for the current NAWJ this year. We welcome all veterans, military spouses and military members to our committee, and look forward to hearing from you so that we can support you and your current and future success.

Colonels Brunson and Murnane want to focus the committee's work this year on challenges military women, spouses of military members, and veterans face when they transition from their roles in the military to civilian life. We hope to address the limitations military members and their families face in fully engaging in the political processes due to free speech limits placed on service members. For example, military members are not permitted to donate to political campaigns or to wear buttons or display bumper stickers in support of political candidates. While they may attend political events, they may not do so in uniform.

Once the military members or their supporting family members make a permanent home in a community, they find themselves virtual outsiders in the critical political processes which could lead to appointments to key positions such as appointments to the bench. Additionally, if the family settles in a jurisdiction where the judges are elected, the veteran or family member rarely has the

political or personal connections one needs to make a successful run for an office, whether as a judge or in some other office.

The tide has been turning in this area, but slowly, as people like Martha McSally and Tammy Duckworth have led the charge to break the barrier. It remains a challenge for many veterans, military members and their families, however. Additionally, for a young law school graduate still serving in the role of a spouse to a military member, the military's assignment rotation system poses additional challenges as a young new lawyer may still have to sit for multiple bar exams in order to continue his or her practice while supporting a military member and their family.

There is much that the National Association of Women Judges and its highly successful members can do to support these veterans, military members and their families, and we look forward to talking about those steps during the year.

The Honorable (Colonel, US Army, Ret.) Kirsten Brunson

kvcbrunson@gmail.com



The Honorable (Colonel, US Army, Ret.) Kirsten Brunson is originally from Prince George's County, Maryland. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland

with a B.A. in Criminology. She was commissioned through Howard University's ROTC program but took an educational delay to attend UCLA School of Law, where she was on the Law Review. In 1992,

she entered active duty in the Army Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps. She later earned a Master of Laws degree from The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School.

In 2008, Colonel Brunson was selected as the first African-American female to serve as an Army judge. She served as a Circuit Judge at Fort Hood, TX and Fort Bragg, NC. She served our nation in dual capacities by also serving as the spouse of a military officer. On her first assignment to Germany, she met a young Infantry lieutenant and married him in 1993. She spent 22 years as both an Army officer and Army spouse with assignments at Fort Bragg, NC, Fort Campbell, KY, Fort Hood, TX, and the Washington,

D.C. area. Her responsibilities included service as the Legal Advisor to the Field Investigative Unit, 701st Military Police Group (Criminal Investigation Division), Deputy Chief of the Defense Appellate Division, and Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for U.S. Army Special Operations Command before her assignment to the bench. Colonel Brunson and her spouse, Major General Xavier T. Brunson also have three children, Raechel, Rebekah and Joshua.

The Honorable (Colonel, US Air Force, Ret) Linda Strite Murnane

KMurnane98@AOL.com



The Honorable (Colonel, US Air Force, Ret) Linda Strite Murnane was born in East Orange, New Jersey while her father was serving in the U.S. Air Force, having been recalled to service during the

Korean War. The family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio when her father separated at the end of the Korean War, and she was raised in Cincinnati until enlisting in the U.S. Air Force herself in 1974. She is a graduate of Thomas Nelson Community College, Hampton, VA, the Christopher Newport Branch Campus of the College of William and Mary in Newport News, VA, and the University of Cincinnati College of Law, Cincinnati, OH. Colonel Murnane served two years as an enlisted member before earning her commission through Officer Training School, and transferred to the Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps in 1981. She served ten years as a military judge or chief circuit military judge, and retired in 2004 as a colonel while assigned as the Chief Circuit Military Judge for the Eastern Circuit, Washington, D.C. Colonel Murnane presided over the first trials in the area of operations for Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, deploying five times to preside at the trials of U.S. airmen deployed in support of those operations.

Colonel Murnane also has a dual service career as she is married to an Air Force Officer, Lt Col (Ret) Kevin Murnane. They have two daughters, Rachel and Christina.

channeling Sugar

From my perch in a family support courtroom, I mostly see broken people, angry people, resigned people, and those lacking in any hope or trust in a system that has immersed them over many months into years. It is true that the occasional high functioning “ex” couple comes before me and can reach agreements on issues that

I was using.” It was the one line too many and now it was my turn to redirect this dialogue into something that would take this couple somewhere else, and anywhere but where it was right now. I silently sighed, as these challenges are overwhelming sometimes- how to reach someone with only a few minutes per case, but each one representing a new opportunity to insert even the

Sugar told this man before me that his anger way to the mother of his children, and that if for the lost time and move forward, he would

ordinarily would take hours of mediation to accomplish, but they are rare. Today, I looked at each of the individuals before me on the third case called. This calendar held thirty-nine different matters split between a morning and an afternoon, so I had my work cut out for me before even beginning. The reading the night before seemed endless and went into hours of time seated at my kitchen counter, often hunched over and with a thought that before I begin the next case, I will move to a better seat.

The woman looked down quite a bit, and the man looked anxious. It was no wonder, years under the weight of a heroin addiction now behind him, he no doubt wondered how he would be viewed in court. His anger came up and out of him in released bits, throwing out lines that included blaming the mother of his children for ‘being right there with me while

smallest morsel of wisdom to make a difference.

Why do I bother, you may be wondering? I bother because it is worth it; I bother because I believe in redemption and that people can and do change. I bother because sometimes there is no one else in that person’s life that will ever get the chance to say the few words that I do, the ones that may sink in at last and cause a person to look at him or herself in the mirror and say “is this it?” I often fail, but the attempts are worth it for the moments when the parties are looking for relief or a way around their entrenched unhealthy behavior.

At this moment, I channel “Sugar,” the oracle of internet advice for all things troubling, large and small. For those of you not yet acquainted with “Sugar,” please find yourselves a copy of the potentially life-changing book entitled “Tiny Beautiful Things,” by Cheryl Strayed. You may



By Commissioner Pennie McLaughlin

recognize the author as the same one who gave us her harrowing account of tackling the Pacific Crest Trail after losing her mother and years of her own life to heroin. Reese Witherspoon played her in the movie “Wild,” and anyone who watched rooted for her out there on the deserted trail. My good friend Jill, now a Magistrate Judge, selected this title for this month’s book club at our local women’s jail. I keep a running list of these monthly selections made by a special group of twenty-four bench officers and lawyers through our local NAWJ group. Sometimes, the intriguing titles cause me to buy the book or download it to fill up my forty-minute daily commute. On this occasion, I did, and have since bought three copies for friends.

Sugar told this man before me that his anger is affecting his ability to even speak in a rational way to the mother of his children, and that if he could find it within himself to forgive himself for the lost time and move forward, he would be much better for it. I gave him permission without using these words. He looked up

one point my eyes wandered and I noticed no sheets on the mattresses. I could never change the lack of space for a one-bedroom apartment to adequately meet the needs of the six people living there, but I could go into my linen closet (the luxury of even having this closet gave me pause) and pull out of few sets of sheets that were not truly needed. Dropping them off a few days later, I explained that I was going to give them to Good Will but thought she may be able to use them, trying to spare her from feeling insulted or embarrassed.

These moments in our continuum as attorneys have the potential to shape the bench officers we may later become. Every day I still have much to learn and will never know the depth of another’s suffering or misery. But if I set the small goal of trying to alleviate even the tiniest part of it, then that is something. This is possible while still remaining impartial, it is the simple exercise of empathy and caring. It may be

longer poem sits within a cheap frame and has accompanied me to each new chambers of my many assignments. It keeps me grounded and reminds me to exercise patience and humility each day. It all starts with seeing the people that come before us and letting them know in some measure, they count and they will be heard. On a good day, it may even include channeling “Sugar.”



**is affecting his ability to even speak in a rational
he could find it within himself to forgive himself
be much better for it.**

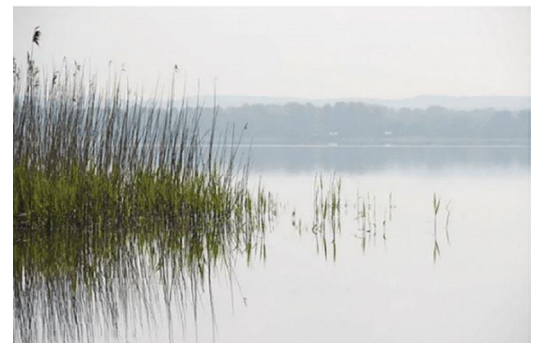
surprised, for he too knew the source of his vitriolic outbursts. He could no more change his past than he could come up with thousands of dollars in an instant to help ease the financial tensions to just keep a roof over his children’s heads and the lights on. It would be a long climb, but with a solid recent stretch of sobriety, one worth moving toward.

I came to the bench with a heightened sense of awareness of what poverty looks like. I had no choice, as anyone who spent thirteen years in an urban public defender’s office would have the same picture. I remember once entering the apartment of my client’s spouse and noticed the beds pushed together in the living room, no couch or easy chairs anywhere in sight. There were a couple of seats off to the left next to a folding table that served as a place for just a few of them to eat. The investigator and I took the offered seats and began our interview. At

just a comforting smile as you start the morning or afternoon calendar to acknowledge that you see them. It may be the questions you ask during the hearing that reflect a level of detailed attention to the writings submitted.

Many years ago, my brother got lost while trying to figure out the New York subway system on his way to visit me at my college in the Bronx. He later wrote about his experience of walking along the garbage strewn streets and being met with vacant stares from the people he passed. He summed it up this way: “Maybe looking at the wheres, the whys and the how-longs of someone else’s life is a good beginning for appreciating your own. Maybe seeing a lack of depth or width or sincerity in someone else’s smile is a good beginning for making your own a little wider; or better yet, with time, understanding theirs.” His

The Honorable Pennie K. McLaughlinis,
Commissioner for the San Diego County Superior Court. She is a member of NAWJ’s Executive Committee, Projects Chair. Prior to her appointment, in 1987, she was a trial lawyer and public defender in Los Angeles County and in 1990, supervising attorney in San Diego County, and in 2000 she became an Assistant U.S. Attorney, prosecuting complex narcotics, alien smuggling and fraud cases.



Learning Lessons from Tough Cases

Judges recount some of the hardest decisions they ever made.



By The Honorable Michelle M. Ahnn,
Superior Court of California,
Los Angeles County¹



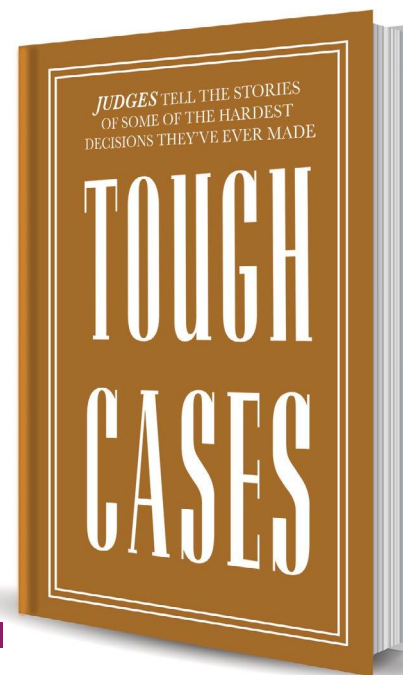
The Honorable Gregory Mize,
Judicial Fellow, National Center
for State Courts²

As our readers who have served on a busy trial court can attest, there are many assignments where the cases come at you so hard and fast that there is barely time to step into the box and take your stance before the next one comes zooming in. That is especially true of the “easy” cases. In addition, there are cases where a judge has to wrestle with problems so complex, or so emotionally draining, as to test the fortitude and impartiality of even the most experienced jurists. These might be called “go to the mountain top” cases.

“Mountain top” cases can appear in the garb of criminal, civil, probate, or family cases. Often the judge is unable to find any guiding legal precedent and is forced to navigate uncharted waters in search of the “just” result. Sometimes controlling legal precedent exists but following it will lead to an unjust result. And then there are cases where the judge has

very wide discretion to apply a vague legal standard, like “the best interest of the child” in contested child custody proceedings, or finding the “right sentence” in a criminal case, where the statutory range might run from no prison time to life in prison.

Other cases are hard not only because of the subject matter, but also because they capture the attention of the entire community and become highly politicized. These can be especially challenging for elected judges, who know that whatever decision they make may become the fodder for an opposition campaign when they next stand for election and may ultimately cost them their judgeship. Such political realities do not lessen the judge’s duty to decide each case in accordance with the facts and the law, by reference to neutral principles. But these dynamics can make the exercise of that duty more agonizing, knowing that the decision is likely to be unpopular with at least one large segment of the population.



Along Comes the Book “Tough Cases”

The case types described above are a steady diet of work for thousands of trial judges across America. After the crack cocaine epidemic in the late 1980s and the spread of opioid addiction in current times, the number of criminal, domestic violence, landlord-tenant, divorce, and child custody cases has

mushroomed. With growing population and retail commerce, civil disputes have also multiplied. Consequently, court cases are common topics in news stories, kitchen table conversations, and court management conferences.

In this context, a group of thirteen judges (including the authors here) have come together to produce a book entitled *Tough Cases: Judges Tell the Stories of Some of the Hardest Decisions They've Ever Made*. Our goal is to demystify judicial decision making and make the process of judging more accessible to ordinary people. And just as important, we hope to provide our fellow jurists with a platform to reflect and educate ourselves on how to undertake our awesome responsibilities to administer justice with skill and heart.

What follows is an overview of the thirteen stories that we hope will inspire judicial education programming in NAWJ members' home jurisdictions. Some of them received international attention: the Elián González case in which Florida Judge Jennifer Bailey had to decide whether to return a seven-year-old boy to his father in Cuba after his mother drowned trying to bring the child

- Chief Judge Allie Greenleaf Maldonado presides over a Native American court in Michigan and tries to balance U.S. law with tribal law;
- Minnesota Judge Gail Chang Bohr relies on her social work background to resolve a difficult child custody dispute;
- Texas Judge Mark Davidson remains calm and focused in sorting out issues in a case where a respected member of the bar and donor to judicial elections is accused of raping his client in a divorce case;
- New York Judge Lizbeth Gonzalez encounters tragedy among the parties in a landlord-tenant case in the Bronx;
- Washington, D.C. Judge Russell F. Canan, upon receiving a jury note, takes risks to avoid an unjust verdict;
- Judge Frederick Weisberg, also in D.C., presides over a burdensome bench trial in which the defendant is a mother who rejects her attorney's advice to claim an insanity defense to the charge of murdering her four young daughters; and
- Minnesota Judge Edward Wilson agrees to temporarily serve on a United Nations criminal court in Kosovo and encounters resistance from his European co-jurists with respect to the principle of proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

Michelle Ahnn: *The first few years of being a judge can be tough - isolating, stressful, and even depressing. I know because I felt all those emotions on an almost daily basis for the first two years of being a judge. Writing in a journal was one technique I used to survive this period. I then had the privilege and opportunity to write a chapter about my transition from attorney to judge in "Tough Cases: Judges Tell the Stories of Some of the Hardest Decisions They've Ever Made." I used the journal entries while writing my chapter to remember the struggles I faced during the first year. Another way I was able to make it through the first few years was by making friends with other judges who were going through the same experiences. Very early on, I became a lifetime member of National Association of Women Judges so that I could meet other judges who could relate to what I was experiencing and advise me. Through my membership and in particular through my attendance at NAWJ's 2017 midyear conference and their 2019 annual conference, I met amazing women judges from around the world. Hearing from them about their highs and lows on the bench has helped me in combating those feelings of isolation and stress.*

Speaking to you in the first-person voice, we authors here share our motivation and hopes in writing our stories.

to the United States, the Terri Schiavo case in which Florida Judge George Greer had to decide whether to withdraw life support from a woman in a vegetative state over the objections of her parents, the Scooter Libby prosecution in which US District Judge Reggie Walton had to manage a jury trial and sentence Vice President Dick Cheney's top aide within a few blocks of the White House, and Washington State Judge Robert Alsdorf talks about the daunting task of overturning a popular ballot initiative approved by a million+ voters a short time before he faced a retention election. Other cases are less well-known but equally fascinating:

We believe these cases tee up opportunities to have deep dialogues about judicial ethics (Mark Davidson's story), the intersection of law and mental health (Judge Weisberg), managing cases that generate intense community attention (the chapters by Judges Bailey and Walton), dealing with the emotional stress of case tragedies (Judges Bohr and Gonzales), projecting procedural fairness toward the losing party (Judge Alsdorf), and standing up for judicial independence (Judge Greer).

Speaking to you in the first-person voice, we authors here share our motivation and hopes in writing our stories.

Gregory Mize: *While assigned to a child abuse & neglect calendar in my general jurisdiction court, I managed the case described in the chapter "Brave Jenny." After a 5-day trial, I determined that Jenny's mother, suffering from Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, had repeatedly infected six-year old Jenny with lethal bacteria over the course of many weeks. After my verdict, I ordered Jenny to be in the sole custody of her father with only supervised visits with her mother until she engaged in meaningful therapy for Munchausen's Syndrome and admitted to abusing Jenny. Sadly, the mother resisted therapy and would not admit to her abuse of Jenny. During one of the first supervised visits with Jenny, the*

mother violated a court restriction against food transfers by attempting to give a candy bar to Jenny. Upon the advice of experts, I halted all supervised visits until the mother genuinely engaged in therapy and admitted wrongdoing. After 3+ years of court review hearings, the mother not only resisted therapy but, in a moment of fantasy during courtroom testimony, asserted that Jenny infected herself with bacteria. Not long thereafter, the mother apparently committed suicide. Her death haunted me for decades. Did she do so because the judge kept her away from her daughter? It was only after I sought Jenny's and her father's permission to publish her case story that I met Jenny and learned she was a happy, thriving, productive adult in the healthcare field. We met in a tearful reunion and I finally felt redemption from my repeated decisions to keep mother and daughter separated until it was safe for Jenny. As stated in my chapter, I wrote the story "because it prompts large questions about our human condition and the limits of the judicial office."

The book, now in its fourth printing,

has received numerous positive reviews including in the Washington Post, Law 360, the ABA Journal, and elsewhere. It has been the subject of author talks at dozens of bookstores and law schools including American University, Georgetown, Harvard, Jagiellonian University School of Law (Krakow Poland), Mitchell Hamline, Northwestern, Seattle University School of Law, the University of the District of Columbia, and the University of Michigan.

The stories are also proving to be a useful teaching tool for judges and law students. It has been the subject of judicial training in Washington State. Later this year, it will be the centerpiece of judicial training programs in Colorado, Maryland, and Oregon. In October, it will be the focal text for a 4-day course sponsored by the National Judicial College entitled "Lessons from Tough Cases." Tough Cases is also a core text for teaching law students about the art and challenges of judging at the Georgetown and George Washington University law schools. In sum, we hope NAWJ members might find Tough Cases a useful educational platform in their home jurisdictions.

The Honorable Michelle Ahnn was appointed to the Superior Court of California (Los Angeles County) in November, 2015. She had served as Deputy Alternate Public Defender since 2001. She also is a former lecturer at the UCLA School of Law. She clerked for Judge Napoleon A. Jones Jr. at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California from 1998 to 1999 and is a graduate of Brown University and UCLA School of Law.

The Honorable Gregory E. Mize is a judicial fellow at the National Center for State Courts. As part of NCSC's Center for Jury Studies, he works to help state courts improve their jury trial systems. He was project director of "Jury Trial Management for the 21st Century" which features a set of judicial education curricula focusing on jury selection and jury deliberations. He was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1990. He is now a senior judge. From 1997 to 1998, he co-chaired the D.C. Jury Project, resulting in issuance of "Juries for the Year 2000 and Beyond" containing proposals to improve jury practices in the Superior Court and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

¹Michelle Ahnn is a lifetime member of NAWJ, a judge on the Los Angeles County Superior Court, and contributing author of Tough Cases: Judges Tell the Stories of Some of the Hardest Decisions They've Ever Made.

²Gregory Mize is a senior judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, a judicial fellow at the National Center for State Courts, and co-editor/co-author of Tough Cases.

³Tough Cases: Judges Tell the Stories of Some of the Hardest Decisions They've Ever Made, The New Press (2018), ISBN 9781620973868 is widely available at bookstores and online.

RESOURCE BOARD PROFILE

Continued from page 7

NAWJ's 2015 Annual Conference in Salt Lake City.

While no longer an officer with CourtCall, Cathy's stewardship finds a place as Chair of the Community Engagement Committee of the Los Angeles based Western Justice Center. As a member of its Board of Directors she builds collaborations with organizations who, like the Western Justice Center, seek to strengthen communities by growing the conflict resolution skills among our youth, educators, schools and community partners. Cathy ensured the Western Justice Center's Compassion Plays, which move audiences

“Ever thoughtful, Cathy saw to it that the Center's Champion of Justice Award was presented to Judge Chirlin by the Hon. Dorothy W. Nelson, U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.”

emotionally while also educating and illuminating them, were made available during NAWJ conferences. And, she also co-chaired the Center's 2018 Annual Justice Awards Gala, which honored the Center's Executive

Director, the Honorable Judith Chirlin, another champion of NAWJ. Ever thoughtful, Cathy saw to it that the Center's Champion of Justice Award was presented to Judge Chirlin by the Hon. Dorothy W. Nelson, U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Cathy's commitment to NAWJ grows with each year of her membership, and the organization is forever grateful she finds a kindred spirit among its members.

Life After the Bench

Piecing Together a Retirement

The Honorable Sharon Mettler, who has been an NAWJ member since 1990 when she was a Judge for the Superior Court of California in Bakersfield, Kern County, crafts her NAWJ experience into a rich material world of NAWJ history. She is an enthusiastic, frequent NAWJ annual conference attendee.

Judge Mettler remembers:

"My first annual conference was in Washington D.C., the 10th annual conference. Pauline Hansen had been telling me since 1981, the year I was appointed (when I was appointed I was the only woman judge in 100 miles in all directions) that I needed to join NAWJ. I didn't think I could afford to attend. Then we adopted Chrissy from Korea, and some of my colleagues didn't like my taking time off when she came home. The head line read "It's not motherhood, it's laziness". A direct quote from one of my male colleagues. I decided I could not afford to not join. So, the next year 1989, I headed to Washington,

D.C. My mentor was Barbara Yannich from Washington State. The whole thing was pretty intimidating to me. Barbara said to go to the hospitality suite because that's where the action was. So, one evening I wandered to the hospitality suite, feeling lost and alone. A woman opened the door and said "You look lost, come on in. I'm Rosemary Barkett". At the time she was Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. That's the kind of organization it is, one in which a State Court Chief Justice warmly welcomes a first-time attendee and makes her feel welcome. It's the most inclusive organization I've ever known."



**By Judge Sharon Mettler, Retired,
Kern County Superior Court**

Quilting entered my life about 2011 when I gave into the urge to buy some fabric while on NAWJ's Alaskan cruise. I bought bear, train, pine needles, and dirt fabric for a quilt for then 2 year old grandson, Conner. I had never quilted in my life. Like many of my generation I had home economics classes in junior high while my brother had wood and metal shops. I also was blessed with a mother who was interested in many kinds of fiber arts. My momma tried to inspire me to be more involved in this form of creation but I was into sports and scrapbooks.

A year passed without any work on the quilt. I was intimidated.



Returning to Bakersfield from an assignment in Southern California one holiday weekend, I decided to go through the Mojave Desert and Sierra Nevadas instead of fighting Los Angeles traffic. I decided to have dinner in the mountain community of Tehachapi. I spotted a quilt store across the street and headed there after eating. The owner made me an offer I could not refuse: buy the fabric from her, pay \$45 and come for lessons as many times as I wanted. Since I was buying new fabric and she insisted I start with a twin size “Quilt in a Day” log cabin quilt

instead of the mini quilt I had in mind, I decided my first quilt would be for my son, Matt, who was nearing the end of his graduate work in chemical engineering.

I trekked up the mountains four or five times, completing Matt’s quilt just as he finished his doctorate. When Conner saw it, he asked why Matt was getting a quilt. I told him because Matt had done well in school. Conner asked if he could have one if he did “good in school”. The Bear Mountain Train Quilt was his fourth birthday present.

Since then I have made about 30 quilts of varying sizes, giving most of them away. At the NAWJ New Orleans conference banquet the conference logo was printed on the cloth napkins. Collecting a few unused ones, I began making mini crazy quilts with the logo, giving them as gifts to NAWJ friends. Crazy quilts have NO RULES TO FOLLOW. I love crazy quilts. Using Mardi Gras colors, I embellished each a little differently but all have an owl button from my mother’s collection representing wisdom, a heart button for compassion, and a silver gavel charm for justice.

My daughter died five years ago at the age of 26. Two of Chrissy’s friends, Emily and Blake, helped me sort through her clothes for donation. Her tee shirts reminded them of the many concerts they had attended with her. I asked them to select their favorites for possible tee shirt quilts. Emily received hers at her wedding shower three years later and Blake his a year later at our annual holiday gathering of Chrissy’s friends. [They call it Chrissymas.] The joy, tears, and recounted memories those quilts brought were very moving and are now treasured memories for me. It was sometimes

very painful to work on them, but I think the process was therapeutic.

I have made a number of baby quilts, trying mightily to conquer adding ruffles. Other quilts include a red, white, and blue one for my nephew’s law school graduation; a queen sized bedspread for Matt and Jenn’s second wedding anniversary; and a quilt each for my co-mother in law and Jenn’s sister for our first Christmas as a family.

Last month I was invited to be a “judicial assistant” for Cotton Patch [Quilters] Guild’s quilt show. The judging is done in advance of the show without an audience and with promised silence and confidentiality. One judge has nine assistants. I was a “fanner”, helping to hold quilts for the judge to examine, all the while keeping very quiet. The judge always started with a positive comment and phrased “criticisms” with terms like “strive for” and “could be enhanced by” and occasionally recited a “rule” such as “quilt corners should be 90 degrees”. Very impressive judging. [Note: The comments are written down and conveyed to the creator in writing.]

My fellow quilters have commented on me finding instructions to be suggestions rather than set in stone. There is definitely a pattern of noncompliance in my work. I enjoy the process of quilting and for most part find it relaxing. There are frustrations, but then I get the joy of giving them away, a gift that keeps on giving to people who are important to me. I am humbled by how appreciative the recipients are. A side benefit is meeting and learning from wonderful people through the Cotton Patch Guild, traveling to quilt shows and shop hops, and quilting at a local quilt shop.

The Honorable Sharon Mettle was appointed to the California bench in 1981, and served in Kern County trial courts for 27 years, presiding in 1983. She graduated from Hastings College of the Law in 1973 as a member of Order of the Coif. Her Judicial service included being a member Judicial Council’s Civil and Small Claims Committee and chair of the Small Claims Subcommittee, as well as numerous teaching positions with Judicial Council’s California Judicial Education and Research. She is immediate past chair and current assistant chair of the CSUB Pre Law Advisory Board, where she has held a recent, popular and successful MentorJet outreach program. She is also past president of the Kern County Women Lawyers, California Women Judges and the Santa Barbara County Barristers, and former NAWJ District 14 Director.

“TACT”

Trial Advocacy Training for Women by Women

Trial Advocacy Consulting & Training, LLC (“TACT”) offers a new and unique three-day ‘Trial Advocacy Training For Women By Women.’ This training, designed in a learning-by-doing format, promises to hone litigation skills in a safe environment targeted to female trial attorneys taught by expert female trial advocacy instructors. Litigation skills and topics include evidence, objections, direct and cross-examination of witnesses, laying appropriate foundations for the admissibility of exhibits, impeaching witnesses during cross-examination, and refreshing a witness’s recollection during direct-examination. The three-day training includes Lunch and Learn topics specifically applicable to being a successful female trial lawyer covering topics like communication skills, dressing for success in the courtroom, and sexual harassment in the workplace.



By Elizabeth L. Lippy, Executive Director of Trial Advocacy Consulting & Training, LLC



As seen in the logo for this specialized program, TACT prominently displays the cultural icon “Rosie the Riveter” holding

planes, was the inspiration for the 1943 song “Rosie the Riveter,” written by Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb and recorded by Kay Kyser.⁴

Regardless of the true identity of the original “Rosie the Riveter,” the meaning behind the cultural icon and the slogan “we can do it” remains the same. The “Rosie the Riveter” icon has always and will continue to symbolize women’s strength and abilities. That inherent meaning behind the powerful icon translates to a perfect logo for this new Trial Advocacy Training, particularly by handing “Rosie” a gavel in her right hand.

Regardless of the true identity of the original “Rosie the Riveter,” the meaning behind the cultural icon and the slogan “we can do it” remains the same. The “Rosie the Riveter” icon has always and will continue to symbolize women’s strength and abilities.

a gavel in her right hand proudly revealing her muscle. Although “Rosie the Riveter” is a cultural icon, the true identity of “Rosie the Riveter” is the subject of considerable debate.¹ Some claim the original “Rosie” was Geraldine Hoff Doyle, a Navy machine shop worker during World War II.² Others claim “Rosie” was Rose Will Monroe, a riveter at the Willow Run Bomber Plant.³ No one disputes that Rosalind P. Walter, a Long Island native who worked as riveter on F-4U Corsair fighter

What is Trial Advocacy Training for Women by Women

In one word, Trial Advocacy Training For Women By Women is groundbreaking. It is the only training offered specifically to provide a safe environment for women to hone their litigation skills. TACT’s Director of Training & Program Development, Brittany Gail Thomas, states “because TACT was created by a woman, a safe space

was created for women. For Women By Women is led by women of various backgrounds and experience levels. These women understand both the complexities of litigation and the adversities that women face while trying to succeed. For Women By Women isn't like any other training. It's groundbreaking."

Trial Advocacy Consulting & Training, LLC. ("TACT") consults and trains attorneys to optimize their litigation skills in order to gain winning results.

For three days, participants hone their litigation skills in this safe environment by learning from expert female TACT trainers. Each skill is taught in a group plenary session; then, during smaller breakout groups, the participants perfect that skill in a learning-by-doing format. TACT finds ways to incorporate interesting and unique drills to help each participant truly understand the skill. By way of example, TACT may require the participants to conduct a "round robin" style drill to teach how to impeach a witness. During this drill, participants line up and have to conduct a perfect impeachment before being able to sit down. TACT's method of incorporating these types of drills ensures optimal learning by participants.

Trial Advocacy Consulting & Training, LLC. ("TACT") consults and trains attorneys to optimize their litigation skills in order to gain winning results. TACT is a unique company insofar as TACT recognizes that attorneys, government agencies, law firms, and other organizations have individualized litigation skills training needs and should therefore receive personalized training specifically tailored to those needs.

Why TACT Created Trial Advocacy Training for Women by Women

As TACT's Executive Director, I instruct trial advocacy skills nationally for an array of different programs, law schools, agencies, and

individuals. During one training in particular, there were fourteen (14) faculty instructors for the thirty-five (35) participants. As I looked around, I noticed I was only one of two female trainers. During the small breakout sessions, I immediately realized the female participants were being treated differently than their male counterparts. For example, some were told their cross-examinations were too aggressive, whereas their male counterparts just gave a very similar performance and were praised for their persistence. During an opening statement, a female participant was chastised for using notes, but their male counterpart was told how smart it was to refer to his notes so as to not forget anything important.

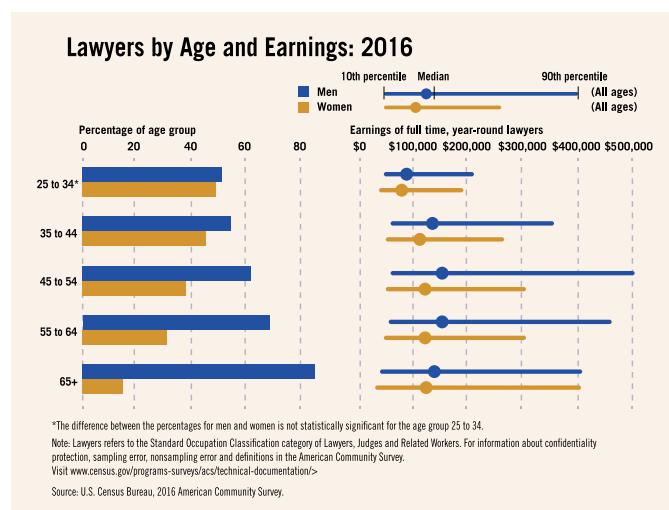
These mixed messages provided to the participants created an awkward learning environment where I noticed physical reactions to the negative critiques. How could one feel safe in an environment where they feel disparately treated? How could a participant truly "flex their courtroom muscles" and try new things when they're hesitant about how it would be received? Was this really the right opportunity for the female participants to learn-by-doing?

All of those questions fostered the creation of Trial Advocacy Training For Women By Women. By creating a safe space and

Trial Advocacy Training for Women by Women Embraces the Realities of Being a Female Trial Attorney

The reality of being a female trial attorney is that we face different obstacles and challenges than male attorneys. Whether it be the disparity in earnings, how females are treated inside and outside of the courtroom, or promotions, women historically have been treated differently. Instead of hiding from this reality, TACT embraces it and faces these challenges head on through this training.

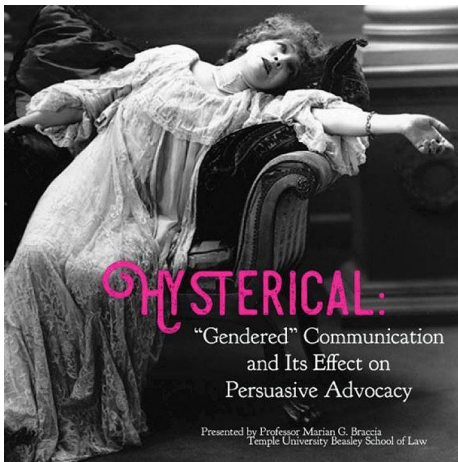
In 2015, the American Bar Association prepared a research report, *First Chairs at Trial: More Women Need Seats at the Table* which found 70% of female attorneys surveyed by the Defense Research Institute reported experiencing gender bias in the courtroom.⁵ The study found that "among lawyers appearing as lead counsel, only 24% were women and 76% were men."⁶ For men and women who entered their appearances as "trial attorney," the statistics found that "nearly three-quarters are men (73%) and slightly more than a quarter are women (27%)."⁷ Women are significantly less likely to appear in courtrooms, and when they do appear, "they are significantly less likely than men to occupy the lead roles."⁸



The Lunch and Learns are an integral part of this training and will help empower attendees by addressing difficult topics such as communication differences, sexual harassment in the workplace, and professional attire. For example, Professor Marian Braccia, Director, LL.M. in Trial Advocacy

environment for all attendees and providing the appropriate mouthpiece for feedback and constructive criticism, female attendees will not only hone their litigation skills, but the training will empower attendees in all facets of their career.

Program & Practice Professor of Law at the Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law, hosts a Lunch and Learn entitled "Hysterical: 'Gendered' Communication and Its Effect on Persuasive Advocacy." Professor Braccia chose this title because she has been



called “hysterical” in a courtroom before. Certainly, an adjective no male counterpart has been called previously. This Lunch and Learn will discuss the discrepancies in how argument is received based on gender and how to challenge how women are initially perceived in terms of power positions in and out of the courtroom. Not only is this presentation eye-opening, but also it is educational and empowering.

Who Should Attend Trial Advocacy Training for Women by Women

“I’ve been a Trial Advocacy law professor for several decades. This Trial Skills Training Program is the only one taught exclusively by experienced women trial attorneys and women Trial Advocacy law professors. Whether you are a new litigator to the courtroom, who wants to hit the ground running, or an experienced litigator who wants to polish your skills, you can benefit from this unique program for women and by women.”

Judge Karen A. Henenberg, Retired

Arlington General District Court, Adjunct Professor, Trial Advocacy, American University Washington College of Law, Professorial Lecturer in Law, Trial Advocacy College, George Washington University Law School, Faculty, National Trial Advocacy College, University of Virginia School of Law.

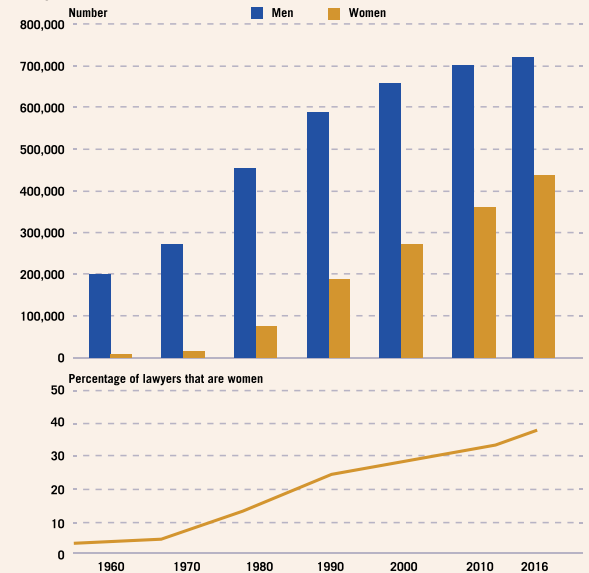
About 33% of state and federal court judges in the U.S. are women, which is only slightly

higher than the global average of 27%.⁹ Judge Henenberg falls into a small percentage of women who overcome the stiff challenge to become a judge. In recent years, women have been entering the legal profession at a higher rate than men. However, men still dominate the legal profession and women still have many challenges to overcome. In order to foster the success of women litigators, it is imperative for all women to encourage and support others in their pursuit of a career in the courtroom. TACT’s Trial Advocacy Training For Women By Women will teach women litigators how to reach their full potential and advance their careers.

What Makes TACT Special

TACT doesn’t follow trends, TACT creates them. TACT is unique, innovative and groundbreaking. Trial Advocacy Training For Women By Women is just one small example of how TACT’s trainings are innovative and trailblazing. TACT is unique insofar as we individualize trainings and curriculum for each end user. Our Trial Advocacy training programs are not “one size fits all” as TACT understands that each office, firm, or agency’s practice areas and training needs are unique. As such, TACT’s first process when creating a training is to fully ascertain the needs of the client either through conversation with the client or by visiting a hearing. Once TACT identifies the training needs, TACT creates a proposed program for client review and input. This is a collaborative process ensuring each client has sufficient input and is satisfied with the training goals and curriculum prior to the

Lawyers: 1960-2016



program date.

Additionally, TACT’s vast team of trainers are litigators with extensive trial experience, and, more importantly, experience teaching the art and skill of Trial Advocacy. Every TACT instructor has taught or currently teaches a practical, skills-based course at an accredited law school throughout the nation. This means you can trust that your TACT instructors will not only know how to litigate cases, but also excel in teaching.

That’s why the Trial Advocacy Training For Women By Women is just one small example of how TACT’s offerings are groundbreaking. Ultimately, Trial Advocacy Training For Women By Women is an opportunity for women to enhance their skills in a safe space and be empowered along the way. We know that women are the future. TACT prepares them to succeed. Learn more at <http://tactlawyer.com/trial-advocacy-training/> or inquire at info@TACTlawyer.com.

Elizabeth Lippy is the Founder and Director of TACT. She has over 15 years of trial advocacy experience, both inside the courtroom and classroom. She is a nationally recognized trial attorney and one of the nation’s premier trial advocacy instructors. She is Assistant Director of Trial Advocacy Program at American University Washington College of Law.

1 Rosie the Riveter, History.com (Apr. 23, 2010), <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/rosie-the-riveter>.
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/06/us/rosalind-p-walter-rosie-the-riveter-song-death-trnd/index.html>.

2 Id.

3 Id.

4 Leah Asmelash & Alec Snyder, Rosalind P. Walter, Who Inspired the ‘Rosie the Riveter’ Song, Has Died at 95, CNN (Mar. 6, 2020),

5 Kristin Johnson, Sexism in the Courtroom: A Serious Problem Lawyers Need to Discuss, Above the Law (May 8, 2019),

<https://abovethelaw.com/legal-innovation-center/member-content/sexism-in-the-courtroom-a-serious-problem-lawyers-need-to-discuss/>.

6 Stephanie A. Scharf & Roberta D. Liebenberg, First Chairs at Trial: More Women Need Seats at the Table 10 (2015).

7 Id.

8 Id.

9 Sital Kalantry, Women in Robes, Americas Quarterly (2012), <https://www.americasquarterly.org/women-in-robos>.

District News



DISTRICT ONE (MA, ME, NH, PR, RI)

Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island

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MASSACHUSETTS
MAINE
NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUERTO RICO
RHODE ISLAND

1

Members Share Their Expertise

District One judges shared their time and expertise with members of the bar by serving as faculty and presenters for several educational programs in the past year. In addition to speaking at local bar and community events, judges served at programs sponsored by Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education. Programs included judicial forums, trial and mediation skills workshops, as well as seminars on substantive areas and emerging areas of the law. At least 52 judges who sit on a variety of federal, state and municipal courts, spoke on issues ranging from *"Trial Advocacy Workshop; Handling Sexual Abuse Cases"* to bankruptcy law, appellate law, and workers compensation.

Welcoming Newly Appointed Judges

The following women judges were appointed to the Trial Court in Massachusetts from February, 2019 to January, 2020: Hon. Jennifer Allen, Middlesex Probate Court; Hon. Jacqueline Burchill, Plymouth Probate Court; Hon. Terri Klug Cafazzo, Probate Court; Hon. Jackie Cowin, Superior Court; Hon. Catherine Ham, Boston Municipal Court – Dorchester; Hon. Karen Hennessy, Essex Juvenile Court; Hon. Kathleen McCarthy-Neyman, Superior court; Hon. Jennifer McNulty, Worcester Juvenile Court; Hon. Jennifer Queally, District Court; and Hon. Jennifer Roberts, Land Court.

Winter Dinner in Northampton, Massachusetts

On December 5, 2019, Judge Maureen Walsh (District Court) organized an NAWJ



dinner reception with our women judges in the western part of the state at Paul and Elizabeth's, 150 Main Street in Northampton, Massachusetts. As a result of the dinner, new members joined NAWJ, and some lapsed members rejoined. Twenty-three judges attended our gathering.

News from Puerto Rico - Hon. Germanie Mendez Negron

In January, 2020, Puerto Rico was rocked by a damaging earthquake. Keeping in stride, Hon. Maite D. Oronoz-Rodríguez, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, delivered the 2020 Brennan Lecture at New York University on the topic of "Gender Equality and the Rule of Law."

Puerto Rico is active and working on a variety of initiatives. The Puerto Rico Judicial Branch developed and disseminated a public service campaign entitled "Violence is Not Love" (translated from Spanish "Violencia no es Amor"), designed to educate the community

about gender equality and the judicial remedies available for domestic violence cases. The campaign, which was launched on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, consists of a video and posts that have been shared in the official social media accounts of the Judicial Branch. It directs people to the website www.violencianoesamor.pr where you can find information on how to identify domestic violence, about specialized domestic violence courts, and how to request a protective order, among other relevant services.

Member Receptions and Program Outreach Postponed



District One annually plans and presents outreach to students of all ages. And though our winter and spring events have been postponed due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, we cannot wait to meet and share what we know with legal community's next generation of leaders when it is safe and healthy for all. In the meantime, get inspired to join us next time by the excited young people in a photo from last year's Third Annual Color of Justice Program at Lowell District Court in the Lowell Justice Center (MA) above.

Last year's reception at the Union Oyster House in Boston, where we honored our newly appointed judges, our recently retired judges, our recently elevated judges and all those who contribute to the bench and bar relations each year, was such a rousing success we planned another for May, 2020. And though we cannot meet each other in May, we look forward to planning an event and seeing each other once again.

In Memorial- First Justice Marie Jackson-Thompson



On a sad note, former member of NAWJ and First Justice Marie Jackson-Thompson (right) of Woburn District court passed away. In the photo, she is with First Justice Phyllis Broker of Woburn Court at their joint portrait unveiling. Born Marie Oliver Jackson in the steel mill town of Rankin, Pennsylvania, left Rankin to attend Mount Holyoke College in 1965, at the height of the Civil Rights movement and the beginning of the feminist movement. Her activism continued after graduation, when she studied at Harvard Law School and participated in anti-Apartheid protests. This was a time of historical transition, when women and African Americans became a presence at the Law School but were not yet acknowledged as full members of this community. After receiving her law degree in 1972, she became the first African American to live "across High Street," on Sagamore Street in the Brooks Estate, and eventually became President of the Board of Directors of the West Medford Community. She became active in the Shiloh Baptist Church, working with the first Black youth association and co-founding the Family Network.

Following her work at Cambridge-Somerville Legal Services, Judge Jackson served by appointment of Governors Dukakis and King as Assistant Secretary and General Counsel

for the Executive Office for Administration and Finance from 1976 to 1980. In 1980, Jackson was appointed Special Justice of the Massachusetts Trial Court in Cambridge, making her the first African American woman to be appointed to the Massachusetts District Court and the second to be appointed to any state court in Massachusetts. She also served for five years as the President of the Massachusetts Black Judges Association, with her final term ending in the fall of 2004. Judge Jackson-Thompson worked tirelessly to improve the juvenile justice system in the state of Massachusetts, and was featured for her efforts in a 1990 Boston Magazine article. She was instrumental in making government agencies more responsible, and was known for her creative sentencing.

We wish all her friends and family our sincere sympathies.

First Justice Diana H. Horan Receives Judicial Excellence Award



The Honorable Diana H. Horan, pictured with her family above at the 2019 Massachusetts Judicial Conference Annual Dinner, was honored with the Judicial Excellence Award on November 5, 2019 at the College of the Holy Cross. She is First Justice for the Worcester Housing Court.

District Members at the Annual in Los Angeles, Plan Outreach to Court Conferences

The following District members from Massachusetts attended the Annual Conference in Los Angeles, California in October 2019: Chief Justice Paula Carey, Hon. Anne Kenney Chaplin (Housing Court), Hon. Fairlie Dalton (Housing Court), Hon. Nan Duffly (Ret. Supreme Judicial Court), Hon. Stacey Fortes (District Court), Hon. Karen Green (Superior Court), Hon. Germa

Mendez-Negron, (Puerto Rico), Hon. Amy Nechtem (Juvenile Court), and Hon. Mary Dacey White (District Court). The District held a Breakfast Meeting on October 17, 2019. Members present discussed and voted on district dues, which would be held by NAWJ's main office for use when needed for district activities. The District voted that the yearly dues would be \$50.00. Next on the agenda was how to increase our numbers. The District then had 61 members, and everyone envisioned doubling that number. As a result of our discussions, the group planned to have an NAWJ member attend the various court conferences to share NAWJ's mission. District Director May White plans to designate a liaison for each court to attend the conference with that person giving a brief presentation on NAWJ.



L-R: Chief Justice Amy Nechtem, Judge Stacey Fortes, Judge Karen Green, Judge Mary Lou Muirhead, Judge Mary Dacey White, Justice Nan Duffly, Judge Germaie Mendez-Negron and Justice Fairlie Dalton.



DISTRICT TWO (CT, NY, VT)

Connecticut, New York, Vermont

DISTRICT DIRECTOR:

Hon. Kathy King

Supreme Court of New York, Kings County

Email: kjking@nycourts.gov

CONNECTICUT
NEW YORK
VERMONT

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Judge Laura Taylor Swain Honored with Edward Weinfeld Award



On November 7, 2019, Judge Laura Taylor Swain of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, received the New York County Lawyers Association Edward Weinfeld

Award for distinguished contributions to the administration of justice. U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit Chief Judge Robert A. Katzman presented the award to Judge Swain for her outstanding public service. In addition to her distinguished record of community service, Judge Swain serves concurrently as District Judge for the Southern District of New York and for the District of Puerto Rico, where she presides over debt restructuring proceedings for Puerto Rico.

Justice Lizbeth Gonzalez Appointed to the New York State Supreme Court



Justice Lizbeth Gonzalez was appointed to the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department on November 1, 2019, by Governor Andrew Cuomo. Prior to her

appointment, Justice Gonzalez served as a judge of the Twelfth Judicial District in New York, where she presided as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Term, First Department, a position she held since 2016. Justice Gonzalez began her judicial career in 1999 as a Housing Court Judge, and was elected to the New York City Civil Court in 2005.

New York Chapter Pre-Holiday Party

On November 26, 2019, the New York Chapter held a pre-holiday party. Chapter President, Hon. Marguerite Grays, Deputy Administrative Judge, Civil Term, 11th Judicial District, welcomed members of the Bar and Bench for an evening of collegiality.



Hon. Joanne Quinones and Hon. Jenny Rivera

New York Chapter Women in Prison Committee Annual Beyond the Bars Holiday Drive



The NAWJ-New York Chapter Women in Prison Committee held its annual holiday drive on December 16, 2019. Judge Cheryl J. Gonzales, Co-Chair of NAWJ's Women in Prison Committee and Chair of the NAWJ-New York Women in Prison Committee, organized the 2019 Beyond the Bars Holiday Project. The project included a luncheon, hosted by Judge Gonzales, at which NAWJ members and volunteers, including attorneys, court officers and clerks assembled gift bags for incarcerated women at Taconic Correctional Facility for Women in Bedford Hills, New York. Donated gift bags included

shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, clear nail polish, socks, note cards, pens, candy canes, washcloths, toothbrushes, and socks. Toy and movie passes were also collected as part of the Beyond the Bars Project to be given to children and grandchildren of the incarcerated women. Judge Debra Givens also facilitated the distribution of gift bags to the incarcerated women at Albion Correctional Facility for Women in Albion, New York.

Members Adhere to State Correction Rules, Remove Maps in Day Planner Donations

The NAWJ-NY Chapter and Judge Betty J. Williams (Ret.) also donated Day Planners to this year's Beyond the Bars Project. In preparation for distribution of the calendar to the incarcerated women at Taconic and Albion Correctional facilities, Judges Gonzales, Ruth Shillingford and Williams and Volunteer Attorney Beverly Hadley, removed maps from one thousand two hundred ten (1210) Day Planners, as required by New York State Department of Corrections. Three hundred ten (310) datebooks were mailed to Taconic and nine hundred (900) datebooks were mailed to Albion for distribution.

Beyond the Bar Project Team

2019 Beyond the Bars Supporters, Contributors and Volunteers included Judges Robin S. Garson, Debra Givens, Joanne Quinones, Marguerite Grays, Sarah Krauss (Ret.), Yvonne Lewis (Ret.), Edwina G. Mendelson, Kathy J. King, Robin Sheares, Ruth Shillingford, Wavny Toussaint, Sally Unger, Attorneys Beverly Hadley, Tamar Kraft-Stolar, Jaya Vasandani, Brooklyn Women's Bar Association and the Women & Justice Project.

Members Participate in Live Webcast on New York's Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act

On January 21, 2020, NAWJ members Justice

Debra James, and Justice Marcy Kahn (Ret.) participated in a live webcast on New York's Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act (DVSJA), which was enacted in May, 2019. Justice James moderated the webcast and Justice Kahn was a presenter, offered by Lawline, an online CLE provider, in collaboration with Jaya Vasandani and Tamar Kraft-Stolar, and the Women and Justice Project (WJP) whose mission is to "advance the leadership and build the power of women directly impacted by incarceration to transform the criminal legal system." Justices James and Kahn, together with the NAWJ-NY Women in Prison Committee, New York Correctional Association, WJP, and the Women Prisoners Coalition, supported passage of DVSJA which gives judges discretionary authority to grant reduced prison sentences to survivors of domestic violence, where their crimes were substantially related to such victimization, or in

some cases, community-based alternatives to prison terms. The webcast was viewed by over 100 attorneys throughout the country.

You Don't Stop Being a Parent When You Are Incarcerated

New York Women In Prison Committee members Judges Cheryl Gonzales, Ann Shea and Sallie Krauss, are working to update the brochure "You Don't Stop Being a Parent When You Are Incarcerated." The committee created the brochure in 2018 in consultation with judges of the Family Court.

Welcome New Members

Judge Carol R. Sharpe, New York County Civil Court; **Judge Hilary Gingold**, Brooklyn Criminal Court; **Justice Mary Ann Briganti**, Bronx Supreme Court Civil Branch; **Judge**

Karen L. Moroney, Nassau County District Court, New York; **Judge Elizabeth N. Warin**, Criminal Court of the City of New York; **Judge Lenora B. Foote-Beavers**, Buffalo City Court; **Justice Marsha D. Michael**, New York State Supreme Court; **Judge Jenny Rivera**, New York State Court of Appeals; **Judge Bernadette G. Black**, New York State Unified Court System; **Judge Changyong ("Wendy") Li**, New York State Court; **Judge Lumarie Maldonado Cruz**, New York State Judiciary; **Administrative Judge Kathie E. Davidson**, Ninth Judicial District; **Justice Patricia Ellen Gunning**, Grandview-on-the-Hudson, NY; **Justice Ushir Pandit-Durant**, New York State Supreme Court; **Referee Elizabeth R. Yablon**, New York State Supreme Court; **Judge Suzanne J. Adams**, Family Court, Kings County; **Immigration Judge Paula Donnolo** (Retired).



DISTRICT THREE (DE,NJ,PA,VI)

Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virgin Islands

DISTRICT DIRECTOR:

Hon. Vivian Medinilla, Superior Court of the State of Delaware
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DELAWARE
NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA
VIRGIN ISLANDS

3

Expanding Delaware's Membership



On February 29, 2020, District Three Director, Judge Vivian Medinilla spoke to 200 women at the 28th Women and the Law Section Retreat at the Hyatt Place in Dewey Beach, Delaware. The two-day seminar focused on issues that are important to women practitioners as presented by the Women and the Law Section of the DSBA. Judge Medinilla challenged the First State's Bench and Bar to meet a new goal in honor of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. The mission if they choose to accept it? To enroll 100 of new NAWJ members. Off to a great start, NAWJ welcomes and thanks our newest members from the First State who said yes first!

Making History in the First State: Delaware's newest Justice and A New NAWJ Member



The Honorable Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves has become the first African-American and the youngest justice to serve on the Delaware Supreme Court. Justice

Montgomery-Reeves joined the Supreme Court of Delaware in January 2020. Before her appointment to Delaware's highest court, Justice Montgomery-Reeves was Vice Chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery from November 2015 to November 2019. She is the first African-American, and the youngest justice to serve on the Delaware Supreme Court. With her joining NAWJ, there is 100% membership from the women judiciary of the Delaware Supreme Court.

Let us welcome her into NAWJ and honor this

historic achievement in Delaware's history by remembering the pivotal events that make Justice Montgomery-Reeves' investiture at [Wilmington's Howard High School](#) that much more iconic. Justice Montgomery-Reeves, chose Howard High School of Technology for her investiture ceremony because of the historical relevance to civil rights history in Delaware. Howard High School was founded in 1867 as the first secondary school for Black students in the state. In 1953, the school was at the center of the Belton v. Gebhart case, one of two cases from Delaware that became part of the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954 that ended racial segregation in public schools. The school was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2005 and it counts among its alumni feminist writer Alice Dunbar-Nelson, attorney Louis L. Redding, artist Edward L. Loper, Sr. and jazz trumpeter Clifford Brown.

For Judge Medinilla, A Meaningful Event

In 1990, while studying at the Delaware Law School, District Director, Judge Medinilla

approached the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education* like she approached any other: read the facts, identified the issue and holding, tried to understand my analysis, and finally, prayed to recall it coherently for the exam. When she finished, she was struck by how close to home this case had hit. As you know, the landmark 1954 decision addressed the appeals of four states that reached the United States Supreme Court. Since her law school days, she has delved deeper into this case and learned more about the racial disparities that existed in our education system. Judge Medinilla also read of the lawyers who diligently fought for equality and, notably, about one Delaware judicial officer who demonstrated tremendous bravery. That judge was the late Collins H. Seitz, Sr. In 1952, the Honorable C.J. Seitz, Sr., shaped American history forever when he ordered the end to segregation within Delaware's public schools. Nearly seventy years later, his son would also make history in Wilmington, Delaware: On January 3, 2020, Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr., presided over the inauguration of Justice Montgomery-Reeves, and it happened at Howard High. Once again, Howard High became a site of historical significance. This time, the school welcomed all ages, genders, and colors, as hundreds of smiling hope-filled faces packed into the auditorium to witness our Chief Justice administer the Oath of Office to the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court of Delaware. Congratulations and a warm welcome to our newest NAWJ member, Justice Montgomery-Reeves!

Member Spotlight-Chief Magistrate Alan Davis Funds New Members



In March, Delaware Chief Magistrate Alan Davis funded 12 NAWJ memberships for his judicial officers on the Justice of the Peace Court. In 2005, Chief Magistrate Davis at age 33, was

appointed to his current role as head of the State's Justice of the Peace Courts, wherein he oversees 286 personnel and 16 magistrate courts within Delaware's New Castle, Kent, and Sussex counties. We are incredibly thankful to Chief Magistrate Davis for his early commitment and generous contribution to NAWJ. Let us collectively welcome

our most recent Justice of the Peace members:

Hon. Nicole Alston-Jackson, Court 7, Kent County; **Hon. Peter Burcat**, Court 11, New Castle County; **Hon. Maria Castro**, Court 4, Sussex County; **Hon. Leah Chandler**, Court 4, Sussex County; **Hon. Mirta Collazo**, Court 4, Sussex County; **Hon. Bracy Dixon**, Court 11, New Castle County; **Hon. Emily A. Ferrell**, Court 11, New Castle County; **Hon. Bethany Fiske**, Court 4, Sussex County; **Hon. Jamie Hicks**, Court 7, Kent County; **Hon. Michelle Jewell**, Court 4, Sussex County; **Hon. Deborah J. Keenan**, Court 4, Deputy Chief, Sussex County; and **Hon. Marie Page**, Court 11, New Castle County.

More New NAWJ Members



The Honorable Karen L. Valihura was sworn in for her first term as Justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware on Friday in 2014. Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court, Justice

Valihura was a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP, where she practiced law since 1989. Her practice in complex commercial and corporate issues included federal and state securities fraud claims, mergers and acquisitions, and fiduciary duties of directors. Justice Valihura served as Chair of the Delaware Supreme Court's Board on Professional Responsibility, and as Chair of the Delaware Supreme Court's Permanent Ethics Advisory Committee on Delaware Rules for Professional Conduct. Additionally, Justice Valihura served her community as a member of the Board of Directors for the Delaware Special Olympics for eighteen years and as a member of the Delaware Bar Foundation for eight years. Justice Valihura received her undergraduate degree from Washington and Jefferson College in 1985, and her law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She served as a law clerk to Judge Robert E. Cowen of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

The Honorable Sherry R. Fallon, United States District Court District of Delaware.

Magistrate Judge Fallon earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and completed her legal studies at Delaware Law. Formerly, she was an attorney for Tybout, Redfearn & Pell, a



litigation firm in Wilmington, Delaware. On April 25, 2012, Judge Fallon was sworn in as a federal magistrate judge for the United States District Court of Delaware, making her the first Delaware federal judge to join NAWJ.



The Honorable Paul R. Wallace was appointed to the Superior Court of Delaware by Governor Jack A. Markell and began serving in January 2013. Judge Wallace received his

Juris Doctorate from the *Columbus School of Law of the Catholic University of America*. His undergraduate degree in Criminology is from the University of Maryland. Before coming to the bench, Judge Wallace served for more than two decades with Delaware's Department of Justice. He served as Delaware's Chief of Appeals from 2008 until his appointment to the Superior Court. Prior to taking up a full-time appellate practice, Judge Wallace served as the Chief Prosecutor for New Castle County. Judge Wallace is a past member of the Delaware Supreme Court's Permanent Advisory Committees on the Delaware Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct and on the Delaware Uniform Rules of Evidence. Judge Wallace was a presiding judge on Superior Court's Asbestos Litigation Docket for two years. He joined the judges' panel of the Court's Complex Commercial Litigation Division in 2015.



Attorney Shakuntla L. Bhaya is a graduate of University of Delaware where she has received her Bachelor of Science in Political Studies and Philosophy with

a Minor in Women Studies, and a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law (1985). Ms. Bhaya is a frequent speaker on automobile insurance issues. She is a Past President of the Delaware Trial Lawyers Association and the YWCA.

Her areas of practice are Personal Injury, Worker's Compensation, and Real Estate.



Attorney Yvonne Takvorian Saville

is a director with the law firm Weiss, Saville & Houser P.A., where her practice is focused on plaintiff's civil litigation in the areas of personal

injury and workers' compensation. She has been appointed as a Special Master for complex civil cases in The United States District Court for the District of Delaware. She is also a frequent Alternative Dispute Resolution practitioner. In recognition of her mediation/ arbitration practice in handling over 10,000 cases, the Superior Court of the State of Delaware recently honored Ms. Saville with the Amicus Curiae or "Friend of the Court" Award. She is the first Past President of the Delaware State Bar Association (DSBA) to join NAWJ.



Judge Meghan Adams received her J.D., *cum laude*, in 2007 from Widener University School of Law. She received her B.S. in Business Administration from University

of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Kenan Flagler Business School, in 2003. Judge Adams is a native Delawarean, graduating from Dover High School in 1999. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Adams was an attorney at Morris James LLP and Proctor Heyman LLP (now Heyman Enerio Gattuso & Hirzel) where she practiced corporate and commercial litigation. Judge Adams is the Chair of the Partnerships and Alternative Business Entities Subcommittee of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association. She is also the President of the Richard S. Rodney Inn of Court and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Since 1999, **Judge Kathleen K. Amalfitano** has served as Assistant Supervising Attorney in the Office of Defense Services. In addition to overseeing the Kent County Office of Defense Services, she represented clients in criminal matters before the Superior Court and Court of



Common Pleas. J. Amalfitano represented litigants in the Veteran's Court and Mental Health Court for Superior Court, and served as a Legal Advisor in the Insurance

Commissioner's Office and as an Assistant County Attorney in the New Castle County Department of Law. J. Amalfitano is an active member of the Delaware Army National Guard, and provides Legal Assistance to all members of the Delaware Air and Army National Guard covering a wide range of matters.



Judge Kelly A. Gaughan earned her BS in Criminal Justice from the University of Scranton in 1994 followed by her JD from Seton Hall School of Law in 1998. In September

1999, Judge Gaughan joined the general practice law firm of Levy, Stieh and Blumberg. In 2003, Judge Gaughan became Vice President of the firm which, by the time she left the practice to take the bench, had evolved into Levy, Stieh, Gaughan & Baron, P.C. Among her accomplishments, Judge Gaughan was named one of the Top 25 Women in Business by National Association of Women Business Owners in 2016 and one of the Top 10 Best Attorneys in Pennsylvania in 2017 by the American Institute of Family Law Attorneys. She served on the Board of Directors for a multitude of charitable organizations during her time practicing as an attorney. After 20 years of private practice, Judge Gaughan was appointed to fill a judicial vacancy on the Pike County Court of Common Pleas on August 30, 2019, followed by her election to serve a 10-year term commencing January 2020.

Inaugural Color of Justice Program in Philly

On March 25, 2020, the Honorable Lisette Shirdan-Harris planned to host the Philadelphia's Inaugural Color of Justice event. Expected to be held in conjunction with The First Judicial District, the Administrative Office of State Courts, and the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, eight area schools planned to send 40 students.



Delaware planned to contribute to the event but COVID19 had other plans. Not to worry—the PA-DE venture will be rescheduled post-COVID19.

Delaware Hosts Sixth Annual Sisters in Success

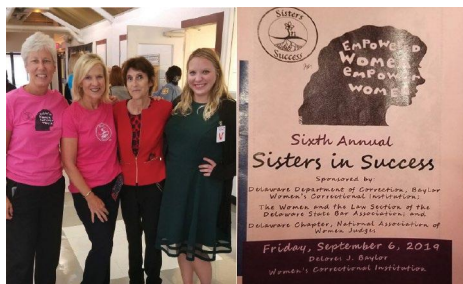


On Friday, September 6, 2019 Baylor Women's Correctional Institution hosted an its 6th Annual "Sisters in Success" conference which brought 120 inmates and 135 guests from the community together under the theme "Empowered Women, Empower Women." The day of inspiring remarks, performances, breakout sessions and positive one-on-one engagement to supported "justice-involved" women with the tools necessary to make a successful transition back into the community.

Participants came from across the legal community, including the Delaware courts, attorneys, Delaware State Police, New Castle County Police, community advocates, Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long, and State legislative leaders Rep. Valerie Maglio Longhurst, Senator Nicole Poore and Representative Kimberly Williams.

Thank you to Commissioner Claire DeMatteis Marquardt, the first female Commissioner of the Department of Corrections in Delaware and Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester, the first Black American and the first woman to represent Delaware in federal office for offering words of encouragement, to keynote speaker, award-winning film producer, author, entrepreneur and advocate Tonier Cain, who shared a powerful message of hope from her own journey from addiction and incarceration to empowerment and success and to

the many presenters throughout the day.



Thank you to Canaan Baptist Church Delaware and the Law Office of Murphy & Landon for sponsoring the conference breakfast which was prepared by students in the BWCI Culinary Arts Program. Lunch for the participants and volunteers was provided through a generous donation from long-term partner, The Kenny Family Foundation.

Collaborations with Our District Neighbor, District Four

District Three is working with District Four Director, Judge Anita Josey-Herring, and the members of her district to gather in Southern Delaware for a reception to welcome new members, thanks to the generous offer from NAWJ Past President, the Honorable Joan Churchill, who offered to host this joint event. Only time will tell due to these unprecedented times. Date TBD.

Justice Cynthia Baldwin Elected Vice Chair of the Fulbright Association

The Honorable Cynthia A. Baldwin, retired justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, was elected Vice Chair of the Fulbright Association in Washington, D.C. for 2020. She served as secretary of the Fulbright Association Board from 2017 to 2019. Justice Baldwin taught on the Law Faculty of



the University of Zimbabwe as a Fulbright Scholar Lecturer in 1994. The mission of the Fulbright Association is to **advocate** for the Fulbright Program and promote international education. The vision is a world where international exchange is widely recognized as a force for peace.

NAWJ New Jersey Hosts Color of Justice Program at Rutgers Law School

On Saturday, October 26, 2019, the New Jersey Chapter of NAWJ held another inspiring Color of Justice Program for young people in New Jersey. Chaired by the Hon. Siobhan A. Teare, J.S.C., the committee, composed of Hon. Mumtaz Bari-Brown, A.L.J. (Ret.); Hon. Avis Bishop-Thompson, J.S.C.; Barbara Comerford, Esq.; Elizabeth Davies, Esq.; Hon. Estela M. De La Cruz, J.S.C.; Hon. Rosemary Gambardella, U.S.B.J.; Hon. Michelle Hollar-Gregory, J.S.C. (Ret.); Hon. Helen E. Hoens, Assoc. Justice (Ret.); Hon. Vivian Sanks King, J.M.C.; Mamie M. Lau; Jeoyuh Lin, Esq.; Hon. Sandra Ann Robinson, A.L.J. (Ret.); Hon. Lourdes I. Santiago, J.S.C.; and Hon. L. Grace Spencer, J.S.C., worked diligently and joyfully for six months to plan the event which took place at Rutgers Law School in Newark. Approximately 94 current and former students attended the Color of Justice Program. Attendees drew from the following education institutions: Essex County College Paralegal Studies; Fairleigh Dickinson University; Hackensack High School; Rutgers University New Brunswick;

Rutgers University Newark; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM Academy); Teaneck High School; University High School; and Thurgood Marshall Academy.

A star-studded list for the Leaders in Law panel included Judge Rosemary Gambardella, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of New Jersey; Paulette Brown, Esq., Former President of the American Bar Association; Honorable Julio Fuentes, United States Court of Appeals For the Third Circuit; Assignment Judge Bonnie Mizdol, Bergen County, New Jersey; Evelyn Padin, Esq., President, New Jersey State Bar Association; and Justice Anne Patterson, New Jersey Supreme Court.

One of the chapter's most distinguishing accomplishments was found in obtaining support, in funds and in participation, from leaders of a wide variety of bars. To the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association, The Law Offices of Barbara B. Comerford, New Jersey State Bar Foundation, Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey, Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey, and Garden State Bar Association - *Thank you!*



DISTRICT FOUR (DC, MD, VA)

District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia

DISTRICT DIRECTOR:

Hon. Anita Josey-Herring

Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Email: herring@dcsc.gov

"Becoming a Judge" - NAWJ District of Columbia Members Gather Colleagues to Light a Path for Emerging Leaders to Become a Judge

On March 2, 2020 in the Ceremonial Courtroom at

the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, NAWJ DC members presented one of NAWJ's most valuable and popular outreach programs, "Becoming A Judge."

In partnership with the District of Columbia Judicial

Nomination Commission, the NAWJ planning committee composed of Judge Anita Josey-Herring and Magistrate Tanya M. Jones Bosier (Superior Court of the District of Columbia), Administrative Law Judge Gwenlynn D'Souza (District of Columbia Department of Employment Services), and



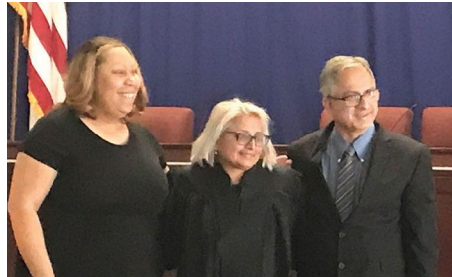
Administrative Law Judge Sharon Goodie (District of Columbia Office Of Administrative Hearings) welcomed 65 attorneys, judges and government officials to learn about the application, selection, and appointment process to become a trial or appellate judge for the D.C. Superior Court and D.C. Court of Appeals.

Program speakers included the Hon. Emmet G. Sullivan (U.S. District Judge, United States District Court for the District of Columbia; Chair, District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission); Hon. Phyllis D. Thompson, Associate Judge (District of Columbia Court of Appeals); Hon. Heidi M. Pasichow, Associate Judge (Superior Court of the District of Columbia), and Hon. Darlene M. Soltys, Associate Judge (Superior Court of the District of Columbia) shared with attendees aspects of serving on the bench as appellate and trial judges.

Thank you to our "Becoming A Judge" event sponsors, whose collaboration made our collective outreach a success: District of Columbia Association of Administrative Law Judiciary;

Greater Washington Area Chapter of the Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association; Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia; The South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C.; Washington Bar Association; Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia/ WBA Foundation; Women's Bar Association of Maryland; and the Washington Council of Lawyers.

District of Columbia Administrative Law Judge Gwenlynn D'Souza Gets Robed



One of NAWJ DC's most supportive and active members, the Hon. Gwenlynn D'Souza (center), Administrative Law Judge in the Office of Hearings and Adjudication of the Department of Employment Services received a judicial robe as a swearing-in ceremony on Monday, March 9, 2020 in the Community Room at Judiciary Square. Having enjoyed deciding some very difficult and interesting cases, she was happy to learn that court management recently decided to provide judicial robes to administrative law judges in her department. Fellow NAWJ District of Columbia

Courts members attended the ceremony to congratulate and recognize Judge D'Souza.

Maryland Legal Services Corporation Honors Judge Cathy H. Serrett



The Hon. Cathy Hollenberg Serrett (pictured middle above) was honored by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) on December 6, 2019 with its Arthur W. Machen Jr. Award. The award recognizes Judge Serrett's commitment to increasing access to justice and improving the civil legal services delivery system for low-income Marylanders. Judge Serrett has been an active participant in the Prince George's County MLSC's pro bono committee. She is a past president of Community Legal Services of Prince George's County and Pro Bono Resource Center, and a member of the Maryland Access to Justice Commission.



DISTRICT FIVE (FL,GA,NC,SC)

Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina

DISTRICT DIRECTOR:

Hon. Anne Elizabeth Barnes

Court of Appeals of Georgia

Email: judgebarnes@gmail.com

NAWJ Hosts Sisters in Law Reception

On November 19, 2019 Presiding Judge Anne Elizabeth Barnes, former Justice Leah Sears of the Georgia Supreme Court, and attorney Penn Payne hosted over 100 women for the Sisters in Law reception at the law offices of Smith Gambrell & Russell. The cocktail reception provided an opportunity to not only socialize with colleagues, but also to learn about NAWJ's mission to promote the judicial role in protecting the rights of

individuals under the rule of law through strong, committed, diverse judicial leadership, fairness and equality in the courts, and equal access to justice.

Presiding Judge Brenda S. Weaver, Appalachian Judicial Circuit Drug Court Receives State Recognition

Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver, center, with the plaque recognizing the Adult Drug Court as a State of Georgia Model Court. Standing with Judge Weaver is the drug court team, along with Cobb County

Superior Court Judge Reuben Green and Retired Bibb County Superior Court Judge Tommy Wilcox.



The Appalachian Judicial Circuit's Drug Court and its Presiding Judge, Chief Superior Court Judge Brenda S. Weaver was recognized as a Model Court in Georgia. This recognition was given by the Council of Accountability Court Judges at their conference in Athens, Ga. September, 2019. The "Model Court" designation recognizes that the court goes above and beyond the standards for an accountability court. The Model Courts will serve as a mentor to newer courts, and personnel from these newer courts will visit the model courts for technical assistance and guidance. Judge Weaver established the drug court in 2002. The idea seemed foreign to many, and was not popular at the time, during the "Tough on Crime" era of incarcerating drug offenders. Judge Weaver became weary of sending people to prison for crimes that were fueled by their addiction. With no money, and only a few supporters, she started the drug court. Participants receive treatment, frequent drug screening, are visited in their home by certified police officers, abide by a curfew, are required to obtain their GED, and must obtain full-time employment. Participants come before Judge Weaver every two weeks for court reviews. The program is two years long and, in many cases, charges are dismissed upon completion of the program. For more serious charges, sometimes a participant will come into the drug court as part of their sentence and the charges may not be dismissed, but prison time can be suspended.

The Appalachian Judicial Circuit also now has a Family Treatment Court, a Veterans Treatment Court, and a HELP court (serving those with mental health disorders). There have been over 500 graduates from all these programs.

JNC Posts All-Female Short List for Georgia Supreme Court

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp's Judicial Nominating Commission recommended four women to replace retired Justice Robert Benham on the Supreme Court of Georgia. Assuming Governor Kemp chooses from the short list, his choice will join Justice Sarah Warren to bring the court to two women and seven men.

The Honorable Cindy Morris Leads Georgia in Domestic Violence Reforms

On January 29, 2020, Superior Court Judge Cindy Morris, Conasauga Judicial Circuit, was sworn in as chair-elect for the Georgia Commission on Dispute



Resolution to succeed the Judge Jane Barwick of Fulton, GA. The Commission is working on the implementation of the new mediation rules for cases involving

domestic violence. These new rules are the result of a collaborative effort between the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution and the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. In the Conasauga Judicial Circuit, she continues work in their Domestic Violence Accountability Court. The Court has over 80 participants who have either felony or misdemeanor domestic violence charges. With the understanding that domestic violence is a learned behavior, the Court works to educate defendants to change those attitudes and behaviors. The Court also follows a modified version of the accountability and treatment court programs in that they also work with offenders to get mental health and substance abuse treatment.

The Honorable Ashley Wright Continues Leadership in Local Philanthropy



NAWJ member and Superior Court Judge Ashley Wright of the Augusta Georgia circuit was instrumental in supporting the Legal Food Frenzy last year. The Augusta

Judges team, also including NAWJ member Judge Sheryl Jolly, won the judicial category award for participation and donations for the second year in a row. Their initiative supported the local community and the Golden Harvest food bank and brought in over four thousand dollars as well as many pounds of donated food.

The Honorable Sara Doyle

Presiding Judge Sara Doyle, Court of Appeals of Georgia, was awarded the Girl Talk, Inc. Leadership Award in October 2019. She has also joined the Mercer University Walter F. George Foundation, and will chair the Judicial



Council of Georgia's Strategic Plan Implementation Committee from July 2019 to June 2022. On February 28, 2020, she was the keynote speaker at the Athens-Clarke County Drug Court Recognition Ceremony as a National Academy Court.



Judge Sheryl B. Jolly, Augusta Superior Court, is currently serving as President of the Board of Directors of the Greater Augusta Arts Council. Last year she accepted

the Best Festival of the year Shining Example Award from the Southeast Tourism Society.

Presiding Judge M. Yvette Miller Endows Law School Scholarship



The Honorable M. Yvette Miller of the Georgia Court of Appeals has established an endowed scholarship at the Mercer University School of Law to promote diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. The scholarship will assist law students with financial need with a preference for students who are active in the Law School's Black Law Students Association (BLSA). Presiding Judge Miller: "With this endowment, I am creating opportunities for deserving law students to receive scholarship monies to assist with tuition," said Judge Miller. "My life has been so enriched by my journey as a student at Mercer University. For this reason, I have always given back to Mercer not only financially but also through my time and talents. Subscribing to the ultimate philosophy that to whom much is given much is expected, I want my legacy to include empowering the next generation of Mercer lawyers who are prepared to impact the state of Georgia and our country." Judge Miller broke numerous barriers for minorities and women in the legal profession, including being one of the first African-American females to serve as assistant district attorney in Fulton County, GA and to practice law throughout the Brunswick Judicial Circuit. Additionally, she was the first woman, first African-American and the youngest person to serve

as director/judge of the Appellate Division on the State Board of Worker's Compensation, the first African-American woman to serve on the Georgia Court of Appeals, and the first African-American woman to serve as chief judge on the Georgia Court of Appeals.

Judge Dorothy Toth Beasley Receives Lifetime Achievement Award



Retired Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Dorothy Toth Beasley was honored for her lifetime of public service by the Emory Public Interest Committee (EPIC) of the Emory

School of Law on February 4, 2020 with its Lifetime Achievement Award. Judge Beasley worked for the U.S. Department of State, attended law school and worked part-time for a congressman, a law firm, and the Urban Land Institute. Her first job as a lawyer was as law clerk to the three circuit judges in Arlington County, Virginia, where she then

practiced with Shadyac, Berg & Nolan. She became Assistant Attorney General for the State of Georgia, representing the State in a number of cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, and thereafter an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Criminal Division. In 1977 she was appointed by Governor George D. Busbee as Judge for the State Court of Fulton County. She was elected in 1978 and, while running unopposed for re-election in 1984, was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor Joe Frank Harris. Full terms, following election, began January 1987 and January 1993. She retired in 1999. Judge Beasley served on the board of directors of the National Center for State Courts and the American Judicature Society. She is a member of the American Law Institute, the Georgia Bar Foundation, of which she is a Charter Member of the Fellows. She was appointed to the Georgia Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, the Georgia Commission on Children and Youth, and the Georgia Commission on Gender Bias in the Judicial System. Judge Beasley, who defended her state's use of capital punishment in the 1972 *Furman v Georgia* case before the Supreme Court, later came to view capital punishment as a violation of equal justice.

Honorable Laurel Myerson Isicoff Becomes National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges President



On November 1, 2019 the Honorable Laurel Myerson Isicoff, Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida, became President of the

National Conference of Bankruptcy, she will serve until the end of its 2020 National Conference on October 17, 2020. She has been sworn in for her second fourteen-year term as a United States Bankruptcy Judge. Chief Judge Isicoff co-chaired the Education Committee of NAWJ's 2012 Annual Conference in Miami.



DISTRICT SIX (AL, LA, MS, TN)

Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee

DISTRICT DIRECTOR:

Hon. Lynda Jones

Davidson County Court, Tennessee

Email: lyndajones@jjs.nashville.org

ALABAMA
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
TENNESSEE

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Serving Women In Prison in Louisiana



Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson selected former NAWJ District Director Judge Sheva Sims to spearhead the Women in Prison Initiative

in north Louisiana. Judge Sims is responsible for implementing the historic cosmetology program at the Louisiana Transitional Center for Women in Tallulah (LTCW), LA. She is collaborating with the Southern University of Shreveport and Bossier Parish Community College to initiate skills and educational

reentry programs for incarcerated women at the Louisiana Transitional Center for Women in Tallulah and the Caddo Correctional Center (CCC) in Shreveport. Judge Sims has inspired other community organizations and businesses to assist with the collection of books, toiletries and dental hygiene products in support of the Women in Prison Initiative. To date, over sixty (60) boxes of books, toiletries and dental hygiene products have been donated to the women incarcerated at the Louisiana Transitional Center for Women.

Chief Judge Yvette Mansfield Alexander Honored by National Bar Association with A. Leon Higginbotham Award

On Wednesday, February 5, 2020, the incomparable Chief Judge Yvette Mansfield



Alexander received the A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Award at the National Bar Association Judicial Council Luncheon. Over 100 judges, attorneys and business

professionals from all over the United States and South Africa were present to celebrate Chief Judge Alexander on this momentous occasion. Chief Judge Alexander, a judge on the Baton Rouge City Court and NAWJ member, was former chair of the National Bar Association's Judicial Council and is incoming chair of the American Judges Association. She is a graduate of the

Louisiana State University Law Center, and a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Upon receiving the award, a tearful Chief Judge Alexander quoted Judge Higginbotham, "We can either preserve or dilute the gains we have made in justice and equality." Chief Judge Alexander also credited Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice, the Honorable Bernette Joshua Johnson, for teaching us to love the National Bar Association. The A. Leon Higginbotham Award is presented by the National Bar Association in recognition of judicial excellence and an outstanding commitment to the achievement of justice and equality.

Passing the Bar at Southern University Law Center



Congratulations to NAWJ District Six Law Student Members and past scholarship recipients, Monette M. Davis (left) and Errin Green (right), graduates of the Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA for passing the Louisiana Bar exam on their first try. Judge Sheva Sims, former NAWJ District 6 Director, is very proud of these two graduates and their performance on the bar exam.

NAWJ Member Law Student Interns with Caddo Parish District Attorney

Southern University Law Center student Jasmine Cooper is working with the prosecution team of the Caddo Parrish District Attorney's Office to gain first-hand experience through several high profile cases and trials.

Judge Ree Casey-Jones was Honored with Angels in Adoption Award



This Congressional award recognizes her outstanding work in the child welfare system, was presented to her in Washington, D.C in November.

Remembering Orleans Parish Judge Angélique Reed



The Honorable Angélique Aristell Reed was elected judge on Oct. 3, 1998 as the first African American Judge to serve in First City Court

for the Parish of Orleans. She was a graduate of Ursuline Academy, Xavier University and Loyola University Law school. After graduating from Loyola, she received the Gillis Long Public Service Award recognizing her talents and contributions to the community. She also was the national winner of the Frederick Douglas Moot Court Competition where she won an award for best written brief. Judge Reed passed away in November 2019 after a brief illness, she was 59 years old.

Nashville Moves Towards a Homelessness Court, Modeled After New Orleans

The city of Nashville is in the beginning stages of offering alternatives to the criminal justice system, to solve homelessness, but that doesn't stop people calling the police, which leads to a lot of people being asked to move out of sight. In Nashville, from January to October 2019, 464 people experiencing homelessness were arrested for criminal trespassing, according to data from Metro Nashville Police Department. Many are arrested more than once. The Nashville office of Baker Donelson law firm is in the planning stages for a homeless court. The firm will draw from its work at the monthly Homeless Experience Legal Protection (HELP) pro bono hours with people at Room In The Inn, an organization that organizes shelter for and offers educational services to those living on the streets. This new homeless court will have a specific docket and meeting time that only deals with charges like criminal trespassing, possession, public urination and public intoxication, says Christopher Douse, chair of the Nashville Pro Bono Committee and coordinator of HELP for three years. The goal is to provide an avenue for minor criminal issues that disproportionately affect the homeless population to come forward and be on a streamlined docket with a court that

understands the population before them, and working to clear those off with dedicated time from public defenders and the district attorney.

Nashville would join Los Angeles, New Orleans, Chicago, Boston and Houston, and a number of other cities in having a homeless court. The Nashville court is looking at best practices for a homeless court in New Orleans, where the HELP program also began.

Katie Dysart, coordinator for the homeless court in New Orleans, says a best practice is to organize a community of contacts, from local housing and employment resources, to the local bar — it is about adding value to the homeless community. She adds that the homeless court has lightened the general sessions court docket and gotten fines and fees traded for things like community service or maintaining employment for a certain period of time for people experiencing homelessness.

Nashville Judge Allegra Walker Marries 15 Couples in Her Domestic Violence Courtroom



The Honorable Allegra Montgomery Walker was elected to General Sessions Court, Div. IV August 2014. Before being elected, she served an Assistant District Attorney for the Davidson County District Attorneys General's Office. While serving in that capacity, she focused her practice on Domestic Violence. Upon her departure from the District Attorney's Office, Judge Walker was recognized by her peers for her work in domestic violence. In addition to serving as a prosecutor, Judge Walker served as an Assistant Public Defender for the Davidson County Public Defender's Office. In 2013,

Judge Walker was recognized as Outstanding State Official by the Nashville Coalition to End Domestic Violence. In 2015, she, along with her colleagues, was recognized by the Nashville Coalition to End Domestic Violence with the Outstanding Domestic Violence Program Award.

NAWJ Members, Tennessee Supreme Court Justices, Share the Stage

The three current female justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court—Justice Cornelia Clark, Justice Sharon G. Lee, and Justice Holly Kirby—were joined on stage with the three former female justices—Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey, Former Justice Penny White, and Former Chief Justice Janice Holder—for back-to-back events at Lipscomb University recognizing the 100th anniversary of the

ratification of the 19th Amendment. It was the first time all of the female justices appeared together on stage, and the events were filled with inspiration, historical lessons, and humor.

The justices also shared their thoughts on navigating the male-dominated field of law in the past as well as today. While they all agreed great progress has been made, the justices said there is more work to be done. “On one hand, I’m surprised when I walk into a room for a mediation and the plaintiff and the defendant are female, the attorney for the plaintiff is female, the attorney for the defendant is female, and I’m female,” Former Chief Justice, and NAWJ member, Janice Holder said. “And to me, that’s great progress because just the sheer numbers are staggering. On the other hand, I can walk into a room, as I did last week, and have a

receptionist ask me if I’m the court reporter. So, we’ve made great strides, but I also think that there are things that we still have to do and still be aware of to raise the level of consciousness about diversity and inclusivity, and we just have to continue to do it. We can’t rest on our laurels and believe that everything has been taken care of.”



DISTRICT SEVEN (MI, OH, WV)

Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia

DISTRICT DIRECTOR:

Hon. Michelle Rick

29th Circuit Court, St. Johns, Michigan

Email: rickm@clinton-county.org

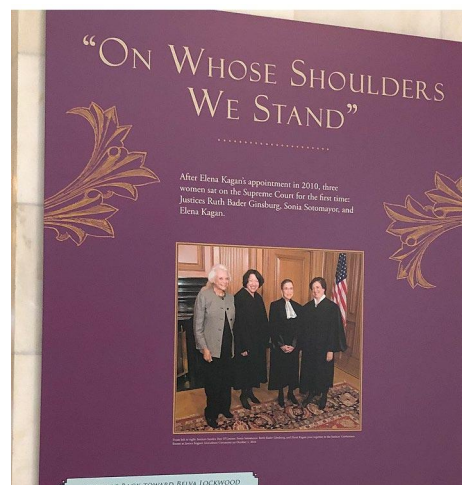
MICHIGAN
OHIO
WEST VIRGINIA

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Last year, NAWJ member Michelle M. Rick (29th Circuit Court) spoke at a Michigan Hall of Justice press conference about the development of [Project Access](http://michiganlegalhelp.org) (michiganlegalhelp.org), a traveling service of expungement clinics. Chief Justice Bridget McCormack, Judge Rick, Detroit Mercy Law School and other organizations—Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan State Bar and Legal Services Corporation—partnered to host traveling expungement clinics this summer. Over the course of the summer, Project Access brought resources and assistance to community members of eight counties in rural Michigan. Judge Rick recounts the experience for all involved was extraordinary, and that Detroit Mercy Law School received inquiries about bringing Project Access to additional communities. Project Access held [another clinic at the Hall of Justice on October 22, 2019](#), partnering with Clinton, Ingham, and Eaton counties, Michigan Supreme Court, and the Lansing Mayor’s Office. Judge Rick expects to host a community fair that includes service providers.

Judge Michelle M. Rick Sponsors 12 Michigan Women Lawyers for SCOTUS

Twelve years ago, Len Niehoff and John Wernet sponsored former NAWJ District Director, Judge Michelle M. Rick, admission to the United States Supreme Court (SCOTUS). On 11/13/2019, she visited Washington, D.C. and sponsored 12 Michigan women Lawyers. She wore her NAWJ and Girls Scouts leader pins.



Michigan Expands Face of Justice Outreach Program

The Face of Justice program is a unique opportunity for students to learn about legal professions and to pique their interest to consider a career in law. The program includes tours of the Hall of Justice Learning Center and the Court of Appeals, and mentoring from professionals in the justice system. It is a collaboration between the Michigan State Bar Association and NAWJ. Students from Golightly Career and Technical Center, a Detroit public high school, offering students opportunities to work in real-life



situations in the field of their choosing, were the beneficiaries of the day's mentorship.

MentorJet Continues Flights into Michigan State University Law School



The February 20, 2020 program, chaired by Judge Michelle Rick, included Ernschie Augustin (Chalgian & Tripp Law Offices PLLC); Kristina Bilowus (Kizy Law); Amanda Dernovshek (Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith P.C.); Hon. Carmen Fahie (Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, Benefit Services); Bobby A. Ficklin Jr. (Myler Disability, The Ficklin Law Firm, PLLC); Joel Finnell (Sinus Dramis Law Firm); Emily Jefferson (Department of Attorney General, State of Michigan); Kelly Kane (Clark Hill PLC); Katherine Nepton (The Nepton law Firm, PLLC); Jared A. Roberts (Fraser Trebilcock Davis & Dunlap P.C.); Alexander S. Rusek (White Law PLLC); and Hilary Stafford (Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith P.C.). The annual program took place at Michigan State University College of Law in East Lansing, MI.

Detroit to Host NAWJ's 2021 Annual Conference



Judge Michelle M. Rick and Ms. Zenell B. Brown (photo left, Executive vCourt Administrator for the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan) co-chairs of NAWJ's 2021

Annual Conference, are building a planning committee to present yet another memorable, thought provoking and inspiring rendition of the organization's premier educational and community building and outreach event of the year. Mark your calendars for October 27-31, 2021 in the Westin Book Cadillac in Detroit. Contact them at rickm@clinton-county.org and Zenell.Brown@3rdcc.org



New Members

Attorney Ina R. O'Briant, East Lansing, MI



Shannon L.W. Schlegel, Shannon L.W. Schlegel, PLLC



Shannon Schlegel has been representing clients as the owner of *Shannon L.W. Schlegel, PLLC* since 2001. Shannon received her Bachelor of Arts

degree from the University of California, San Diego, in 1994 and her Juris Doctorate from Thomas Cooley Law School in 2000. Prior to founding Shannon L. W. Schlegel, PLLC, Shannon Schlegel clerked for local Family Law Attorneys and Insurance Defense Attorneys as well as the Office of the Attorney General. Her practice areas have included Appellate, Business, Child Welfare, Civil Litigation, Criminal Defense, Estate Planning, and Family Law. Shannon currently serves as a Case Evaluator for Civil Litigation Cases and since 2009 has served as Special Prosecutor for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in Child Welfare Cases. Active in both local government and her community, Shannon served on the DeWitt Township Zoning Board of Appeals, the Clinton County Agriculture Preservation Board and is currently on the Clinton County Planning Commission where she has served as Chair since 2009.

The Honorable Laura Mack, No Such Thing as Retirement, and No Humiliation



Judge Laura Mack, who was appointed by former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm in 2004, served three elected terms as the 29th District Court's only judge. Though her

current term expires in 2024, following over 15 years of service, she retired March 1, 2020. "It really was important to me that people get a favorable impression of the court and that they come away with the feeling that the court is fair," Judge Mack said. "Even if the ruling didn't go their way, (I hope) they understood why it happened." Judge Mack said she originally applied to the job with the hope of getting more involved in the community, and that's part of the reason she's stepping down. She's a Director for Families Against Narcotics, the Wayne 100 Club and will step in as the President of the Wayne Rotary Club this summer along with a plethora of other volunteer commitments.

On a volunteer basis with her husband Hon. Milt Mack (Judge Milton L. Mack, Jr. gave the compelling presentation on mental health at NAWJ's 2018 Annual Conference in San Antonio), Judge Mack hopes to continue working with people struggling with substance abuse and folks with mental illness. While she's been a judge, she was comfortable telling people when they have a problem and encouraging them to seek help. "You can see addiction, which is a huge part of the criminal justice system, as a mental illness," she said. "When you see that over and over again every day it does kind of change your perspective."

Though she plans to stay involved with the 29th District Court in some ways, Mack said she'll especially miss the small, accessible feel the court enjoys. "I really enjoy working with the community," she said, "I had a group of homeschooled kids come here yesterday and the moms in the group said they called like four different courts before anyone called them back. We pride ourselves

on being a very open court, a very easy to deal with court."

And to whoever is appointed in her place, she has a word of advice:

"Be pleasant: Be nice to people. Be present, meaning be there on time, and be predictable. Don't do wacky things, I guess. Don't do things out of the ordinary... Don't do things like have somebody stand outside with a sign saying, 'i stole a candy bar from the CVS,' you know? Don't humiliate people." *Hometown Life*

The Honorable Ann Marie O'Brien, Akron Municipal Court



Judge Ann Marie O'Brien has over 24 years of legal experience, including complex trial experience. She began her career as a bailiff and law

clerk in the Wayne County Court of Common Pleas while attending law school. Upon graduating, she began her legal practice as an associate with a law firm in Akron, then as a partner with another law firm prior to establishing her own practice. She also worked as a Judicial Attorney in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas. During her legal career, Judge O'Brien earned an "AV" rating from Martindale Hubbell peer review, has been rated as an Ohio Super Lawyer through 2016, and recognized by the Bar Registry of Preeminent Women Lawyers through 2016. Judge O'Brien was appointed to the Akron Municipal Court Bench in December of 2018. She is very active in the Akron Bar Association, having served as Past President, a member of the Board of Trustees and as a Fellow of the Akron Bar Foundation. Her efforts with Akron Bar Association have been focused on promoting access to justice, development of young attorneys, and ethical and efficient representation of the public by attorneys. She is also an active volunteer serving on the Collaborative Against Human Trafficking in Summit County, serving at St. Sebastian's Parish and the Junior League of Akron. She graduated from Hiram College in 1987, with a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science with minors in French and biology.

She obtained her law degree from The University of Akron School of Law in 1991. She was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1991.

The Honorable Colleen Mary O'Toole



Judge Colleen Mary O'Toole was first elected to Ohio's Eleventh District Court of Appeals in 2004. Judge O'Toole left the Eleventh District at the end of her term in February

2011. Judge O'Toole then founded On Demand Interpretation Services, LLC, an entrepreneurial start up that provides certified interpretation in 170 languages and American sign-language to public entities and their support networks. In 2012 Judge O'Toole was again elected to the Eleventh District Court of Appeals. The Eleventh District Court of Appeals serves the counties of Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull. She is a member of the Ohio Judicial Conference and the Courts of Appeals Judges Association. She established a case management system which reduced backlog by 60% in the court of appeals. She advocated for efficiency and increased access to pro se litigants. She is dedicated to making sure that the courts remain a level playing-field for all parties. She is concerned about special interest groups that try to influence access to justice, often at the expense of the litigants or the public.

During her tenure on the bench, Judge O'Toole has served as a member of the Ohio Judicial Conference, the Community Corrections, Court Administration, Court Technology and Criminal Law & Procedure committees. In addition, she served as a member of the subcommittee for Court Reporting and Transcripts. Admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1991, Judge O'Toole initially practiced law and interned in the Cuyahoga County Public Defender's Office in the major appellate and trial division. She then worked with the National Interstate Company in Cleveland as a Litigation Manager. From 1996 to 1998, she was associated with the Housing Advocates Inc. In 1998 she opened her own law firm, focusing in criminal, civil and family law litigation in state and federal courts. Judge O'Toole has extensive experience in civil, criminal, family law litigation, and appeals.

The Honorable Susan Kasley Sniegowski



Before she became Michigan's 51st Circuit Court first local woman judge, she was Mason County, Michigan's first female prosecutor, serving

in that position for 4 years. She had practiced law locally since 1999. She owns a private practice and also is contracted with the City of Ludington as its Freedom of Information Coordinator. She grew up in Ludington and attended Ludington Area Schools through her junior year in high school. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State University where she majored in journalism. She earned her law degree from University of Denver. She served as the chairperson of the Mason County Bar Association, volunteer attorney for the COVE Legal Clinic, annual support committee for Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital, Franklin Elementary PTC, and is on the board of directors of West Shore Youth for Christ. She lives in Ludington with her husband Tom and their son.



DISTRICT EIGHT (IL, IN, KY)

Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky

DISTRICT DIRECTOR:

Hon. Ann Breen-Greco

Independent Administrative Judiciary Professional

Email: annbreen-greco@sbcglobal.net

ILLINOIS
INDIANA
KENTUCKY

8

NAWJ Co-Sponsors “Protecting the Elusive Right to Vote” Seminar

District 8 co-sponsored the “Protecting the Elusive Right to Vote” seminar with the Illinois State Bar Association Administrative Law Section. Additional co-sponsors included the ISBA Standing Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities on the Law, Black Women Lawyers Association, Cook County Bar Association, the ISBA Standing Committee on Disability Law, ISBA Standing Committee on Human Rights, ISBA Standing Committee on Women and the Law, Haitian American Lawyers Association, Decalogue Society of Lawyers, Illinois Association of Administrative Law Judges, National Association of the Blind, Northwestern Election Law Association, Jewish Judges Association, and the Seventh Circuit Bar Association. There were 75 registered attendees. The seminar covered the following topics: Historical Background of the Right to Vote, Felons Disenfranchisement, Disability Voting Rights: Recent Litigation and Barriers to Voting for Blind People and Recent Trends after HAVA, Protecting Elections from Outside Interference / Disrupting Bad Actors, Deepfakes and the Potential Impact on the Right to Vote, Access to the Polls: Making Every Vote Count, Gerrymandering and Redistricting.

Meet Judge Patrice Munzel Ball-Reed, NAWJ Illinois State Chair



Circuit Court for Cook County Municipal Judge Patrice Munzel Ball-Reed stepped forward to serve as NAWJ State Chair for Illinois. Long-time Illinois State Bar Association member and active Racial and Ethnic Minorities and

the Law Standing Committee participant, she was sworn in as a newly elected Cook County Associate Judge on September 26, 2008. Her road to judgeship started once the order for judicial vacancies was issued. Two weeks later, her name was on the ballot, and Judge Ball-Reed was relieved and thankful to receive her call on September 15 advising her that she had been elected. Judge Ball-Reed is the first generation in her family to attend college, and she is the first lawyer and first judge in her family. A graduate of The John Marshall Law School and past president of the John Marshall Law School Alumni organization. After graduating from law school, Judge Ball-Reed accepted a position with the law firm of Washington, Kennon, Hunter & Samuels, where she practiced for four years before becoming Deputy Supervisor at the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney. While an assistant Cook County state's attorney, Judge Ball-Reed was President of the Black Women Lawyers Association of Greater Chicago. Judge Ball-Reed worked with the Cook County State's Attorney for fourteen years and, in 2003, transitioned to her job as Deputy Attorney General at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General.

Meet Judge Heather Welch, NAWJ Indiana State Chair



Marion County Superior Presiding Judge Heather Welch stepped forward to serve as NAWJ State Chair for Indiana. She is one of a four-member executive

committee that oversees the Court. She is a judge in the Civil Division. Judge Welch was elected in 2006 and began serving as a Judge in January 1, 2007. Judge Welch is one of the six judges serving the Indiana

Commercial Court established by the Indiana Supreme Court on June 1, 2016. Judge Welch serves the legal community in the following organizations and committees: American Bar Association: Chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges in the Judicial Division, Former Business Court Representative for the ABA Business Law Section, and member of the ABA Commission on the American Jury Project; Improvements in the Judiciary Committee, Indiana State Bar Association; Indianapolis Bar Association, Chair of the Indiana Judicial Center Professionalism and Ethics Committee to name a few. She was the 2019 recipient of the Indianapolis Bar Women and the Law Division's Antoinette Dakin Leach Award, which recognizes the accomplishments of a female attorney in central Indiana. The award is named in honor of Antoinette Dakin Leach, one of the first women admitted to the Indiana Bar.

District 8 Co-Sponsors Webinar on Legal, Medical Issues in the Transgender Community, Moderated by District Director Judge Ann Breen-Greco

District 8 is co-sponsoring with the Illinois State Bar Association's Women and the Law Committee webinar on legal and medical issues in the transgender community. Judge Breen-Greco will moderate the webinar. Program speakers include: Aisha N. Davis, Attorney, Chicago Aids; Professor Randi Ettner, World Professional Association of Transgender Health, East Dundee; Dr. Loren Schechter, The University of Illinois Hospital, Chicago; Carolyn M. Wald, Attorney, Roger Baldwin Foundation of ACLU Inc. Chicago.”



DISTRICT NINE (IA, MO, WI)

Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin

DISTRICT DIRECTOR:

Hon. Emily Gould Chafa

Iowa Workforce Development, UI Appeals Bureau (Retired), Johnston

Email: emily.chafa@iwd.iowa.gov

IOWA
MISSOURI
WISCONSIN

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This is the Honorable Emily Chafa's second year serving as District Nine Director. Judge Chafa manages the Iowa Workforce Development UI Appeals Bureau. She began these duties in July of 2015. She worked as an ALJ (Administrative Law Judge) with Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) conducting hearings and issuing decisions in unemployment appeals from April - July 2015. For several years, she was an ALJ with the Administrative Hearings Division (AHD) of the State of Iowa's Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), hearing a variety of appeals from IDOT, DHS and IWD. She was also an attorney for the Misclassification Unit of Iowa Workforce Development, at Iowa Legal Aid, as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Des Moines for seventeen years, as a prosecutor for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and as an associate attorney at a law firm in Chicago, Illinois. Judge Chafa attended Wartburg College and received her B.A. degree from Drake University. She received her J.D. degree from Loyola School of Law in Chicago. She is licensed to practice law in Iowa and Illinois.

District Nine is home to 28 NAWJ members: 13 in Iowa, 13 in Missouri, one in Wisconsin. Four (4) members are Lifetime Members.

Welcome our Most Recent Judges over the Last Year



The Honorable Celene Gogerty is a District Court Judge in the Fifth District in Des Moines. She was appointed to the bench in November 2018. She received her bachelor's degree

from Drake University in 1992, and her J.D. from the University of Iowa in 1995 with Distinction. Her past experience includes working as the Assistant Linn County Attorney from 1995-2000, and the Assistant Polk County Attorney from

2000-2018. She is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, Polk County Women Attorneys, Iowa Judges Association, and the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys.



The Honorable Elisabeth S. Reynoldson

is a District Court Judge in the Fifth District in Osceola.

Judge Reynoldson was appointed to the bench

in July 2019. She received her undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in 1989, graduating with honors, and her JD with Distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law. Her past experience includes a private practice in Osceola from 1992-2002 and 2013-2019. She was the Clarke County Magistrate from 2001-2002, Clarke County Attorney from 2002-2006, and Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Appeals Division, from 2007-2012. Judge Reynoldson is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, Blackstone Inn of Court, District 5B Bar Association. She received the Iowa State Bar Association President's Award in 2018 and the Iowa State Bar Association YLD Award of Merit in 2004.



The Honorable Marsha Ternus (Retired)

was appointed to the Iowa Supreme Court in 1993 by Governor Terry Branstad. The members of the court selected her as Chief

Justice in 2006. She was the first woman to serve as chief justice of Iowa's highest court. Chief Justice Ternus is a native of Iowa, growing up on a farm in northern Benton County and graduating from Vinton High School in 1969. She received her bachelor's degree with honors and high

distinction, Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Iowa in 1972. She earned her law degree with honors, Order of the Coif, from Drake University Law School in 1977. While at Drake, she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Drake Law Review. Before joining the supreme court, Chief Justice Ternus worked in the private practice of law in the Des Moines law firm of Bradshaw, Fowler, Proctor and Fairgrave, with a primary emphasis on civil litigation and insurance law.

Notable Non-Member Elevation, Judge Jill Karofsky



The Honorable Jill Karofsky recently won election to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, while a sitting judge in Dane County. She was executive

director of the Wisconsin Office of Crime Victim Services. She was also an Assistant Attorney General, serving as the state's Violence Against Women resource prosecutor, and as deputy district attorney in Dane County, prosecuting felonies and misdemeanors. She was general counsel for the National Conference of Bar Examiners, and adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School, teaching about victims in the criminal justice system and trial advocacy. Judge Karofsky received the WI Coalition Against Sexual Assault's "Voices of Courage Award," was named the WI Victim/Witness Professional Association's "Professional of the Year," and earned a "Significant Impact" Award from a local organization dedicated to ending domestic violence. She currently serves on the Wisconsin Judicial Education Committee and chairs the Violence Against Women STOP Grant committee. She previously co-chaired the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Response Team, and served on the Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse, and the WI Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board. Judge Karofsky will be sworn in August 1, 2020.

**DISTRICT TEN (KS, MN, NE, ND, SD)**

Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota

DISTRICT DIRECTOR:

Hon. Cheryl Ann Rios

Shawnee County District Court, Kansas

Email: crios@shawneecourt.org

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Justice Marla Luckert Becomes Kansas Supreme Court's Second Women Chief Justice



On December 17, 2019 Justice Marla Luckert became the Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court upon the retirement of Chief Justice Lawton Nuss. Chief Justice Luckert is only the second woman to sit as Chief Justice on the Kansas Supreme Court. History was also made upon her being sworn in as Chief Justice because women now not only hold the seats of Chief Judges on the two highest courts in Kansas, but the highest offices in Kansas are all currently held by women. Both the position of Governor and the President of the Senate are both held by women (Governor Laura Kelly and Senate President Susan Wagle). Justice Luckert is a fourth generation native of Sherman County, Kansas. After growing up on the western Kansas border and graduating from Goodland High School, she moved to Topeka for college and law school and has spent her professional career in the Capitol City. Justice Luckert has served the public as a judge and justice for nearly 30 years, handling thousands of cases.

Justice Evelyn Wilson Takes Oath as Justice on the Kansas Supreme Court

On January 24, 2020, The Honorable Evelyn Wilson took the oath as Justice on the Kansas Supreme Court. Justice Wilson had previously served on the bench as a District Court Judge in the Third Judicial District

for the past 15 years; the last six years she served as Chief Judge for that district. With the addition of Justice Wilson to the Supreme Court, Kansas now has three women who serve as Justices on their Supreme Court. Justice Wilson is a native of Smith Center, Kansas. She received an undergraduate degree in business/economics from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, and a law degree from Washburn University School of Law. Before her appointment to the court, she was a district judge and then chief judge of the 3rd Judicial District, which is Shawnee County. She was a private practice lawyer for 19 years.

Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts Appoints Women to High-Profile Benches



In Nebraska, Governor Pete Ricketts appointed Mary "Peg" Stevens of Elkhorn to the Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County on December 10,

2019. Judge Stevens had been a partner at Carlson & Burnett LLP in Omaha since 2008, where she specialized in juvenile and family law. Previously, she served as Deputy County Attorney in Sarpy County and as Special Prosecutor for Douglas County. Stevens holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, with an emphasis in Juvenile Delinquency, from the University of Nebraska-Kearney and a Juris Doctor from the Creighton University School of Law. She is a member of the Nebraska Bar Association, Omaha Bar Association, and the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association. Judge Stevens is active in her community, serving on the boards of Release Inc., Rejuvenating Women, and The Omaha Home for Boys, among others.

On December 20, 2019, Governor Ricketts appointed another Elkhorn attorney, Amy Schuchman, to the Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County. Ms. Schuchman had served as Deputy County Attorney for Douglas County since 2004 with more than 12 years of experience in the Juvenile Division. Most recently, she served on the Child Victim/Sexual Assault Unit of the Attorney's Office and acted as its Board of Mental Health Coverage attorney. She is a member of the Nebraska Bar Association and Omaha Bar Association. Judge Schuchman is active in the community, volunteering with Teammates Mentorship Program, Junior Achievement, CASA for Douglas County, and CASA Sarpy County.

**DISTRICT ELEVEN (AR, OK, TX)**

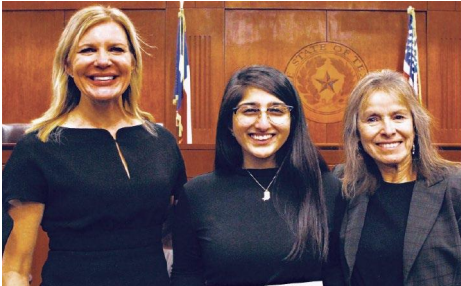
Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas

DISTRICT DIRECTOR:**Hon. Brandy Mueller**

County Court at Law #6, Austin, Texas

Email: brandy.mueller@co.travis.tx.usARKANSAS
OKLAHOMA
TEXAS

11

NAWJ Partner for 14th Annual Color of Justice Event in Austin*Judge Brandy Mueller; Noorulanne Jan; Judge Orlinda Naranjo.*

NAWJ was proud to partner with our local women's lawyer association and The William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law at the University of Texas, again this year for the 14th annual Color of Justice Event, in Austin, Texas. The Honorable Judge Orlinda Naranjo (NAWJ Secretary) chaired the event and gave a welcome presentation to attendees. The event took place February 5, 2020 at the University of Texas Law School courtroom. Students from two high schools and a middle school, assembled to hear from a panel of lawyers and judges. Moderators asked

the presenting lawyers and judges to share information about their individual career paths and backgrounds, as well information about their positions and workday. Presenters also posed questions to students, focusing on current events and criminal justice reform. Three different Bar Associations were sponsors of the event, donating money to buy boxed lunches. After the panel, additional mentoring judges shared lunch, informally, with students. Part of the program included the presentation of a \$1,000 scholarship to a University of Texas law school student, second year law student, Noorulanne Jan, who proudly accepted her award as well as an award certificate. She also spoke before the students.

Presiding Judge Lora J. Livingston, ABA 2020 Spirit of Excellence Honoree

NAWJ Lifetime member, Hon. Lora J. Livingston, Presiding Judge of the 261st Civil District Court in Travis County, TX, was honored by the American

Bar Association's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession as a 2020 Spirit Honoree on February 15, 2020, as part of the ABA's 2020 Midyear Meeting events held at the JW Marriott in Austin, TX. The State Bar of Texas lauded Judge Livingston as "a role model for many lawyers," long active in local, state, and national bar association activities, leading initiatives improving access to justice and increasing diversity in the practice of law. Judge Livingston was a Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellow with the Legal Aid Society of Central Texas, and later a partner in Livingston & Parr, before being appointed an associate judge in 1995. She was elected to the 261st Court in 1998, and was the first African American woman District Court Judge in Travis County. Judge Livingston was instrumental in the creation and development of the Austin Bar Association's Diversity Fellowship Program, which provides first-year law students of diverse backgrounds internship opportunities with law firms, government agencies, and judicial offices. Judge Livingston served as a member of the 2018 Annual Conference Planning Committee.

**DISTRICT TWELVE (AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY)**

Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

DISTRICT DIRECTOR:**Hon. Colleen Clark**

18th Judicial District, Division 405, Colorado

Email: colleen.clark@judicial.state.co.usARIZONA
COLORADO
NEW MEXICO
UTAH
WYOMING

12

NAWJ welcomes Judge Colleen Clark who joins NAWJ's core of District Directors following the service of the Honorable Emily Anderson who was appointed Chief Judge of Colorado's 17 Judicial District Adams and Broomfield counties in 2019.

District 12 is home to 43 NAWJ members: 15 in Arizona, 16 in Colorado, one in New Mexico, 10 in Utah, and one in Wyoming. Nine (9) members are Lifetime Members.

Welcome our Most Recent Judges over the Last Year**Chief Judge Yvette Anita Ayala, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Mohave Valley, Arizona**

The Fort Mojave Tribal Court was established in 1977, upon the enactment of the Fort Mojave Law and Order Code. The Fort Mojave Indian Reservation resides within the tri state area of



California, Arizona and Nevada along the Colorado River. She joined NAWJ on March 4, 2020.

Judge Jaclyn Kay Casey Brown, 17th Judicial District, Adams Colorado



The Honorable Jaclyn Brown was appointed to the Colorado Court of Appeals in June 2019. From 2016-2019, Judge Brown served as a District Court Judge in the 17th Judicial

District (Adams and Broomfield Counties) where she presided over domestic relations and civil matters. Before being appointed to the bench, Judge Brown was a litigation partner in the Denver office of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP, where she litigated complex matters in several states. Her areas of practice included complex commercial litigation, real estate, construction, and eminent domain matters, as well as appeals in both state and federal courts. Judge Brown obtained her law degree from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Order of the Coif. Among other activities, she was part of nationally recognized trial and moot court teams and served as an editor for the Washington University Journal of Law and Policy. Judge Brown earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Summa Cum Laude. In addition to NAWJ, Judge Brown is an active member of the Colorado Women's Bar Associations. She is a graduate of the Colorado Bar Association Leadership Training Program and a fellow of the Colorado Bar Foundation. She was part of a team of pro-bono lawyers that was named Lawyer of the Year by Law Week Colorado and which received the American Bar Association Death Penalty Representation Project Exceptional Service Award.

Judge Flora Gallegos, Fourth Judicial District Court, Las Vegas, New Mexico



The Honorable Flora Gallegos was elevated to the bench on October 27, 2018. She is a District Court Judge for the Fourth Judicial District

Court in Las Vegas, New Mexico. She joined NAWJ in November 2019.

Judge Catherine Mitchell Helton, Fourth Judicial District, Colorado Springs, Colorado



Governor Jared Polis appointed the Honorable Catherine Mitchell Helton as a District Court Judge in the 4th Judicial District on March 4, 2020. Judge Helton is a Magistrate

for the Fourth Judicial District in El Paso County, a position she has held since January 2019. She currently presides over a domestic relations docket. Previously, she was a sole practitioner and private attorney at Catherine D. Mitchell, P.C. (2003-2019) and a Deputy District Attorney for the Fourth Judicial District (2000-2003). Judge Helton earned her B.A. from Mount St. Vincent University in 1994, and her J.D. from the University of Tulsa College of Law in 2000. Judge Helton is also chair of the board of directors for the Colorado Springs Teen Court. Her appointment was effective on May 2, 2020.

Justice Melissa Hart, Colorado Supreme Court, Denver



The Honorable Melissa Hart was appointed by Governor John Hickenlooper to serve on the Colorado Supreme Court on December 14, 2017. Prior to

joining the Court, Justice Hart was a professor at the University of Colorado Law School,

where she directed the Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law. Throughout her years as a professor, Justice Hart maintained an active pro bono practice, writing amicus briefs in appellate courts and representing clients through Metro Volunteer Lawyers. Her teaching and scholarship focused on access to justice, constitutional law, judicial decision making, legal ethics, employment discrimination, and civil procedure.

Justice Hart grew up in Denver, where she graduated from East High School. She earned her bachelor's degree from Harvard-Radcliffe College and then spent a year teaching at a high school in Athens, Greece. She returned to study at Harvard Law School, where she was the Articles Editor for the *Harvard Law Review* and Book Review Editor on the *Harvard Women's Law Journal*. After graduating from law school in 1995, she clerked for Judge Guido Calabresi of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and for Justice John Paul Stevens on the United States Supreme Court. She practiced law for several years in Washington, D.C., including as a Trial Attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice. Justice Hart and her husband, Kevin Traskos, have two children.

Justice Hart is a member of the Colorado and Denver Bar Associations, the Colorado Women's Bar Association, the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the Sam Cary Bar Association, and the Colorado LGBT Bar Association. She is a founding member of the Sonia Sotomayor Inn of Court, a 2017 graduate of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation's Leadership Denver program, a 2016 graduate of the Colorado Bar Association Leadership Training (COBALT) program, and a Commissioner on the Colorado Access to Justice Commission.



DISTRICT THIRTEEN (AK, HI, ID, MT, OR, WA)

Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana Oregon, Washington

DISTRICT DIRECTOR:

Hon. Pamela Washington

Anchorage District Court, Alaska

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ALASKA
HAWAII
IDAHO
MONTANA
OREGON
WASHINGTON

13

Hon. Debra Stephens Selected Chief Justice for the Washington State Supreme Court



On January 6, 2020, Justice Debra Stephens was sworn-in as the 57th Chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court. In 2019, she

was unanimously elected by her colleagues as Chief Justice. As Chief Justice, she is the state's Board for Judicial Administration. Justice Stephens, who currently serves as co-chair of NAWJ's Judicial Independence Committee.

NAWJ Member Bride Seifert Appointed Homer Superior Court's First Judge



On December 6, 2019, Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy appointed NAWJ Member Bride Seifert to the Homer Superior Court. Judge Seifert has lived in

Alaska for 8 1/2 years and has practiced law for 10 years. She graduated in 2010 from William Mitchell College of Law in Minnesota. Judge Seifert began her NAWJ membership when she served an Administrative Law Judge. Prior to her appointment, Judge Seifert was an Assistant District Attorney in Kotzebue, Alaska.

Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst Retires

Celebration of Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst, who retired from



the Court, took place at a reception held at the Washington State Temple of Justice on December 18, 2019. Justice Fairhurst retired after serving 17 years on the State Supreme Court, the last three as Chief Justice, to focus on her health and spend time with family and friends.

NAWJ Raises Awareness of Criminalization of Black Girls

On November 22, 2019, NAWJ co-sponsored the screening of PUSHOUT, a film that addresses the criminalization of black girls in school. The Washington State Gender and Justice Commission joined in partnership.

8th Annual Judicial Officer & Law Student Reception held at Gonzaga University in Seattle

The 8th Annual Judicial Officer & Law Student Reception was held at Gonzaga University School of Law on November 15, 2019. Gonzaga Law Student Leah Wilborn Neese (2L) was the recipient of the Washington State NAWJ Scholarship. NAWJ members Judge Marilyn Paja, Judge Lisa Paglisotti, Chief Justice Debra Stevens, Justice Sheryl Gordon-McCloud and Judge Karen Donohue were present with many judicial friends of NAWJ from across Washington State. A second scholarship was presented by the Washington State Association for Justice to Gonzaga Law Student Tracy Cresta (photo, center.)

Alaska Members Speak to Diversity in Our Community at Annual Luncheon in Anchorage



The "Diversity in Our Community: Stories Affecting Our Lives" program was held on November 5, 2019 at the Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage, Alaska. NAWJ Past President

Justice Dana Fabe (Retired) moderated the panel discussion, and NAWJ Member Kari McCrea was a member of the panel. The lunch program is an annual program of the Anchorage Association of Lawyers, Alaska Supreme Court's Fairness Diversity & Equality Commission, Alaska Bar Association and the Anchorage Bar Association.

NAWJ Holds 12th Annual Success Inside & Out Conference in Anchorage at the Hiland Mountain Correctional Center

The 12th Annual Success Inside & Out Conference in Anchorage at the Hiland Mountain Correctional Center was held October 26, 2019. NAWJ Members Judge JoAnn Chung, Success Chair, Kari McCrea, and Pamela Washington were on the planning committee and participated in the one-day event. The program included Passport to Success, the favorite Fashion Show, and breakout sessions on Child Custody, Probation, Resume writing, and a keynote address by Theresa Lyons, CEO of the Alaska YWCA on Emotional Intelligence. Alaska State Chair Josie Garton opened the program on behalf of the Alaska Court System and NAWJ. It was another exciting program thanks to the participation and support of over 30 community volunteers and judicial officers.

Washington Holds 11th Annual Women's Conference at Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women

The 11th Annual Women's Conference at Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women was held October 10-11, 2019. Judge Lisa Paglisotti and Judge Karen Donohue planned the two-day event in conjunction with the Washington State Department of Corrections, The Gender and Justice Commission and veteran Success Inside and Out participant, Joyce Oswald. Ms. Oswald, an education professional in the State prison system, first worked with Justice Dana Fabe to present Success Inside & Out in Alaska. District 13 is fortunate to have her experience! Judge Laurel Gibson and Judge Janet Garrow moderated a panel of formerly incarcerated individuals. Judge Cathy Moore, Judge Marilyn

Paja and Judge Lisa Paglisotti, along with several judicial friends of NAWJ participated in round table discussions with the offenders. Topics discussed at the round tables included Family Law Domestic Violence Protection Orders, Bench Warrant Quashes, Vacating Convictions and Restoring Civil Rights and Legal Financial Obligations.

Anchorage Color of Justice at Boney Courthouse

On October 3-4, 2019, the Alaska Court System presented the Color of Justice program to encourage youth to pursue legal and judicial careers, and bring about a representative diversity across the legal

professions. Nearly 80 high school students from Anchorage area high schools attended the two days of workshops and other activities presented by law professors from Gonzaga University School of Law, Seattle University School of Law, and University of Washington School of Law. The program is also supported by the Alaska Bar Association and the Anchorage School District. Anchorage area students are coming from Bartlett, East, and West high schools.

Color of Justice sessions included "MentorJet: A Speed Mentoring Experience," where students got the chance to meet with diverse lawyers, judges and justices, including NAWJ members,

Alaska Supreme Court Justice Susan Carney, and Anchorage District Court Judges Pamela Washington, Kari McCrea and Jo-Ann Chung. "Constitutional Cranium," a quiz show on constitutional knowledge hosted by Professor Christian Halliburton with Seattle University School of Law, and Mock Trial took advantage of the many volunteer mock trial coaches from the legal community. "Increasing diversity on the bench is important to fostering public trust and confidence in our justice system", according to Judge Pamela Washington, chair of the Anchorage program. "Color of Justice serves this goal, she says, by affirming for our young women and youth of color that the judiciary is a career path that is open to them."



DISTRICT FOURTEEN (CA, NV)

California, Nevada

DISTRICT DIRECTOR:

Hon. Wendy McGuire Coats

Superior Court of California, Contra Costa County

Email: wcoat@contracosta.courts.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA
NEVADA

14

Hello and Thank You From Your New District 14 Director

"I was born on a dairy farm in upstate New York and grew up in Columbia, Missouri. In 1996, I graduated from the University of Missouri – Columbia with a Bachelor of Science in Education. I taught tenth grade English and then helped start an independent school, teaching speech, debate, and acting. Dan and I moved to California for me to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles. From there I went on to graduate from Pepperdine University School of Law in 2005 and clerk for the Honorable Ronald S.W. Lew, United States District Court Judge for the Central District of California.

I joined the Los Angeles office of Howrey LLP and in 2010 founded McGuire Coats LLP, dedicating my practice to appellate litigation. With a mix of civil, criminal, juvenile, amicus, and pro bono cases, I became a certified specialist in Appellate Law by the California Board of Legal Specialization.

In 2015, I joined Fisher & Phillips LLP, leading the firm's California Appellate Practice. I just completed my first (learning curve not arching yet) year as a Superior Court Judge in Contra Costa County with

a criminal misdemeanor jury trial assignment (jury trial #47 deliberating as I write).

Then-NAWJ President Hon. Diana Becton introduced me to NAWJ in 2017, when she was serving on our Contra Costa County bench. I had the enormous privilege of presenting on the #MeToo Movement panel at NAWJ's 2018 Annual Conference. My JNE interview took place just a few days before I flew to San Antonio for the conference. I cannot fully thank the many of you, who supported and encouraged me during and after the conference and then celebrated me with cards, calls, and texts when the December 7, 2018 press release changed everything."



Judge Wendy McGuire Coats speaking at a #WeToo panel in San Antonio, NAWJ 2018 Annual Conference.

AWJ-USC Law School MentorJet in the USC Hotel Ballroom



Success at CSUB's Pre-Law Speed Mentoring Event

At their 4th Annual CSUB Pre-Law Speed Mentoring event, over 80 students from California State University, Bakersfield and the local community college, Bakersfield College, gathered along with 50 attorneys and judicial officers. Several students obtained internships.



Third Annual Success Inside and Out and Resource Fair



NAWJVP of Programs Commissioner McLaughlin and member Judge Nadia J. Keilani; Child Support Outreach Representatives



Learning About Child Support Services



Gubernatorial Appointments, Welcome to the Bench

On October 25, 2019, California Governor Gavin Newsom appointed 11 Superior Court judges. We are especially thrilled with Governor Newsom's appointees to the San Diego County Superior Court. All three are devout members of the National Association of Women Judges.



Hon. Olga Álvarez of San Diego, has been appointed to a judgeship in the San Diego County Superior Court. Álvarez has been a shareholder and attorney at Heisner Álvarez since 2013 and is a certified specialist in estate planning, trust, and probate law. She served as an adjunct professor at the University of San Diego School of Law from 2016 to 2018 and was of counsel at Sullivan Hill Rez & Engel from 2010 to 2013. Álvarez was an associate at Achtel Law Firm from 2006 to 2010 and at Atkins & Davidson, APC from 2005 to 2006. She was an associate at Larrabee Albi Coker LLP from 2003 to 2004 and at the Law Offices of Jan Joseph Bejar from 2002 to 2003. Álvarez earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of San Diego School of Law and a Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of Texas at Austin, LBJ School of Public Affairs. She was president of the Lawyers Club of San Diego from 2017 to 2018. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Leo Valentine.



Hon. Judy S. Bae of San Diego, has been appointed to a judgeship in the San Diego County Superior Court. Bae has been an associate at Miller, Monson, Peshel, Polacek & Hoshaw since 2005. She was an associate at Horton, Oberrecht, Kirkpatrick & Martha from 2002 to 2005. Bae earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of San Diego School of Law. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Charles R. Gill.

Hon. Terrie E. Roberts of Chula Vista, has been appointed to a judgeship in the San Diego County Superior Court. Roberts has served as a commissioner at the San Diego County Superior Court since 2008. She served as a



deputy district attorney at the San Diego County District Attorney's Office from 2001 to 2008 and was a sole practitioner from 1996 to 2001. Roberts was an associate at the Law Offices of Beatrice W. Kemp from 1995 to 1996 and served as a deputy public defender at the San Diego Public Defender's Office from 1992 to 1995. Roberts earned a Juris Doctor degree from the Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Gerald C. Jessop.

Asian Pacific American Lawyers of the Inland Empire Honors Judge Holly Fujie with its Stephen K. Tamara Trailblazer Award



The Asian Pacific American Lawyers of the Inland Empire will honor Judge Holly Fujie (Los Angeles Superior Court) with its Stephen K. Tamara Trailblazer Award. She was appointed to the Superior Court on December 27, 2011. She is currently sitting in a Civil assignment at the Mosk Courthouse. Prior to her appointment, Judge Fujie was a shareholder in the Los Angeles-based law firm of BuchalterNemer, APC, where she practiced corporate civil litigation. She received A.B. and J.D. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, where she was an editor of the California Law Review, and in 2008-2009 she was the third woman and the 1st Asian American to serve as the President of the State Bar of California. Since 1991, she has served on Senator Feinstein's Judicial Advisory Committee, advising the Senator and the White House on federal judicial nominations and on the nomination of United States Attorneys for the Central District of California. She is a member of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles Board of Directors. In 2019, she was recognized by NAWJ as the Justice Joan Dempsey Klein Honoree of the Year.

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NAWJ COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

Committees are the backbone of NAWJ. They enable us to utilize the impressive talents and knowledge of our members to support the work of the organization. Committee chairs and members are appointed each year by the current president. Members' willingness to participate is greatly appreciated. **Committees highlighted in bold** are open for participation. Contact Janelle Mihoc at jmihoc@nawj.org.

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Annual Conference Site Selection:

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Hon. Holly Fujie and Hon. Rachael Johnson

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Hon. Lora Ann Dyer

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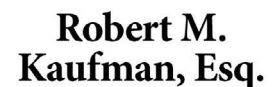
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NAWJ annually holds midyear and annual conference to conduct association business, present education programs, recognize accomplishments, and strengthen our social bonds. The following list includes donations made to the National Association of Women Judges by individual, companies and organizations for midyear activities and annual conferences held since November 1, 2019.

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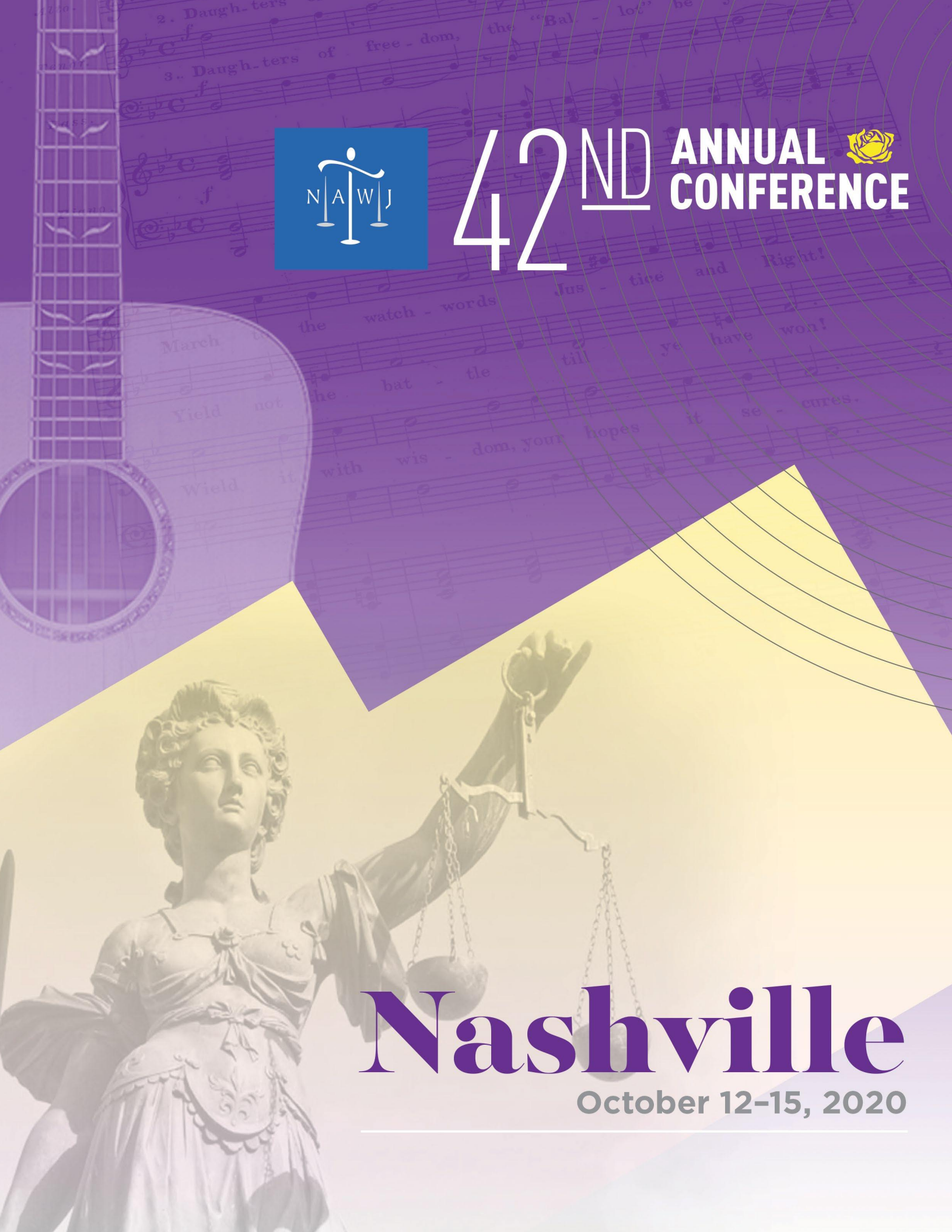
NAWJ NEW MEMBERS SINCE JANUARY 1, 2020

We welcome the following new members of NAWJ:

- Hon. Rachel Ahrens**, Alaska Court System, Alaska
- Hon. Kimberly Alexander**, DeKalb County State Court, Traffic Division, Georgia
- Hon. Nicole Alston-Jackson**, Justice of the Peace Court, Delaware
- Hon. Connie Aucoin**, 29th Judicial District Court, Louisiana
- Hon. Yvette Ayala**, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Arizona
- Betsy Barnes**, Esq., Morris Bart LLC, Louisiana
- Shakuntla Bhaya**, Esq., The Law Offices of Doroshov, Pasquale, Krawitz and Bhaya, Delaware
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- Hon. Frances Bourliot**, 14th Court of Appeals, Texas
- Hon. Mary Ann Brigantti**, Bronx Supreme Court Civil Branch, New York
- Hon. Peter Burcat**, Justice of the Peace Court, Delaware
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- Hon. Leah Chandler**, Justice of the Peace Court, Delaware
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- Hon. Lenora Foote-Beavers**, Buffalo City Court, New York
- Hon. Lori Galbraith**, Chesapeake Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Virginia
- Hon. Leslie Gerbracht**, Colorado Judicial Branch, Las Animas County, Colorado
- Mikhak Ghorban**, Esq., California
- Hon. Hilary Gingold**, Brooklyn Criminal Court, New York
- Hon. Tomika Harris-Irving**, 22nd Circuit of the State of Mississippi
- Hon. Karen Herman**, Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, Louisiana
- Hon. Jamie Hicks**, Justice of the Peace Court, Delaware
- Hon. Dierdra Howard**, U.S. Social Security Administration, Virginia
- Hon. Sharon Jacobs**, 14th Judicial District, Henrico County, Virginia
- Hon. Michelle Jewell**, Justice of the Peace Court, Delaware
- Hon. Tamara Johnson**, 10th Judicial Circuit Court, Alabama
- Hon. Deborah Keenan**, Justice of the Peace Court, Delaware
- Hon. Megan King**, Superior Court of Pennsylvania
- Hon. Diana Kruze**, Superior Court of California
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- Hon. Diana Leyden**, U.S. Tax Court, Washington, D.C.
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- Hon. Julian Mann**, Office of Administrative Hearings, North Carolina
- Hon. Rhonda Mason**, Johnson County District Court, Kansas
- Hon. Lisa McEvers**, North Dakota Supreme Court, North Dakota
- Hon. Hilleri Merritt**, Los Angeles Superior Court, California
- Hon. Marsha Michael**, New York State Supreme Court, New York
- Hon. Courtney Mikesic**, 29th Judicial District Wyandotte County, Kansas
- Hon. Tamika Montgomery-Reeves**, Delaware Supreme Court, Delaware
- Hon. Karen Moroney**, Nassau County District Court, New York
- Hon. Marie Page**, Justice of the Peace Court, Delaware
- Hon. Tracy Perzel**, First Judicial District Court, Minnesota
- Hon. Kathleen Proctor**, Washington County Circuit Court, Oregon
- Hon. Laura Ripken**, Anne Arundel County Circuit Court, Maryland
- Hon. Jenny Rivera**, New York State Court of Appeals, New York
- Michele Rodney**, Esq., New York
- Yvonne Saville**, Esq., Weiss, Saville & Houser, PA, Delaware
- Hon. Carol Sharpe**, New York County Civil Court, New York
- Hon. Gail Sheridan-Lucht**, Department of Corrections, Iowa
- Kara Siegel**, Esq., Shustak, Reynolds & Partners, P.C., California
- Hon. Meghan Spring**, Massachusetts Trial Court, Massachusetts
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- Hon. Karen Valihura**, Delaware Supreme Court, Delaware
- Hon. Paul Wallace**, Superior Court of Delaware
- Hon. Latrice Westbrook**, Court of Appeals, Mississippi
- Hon. Judith Wheat**, Arlington Circuit Court, Virginia
- Hon. LaShawn Williams**, Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 3, Texas



42ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Nashville

October 12-15, 2020