



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES COUNTERBALANCE

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NAWJ District 14 Director Judge Diana Becton and Contra Costa County native Christopher Darden with local high school youth participants in their November, 2011 Color of Justice program. Read more on their program in District 14 News. Learn about Color of Justice in creator Judge Brenda Loftin's account on page 33.

POVERTY'S IMPACT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

By the Honorable Anna Blackburne-Rigsby and Ashley Thomas¹

"The opposite of poverty is justice."² These words have stayed with me since I first heard them during journalist Bill Moyers' interview with civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson. In observance of the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, they were discussing what Dr. King would think of the United States today in the fight against inequality and injustice. The idea that poverty may be antithetical to justice resonated with me. As members of the judiciary, we must ensure that there is fairness and equality in the administration of justice in the courts, as well as equal access to justice irrespective of economic status. The National Association of Women Judges is attuned to fact that women experience higher rates of poverty³ and during times of great economic uncertainty, the responsibility to ensure fairness and access to justice is even greater.

In the year preceding his assassination, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. shifted his focus to launch a "Poor People's Campaign," demanding jobs, education, and opportunity for Americans living in poverty.⁴ This shift in Dr. King's focus to economic equality as an aspect of equal rights often gets overlooked amidst his famous speeches about racial equality. Recently, there has been an increasing awareness of, and focus on, the widening wealth gap in the United States. Today, individuals in cities across the country are "occupying" for a host of reasons, most notably to bring attention to this increasing gap between the wealthy, the unemployed, and the poor.⁵

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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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Dear NAWJ Members and Friends,

Massachusetts born John Quincy Adams said, "if your actions inspire others to dream more, do more and become more, you are a leader." Each and every one of you, as members of the National Association of Women Judges, is a true leader.

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your President and I am grateful for the talent, commitment and passion I have come to rely upon from all of you. NAWJ has a rich history of selfless leadership from its nationwide membership. Your accomplishments have changed the landscape of our country as it relates to enhancement of accessibility to justice for all. Recently, at our Midyear Meeting and Leadership Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts, members had an opportunity to examine NAWJ historic documents and photographs archived at Harvard University's Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America. I am pleased to report that NAWJ has begun, in earnest, to update and grow our archives to reflect our history of service to this country. The credit for this initiative and effort goes to Jeff Groton, with our tremendous appreciation.

It is our collective goal that NAWJ's initiatives and programs continue to enrich the quality of life for those who must overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to embrace their dreams. We are charged as a group with the responsibility to act in support of directives that benefit those populations needing our voice. Our leadership is strong as evidenced by the extraordinary devotion and successes of: the Women in Prison Committee, enlightening, educating and providing tools to incarcerated women, allowing them to create a more hopeful future for themselves and their children; the Color of Justice Program, now in its 10th year of mentorship, encouraging the next generation of leaders; and the work done daily by our membership involving issues of immigration, child welfare, language access, domestic violence ...and the list goes on. The freshness of the new year serves to recharge our spirit and commitment to the boundless possibilities for each of us to make a difference.

NAWJ continues to broaden its positive impact, and outreach to our communities. We have initiated two additional standing committees this year, the Tribal Judges Outreach Committee and the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Committee, both already on task by respectively increasing inclusion of our sister Tribal Judges to NAWJ and creating opportunities for judicial education to best inform and guide us in the complex issues affecting the youth in our courts.

The bar of excellence continues to rise as a result of your relentless drive in achieving the mission set forth by our visionary Founders, Justice Joan Dempsey Klein and Justice Vaino Spenser. We must never lose sight of the precious power with which we are entrusted as an organization, to create opportunity for others to dream more, to do more and to become more.

Please join me as we salute and celebrate Chief Operating Officer Jeff Groton's outstanding ten years of devoted service to NAWJ. We will miss his warmth, charm, and brilliance, but are better for having had the benefit of his grace and talent. Thank you, Jeff. Good luck. We love you.

With my appreciation, respect and admiration for all of you,

Amy

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE,

Celebrating Generosity.

Over the years, as an organization, we have been fortunate to have consistent, overwhelming support from our host communities, in which we have held NAWJ Midyear Meetings and Annual Conferences. Most recently, the outstanding 2011 Annual Conference in Newark, New Jersey and the equally dynamic Midyear Meeting and Leadership Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts, our first major event for 2012, were both celebrations of the commitment and extreme generosity of NAWJ supporters shown from the legal, corporate and academic communities. On behalf of NAWJ, we thank our Friend's Chairs for these and all NAWJ events where their tireless devotion and drive has generated financial support from an impressive list of sponsors. We can't thank you enough for your belief in the mission and work of the National Association of Women Judges. Together, we can reach our shared goals.

I am always inspired by the generosity of our NAWJ members and supporters. In an uncertain economic environment our members' efforts allow NAWJ's programs and events to grow to the highest levels, not only financially but also when asked to participate in the organization's management and leadership. It is in that spirit that I hope you consider NAWJ in your estate planning, in order to create a personal legacy of giving to NAWJ that will allow us to remain this Nation's leading voice of women jurists. You can help support NAWJ's mission of diversity and equality in the justice system, while taking advantage of the tax benefits.

An integral part of the financial well-being and success of the organization has been NAWJ's long-time COO Jeff Groton. I know I speak for everyone who has had the good fortune to work with Jeff over the past ten years as we wish him well in his new position at our sister organization, the International Association of Women Judges. His professionalism, wonderful personality, and expertise will be missed by us all.

Looking ahead, we have an ambitious schedule of programs and events planned for the remainder of this year. Under the dynamic leadership of our President, Judge Amy Nechtem, we fully expect continued success and a prosperous 2012.

As always, thank you for the privilege of serving as your Executive Director.

Marie Komisar

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The National Association of Women Judges greatly appreciates the generosity of law firms, organizations and individuals whose multi-year sponsorships allows us to expand the reach of our programs.

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THE RECENT RISE IN POVERTY AND THE INCOME GAP

The numbers evidencing this widening gap between the wealthy and the poor are alarming. According to the Census Bureau's most recent report on this issue, the number of Americans living below the poverty line in 2010 was at the highest in the 52 years that the Bureau has been publishing such figures.⁶ Approximately 46.2 million Americans live in poverty, including 2.6 million added in 2010 alone.⁷ According to a Stanford University study released in November, more people in the United States are living in poverty.⁸ Our cities have become increasingly polarized economically – populations in middle class areas are declining, while the very poor and the very rich areas are expanding.⁹ In 1970, 65 percent of Americans lived in middle-income neighborhoods.¹⁰ In 2007, that number dropped to 44 percent.¹¹ Even more striking was the finding that in 1970, 15 percent of Americans resided in affluent areas.¹² Today, 33 percent of Americans now reside in rich areas.¹³

From a global perspective, the United States now has one of the highest rates of income inequality among the 34 developed countries that are members of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.¹⁴ Our lawmakers are also increasingly wealthier than their constituents and most other Americans. Just under half of Congress is worth at least \$1 million and in the six years leading to 2010, members of Congress saw their net worth soar by 15 percent.¹⁵ The net worth of the rest of Americans fell by 8 percent during this same time span.¹⁶

The Congressional Budget Office found that, between 1969 and 2007, income grew 275 percent for the highest income earners who comprise only 1 percent of the population, but only 18 percent for the 20 percent of the population earning the lowest incomes.¹⁷

Another measure of the increasing disparity between the wealthiest and poorest segments of the population is the report of the grim numbers relating to hunger in America. In 2010, slightly more than 14 percent of households, equal to nearly 50 million Americans, were food insecure.¹⁸ Moreover, the average number of individuals receiving food stamps rose from approximately 26 million in 2007 to 44 million by 2011.¹⁹

HOW POVERTY AFFECTS ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The current financial crisis means that fewer financial resources are available to ensure access to justice through legal representation for indigent civil litigants. Legal aid for representation in critical civil proceedings, such as landlord-tenant actions, child custody, foreclosure, and domestic violence cases, is on the decline as states and the federal government implement drastic cuts to the funding that may be a critical lifeline for those hit with hard times.²⁰ At the same time, more families are slipping into poverty and those swept into poverty are facing serious legal issues, including housing foreclosure, employment disputes, benefits claims, and bankruptcy matters. Foreclosure rates have soared in recent years, increasing over 380 percent between 2006 and 2010.²¹ The recession exacerbates existing poverty rates and creates new legal needs for low-income families, impacting both traditional court proceedings and administrative proceedings.

Indeed, a 2009 ABA survey of 1,000 judges found that the rising number of pro se or self-represented litigants have outpaced the ability of courts to keep up, compromising individual cases.²² The economy's downturn added a new segment to the pro se rolls – middle class families that make too much money to qualify for aid yet cannot afford an attorney.²³ Many former members of the middle-class are now the “new poor” because of long-term unemployment and mortgage foreclosures,²⁴ and as their numbers grow, so do their legal needs. A 2009 survey conducted by the Self-Represented Litigation Network demonstrated that decreased funding for self-help programs resulted in greater litigant confusion.²⁵ With federal funding for legal aid recently cut again by Congress to its lowest level since 2007, relief for legal service providers does not appear likely in the near future.²⁶

THE JUDICIARY'S ROLE TO ENSURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND EQUAL REPRESENTATION BEFORE THE COURTS

Lack of representation does not only affect individual parties before our courts, but affects society as a whole. It is often said that any civilized society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable people. The widening income gulf suggests that we must do everything that we can to level the playing field between pro se litigants and those represented by lawyers. The failure to provide equal access to those who cannot afford it, particularly considering the large numbers of Americans in poverty today, will not only have a demoralizing impact, but a fiscal ripple effect as well. Courts will experience overwhelming caseloads and see many more pro se litigants unfamiliar with the legal and judicial process.

As members of the judiciary, we can utilize creative and cost-efficient solutions that are essential in light of financially strapped state and federal budgets. The District of Columbia, along with many other state court systems, has started to implement creative programs to enhance access to justice. For example, by providing informational materials, which include basic information about the resources available to assist self-represented litigants in understanding the court system. Making these materials available at the courthouse and on a court's website can inform litigants on how to represent themselves during a court or administrative proceeding in our jurisdictions.

Many courts systems are exploring the use of limited scope representation as a viable alternative to traditionally offered legal services. In limited scope representation, an attorney provides a designated service or services for the client's legal matter. This type of representation, sometimes called “unbundled” or “discrete task” representation, cuts costs for clients on a strict budget and provides representation for only the most critical aspects of a case.

Judges are in a unique position to ensure that fairness and access to courts are maintained during times of economic hardship. In fact, many states have undertaken modifications to their Codes of Judicial Conduct to allow judges more latitude during proceedings involving pro se litigants. For example, the District of Columbia recently updated its Code of Judicial Conduct to make clear that while “the judge should not give self-represented liti-

gants an unfair advantage . . . in the interest of ensuring fairness and access to justice, judges should make reasonable accommodations that help litigants who are not represented by counsel to understand the proceedings and applicable procedural requirements, secure legal assistance, if possible, and be heard according to the law.”²⁷ Judges and courts can ensure that economic disparities do not hinder access to justice.

Indeed, a 2009 ABA survey of 1,000 judges found that the rising number of pro se or self-represented litigants have outpaced the ability of courts to keep up, compromising individual cases.²¹ The economy’s downturn added a new segment to the pro se rolls – middle class families that make too much money to qualify for aid yet cannot afford an attorney.²²



Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby

FINAL THOUGHTS

In his famous letter from the Birmingham Jail, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made one of his most quoted statements: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” These words are etched on the front of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals Historic Courthouse to serve as a constant reminder to judges, as well as attorneys and others entering the courthouse, that regardless of an individual’s current station in life, they will receive equal access to justice. The challenges of poverty, income inequality, and access to legal representation are vexing. As judges, we can work innovatively with the courts to meet these challenges. Now, more than ever, we must answer the call to ensure justice for all.

END NOTES

¹The Hon. Anna Blackburne-Rigsby is a Judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. She serves as Co-Chair of the D.C. Access to Justice Commission and is Chair of the Standing Committee on Fairness and Access to the D.C. Courts. Ashley Thomas, a second-year student at the American University Washington College of Law, is Judge Blackburne-Rigsby’s Judicial Intern.

²Interview by Bill Moyers with Bryan Stevenson and Michelle Alexander, Civil Rights Attorneys, on the Bill Moyers Journal (April 2, 2010), <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/04022010/profile.html>.

³*National Snapshot: Poverty among Women and Families*, 2010, NAT’L WOMEN’S LAW CTR., 1 (Sept. 2011), <http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/povertyamongwomenandfamilies2010summary.pdf>.

⁴Poor People’s Campaign, STANFORD UNIV., http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/index.php/encyclopedia/encyclopedia/enc_poor_peoples_campaign/ (last visited Feb. 14, 2012).

⁵Occupy Movement, N.Y. TIMES, http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/reference/timestopics/organizations/o/occupy_wall_street/index.html (last updated Feb. 13, 2012).

⁶Carmen DeNavas-Walt et al., *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010*, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 14 (Sept. 2011), <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf>.

⁷Id.

⁸Seth F. Reardon & Kendra Bischoff, *Growth in the Residential Segregation of Families by Income, 1970-2009*, STANFORD UNIV., 1 (Nov. 2011), <http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/Data/Report/report111111.pdf>.

⁹Id.

¹⁰Id.

¹¹Id.

¹²Id.

¹³Id.

¹⁴*Divided We Stand: Why Inequality Keeps Rising*, ORG. FOR ECON. CO-OPERATION AND DEV., 22 (Dec. 2011), <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/40/12/49499779.pdf>.

¹⁵Eric Lichtblau, *Economic Downturn Took a Detour at Capitol Hill*, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 26, 2011), <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2011/12/27/us/politics/a-growing-divide-between-congress-and-constituents.html?ref=politics>. See generally Peter Whoriskey, *Growing wealth widens distance between lawmakers and constituents*, WASH. POST (Dec. 26, 2011), http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/growing-wealth-widens-distance-between-lawmakers-and-constituents/2011/12/05/gIQR7D6IP_story.html.

¹⁶Id.

¹⁷*Trends in the Distribution of Household Income Between 1979 and 2007*, CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE, 3 (Oct. 2011), <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/124xx/doc12485/10-25-HouseholdIncome.pdf>.

¹⁸Alisha Coleman-Jensen et al., *Household Food Security in the United States in 2010*, U.S. DEP’T OF AGRIC. (Sept. 2011), <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR125/ERR125.pdf>.

¹⁹*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation and Costs*, U.S. DEP’T OF AGRIC. (Feb. 1, 2012), <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/SNAPsummary.htm>.

²⁰*Staff Reductions Hit Legal Aid Programs*, LEGAL SERVS. CORP. (Jan. 26, 2012), <http://www.lsc.gov/media/press-releases/staff-reductions-hit-legal-aid-programs>; Jennifer Smith, *Legal Aid Groups Planning Major Layoffs in 2012*, THE WALL ST. J. (Jan. 26, 2012), <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2012/01/26/legal-aid-groups-planning-major-layoffs-in-2012/>.

²¹Press Release, RealtyTrac, Record 2.9 Million U.S. Properties Receive Foreclosure Filings in 2010 Despite 30-Month Low in December (Jan. 12, 2011), <http://www.realtytrac.com/content/foreclosure-market-report/record-29-million-us-properties-receive-foreclosure-filings-in-2010-despite-30-month-low-in-december-6309>.

²²*Self Representation Hurting Individual Cases, Courts Say Judges*, A.B.A. (July 12, 2010), <http://www.abanow.org/2010/07/self-representation-hurting-individual-cases-courts-say-judges/>.

²³Id.

²⁴Kristin Seefeldt et al., *At Risk: America’s Poor During and After the Great Recession*, SCH. OF PUB. & ENVTL AFFAIRS, INDIANA UNIVERSITY (Jan. 2012), <http://www.tavistalks.com/remakingamerica/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Indiana-University-White-Paper-EMBARGOED-UNTIL-WED-JAN.-11-AT-8AM1.pdf>.

²⁵Richard Zorza, *Access to Justice: Economic Crises Challenges, Impacts, and Responses*, NAT’L CENTER ON STATE COURTS, 9 (2009), <http://contentdm.ncsconline.org/cgi-bin/showfile.exe?CISOROOT=/accessfair&CISOPTR=185>.

²⁶Neeta Pal, *Cut Off & Cut Out, Funding Shortfalls Force More Low-Income Families to Face Critical Legal Needs Alone*, BRENNAN CTR FOR JUSTICE (May 19, 2011), <http://www.brennancenter.org/page/-/New%20needs%20update%20FINAL%20as%20of%205-19-11.pdf>.

²⁷DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT R. 2.6 cmt. n.1A (2012)

BIG GATHERING FOR A JOYOUS AND INSPIRATIONAL 2012 MIDEAR MEETING AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The National Association of Women Judges returned to Boston, Massachusetts for its 2012 Midyear Meeting and Leadership Conference March 9-11. After more than a year of thoughtful planning and leadership, NAWJ President Judge Amy L. Nechtem of Massachusetts's Juvenile Court welcomed over 300 members of the legal community of judges, attorneys, and academics to Cambridge, Massachusetts for an dynamic meeting covering the topics of feminism, the United States Supreme Court, and the role of courts in preserving democracy and immigration. Attendees enjoyed the lovely Charles Hotel in Cambridge and later were welcomed at Harvard Law School, The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Columbia Point, Boston, and the Schlesinger Library of Women's History in America on the Harvard campus. Time was also spent in Cambridge exploring the interesting nooks of the historic city. This amazing weekend of activities would not have been possible without the additional energy and dedication of the Conference Planning Committee including President Hon. Amy L. Nechtem; NAWJ Past President Hon. Fernande R.V. Duffly; NAWJ District One Director Hon. Ariane Vuono; NAWJ District One Deputy Director Hon. MaryLou Muirhead; Hon. Martine Carroll; Hon. Cynthia Cohen; Hon. Terry M. Craven; Hon. Leslie Donahue; Hon. Ellen Flatley; Hon. Patricia A. Flynn; Hon. Martha P. Grace; Hon. Patricia Hurst; Hon. Bonnie H. MacLeod-Mancuso; Hon. Antoinette E. McLean Leoney; Hon. Sally F. Padden; Hon. Mary Lou Rup; Hon. Karyn Scheier; Hon. Kathe M. Tuttman; Hon. Mary Dacey White; and the Hon. Gabrielle Wolohojian.

THE LEGAL PROFESSION PAST AND PRESENT

The Midyear Conference activities commenced with a powerful program on key topics of the day. In Harvard Law School's recently built Wasserstein Hall, Retired U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Gertner began the conference delivering a vigorous keynote address, 'Choice Feminism and the Revolution of Declining Expectations', examining the state of women in the legal profession and suggesting the inflexibility of workplace design as an explanation of the stagnant growth on women in leadership at major law firms. Judge Gertner who retired from the federal District Court of Massachusetts last year, is currently Professor of Practice at the Harvard Law School, has published numerous articles on sentencing, discrimination, forensic evidence, women's rights, and the jury system, was greeted by attendees who eagerly sought a few words with her as she signed copies of her recent memoir, *In Defense of Women: Memoirs of a Unrepentant Advocate*.

With overflowing capacity, attendees gathered to hear the "Conversation" between Justice Elena Kagan, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, and moderator Harvard Law School Dean Martha Minow. The two spoke of the workings of the Supreme Court, and Justice Kagan's life there thusfar. The warm, easy exchange was followed by the presentation of the NAWJ Justice Elena Kagan Scholarship Award to Harvard Law School student Stephanie Berger. It was our honor to welcome Justice Kagan to NAWJ membership and a privilege for all to attend this extraordinary event.

To focus attention on an issue of great concern, an expert panel convened to address "Courts in a Time of Fiscal Crisis - Who Needs Courts?" Moderated by NAWJ Judicial Education Committee Co-Chair and Harvard Law School's Thurgood Marshall Professor of Constitutional Law Vicki C. Jackson, Chief Judge of the State of New York the Hon. Jonathan Lippman joined commentators Co-Chair of the NAWJ Judicial Education Committee, Judith Resnik, Arthur Liman Professor at Yale Law School and Gillian K. Hadfield, Professor of Law at the University of Southern California, visiting at Harvard's Law School, to discuss the financial and political stress threatening our courts.

The next day, conference participants addressed the topic of immigration with particular focus on "Children and Immigration Issues and The Intersection in Judicial Proceedings." Frequent speaker from Center For Public Policy Studies, Dr. John A. Martin, Director of their Immigration and the State Courts Initiative, previewed the program with key points on why immigration is important for state courts. Professor Deborah Anker, Director of Harvard's Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program, concentrated on issues surrounding children and asylum protection. Another friend of NAWJ, attorney Leslye E. Orloff, President of the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project focused on immigration options for children and their impact on family court proceedings. Retired Immigration Judge Joan V. Churchill, chair of NAWJ's Immigration Project Advisory Committee, and President-Elect rounded out the discussion.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Friday's impressive programs at Harvard Law School were followed by a reception later that evening. Conference attendees made their way to The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston's Columbia Point. Upon arrival attendees enjoyed the Museum's film on the life and Presidency of John F. Kennedy. Trinity Catholic Academy Middle School Band performed their unique versions of rock and American classics during the reception.

A special highlight of the evening was NAWJ's farewell to Chief Operating Officer Jeffrey Groton after his years of service to NAWJ. Jeff's responsiveness, professionalism, and accommodating spirit led NAWJ Past President Judge Bea Ann Smith to say "Jeff was the best decision she ever made for NAWJ." Jeff's ten years at NAWJ will become solid ground for his upcoming years at the International Association of Women Judges.

On Saturday attendees were treated to a reception at the Schlesinger Library of Women's History in America at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. Not only does it house important artifacts in women's history, the Schlesinger Library holds the vast majority of NAWJ historical items. On view for the evening were copies of past conference programs and NAWJ newsletters. Professor Nancy F. Cott, Director of the Schlesinger Library, presented a summary of NAWJ archives to the group. President Amy L. Nechtem presented the Schlesinger Library with volume one of the NAWJ *Counterbalance*.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS COMMITTEE

The exciting programs, speakers and activities would not have been possible without the commitment and hard work of the NAWJ Friends Committee Co-Chairs Karen Green, partner at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP and Susan Alexander, Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Biogen IDEC. Approximately 50 law firms, corporations, universities, and individual contributors supported this year's Midyear Conference. Thank you all for your support of the 2012 Midyear Leadership Conference and the National Association of Women Judges.

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MEET ME IN MIAMI

NAWJ 34th Annual Conference
November 7 – 11, 2012
Eden Roc Renaissance Miami Beach
Miami Beach, Florida

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REGISTER TODAY

EDUCATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW PLENARY PANELS*

INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY

This panel will address the following questions: what are the problems facing independence of the judiciary; what can we do about it; what ARE we doing about it?; what are effective strategies for judicial independence; and what is happening in other countries.

POWER AND REACH OF THE INTERNET IN THE AGE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING

What are the existing privacy laws? What are expectations of privacy? How do those existing privacy laws fit in with the current realities of cyberstalking and available remedies? How does the internet and proliferation of social networking impact the judiciary and the ethics of judges or their clerks who use the internet to research information about cases, jury members, lawyers, etc?

JUDGING IN AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

This panel will address what judges can do and should communicate with one another, formally and informally, regarding cross border issues or simultaneous proceedings. We will use Chapter 15 of the US Bankruptcy Code, which explicitly authorizes such communication, as a spring board for what could be used as a model in general business cases.

BRINGING HUMAN RIGHTS HOME

This panel will examine the emerging issues with respect to the use of Human Rights norms in the domestic (US) context.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

These panels will address the far-reaching impact of the economic crisis on individuals, institutions, and the society at large.

(i) HIDDEN IMPACT: THE UNSEEN CONSEQUENCES OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

Beyond banks and board rooms, the global economic downturn is having a profound effect on the everyday lives of people around the world. Societies, too, are being tested as the engines of economic growth sputter forward. This panel will explore the less visible consequences of the financial crisis and its impact on people and communities.

(ii) CURBING ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN A DOWN ECONOMY

Equal justice is an idea that we have long sought for in American society. But, is the economic crisis, with its strained government budgets, court cutbacks and loss of legal aid funding, turning back the clock on the progress we've made in reaching the goal of equal justice for all? Join us for this panel in which we will discuss how the financial squeeze is impacting access to justice at the individual court level and in society in general.

PRESENTATIONS BY AUTHORS

We will have two authors discuss and sign books they have recently written.

(i) Judith Resnik will speak about her book "Representing Justice."

(ii) Professor Sally Kenney will discuss her book "Gender and Judging."

THE IMPACT OF OTHER LAWS ON COURT DECISIONS

This panel will discuss issues relating to bankruptcy, immigration and other laws that may or will impact criminal, family and commercial cases.

LAWYERING & JUSTICE: EMERGING ISSUES IN NATIONS IN TRANSITION

This panel will look at the challenges that women lawyers and judges are facing as the world around them changes. We will discuss issues in the Middle and Far East, as well as issues much closer to home such as those arising from the Caribbean and Venezuela.

NON-ACADEMIC SESSIONS

SO YOU THINK YOU HAVE A BOOK IN YOU

Someone "in the business" will share the secret (and not so secret) basics of what it takes to write a book and get it published.

WOMEN'S HEALTH PANEL

A panel of doctors from the University of Miami School of Medicine will discuss the aging woman and physical and psychological issues about which we should be aware.

MINDFULNESS AND STRESS REDUCTION

A discussion about a new method for reducing stress and making us more effective judges.

YOGA, PILATES, AND MEDITATION

We will start our day(s) the right way with a group class each morning.

REGISTRATION AND LODGING

Conference registration fees are \$595 for NAWJ members, \$625 for non-members, \$575 for guests, \$525 for longtime NAWJ members attending their first conference, and \$450 for new NAWJ members attending their first conference.

The host hotel for the conference is the Eden Roc Renaissance Miami Beach located at 4525 Collins Avenue in Miami Beach, Florida 33140. Rooms at the Eden Roc Renaissance Miami Beach have been guaranteed at the rate of \$199.00 plus applicable state and local taxes, single or double occupancy.

For more detailed information on registration and lodging, visit www.nawj.org/annual_2012.asp.

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

COLOR OF JUSTICE AT WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW



On November 16, 2011, District One presented a “Color of Justice” program for high school and college students. The event consisted of two panel presentations. The first panel, comprised of both attorneys and judges, spoke on becoming interested in pursuing a legal career and how they prepared academically during college to achieve their goals. The second panel, comprised entirely of judges who preside in various courts throughout Massachusetts, discussed why they chose the judiciary as a career, their role and responsibilities, and the challenges and rewards of their profession. **The event was held at Western New England University School of Law with the generous assistance of LexisNexis.**

Hon. Barbara Lenk, Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court gave the opening remarks in which she **highlighted the careers of Robert Morris, Constance Baker Motley, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, three attorneys whose “noble” work, as she put it, “changed lives.”** Justice Lenk observed that “the law belongs to all of us, but not all of us know how to get access to it.” She continued, “that’s why it is important that women and members of minority groups have a place at the law table where the rules are made and changed and applied. It is one way of making

sure that the law listens to and serves everyone’s needs that the law will belong to all of us, now and in the future.”

Among the panelists were NAWJ President Hon. Amy Nechtem and Hon. Marylou Muirhead, NAWJ District One Deputy Director. Additionally, speakers included Hon. Bertha Josephson, Hon. MaryLou Rup, Hon. Tina Page, Hon. Patricia Dunbar, Hon. Judith Phillips, Hon. Jacklyn M. Connelly, Hon. Anne Geoffrion, and Hon. Bethzaida Sanabria-Vega. Attorney panelists included Suzanne Parker, Executive Director, Girls Inc. of Holyoke; Solo Practitioners Tracy Duncan and Arvett Bradford; Alesia Days, 2nd Associate City Solicitor, Director of Licensing, City of Springfield Law Department; Tonya Ward, Assistant Regional Counsel, Department of Children and Families; and Michael Johnson, Dean of Admissions, Western New England University School of Law. **The program culminated with the granting of an Equal Access to Justice scholarship to Western New England University School of Law student Mary Boyd**, whose application was selected by a panel of NAWJ members who were impressed by her demonstrated commitment to community service.

DISTRICT TWO (CT,NY,VT)



A Law Outreach Panel was held at Cardozo Law School on October 6, 2011, chaired by Justice Bernice Siegal. Joining the panel for commentary was the Hon. Ruth Lebharr Sharon, Judge in the District Court of Tel Aviv, Justice Diane Renwick of the Appellate Division First Department, Judge Arlene Hahn and Justice Tanya Kennedy. Justice Doris Ling-Cohen also shared her experiences.

Judge Betty Williams and her committee continued their work for Women in Prison Committee. Please see Women in Prison News later in this issue.

A wonderful, huge gathering turned out for **a holiday party hosted by Justice Phyllis Gangel Jacob and Bernard Jacob**, which resulted in the contribution of a huge amount of toys and other gifts for the women at Bayview Correctional Facility.

The District now has a **new committee, The Legal, Education, Internship and Mentoring Committee, chaired by Referee Liz Yablon**. The name says it all.

NEW YORK CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

On Saturday, January 28, 2012, **the New York Chapter held its Annual Meeting** at which the Hon. Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge the New York Court of Appeals, addressed the group. Everyone was happy to finally meet new members and enjoy the opportunity to congratulate **those members who had been elevated**, re-appointed or re-elected: Hon. Rachel Adams, New York State Supreme Court, 2nd Judicial District; Hon. Ellen Gesmer, New York State Supreme Court, 1st Judicial District; Hon. Pam Jackman Brown, New York State Supreme Court, 11th Judicial District; Hon. Barbara Jaffe, Civil Court of the City of New York; Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, New York State Supreme Court, 1st Judicial District; and Hon. Janice Taylor, New York State Supreme Court, 11th Judicial District.

Congratulations to our NAWJ Executive Committee member, Vice President for Districts, **Hon. Tanya Kennedy, who has assumed new duties as a full time Acting Supreme Court Justice**.

Hon. Cheree Buggs has been designated an Acting Supreme Court Justice in Queens County, New York.

NAWJ Past President **Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin delivered an address** and was honored to have the District establish a Scholarship Fund in her name. She requested that an award this year be made to Safe Haven.

Work continues on the **Oral History project in which we are attempting to preserve and memorialize the careers of our members**, especially those who became judges prior to the formation of our NAWJ in 1979.

Among our 2012's upcoming projects are a Color of Justice program scheduled for the spring under the leadership of Justice Darcel Clark; a District weekend in Mystic, Connecticut, with the assistance of our Connecticut State Chair Judge Patty Jenkins Pittman, with an education component on the Immigration Project.

On March 1st, William Gladstone at The New York Times ran humorous piece on the travails of moving from life as an ad-

ministrative judge to life as a trial court judge. "At 64, a Long-time Judge Receives a Crash Course On the Ways of the Bench" relays former New York State Chief Administrative Judge Ann Pfau's transition to the Brooklyn Supreme Court. Here's an account of a piece of advice from NAWJ member Justice Laura Jacobson: "Just dive in head first. It's not like we haven't all made mistakes." Another NAWJ member Justice Karen B. Rothenberg offered: "If you have any trouble with anything whatsoever, it's a good time to take a recess." The story is a must read.

DISTRICT THREE (DE,NJ,PA,VI)



The District held its Annual Luncheon Program and Meeting on Saturday February 25, 2012 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Participants were welcomed by Pennsylvania State Chair and Co-Chair Hon. Andrea Marceca Strong and Hon. Maria Musti Cook. District Director, Hon. Sandra Ann Robinson of New Jersey, joined them to also welcome the gathering, as well NAWJ President Hon. Amy Nechtem. Women in Prison program organizers the Hon. Doris Pechkurow and Hon. Lisette Shirdan-Harris talked on about "Judges Help Inmates Stand for Themselves." Hon. Michelle Hollar Gregory and the Hon. Jan Jurden gave presentations on happening in their states.

DELAWARE

Congratulations to **Judge Kathy S. Gravel who will soon join Judge Jane Brady** and Judge Jan Jurden in co-chairing Delaware NAWJ.

Congratulations to Judge Mary Johnston who was recently appointed to serve on the **Delaware Superior Court's Complex Commercial Litigation Division**. Delaware projects and outreach included legal presentations before the Democracy Project Institute for Teachers, at the Delaware Trial Lawyers Annual Convention, during the Superior Court Judges retreat, and at lectures for judges and lawyers. Topics of interest include 'non-stranger' sexual assault, as well as, ethics between jurists and attorneys.

NAWJ member **Judge Aida Waserstein has been appointed as a board member to ASPIRA of Delaware**, a nonprofit organization devoted to the education and leadership development of Latino youth, which is **preparing to open the first dual language charter school in Delaware**. Judge Waserstein and colleagues continue community outreach by participating in high school career panels, and the ASPIRA Saturday academy seminars, **and the National Hispanic Bar Foundation Law Camp courses to encourage students to consider the law and judging as a career**.

Judge Jan Jurden, also an adjunct professor teaching Criminal Evidence at the University of Delaware, continues to make presentations at the Delaware State Police and Criminal Justice Counsel Seminars on "Law Enforcement Response to Mental Illness." Her discussions focus on the Veteran's Court and the Delaware Mental Health Court, which she has presided over since its inception in 2008. The Delaware Mental Health court recently received the "Governor's Team Excellence Award" for better allocating resources to improve service to Delaware Citizens and litigants, and for collaborating with other governmental agencies to promote efficiency and performance of the court. Congratulations NAWJ Team Delaware!

NEW JERSEY

During the past two years New Jersey's focus was to prepare for the 2011 NAWJ Annual Conference in Newark, New Jersey - "Global Women's Issues". Please read more about the conference in the Retrospective in this issue of Counterbalance. Thank you Judge Sue Yang and Senior Associate Dean Frances Bouchoux, chair and co-chair respectively of the 2011 NAWJ Conference Planning Committee and to the planning committee members for continuing the NAWJ record of excellence in conference presentations.

Judges from all New Jersey courts are active in NAWJ and represent NAWJ in their commitment of time to local, state and national projects. **Judge Sue Yang, the NAWJ International Director until May 2012 attended the 2012 IAWJ meeting in London,** and the 2012 NAWJ Congressional Women's Luncheon in Washington, D.C. on behalf of District III.

Judge Michele Hollar Gregory, Chair of New Jersey NAWJ and guest lecturer at Montclair State College, participated in the annual Law Day Mock Trial in Newark Schools and served on the **"Judges of Color"** panel for a program sponsored by the **Asian Pacific American Law Students Association.**

Judges Michele Hollar Gregory, Judge Siobhan Teare and Judge Sue Yang participated on the **Color of Justice Panel at Rutgers Law School.**

Judge Michelle Hollar Gregory, Judge Siobhan Teare and District Director Judge Sandra Ann Robinson are honored to continue as fellows of the "Honorable Anne E. Thompson Inns of the Court" for the year 2011-2012.

Judge Sandra Robinson continued **judging for Moot Courts and Mock Trials in area law schools and for the Vincent R. Apruzzese National Mock Trial Competitions.**

Judge Frances L. Antonin participated in the Seton Hall Law School Pre-Law Studies Summer Program Mock Trial Competition in Newark, NJ.

Judge Robinson joined NAWJ members in 2011 for various meetings, including the American Bar Association in Toronto, Canada, where 2011 Annual Conference Friends Committee Chair **Attorney Paulette Brown received the Margaret Brent Award,** the New Jersey State Bar Association meeting where Attorney Brown received the New Jersey State Bar Association Diversity Committee **Lawyer of the Year Award;** the National Bar Association conference in Baltimore, Maryland, where NAWJ member **Judge Renee Jones Weeks** received the Raymond Pace Alexander Award, and a "Street Naming Ceremony" to honor the late Judge Shirley A. Tolentino former president of NAWJ.

Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Lisette Shirdan-Harris, Judge Diane Thompson and Judge Gwen Bright, are the co-chairs of the NAWJ Women in Prison Committee that organized the first conference for women inmates at Riverside Correctional Facility in Philadelphia, entitled "Success In and Out Conference." Judge Doris A. Pechkurow chaired the conference and Judges Sheila Woods-Skipper, Karen Shreeves-Johns, Karen Simmons, and Angeles Roca, serve on the **Women in Prison and Conference Steering committees.**

VIRGIN ISLANDS

In the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands there is the chief justice and two associate justices. **One of the two associate justices is the NAWJ State Chair for the Virgin Islands, Justice Maria M. Cabret.** In the Superior Court there are 13 judges including four females. One of their Superior Court judges is the **NAWJ co-chair, Hon. Audrey L. Thomas.** There are four judges in the District Court, two of which are U.S. Magistrate Judges. One of those magistrates is a woman. **Associate Supreme Court Justice Maria M. Cabret and Superior Court Judge Audrey L. Thomas continuously encourage jurist and attorney mem-**

bership in NAWJ and anticipate a visit from NAWJ members to assist their efforts.

RESOLUTION ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

At their district meeting held during the NAWJ Annual Conference in Newark the New Jersey membership passed with unanimous vote on Saturday October 15, 2011 **a resolution on the juvenile justice system to provide equal access and equal protection for girls and boys.** The resolution was presented by Hon. Sandra Ann Robinson, chair of the Resolutions Committee, and fellow committee members Hon. Stephanie Domitrovich, and Hon. Sara Welch-Kansas.

WHEREAS, a growing body of research has documented that girls and boys tend to present different pathways into the juvenile justice system;

WHEREAS, since their inception, juvenile justice system processes and programs have been informed primarily by the needs of boys because girls have been a numerical minority in the system,

WHEREAS, providing appropriate, individualized rehabilitative services requires attention to gender differences because girls frequently present needs, social histories, and offending patterns different from those of boys,

WHEREAS, girls of color are disproportionately represented at every point of contact in the juvenile justice system,

WHEREAS, NAWJ is committed to equal justice under the law for all persons, regardless of sex, and to providing leadership on gender bias and other fairness issues,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the membership of NAWJ calls on its allies and partners to join NAWJ in its sense of urgency and commitment to working towards a fair and effective juvenile justice system that offers girls the equal protection they are promised by law, including access to appropriate services and decision-making that is not biased by gender-stereotyping.

DISTRICT FOUR (DC,MD,VA)

FOURTH ANNUAL IRMA RAKER DINNER AT MARYLAND'S GOVERNMENT HOUSE



On Tuesday, February 28, 2012, Maryland's First Lady and Judge Catherine O'Malley greeted women legislators of the Maryland General Assembly and NAWJ District 4 members to the Government House as we celebrated the 4th Annual Irma Raker Dinner. The dinner honors retired Maryland Court of Appeals Judge Irma Raker. Maryland NAWJ President Judge Toni Clarke organized the event along with the First Lady and the Women Legislators of the Maryland General Assembly, Inc. Many Maryland judges from surrounding counties were present for the event. Also present was NAWJ's President Amy L. Nechtem.



THE EDNA PARKER AWARD AND BANQUET CEREMONY

The Nominations Committee unanimously voted to award this year's Edna Parker Award to Maryland Prince George's County Circuit Court and former NAWJ District Director Judge Cathy Serrette. District members gathered to celebrate and welcome newly elected judges at The Tayloe House at the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C.

THE ROSALYN B. BELL AWARD



On Tuesday, November 8, 2011, immediate past president and district director of NAWJ District 4, **Judge Julia Weatherly, received the prestigious Rosalyn B. Bell Award** at the annual conference and awards ceremony of the Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. The ceremony was held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Baltimore, Maryland. It was attended by many retired and sitting judges, as well as law professors and lawyers. The Rosalyn B. Bell Award recognizes outstanding achievement in family law. Eleven jurists precede Judge Weatherly in receiving this award. Former recipients include NAWJ members Judges Marcella Holland, Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman, Ann Sundt and Judges Mary Ellen Rinehardt, Martha Rasin, Louise Scrivener, and Audrey Carrión. Judge Weatherly is admired by many for her compassionate approach to cases. She is an associate judge in the Family Division of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. She has held many leadership positions in local and specialty bars and organizations.

THE RITA DAVIDSON AWARD



On Tuesday, November 29, 2011, the **Women's Bar Association of Maryland awarded Judge Mary Ellen Barbera of Maryland's Court of Appeals, the 2011 Rita C. Davidson Award.** This award was established in 1985 to honor individuals who have contributed to the integrity of the legal profession, advanced the interest of women engaged in the practice of law, promoted legal education, aided in the administration of

justice, and advanced the status of women in society and the legal profession. The award is the highest honor of the Women's Bar Association and is named for the late Honorable Rita C. Davidson, the first woman appointed to Maryland's highest appellate court, the Maryland Court of Appeals. The late Judge Davidson was the first award recipient.

TRAINING LAWYERS ABOUT THE JUDICIAL SELECTION PROCESS

The District held a forum on January 26, 2012 at Semmes, Bowen & Semmes' Baltimore office on the important question of how one becomes a judge. District Director Judge Claudia Barber, an Administrative Law Judge in the District of Columbia, assembled a distinguished panel of sitting judges and other lawyers involved in the judicial nominations process. Judge Barber started the forum by explaining the rich history of NAWJ, focusing on increasing diversity in the judiciary. Then Judge Ellen Hollander, who sits on the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, gave opening remarks. The panel sought to demys-



tify the process to judgeship for all those in attendance who included attorneys of all ages and levels of practice. Moderated by Baltimore City Circuit Administrative Judge Marcella Holland, the knowledgeable, wise and insightful panel conveyed their unique perspectives and paths on what it may take to become a judge. The panel included U.S. Court of Federal Claims Chief Special Master Patricia Campbell-Smith, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Judge Judith Dowd, Harford County Circuit Court Judge Angela Eaves,

Howard County Judicial Nominating Commission member attorney Charles Fuller, and Marisa Trasatti, Esq. Co-Chair of the Maryland Defense Counsel's Judicial Selections Committee. Nearly 60 local lawyers joined the judges to listen, learn and ask questions of the panel. District Director Judge Claudia Barber, the program's organizer closed the evening with gracious remarks on a wonderful evening from the distinguished panel.



Taping on WJZ-TV Channel 13's ON TIME hosted by news anchor Kai Jackson. Seated left to right: Newsman Kai Jackson; NAWJ District Director Judge Claudia Barber; Judge Marcella Holland; and Attorney Marisa Trasatti.

WASHINGTON, D.C. HOSTED THE DISTRICT'S SECOND 2012 FORUM ON THE JUDICIAL SELECTION PROCESS

The law firm of Dickstein and Shapiro hosted NAWJ's training forum on the judicial selection process on Thursday, April 26, 2012. The group discussed pathways to the bench on federal, D.C. and administrative courts. Retired judges also had the opportunity to explore post-retirement job options. Panelists included U.S. Civilian Board of Contract Appeals Vice Chair and Judge Jeri Somers; NAWJ Judge Denise Vowell, a former military trial and appellate judge; D.C. Judicial Nomination Committee Chair and U.S. District Court Judge Emmett Sullivan; and Jeremy Paris, Chief Counsel for Nominations and Oversight for Chairman Patrick Leahy, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. Also on the panel were NAWJ members D.C. Court of Appeals Judge Anna Blackburne Rigsby; Chief Judge Emily Hewitt of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims; and Judge Mary Schoelen of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. NAWJ President-Elect Judge Joan Churchill moderated the panel discussion. NAWJ thanks program co-sponsor the American Constitutional Society of Law and Policy.

'FIRST' DEVELOPMENTS IN THE VIRGINIA JUDICIARY



Last summer the **Hon. Cleo Powell** was voted onto the Virginia Supreme Court by the Virginia legislature. **She is the first black woman to serve on Virginia's Supreme Court.** In 2008, she became the first African-American woman to join the Virginia Court of Appeals. She has also been Circuit Court Judge and District Court Judge for Chesterfield and Colonial Heights. Before serving as judge, Justice Powell was in private practice with Hunton & Williams, a senior assistant Virginia attorney general and corporate counsel for Dominion Virginia Power. She succeeded the late Leroy R. Hassell Sr., Virginia's first African-American chief justice, who died earlier in the year.

In addition, United States Senate confirmed Justice Arenda L. Wright Allen of Norfolk to serve as a U.S. District Judge for the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Virginia. She becomes the **first African-American female federal district judge in the Commonwealth of Virginia.** Justice Allen also had been a member of the Navy JAG Corps for five years on active duty, then for 12 years served as a reservist.

In December, 2011 the **Hon. Rebecca Beach Smith** was named **Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, becoming the first female chief judge in the federal district.** Judge Smith was appointed to the federal bench in 1989 by President George H.W. Bush. According to the Legal Times, Judge Smith is the first female Article III judge in Virginia.

DISTRICT FIVE (FL,GA,NC,SC)

2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 7-11, 2012 "MEET ME IN MIAMI"

The South Florida "Meet Me in Miami" Planning Committee is busily preparing to welcome NAWJ in November! We held two events in November, 2011 to increase participation and branch out involvement to neighboring counties. First, we met with **Broward County lawyers and judges at the home of Judge Jane Fishman** to increase the Friends Committee's fundraising efforts into Broward County. **New Member Judge Ilona Holmes** has taken on the role of liaison, and is assisting in growing support for our conference in Broward County.

The firm of **Akerman Senterfitt** held a reception in November honoring our current Sponsors and encouraging more support in our community. We are pleased to report that we have reached the halfway point in our fundraising goal and have obtained \$102,000 in sponsorships. Our success is the result of the hard work and dedication of our **Friends Committee Co-Chairs, Elizabeth Hernandez, Shareholder with Akerman Senterfitt, Linda Leali, attorney with White + Case, and Detra Shaw-Wilder, Partner with Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton.**

On March 1, 2012, our **Corporate Partners Chair, Mikki Cantan** hosted members of the Corporate Partners committee in formation at a local estate in Coconut Grove. **This is a new fundraising approach for NAWJ,** which we hope will be as successful as our Friends' Committee's efforts. In May, we hope to have another event hosted by the Friends' Committee. We have also recruited new member, West Palm Beach Judge Lisa Small, to solicit support from the Bar and judiciary in West Palm Beach.

Every part of our planning committee is hard at work. Our marketing materials are beautiful and our "Meet Me in Miami" image may be viewed on the website. Our Education Committee, led by Co-Chairs Judge Cindy Lederman and Bankruptcy Judge Laurel Myerson Isicoff, has completed its planning and is busily staffing plenary and concurrent panels. Highlights include a plenary panel on the Independence of the Judiciary chaired by Hon. Dana Fabe and moderated by Dalia Lithwick of Slate Magazine.

Thanks to the hard work of **Finance and Speakers Chair Gladys Perez and Conference Co-Chair Myriam Lehr,** we have two committed luncheon speakers, **Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, one of the most senior and powerful women in Congress, and Lisa Bloom,** noted journalist, commentator, attorney and author of the book "Think."

District Court Judge Joan Lenard and Chief Judge Federico Moreno have begun planning the Southern District of Florida's reception for the opening night of our conference. **University of Miami School of Law** has committed to a reception as well, and has begun its planning. Our International Judges Committee, Judges Judy Chirlin and Mercedes Bach, have begun to plan this year's application process for international judges. **Judges Monica Gordo, Marcia Caballero, and Gladys Perez have signed on to Chair Mentor-Mentee, Volunteers and Finance Committees.** Any NAWJ Member interested in participating on a committee should contact Conference Co-Chairs Lisa Walsh or Myriam Lehr at lwalsh@jud11.flcourts.org or mlehr@jud11.flcourts.org.

Particularly unique in Miami's planning is our use of media. Thanks to the work of Friends Committee Co-Chair Elizabeth Hernandez, our local business and law publication, **Daily Business Review, has published an extensive article detailing our upcoming conference.** Further, the Review has agreed to post **quarter-page ads each week honoring each sponsor who commits to a sponsorship of \$5,000 or higher.** Our Friends Committee Co-Chair Linda Leali also serves on the board of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers and published an article about our conference in the FAWL newsletter. Effective media presentation creates buzz in the community and buttresses the Friends and Corporate Partners Committees' efforts.

STATE CHAIRS

District Five has piloted the use of State Chairs to assist with gathering information about programming and activities of NAWJ members in the states within the district.

FLORIDA

In other news, former **NAWJ President Judge Cindy Lederman received the "Founders Award" from Casa Valentina,** a non-profit that provides housing and support to girls aging out of foster care. Judge Lederman was also honored by JAFCO, a non-profit that provides services to youth in foster care, and October 6, 2011 was named "Judge Cindy Lederman Day" by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners.

Florida State Chair Judge Myriam Lehr was honored on February 23, 2012 by the Jewish Legal Society with the **"Devorah Judge" Award.**

Judge Lisa Walsh was honored on February 24, 2012 for her contributions to Educate Tomorrow, a non-profit that provides educational mentors and support to youth aging out of foster care.

On February 10, 2012, **Immigration Judge Denise Noonan Slavin,** Vice President of the National Association of Immigration Judges was honored by the American Immigration Lawyers Association's South Florida chapter with its **Jurist of the Year Award.**

JUSTICE TEACHING FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Andrea Hartley, President, Dade County Bar Association, Kymberlee Curry Smith, President, Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association, Nicole Ellis, President, Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association, Justice Fred Lewis, Supreme Court of Florida, Judge Myriam Lehr, NAWJ State Chair, Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of Courts, Judge Linda Singer Stein, Assoc. Administrative Judge, County Court, Alexandra Bach-Lagos, President, Florida Association of Women Lawyers.

Florida has recently conducted its third Color of Justice program. In the past two years, Florida has presented **Color of Justice programs for the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind's Transitions program for sight-impaired youth and Educate Tomorrow**, a mentoring non-profit for youth aging out of foster care.

On January 30, 2012, State Chair and NAWJ Conference Co-Chair Judge Myriam Lehr, together with Judge Linda Singer Stein, hosted a very special event at the North Dade Justice Center in Miami-Dade County, Florida. **Supreme Court of Florida Justice Fred Lewis presented Justice Teaching, an interactive presentation to the Law Academy of Alonso and Tracy Mourning High School.** This event was also a part of the NAWJ Color of Justice Program, which encourages women and minority high school students to explore future careers in the law.

Emphasizing the importance and role of courts, Justice Lewis engaged the **80 students to be "Judge for the Day."** **Examining the Fourth Amendment**, Justice Lewis helped the students develop critical thinking skills and to use good judgment. Also present and **participating in the event were the presidents of many local South Florida Bar Associations**, including Andrea Hartley of the Dade County Bar Association, Kymberlee Curry Smith of the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association, Nicole Ellis of the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association, and Alexandra Bach Lagos of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers. **Notably, the presidents of most of South Florida's local bar associations are women.**

NORTH CAROLINA

State Chair Retired Judge Jane Harper was re-elected to a second two-year term chairing Charlotte, North Carolina's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, North Carolina's first such team, and a pilot project for the state. Its first report was published in June 2011, and work is progressing on implementing its recommendations, especially **a key item on training for law enforcement officers.** The team has identified the difficulty of identifying potentially lethal cases in advance, and the importance of treating every DV case seriously.

North Carolina released its **first Judicial Performance Evaluation by the North Carolina Bar Association.** Judge Harper serves on the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, chaired by former Chief Justice Rhoda Billings and vice-chaired by former District Court Judge Nancy Norelli. The report included participation by 4200 North Carolina lawyers who evaluated 160 trial court judges up for re-election this year. A companion

evaluation will be done of challengers to the incumbents, after the close of the filing period on February 29. As Chair Rhoda Billings said in an interview, **"Anything we can do in educating the public, particularly when it comes to electing judges, is worth doing."**

SOUTH CAROLINA

Amicus Member Chisa Putman reports that she has hosted two Color of Justice programs. In October, a Color of Justice program was held in Orangeburg, SC, and in November, another was held in Rock Hill. Another program is scheduled for Spartanburg in March. Program panelists have included Family Court, Municipal, and Magistrate judges, as well as representatives from Charleston School of Law, University of South Carolina School of Law, and Charlotte School of Law. Student participants ranged from middle school to college. **Attorney Putnam reports that the Color of Justice programs have been so well received, they have been incorporated as regular programs by the Young Lawyers' Bar Association.**

GEORGIA

State Chair Sara Doyle is planning an upcoming Color of Justice program in Georgia.

DISTRICT SIX (AL,LA,MS,TN)

The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis Honored NAWJ Past President and Federal Appeals Court, Sixth Circuit Judge Bernice B. Donald with The Legends Award. Judge Donald was nominated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit by President Barack Obama and is the first black woman to hold this position. Prior to the Court of Appeals, Judge Donald served on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. She has achieved several other "firsts" including the first African American woman in the United States to serve as a bankruptcy judge and the first African American woman to serve as a judge in Tennessee. A trailblazer for women and minorities, Judge Donald has served as President of the National Association of Women Judges and the Association of Women Attorneys. She has worked with Leadership Memphis to provide leadership training for Memphis Housing Authority residents. In June 2005, Judge Donald co-founded 4-Life, a skills training and enrichment program.

DISTRICT SEVEN (MI,OH,WV)

MENTORJET TAKES OFF IN MICHIGAN

NAWJ is an active co-sponsor of MentorJet in the District. At the Wayne State University School of Law on October 5, 2011, District Director Judge Katherine Hansen, the Women Lawyers of Michigan (WLAM) Wayne Region, and the Detroit Metro Bar Association (DMBA) collaborated on a fantastic networking gathering. The group were fortunate to have among participating mentors Nancy Diehl, former president of the State Bar of Michigan, the current president of the DMBA Elizabeth Joliffe, and former president of the WLAM Wayne Region Allison Bach. The creatively produced packet of mentors' bios for the students was compiled and distributed at the event, a sample of which may be viewed in the MentorJet program spotlight in this issue of *Counterbalance*. WSU's Law School additionally hosted a delightful reception which kept both students and mentors engaged well after the "formal" mentoring concluded.

NAWJ co-sponsored another MentorJet event at the Thomas M Cooley Law School, Ann Arbor campus on February 7, 2012, with the WLAM - Washtenaw Region, and WLAM - Wayne Region, and the Cooley Ann Arbor Women Law Student Association. The event was covered by the local legal newspaper. **Read their**



account in the MentorJet Program Spotlight. Two mentors who participated in the previous MentorJet program both requested to participate again. We were fortunate to have among our mentors a local judge, J. Cedric Simpson, and the current president of the DMBA, Elizabeth Joliffe. Associate Dean, and former State Bar of Michigan President, Charles Toy reached out regarding Cooley students volunteering at the NAWJ's Annual Meeting in Miami; Cooley has another campus in Tampa, FL. Cooley and NAWJ hosted a delicious reception after the "formal" mentoring event concluded, which was enjoyed by all.

NAWJ will be co-sponsoring other MentorJet events at the Thomas M Cooley Law School, Lansing campus on March 5, 2012, and at Thomas M Cooley Law School, Grand Rapids campus on June 7, 2012. Judge Hansen anticipates the participation of mentors who have not participated in any previous event.

DISTRICT EIGHT (IL,IN,KY)



While in Louisville, Kentucky to conduct a MentorJet program at the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law NAWJ Past President and MentorJet program creator Justice Dana Fabe and NAWJ Membership Committee Chair and former District Director Judge Jane Spencer Craney presented the **Equal Access to Justice Scholarship Award to Paige Hamby** on March 7, 2012 at the Law School in Louisville, Kentucky.

Judge Ann Breen-Greco was appointed as District 8 Director at the end of 2011 to fill the vacancy. She finds it exhilarating to be working with NAWJ's Board of Directors. **As the current Chair of the American Bar Association Judicial Division's National Conference of the Administrative Law Judiciary** she attended the ABA Midyear meeting in New Orleans. District 8 members **Judges Cheryl Cesario and Sophia Hall were also in attendance.** They proposed an activity for NAWJ during the annual meeting of the ABA which will be held in Chicago early August. She also met NAWJ President Amy Nechtem and NAWJ Past President and current NAWJ ABA Delegate Justice Fernando Duffly. Because Judge Breen-Greco is new to the Board of Directors she is reaching out to District 8 members for ideas on activities they would like to see our region participate in and present. She is looking into holding an immigration program.

DISTRICT NINE (IA,MO,WI)

IOWA

The Infinity Project, a group of lawyers, judges, and academics interested in increasing gender diversity on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit, is co-sponsoring a seminar, **So You Wanna Be A Judge**, for attorneys who are interested in being applicants, nominating commissioners, or just want to learn more about merit selection in Iowa. **U.S. Magistrate Judge Celeste F. Bremer, Ed.D. is leading a panel discussion of state court judges about what the job is really like**, and a discussion about merit selection panels. **The Polk County Women Attorneys and Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys co-sponsored** the seminar on March 5, 2012, along with the Women and Minorities Committee of the Iowa State Bar Association. The Seminar will also be webcast. Following the seminar, there will be a networking event at the ISBA offices.

Judge Bremer has started a program at the Polk County Jail that **provides a free book to any kid who comes to visit. Through Drake University School of Education, in conjunction with a professional storytelling group** and other people interested in changing the world, one kid at a time, used and new books are provided in the visiting room at the jail. While the adults are using the video visitation system, the kids can keep themselves busy with the books, allowing the adults to talk about adult topics without the kids being involved. The kids get a positive contact with the jail, and the jail administrators have to spend less time with stressed parents. **In the 18 months that the program has been in operation, over 8,000 books have been distributed.**

Iowa District Court Judge and NAWJ member Donna Paulsen retired at the end of February 2012 after 20 years of service. She will remain active with NAWJ, Infinity, and other community service.

MISSOURI

Retired Judge Susan Block, principal at Paule, Camazine & Blumenthal, **continues to be an international educator on domestic violence issues.** Last August she represented the State Department, doing keynotes and interdisciplinary meetings with survivors, law enforcement, courts, and NGOs on these critical matters, traveling throughout Brazil (Rio, Recife, Manaus) in celebration of the Maria de Penha law's 5th anniversary. While enjoying the practice of law, Judge Block misses her longtime judicial friends and their many wonderful times together.

WISCONSIN

On February 1, 2012, Wisconsin swore another woman judge in Waukesha County. **Hon. Jennifer R. Dorow was a defense attorney** and a former assistant district attorney. She was sworn in by Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Annette K. Ziegler.

Two Wisconsin women judges will be honored by the Wisconsin State Bar on June 14, 2012. **Judge Barbara A. Kluka has been named the Bar's 2012 Lifetime Jurist Award.** The award acknowledges the contributions of a jurist who has served more than one full term as a circuit court judge and has demonstrated outstanding, long-term judicial excellence and leadership toward improving the quality of justice. Judge Kluka was a teacher, a lawyer and a judge. **The letters in support of her nomination followed a similar theme of fair, impartial, courteous, patient, level headed, and practical with a solid knowledge of the law and its applications.** Dane County Judge Maryann Sumi was named the Bar's Judge of the Year, which recognizes an outstanding circuit court judge who has improved the judicial system during the past year by her leadership in advancing the quality of justice, judicial education, or innovative programs. By the luck of the draw, Judge Sumi presided over a high-profile case in the midst of the most tempestuous political climate in Wisconsin in decades. **Her colleagues in Dane County wrote that Judge Sumi's "ensuing conduct more eloquently defended the integrity of the courts more than any verbal response could have: she handled the case in the way she has handled countless others."** Congratulations Judge Kluka and Judge Sumi!

Wisconsin's **Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson and Justice Ann Walsh Bradley participated in an Aspen institute seminar on U.S. State Courts: Learning from Other Jurisdictions in June 2011** at the Greentree Estate, Long Island, New York. The seminar examined the relevant body of human rights laws and norms that has evolved over the past sixty years.

DISTRICT TEN (KS,MN,ND,SD)

MINNESOTA

Minnesota women judges have engaged in discussions with the Judicial Committee of the Minnesota Women Lawyers to determine feasibility in co-sponsoring future seminars that address the role of women in the judiciary. This appears to be a logical response to budget reductions and time commitments that members of both organizations face.

A COLOR OF JUSTICE PRESENTATION IS PLANNED FOR LATER THIS YEAR.

Women judges have participated in a variety of luncheons to discuss the effect of legal doctrines and practice on issues integral to women. The luncheons are an outshoot of the **Minnesota Women's Law Student Association, Hamline University School of Law and the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association.** As a result of these meetings, mentorship programs have been developed and on-occasion summer clerkships have been arranged. The community action committee of the Bar Association has also coordinated participation by women judges in its annual Girl Scout Law Day held at Hamline Law School. The Law Day event provided a unique opportunity for girls to learn about the legal system and legal careers ranging from legislative positions to appellate court positions. **A new program called "Options" is also being implemented as a means of working with high school girls who are interested in pursuing a career in the legal profession. The Options program allows judges to mentor as many students as feasible, arranges for tours of judicial facilities, and offers an opportunity to watch the trial court and appellate processes.** Finally, at the end of February there will be a networking reception for judges and law students as a part of Hamline Law School's Annual Judicial Expo. The event is designed to explain the many benefits of clerking and to demystify the various courts' application process for students. A panel discussion will focus on the role and responsibilities of a judicial clerkship and the career-long benefits of clerking.

NORTH DAKOTA AND SOUTH DAKOTA

A Color of Justice program was held in Grand Forks, North Dakota on December 9, 2011. This was the first opportunity for North Dakota to host such a forum. Additionally women judges and lawyers gathered in January to further the goals of the Minnesota Infinity Project. Hon. Shon Hastings has also been appointed as the new Bankruptcy Judge for the area.

DISTRICT ELEVEN (AR,OK,TX)

COLOR OF JUSTICE EVENT ON APRIL 18TH—PAVING THE WAY FOR DIVERSITY

On April 18, 2012, the National Association of Women Judges, **Travis County Women Lawyers Association, University of Texas School of Law William Wayne Justice Center,** along with several **sponsoring law firms, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, King & Spalding LLP, and Winstead PC** held an educational, informative Color of Justice Event for Austin's youth. There were approximately seventy primarily minority students from three different high schools (Lanier, Akins and Austin.)

This half-day event featured two panel discussions with speakers sharing their personal experiences and backgrounds, encouraging the students to pursue a career in law, discussing the importance of personal commitment and perseverance, and the role and responsibility of a judge.



Emma Quintero, and her father, Mr. Quintero.

As part of the program, University of Texas third year law student, Emma Quintero, received a \$1,000 "Access to Justice Scholarship" given by NAWJ for her demonstrated and passionate commitment to the achievement of equality of opportunity and access in the justice system. She shared her commitment and passion with the students and described her participation in the Juvenile Defender's Office Clinic and in the Actual Innocence Clinic.

The first panel, titled "The Color of Justice: Making a Difference," was led by several esteemed judges, including several who are the first African Americans and Latinas on their respective benches: Texas Supreme Court Justice Dale Wainwright, Texas Criminal Court of Appeal Justice Elsa Alcalá, Judge Orlanda Naranjo 419th Judicial District, and Judge Eric Shepperd of the Travis County Civil Court, County Court at Law #2.



From left to right: Professor Tracy McCormack, Adriana Rodriguez, Cindy Connolly, moderator and President of Travis County Women Lawyers Association, Patricia Hayes, and Juan Alcalá.

DISTRICT NEWS

The second panel, titled “Law as a Career: Preparing the Way” featured a mix of legal professionals, including Juan Alcalá of King & Spalding (international commercial practice), Patricia Hayes of PVH Consulting Group (lobbying practice), Tracy McCormack (professor at UT Law), and Adriana Rodriguez a recent graduate of UT Law and former NAWJ Scholarship Recipient.

The District has committed to **present an immigration program** offered by the State Justice Institute in conjunction with other regional or state judicial or bar conferences in Texas, Oklahoma, or Arkansas.

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

CHIEF JUSTICE MARY J. MULLARKEY (RETIRED) INDUCTED INTO COLORADO’S WOMEN HALL OF FAME

NAWJ member the Honorable Mary J. Mullarkey was the first female Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice and the longest serving Chief Justice in Colorado history. She spent her early career years in Washington, D.C., in the Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior, handling water and environmental law cases. She then handled discrimination and employment discrimination at the Equal Employment Opportunity commission in Denver. Chief Justice Mullarkey was appointed as Colorado Solicitor General at a very young age. During her tenure on the Colorado Supreme Court, she increased the number of judges in Colorado by 27 percent. Chief Justice Mullarkey also established the Judicial Executive Development Institute to train court clerks, probation officers, and district administrators. She brought in extensive technological system for courts, a prototype for other states. During her tenure, all new court buildings had to have childcare. Colorado’s new judicial complex and Colorado History Museum have come to fruition thanks to Justice Mullarkey’s leadership and vision. The 2012 Induction Gala took place March 8, 2012 at the Denver Marriott City Center.

A future NAWJ member? According ArizonaCentral.com, “Nicole Laurin-Walker’s two passions, law and music, could not be less similar. **As a Gilbert Municipal Court judge**, a position she achieved at the age of 27, it is Laurin-Walker’s job to remain aloof, objective, and to consider only the facts of the case. **As a 42-year-old singer and songwriter for the Love Me Nots**, her job is intimate instead of aloof; subjective instead of objective; and all about the feelings. In court, she loses herself. On stage, she finds herself again.” “The judge grew up Lake Zurich, Ill. in the far reaches of suburban Chicago. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1990, and got her law degree from the University of Arizona in 1993. While she studied for the bar exam, Laurin-Walker worked as a bailiff in the Maricopa County Superior Court for Judge Jonathan Schwartz. From her first day in that courtroom, she knew that she wanted to be a judge. After passing the bar, Laurin-Walker worked as an assistant town prosecutor in Gilbert, then as a Deputy Maricopa County Attorney. She returned to Gilbert to work on appeals for the prosecutor’s office until 1997, when she was hired as a judge.

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

District Director Judge Marilyn Paja says: Welcome to all of the new members in District 13. Check your new 2012 Directory and welcome your friends to the NAWJ! We are a vast district, comprised of six states: Alaska, Hawaii, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. If you have news to report or would like to put on an NAWJ-sponsored program such as *Color of Justice* or *Speed Mentoring*, or replicate an NAWJ education session, please contact me at any time at mpaja@co.kitsap.wa.us

ALASKA

Exciting news from Alaska! President Barack Obama appointed the first and second ever women federal judges from the state. **Judge Morgan Christen, formerly of Alaska Superior Court and then the Alaska Supreme Court, was appointed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and Judge Sharon Gleason of the Alaska Superior Court was appointed to the Federal District Court bench in Anchorage.** Both are staunch NAWJ members.

Judge Patricia Douglass was recently appointed Superior Court Judge in the 3rd Judicial District based in Dillingham. She will travel to many small places to serve the court. NAWJ member Judge Tricia Collins of the Superior Court in Juneau has recently retired. Thanks to Judge Beverly Cutler, Retired Senior Judge, and NAWJ Alaska State Chair for sharing the news.

HAWAII

NAWJ member and long-time **Judge Sabrina Shizue McKenna was recently appointed to the Hawaii Supreme Court.** According to the Star-Advertiser, Justice McKenna said that her appointment could give “hope to people who feel that they cannot succeed.”

IDAHO

Long-time NAWJ member **Hon. Linda Copple Trout, retired Idaho Supreme Court Justice, was the inaugural recipient of the University of Idaho College of Law Sheldon Vincenti Memorial Award for Exemplary Service in 2011.** Justice Trout served as the first woman on the Idaho Supreme Court. She currently serves as a senior judge for the Supreme Court and trial courts as a pro tem and as a settlement judge, as well as handling administrative matters on assignment from the administrative director of the Idaho courts.

MONTANA

NAWJ member and long-time **Municipal Court Judge Mary Jane Knisely was recently elected to the 13th District Court** (Yellowstone County) bench.

OREGON

NAWJ member Judge Ellen Rosenblum, Retired Senior Appellate Court Judge, is in the midst of a contested campaign for State Attorney General.

WASHINGTON

Recently elected Seattle **Municipal Court Judge Karen Donohue** has joined the ranks of the NAWJ, among her bench mates, **Judge Judith Hightower and Presiding Judge Kimi Kondo.**

Seattle University School of Law honored NAWJ member and Washington State Supreme Court **Justice Mary Fairhurst at the 2011 Red Mass and established a Public Interest Law Association grant in her name.** Justice Fairhurst was also awarded the Washington State Bar Association Award of Merit in 2011.

Also in 2011, **The Loren Miller Bar Association awarded Chief Justice Barbara Madsen** the Social Justice Award for her unwavering dedication to the pursuit of justice and equality in Washington State.

Several NAWJ events are planned for 2012. On April 12, 2012 NAWJ partnered with the **Women’s Law Caucus of both the University of Washington Law School and Seattle University Law School to host a Judicial Reception.** A \$1,000 NAWJ scholarship was awarded to Stacie Naczelnik a Seattle University School of Law student. Like last year, over 100 enthusiastic attendees enjoyed an evening of camaraderie and cheer. An equally

fun event is expected this year. On May 3, 2012 NAWJ partnered with the ABA Commission on the Prevention of DV and Sexual Assault to host a reception in Seattle. The Washington State Gender & Justice Commission plans to partner with the NAWJ and the State Justice Institute to present an advanced education session on Immigration at the Annual Judicial Conference in the fall.

DISTRICT FOURTEEN (CA,NV)

Los Angeles Superior Court **Judge Ramona G. See** became the Chair of the American Bar Association's National Conference of State Trial Judges at the August 2011 ABA Annual Meeting in Toronto. Her term will end at the end of the meeting in Chicago at the ABA Annual in August 2012.



The November 2011 issue of the *California Bar Journal*, a publication of the State Bar of California, includes a highlight describing **NAWJ Co-Founder Hon. Joan Dempsey Klein** acknowledging receiving the Bar's **Bernard E. Witkin Medal** and remarking on her years as Judge in California. "Longevity and hard work" is how Joan Dempsey Klein good-naturedly explains her latest award, the prestigious

Bernard E. Witkin Medal from the State Bar of California. After accepting the honor at the bar's Annual Meeting in Long Beach, the 87-year-old Klein went right back to her more than full-time job as presiding justice of the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Three in Los Angeles, a post she has held since 1978. The Witkin Medal goes to someone "whose outstanding contributions and achievements have enriched the legal profession and exalted the science of jurisprudence." A resolution signed by former State Bar President William Hebert thanked Klein "for her extraordinary contributions to the legal profession, for her exemplary service to the community, for her courage in upholding the provisions of the United States Constitution, for her unwavering commitment to the concepts of equal access to justice and civil rights."

District Director Judge Diana Becton was this year's winner of the **California Women's Lawyers Rose Bird Memorial Award**. NAWJ Past President and 2010 Annual Conference Chair Judge Barbara Zuniga presented Judge Becton with customary flowers the evening of March 23, 2012 at Whiting, Fallon, Ross & Abel, LLP in Walnut Creek. Additional speakers included California Supreme Court Associate Justice Carol Corrigan, Court of Appeals Justice Martin Jenkins and Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge Lois Haight.

Los Angeles Superior Court **Judge Ramona See is serving as Chair of the ABA National Conference of State Trial Judges** through the 2012 ABA Annual in Chicago.

On October 18, 2011 **Chapman University School of Law** joined NAWJ member Judge Jamoa Moberly, Orange County Superior Court and immediate past District 14 Director, the Santa Ana Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, and additional judicial and attorney mentors, for a **MentorJet 'Speed Mentoring' Program** to provide informal mentoring opportunities to law students and recent graduates, affording them opportunities to learn more about various types of state and federal legal practice areas.

THE NEW FACE OF JUSTICE, HON. BARBARA ZÚÑIGA

On November 4, 2011, **the Contra Costa Superior Court in cooperation with the Contra Costa County Bar Association held its first "Color of Justice" program**. Over 40 students from a local high school with a student body that is 85% Hispanic



participated in the program. Following a welcome by Presiding Judge Diana Becton and Justice Maria Rivera, program chair, students were divided into small groups. Panelists were also divided into two-person teams and rotated through the groups. In addition to meeting informally with judges, attorneys and legal assistants, students observed a mock Motion to Suppress where they were also given the opportunity to act as an interpreter for a witness. **Students were treated to a special guest appearance by Contra Costa County native, Christopher Darden**, well-known for his role as a prosecutor during the O. J. Simpson trial. Mr. Darden not only participated in the small group discussions but as the program drew to a close addressed all the students, **stressing the importance of education and encouraging them to become "the new face of justice"**. The program concluded with students being given a "Color of Justice" t-shirt. **These t-shirts were especially meaningful as they were designed and prepared by female inmates in the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Inmate Industries Program and funded by attorney donations**. Based on the feedback we received from the students and their teachers the program was a great success and the Court intends to make this program a permanent part of its community outreach.

The District soon followed with presentation of another Color of Justice Program on November 14, 2011. **The Queen's Bench Bar Association and the California Women's Lawyers groups joined NAWJ members Judge Charlene Padovani Kiesselbach, San Francisco Superior Court and Judge Suzanne Bolanos also of the California Superior Court, attorneys Eliza Rodriguez, Esq. and Kelly Robbins, Esq., and additional judicial and attorney mentors for the day, to inspire youth residing in San Francisco to consider the legal profession as a career.**

IMMIGRATION PROGRAM NEWS

by Hon. Joan Churchill, Chair of the NAWJ Immigration Project Advisory Committee and NAWJ President-Elect.

NAWJ has received a grant from the State Justice Institute to present our Immigration Project programs throughout the U.S. in 2012. The NAWJ Immigration Project Advisory Committee can assist District leaders with materials and speakers for the programs. Some presentations are in the planning stages. Please let us know of your interest in the program. We are planning to apply for an additional grant as well. The more interest we have the more justification we can present in our grant proposal. The program is fully developed. It can be put on as a stand-alone pro-

gram or in conjunction with state judicial training conferences or with other groups. The members of the Advisory Committee include Hon. Joan Churchill, Immigration Judge (Retired); Hon. Dana Marks, Immigration Judge, Immigration Court for San Francisco, CA and President, National Association of Immigration Judges; Dr. John A. Martin, Director, Immigration and the State Courts Initiative, Center For Public Policy Studies; Leslie Orloff, Esq., President of the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project; and Steven Weller, Senior Consultant, Center for Public Policy Studies Immigration and the State Courts Initiative. Contact Marie Komisar, NAWJ Executive Director, if you have questions or interest in presenting an immigration program in your area.

MEMBERSHIP MOMENTS “WE’VE COME A LONG WAY BABY . . . BUT WE STILL HAVE WORK TO DO”

Jane Spencer Craney, Membership Chair

Did you know?

There are seventeen (17) women serving as Chief Justices of the highest courts of the following states: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. 58% of these Chief Justices are members of NAWJ.

There are six (6) states where the majority of the Supreme Court Justices are women: California (57.14%), New Jersey (71.43%), North Carolina (57.14%), Ohio (57.14%), Tennessee (60%) and Wisconsin (57.14%). New Hampshire has 50% women. There are ten (10) states where all women Justices are members of NAWJ: Alaska, Arizona, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah and Washington.

There are nineteen (19) states where none of the women Justices are members of NAWJ: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming.

There are three (3) states with no women on their highest court: Idaho, Indiana and Iowa. (What’s with the “I” states? Hopefully Indiana will have changed this by printing time!)

Congratulations on the great strides accomplished by all women Justices! If you know a woman Justice who isn’t a member of NAWJ, tell her your history with NAWJ and let her know that we would love to have her as a member!! Visit www.nawj.org/join.asp to learn more about membership, or call the NAWJ office at 202-393-0222 and ask for membership applications.

NOTES FROM THE NAWJ WOMEN IN PRISON COMMITTEE MEETING- NEWARK, NJ, OCTOBER 15, 2011

The committee members gathered in Newark were small in number, but big on ideas. First, there was unanimous agreement that the issue of incarcerated women and men is one that needs attention and that NAWJ should devote considerably more effort to making the public and public leaders aware of it. The WIP committee recommends the following:

NAWJ's Annual Meeting in Miami in 2012, should feature a panel presentation on the issue with powerful participants. Perhaps Piper Kerman, author of *Orange is the New Black*, and a Smith college graduate from the middle class, can describe her 14-months of incarceration on drug charges. We want this to be a prominent program presentation.

NAWJ should adopt a policy statement that contains a scholarly fact-based presentation explaining that society is not being well served by the present system of incarceration. The statement needs to spell out the negatives – the present system is non-productive, costly, and damages families, and the positives – alternatives to incarcerations that include community based sentences, treatment in and outside institutions, education and vocational training inside institutions, have been demonstrated to be cost effective and to lower recidivism. Sources include a Pew study and a June 2011 report by the Avon Global Center and Justice at Cornell and the Women in Prison Project of the Correctional Association of New York, *"From Protection to Punishment: Post-Conviction Barriers to Justice for Domestic Violence Survivor-Defendants in New York State."* The Report's key recommendations are:

- Allow judges to sentence domestic violence survivors convicted of crimes directly related to abuse to shorter prison terms and, in some cases, to community-based alternatives to incarceration.
- Provide incarcerated domestic violence survivors the opportunity to appeal to the courts for re-sentencing.
- Allocate funds to expand and establish more alternative-to-incarceration, court advocacy and re-entry programs designed to meet the needs of survivor-defendants.
- Allow individuals incarcerated for violent crimes, including domestic violence survivors: (1) to earn merit time credits and expand eligibility for temporary work release; and (2) to have parole release decisions about them made not solely on the nature of the offense for which they are incarcerated but with appropriate weight given to their institutional confinement record and actual public safety risk.

NAWJ needs to publicize ex-offenders who are doing well because as an organization it is position to be able to change public perception.

The NAWJ Board should consider going nationwide with the project that resulted in donated books to a woman's correctional institution at the Annual Meeting in Newark.

Each NAWJ District should be asked to appoint a person in every state to work on this issue.

WOMEN IN PRISON NEWS LOUISIANA



The Louisiana Chapter of NAWJ has created an outreach program at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women. **The St. Gabriel Women's Prison** in St. Gabriel, Louisiana is designed to help women inmates who are within a year of release with re-entry priorities, assisting prisoners who are soon to be released with obtaining housing, job readiness, employment, and necessary services and benefits to insure against recidivism. **Warden Jim Rogers, Assistant Secretary Whalen Gibbs, and Assistant Warden Connie Moore have enthusiastically supported NAWJ's outreach efforts.** NAWJ has worked closely with the prison's re-entry/ transition specialist, Megan Jones. Ms. Jones partners with the State Mental Health Advocacy Association, Volunteers of America, the Baton Rouge Public Defenders Office, and others to provide a lecture series aimed toward pre-release education that will directly assist female inmates in successful re entry back into the community. Ms. Jones states:

The NAWJ has been a tremendous help to us in providing resources for our pre release program. These efforts have already resulted in positive outcomes for several of our women inmates. One of our biggest challenges is effectively serving a prison population that includes many women with mental health problems. Through the efforts of Justice {Bernette} Johnson we have developed a relationship with the Mental Health Advocacy Center of Louisiana which has helped to streamline the process of assisting prisoners with obtaining benefits and services to help them to successfully re enter the community. It is important that those women with mental health conditions have the resources and support they need to continue treatment on the outside.



On Wednesday, March 14, 2012, the Thirteenth Annual Job/Resource Fair was held at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women in St. Gabriel, LA, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. **There were over 300 women who were being released into the community,** within one week, to twelve months of the date of the Job Fair, who are seeking employment.

All of the women qualify for **the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) Program, which entitles employers up to a 40% tax credit on wages paid to each qualified worker.** The tax credits may even be higher, depending on the circumstances of the individuals hired. Louisiana Workforce Commission staff was available to explain the WOTC program and the Fidelity Bonding Program offered by the Federal government at no cost to the employer.

The Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women operates an academic program and vocational classes in conjunction with the Capital Area Technical College Folkes Campus.

Offender Training Programs include: Culinary Arts, Business Office Technology, Horticulture, and Upholstery. The Institutional Job Programs include: Housekeeping/Janitorial, General Kitchen Assisting, Floor Maintenance, Agricultural Operations Assistants, General Building Maintenance (plumbing, painters, etc.), Warehouse Stocking, Landscaping, Baking, Industrial Sewing, and Heavy Equipment Operation.

On April 11, 2012, the Louisiana Chapter of NAWJ as part of Pre Release Class Speaker Series, organized and presented an **"Expungement Day."** Baton Rouge Assistant Public Defender, Amanda Love, and Community Outreach Organizer Natasha George spoke to the women at St. Gabriel about expungements and post release housing. Natasha George led a discussion about "conviction consequences" highlighting the effect of particular conviction on obtaining housing. Judge Sylvia Dunn commented:

If we truly want to prevent recidivism, we have to assist these individuals to re-enter the workforce as productive citizens. It is difficult enough to find a job without having a criminal record. We must remove the stigma of their past record, so that they can move forward.

An arrest or conviction (even of a minor offense) can prove to be problematic because increasing numbers of entities require the

disclosure of convictions or arrests even those that have been expunged. Unlike in the past, an expungement order does not completely destroy the record. It is, instead, made unavailable to many persons although it will be still be available to a number of licensing agencies as well as the police, sheriffs, judges and the district attorney. Complicating matters further, an expungement order does not apply to records held by private entities and correcting incorrect information contained in numerous private databases is difficult and expensive.



During the expungement lecture, attorneys spoke individually with the women about why it is important to obtain expungements, how to file the necessary forms and if a particular charge is expungeable at all. Because of the intimate connection between criminal records, housing, and job availability, attorneys specializing in employment and housing law were on hand to answer any questions related to the impact of a criminal history on employment or housing opportunities. Justice Bernette Johnson, Judges Terri Love, Sylvia Dunn, Paula Brown, Professor Sally Kenney, and Kevin Robshaw-Director of the Louisiana Mental Health Advocacy Center were in attendance.

In the upcoming weeks, a representative of Volunteers of America is scheduled to present a **lecture during pre-release education concerning the availability and accessibility of public housing to ex-offenders.** Judge Paula Brown is also slated to speak to this group about parental rights and custody issues.

WOMEN MOVING FORWARD CONFERENCE



Chief Justice Robert Bell, Warden Carroll Parrish, Judge Julia Weatherly, Rachael Campbell, Shawn Flower.



Anne Arundel County One Stop/Workforce Development.



Warden Parrish, Judge Cathy Serrette, Chief Justice Judge Robert Bell, Brenda Shell-Eleazer, Maryjoel Davis.

The Fourth Women Moving Forward Conference was held at the **Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCIW) on October 22, 2011**. The Hon. Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of Maryland's Court of Appeals, the state highest court, affirmed in his keynote address that the community was vested in the success of the women's reentry into our communities. He encouraged them to overcome the challenges facing ex-offenders by using all the resources available to bring stability into their lives. **Judge Julia Weatherly, Chair of this year's conference introduced Chief**



Rodney Mitchell, Post Release Legal Issues Workshop.



Advice from University of Maryland School of Law.



Jennifer Bracey, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.



Rev. Cheryl Mercer, Resource Fair Co-Chair.



The conference continues to promote **improving employment opportunities for those women with pending release dates**—one of the greatest challenges for all ex-offenders. **U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Susan Gauvey coordinated fifteen representatives from local employers who came and interviewed candidates for pending job opening.** One of the unexpected benefits of the conference is the feedback from employers who report on their exit surveys that they are more willing to hire ex-offenders because of their experience at the conference.

Workshops provided participants the opportunity to obtain substantive advice on key challenges ex-offenders face when returning to the community. This year's workshops addressed educational needs and opportunities; post release legal issues; reunification with families and children; enhancing job retention; avoiding the grip of gangs; housing options; healing from trauma among others. The participants say that it is **hard to choose from the fourteen workshops**, wishing they had more time to take advantage of more programs.

This year's Resource Committee, chaired by Rev. Cheryl Mercer, brought in over 30 community organizations to talk to inmates about services and provide materials to help them connect once they return home. As participants interacted with the community organization representatives, three mini workshops were held on family law, entrepreneur opportunities, and making good decisions, while another team conducted mock employment interviews. Swirling through all this, NAWJ members, Maryland Women's Bar attorneys, and community volunteers engaged the MCIW residents in discussions about their goals and experiences.

As the Steering Committee awaits the results from all the exit surveys, the organizers believe, from their own observations, that the Women Moving Forward Conference continues to provide women in prison with a plan for their re-entry and the knowledge that people in the community care very much about their success.



Inez Watson, Chair and MC of Fashion Show.

Judge Bell noting his early contribution to civil rights with an arrest for civil disobedience in a restaurant sit-in. History was made by an appeal of the conviction through his Maryland attorney, Mr. Thurgood Marshall.

The Conference Committee brought technology to the conference this year, replacing the usual tee-shirt in the conference bags with a thumb drive, which was **pre-loaded with their own resume, and various materials from the workshops and resource fair.** The thumb drive would be given to the participants upon their release, ensuring that they had resumes and a directory of services. Co-Chair, Dr. Shawn Flower, arranged with the prison for the tool to be available to all conference participants to help them bring home information helpful to their re-entry.

PRISON PROJECTS AT NEW YORK STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES FOR WOMEN

ELEVENTH ANNUAL "BEYOND THE BARS" RE-ENTRY WORKSHOP AT BAYVIEW CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FOR WOMEN

On December 15, 2011, the annual "Beyond the Bars" program took place at the Bayview Correctional Facility, a medium-security women's prison located in lower Manhattan. Members of the Women in Prison Committee of the National Association of Women Judges (New York) began the program at the Bayview Correctional Facility eleven (11) years ago.

Judge Debra A. James, chair of the New York Women in Prison Committee, and Judge Betty J. Williams, Co-Chair of the NAWJ Women in Prison Committee, along with court attorney Richard Johnson, Esq., attended the event and enjoyed observing the presenters' positive interaction with the women prisoners during the six one-hour workshops that took place in the morning and early afternoon. Each workshop was led by volunteers, either attorneys specializing in the field of their presentation or various experts from community-based organizations. **The subjects of the workshops included Permanent Housing Options/Other Entitlement Benefits, Parole Issues, Overcoming Criminal Record Barriers/Collateral Consequences of Criminal Convictions, and Successful Dressing and Presentation.** A professional jazz saxophonist provided entertainment at the conclusion of the program.

Deputy Taylor-Stewart, 12/15/11

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for such an inspiring & comprehensive event today. This being my first "Beyond the Bars" program experience, I was astounded by the compassion the visiting judges have for our inmate community. I was also taken aback by the impassioned sense of advocacy from Mr. Shermack & Mr. Sullivan, as well as the deep level of commitment Mr. Goldfarb has for our cause (and the level of patience Mr. Clarke has for all of us!). And Mr. Haywood's gift was, most certainly, in his ability to transcend us beyond our current reality, if not for a moment.

Because he provided his contact information, I will send, under separate cover, a note of thanks to Mr. Martin who's public reference to the past life he overcame was a strong message of empowerment for me.

Thanks to you & Sup't Featherstone as well for allowing us this opportunity. Though I may be one of only a few to "verbally" my appreciation, I'm sure I speak for many other inmates who perhaps are unable to express their own gratitude.

If you feel it appropriate, please share this correspondence with the N.Y. Assoc. of Women Judges members who organized today's event, as well as the participants of this year's "Beyond the Bars" program.

*Sincerely,
Debra James
#100117, En 809*

On December 17, 2011, the workshops, the children and grandchildren of those incarcerated at Bayview gathered at the facility's annual winter holiday party, hosted by the staff of Bayview. **As has been the tradition for the past ten years**, NAWJ members, attendees at the annual dinner of New York's Judicial Friends organization, other New York City judges, court attorneys and law stenographers throughout New York City's five boroughs donated toiletries for the gift bags presented to all of Bayview's residents. Judges Debra James, Cheryl Gonzales, Laura Jacobson and Betty Williams coordinated the collection of the toys, gifts and toiletries, and NAWJ-NY has been advised by Bayview personnel that the holiday celebration was a success for the families in attendance.

BAYVIEW HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS


STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION
BAYVIEW CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
550 WEST 20TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10011
212-255-7599

BRIAN FISCHER
COMMISSIONER

WENDY FEATHERSTONE
SUPERINTENDENT

January 9, 2012

Honorable Betty Williams
National Association of Women Judges
Kings County Criminal Court
Of the City of New York
120 Schermerhorn Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Judges Williams,

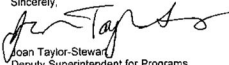
On behalf of Superintendent Featherstone, staff and inmate population of Bayview Correctional Facility I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your donations toward the Children's Christmas Party, and cosmetic donation for inmate population.

We would like to thank you for the gifts of toys and movie tickets which were distributed to the children of offenders at the Holiday Event on Saturday December 17, 2012. At the Christmas Party one of the children told me it was the best party he ever attended. I am sure that comment will warm your heart as it did mine.

The workshops sponsored by the National Association of Women Judges held on December 15, 2011 were well received by the women. I received several notes of thanks from women who were inspired by the workshops.

Curtis Haywood did a fine job of entertaining, inspiring and lifting the spirits of the women with his musical renditions.

Thank you and the National Association of Women Judges for your continued commitment to Bayview Correctional Facility.

Sincerely,

Joan Taylor-Stewart
Deputy Superintendent for Programs

Cc: Superintendent Featherstone
File

On December 12, 2011, Judges Laura L. Jacobson, Cheryl Gonzales and Betty J. Williams, along with court attorneys and other staff volunteers, assembled two hundred and thirty (230) holiday gift bags for the residents of Bayview. The gift bags were assembled in the court room of Judge Jacobson, at the Kings County Supreme Court Building, and included gifts donated by the local and state NAWJ community and the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association. The 2011 gift bags were picked up by the Bayview staff on December 13, 2011 and distributed to the women during the holiday season.

TACONIC CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SUCCESSFUL DRESSING WORKSHOP

On Friday October 29, 2011, at the request of Acting Superintendent Andrea Hester, the New York NAWJ Women in Prison Committee sponsored a "Successful Dressing" workshop at the Taconic Correctional Facility for Women. The hour-long workshop focused upon presenting oneself in public, dressing professionally, and preparing for a job interview. Debra Clarke (A Touch of Luxury) and Harriet Lehrer (Imagine a New Image), both image consultants/lifestyle managers in the New York City area, conducted the workshop. Ms. Clarke and Ms. Lehrer received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the 47 women attending the workshop. The workshop began with a short question and answer period, covering the

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION
Taconic Correctional Facility
250 Harris Road
Bedford Hills, NY 10507
January 9, 2012

Honorable Betty J. Williams
Association of Women Judges
Kings County Criminal Court
120 Schermerhorn Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

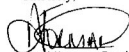
Dear Judge Williams:

On behalf of the Inmate Population at Taconic Correctional Facility, many thanks to you and the Association of Women Judges for your thoughtful gift of 2012 date books. They were well received by all and will surely be useful to us over the coming months.

Many of the women here are not in contact with family or friends during the holiday season. It is very heartening to know that despite our circumstances, there are kind people such as yourself and the members of your association who remember us.

Once again, your generosity is greatly appreciated by the women of Taconic. We wish you all the best in the New Year and beyond.

Sincerely,



Avril Forman, President
Inmate Liaison Committee-Taconic C.F.

cc: Andrea B. Hester, Acting Superintendent
File

attendees' interviewing experience as well as their perspectives on the relationship between clothes, personal image, and the importance of wardrobe in "conveying a professional message." Ms. Clarke reports that, "while many of the women understood well the concept, *the clothes make the woman*, and that it was up to the woman to make the right choices, few knew how to put together a professional outfit for themselves easily." Ms. Clarke and Ms. Lehrer showed the women how a smart professional outfit could be coordinated with ease and at low cost.

The workshop, coordinated by Judges Cheryl Gonzales, Laura Jacobson and Betty J. Williams, ended with the presenters serving cake and chocolate chip cookies to the participants. Following the presentation, Taconic submitted a request for donations to replenish their wardrobe of exit clothing and accessories. Judge Jacobson is coordinating the clothing drive, with a projected delivery in February, 2012. New York NAWJ members regularly donate clothing, accessories, and personal items to Taconic.

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

On July 28, 2011, Justice Laura Jacobson, Chair of the New York State Chapter of the NAWJ, in association with the Queens Women Bar Association and the New York Women in Prison Committee, co-sponsored a screening of the documentary *Mothers of Bedford* and reception at the headquarters of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. The screening was followed by a "question and answer" session featuring the producer, Jennifer McShane, and Mona Graves and Bobbie Blanchard, who appeared in the film. The response of the audience, which included judges, attorneys, social workers, and NAWJ supporters, was overwhelmingly positive. Judge Jacobson is planning a second general screening of the documentary through the Women in Prison Committee. Additional screenings took place at New York State Department of Corrections, attended by NAWJ Women in Prison member Robin Garson, and as part of the training for New York Family Court Judges, organized by Judge Edwina Richardson, Administrative Judge, Family Court of the City of New York. **The documentary was originally screened at the 2010 NAWJ Annual Conference in San Francisco, California.**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Immigration Forum. On November 19, 2011, NAWJ member, Judge Betty J. Williams, at the request of the Association of East New York and Brownsville, a non-profit community based organization, hosted an Immigration Forum for the members of the Association and the general public. The forum featured four immigration specialists, including two attorneys, discussing immigration issues of interest to the community. The forum was held at the New York Public Library, New Lots Branch, in Brooklyn. At the conclusion of the presentation, the panelists answered questions from the approximately one hundred (100) association members and community residents in attendance. The panelists were well received and warmly applauded, and provided follow up information at the end of the forum. The immigration forum continues a tradition, begun by New York City Judges Delores Thomas, Jacqueline Williams and Betty J. Williams, of providing overviews on legal topics of interest to the residents of the East New York and Brownsville communities. Forums planned for 2012 include Wills, Estates and Trusts, the Surrogate's Court, Financial Literacy, and Immigration.

HOOR CHILDREN

On August 19, 2011, at the staff's invitation, Judge Betty J. Williams visited Hour Children, a non-profit community based organization, located in Long Island City, New York, which provides re-entry support services for formerly incarcerated women. "Hour Family Programs" include Supportive Housing, Family Reunification, Hour Early Learning Program, Hour After School Program, Employment Training and Placement, Hour Friend in Deed, Thrift Stores and Furniture Outlet, and a Food Pantry and Community Outreach program.

During the visit, Judge Williams met with Sister Tessa Fitzgerald, Executive Director and Founder of Hour Children, Johanna Flores, Employment Coordinator, and Hour Children staff, including formerly incarcerated women. Ms. Flores coordinated a tour of Hour Children program facilities, including a visit to an apartment building, housing formerly incarcerated women and their children, and the admissions office. In addition, Judge Williams observed a job training and career planning session, where several of the women identified themselves as having attended a New York NAWJ Women In Prison Committee sponsored workshop, while incarcerated at either Beacon or Taconic.

Judge Williams attended a presentation, chaired by Ms. Flores, featuring formerly incarcerated women speaking eloquently of their experiences in prison, their release, and the assistance they receive from Hour Children to become self-reliant and independent. Two of the women were previously incarcerated at Taconic and Bayview Correctional Facilities and recognized Judge Williams from the projects conducted by New York NAWJ Women in Prison at those facilities. In September 2011, Sister Tessa invited Judge Williams to attend the dedication ceremony of a 14-unit rehabilitated apartment building in Corona, New York. Hour Children also held a groundbreaking ceremony for an 18-unit apartment building on November 8, 2011. Sister Tessa stated, "the women need a place they can call home that is safe and supportive. **Housing is one of the greatest challenges facing formerly incarcerated women.**" During the 2011 Beyond the Bars Program at Bayview, Judge Williams announced Hour Children received a grant to build housing for formerly incarcerated women and their children. For additional information visit www.hourchildren.org

JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS OF GHANA VISITS NEW YORK

On Tuesday, November 1, 2011, Judge Betty J. Williams, at the invitation of the Virtue Foundation Institute for Innovation and Philanthropy, hosted visiting Judge Agnes M.A. Dordzie, Justice of the Court of Appeals of Ghana, at Kings County Criminal Court in Brooklyn, New York. Judge Dordzie, who chairs the committee overseeing the implementation of problem-solving courts in Ghana, was visiting New York City to gain an overview of the policies, procedures and operations of New York City's drug treatment courts. Judge Williams, Co-Chair of the Women in Prison Committee, currently presides in the Misdemeanor Brooklyn Treatment Court (MBTC) and Part 70 (felony), which follow the national drug court model where long-term substance abuse offenders are given an opportunity to receive treatment instead of incarceration.

Judge Williams provided Judge Dordzie an overview of Kings County's main problem-solving courts, including MBTC/Part 70, the Screening and Treatment Enhancement Part (STEP)/Part 60, and the Brooklyn Treatment Court. The overview included meeting with Judge William H. Miller, the Supervising Judge of Kings County Criminal Court, Mia Santiago, the Clinical Director of the Kings County Treatment Court, and members of the treatment court's clinical staff. Judge Dordzie observed court proceedings in MBTC, toured the treatment center, and visited the Brooklyn Youth High School and Career Education Center, both located in the criminal court building. After lunch, Judge Dordzie and Judge Williams visited Phoenix House, a residential drug treatment facility and vocational educational center, located near the court house. Phoenix House Managing Director, Herman Lozada, and staff pro-

vided Judge Dordzie and Judge Williams an extensive tour of the facility's programs and classes, including the building maintenance and carpentry program, the culinary arts program, the Beyonce Knowles-sponsored beauty and cosmetology certification program, the Department of Education GED class, and the computer class. Jocelyn Getgen, Programme Director of Virtue Foundation, accompanied Judge Dordzie on her visit.

Judge Dordzie's visit follows a similar visit by a group of female Ghanaian judges to New City Courts, including MBTC/Part 70, in April 2011. During that trip, on April 15, 2011, the NAWJ New York Chapter hosted a dinner in the visiting Ghanaian judges' honor. The dinner was also attended by staff members of the Virtue Foundation, which sponsored the judges' visit to New York. Judge Dordzie's awareness of the warm reception received by her colleagues encouraged her to make the trip herself.

Respectfully submitted by Judges Cheryl J. Gonzales, Laura L. Jacobson, Debra A. James, and Betty J. Williams.

THE NAWJ NEW YORK CHAPTER WIPC MEMBERS are Justices Bernadette Bayne, Cheryl E. Chambers, Darcel Clark, Carolyn E. Demarest, Phyllis Gangel-Jacob, Robin S. Garson, Marguerite Grays, Laura L. Jacobson, Sylvia Hinds-Radix, Debra A. James, Marcy L. Kahn, Sarah L. Krauss, Yvonne Lewis, Joan A. Madden, La Tia W. Martin, Rosalyn Richter, Laura Safer Espinoza, Janice Taylor, Delores J. Thomas, Ellen Spodek, Ruth Smith, Betty J. Williams, and retired Justice Betty Weinberg Ellerlin, as well as Judges Sharon Aarons, Sylvia G. Ash, Loren Bailly-Schiffman, Susan Danoff, Cheryl J. Gonzales, Carol Feinman, Tanya Kennedy, Shawn Dya Simpson, Wavny Toussaint, Carolyn Wade, and retired Judge Claire T. Pearce.

FULBRIGHT & Jaworski L.L.P.

You are cordially invited to

AN EVENING RECEPTION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN
JUDGES 2012 CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS**

Monday, July 9, 2012 • 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

at

Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.
801 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

RSVP to Bianca Bourgeois at 866 385 2744 by Friday, July 6.

FULBRIGHT
& Jaworski L.L.P.
A Division of ALP



The 7th Annual Meeting between NAWJ and the Congressional Women's Caucus will take place the next day, July 10th at Noon, on Capitol Hill

WHAT DO ELDER ABUSE, DRUG TREATMENT COURTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RISK ASSESSMENT HAVE IN COMMON?

EDUCATING THE COURTS AND OTHERS ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN UNEXPECTED AREAS

By Lynn Hecht Schafran, Esq. and Tracy Vris*

Published in *Sexual Assault Report*, September/October 2011

Judges, court personnel and other justice system professionals tend to think of cases involving adult victims of sexual assault as reaching the courts under the labels “Rape” or “Sexual Assault” and thus are of concern to felony-level criminal courts only. In reality, these cases arise across the spectrum of civil, criminal and family law, but their diverse aspects and complex intersections are often ignored. For example, judicial and multidisciplinary education about elder abuse is on the rise, but elder sexual abuse is rarely addressed. There are many education programs for drug court professionals, but few address the need for treatment programs which help women overcome the underlying trauma of sexual abuse. Court-related education about domestic violence is ubiquitous, but the prevalence of sexual abuse in these cases, and its critical implications for risk assessment, are all but invisible.

Exploring the presence and impact of sexual violence in these often unexpected areas is an effective way to educate judges and related audiences on how to adjudicate these cases fairly and offer meaningful support in problem-solving courts. To provide judges, court staff and justice system professionals with insight into these rarely addressed topics and cases, the National Judicial Education Program (NJEP) has developed a series of ready-to-use new modules and resources for in-person judicial and multidisciplinary education. Funded by the United States Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, all of these new materials can be downloaded in their entirety, free of charge, at <http://www.legalmomentum.org/our-work/njep/mat-for-jd-edu>.

Since its inception in 1980, NJEP has been the leading source of judicial and court-related education about adult victim sexual assault cases. NJEP creates and presents an extensive array of materials for in-person, DVD and web-based judicial education about sexual assault and co-occurring sexual assault and domestic violence (see www.njep.org). NJEP also provides technical assistance to those wishing to create their own programs on these or other topics related to adult victim sexual assault.

NJEP’s eleven new modules are described below. Each easy-to-present module includes a detailed faculty manual with guidance as to how to select faculty and present the program; PowerPoint slides with suggested commentary; interactive case study exercises; and a wealth of resources. The slides and handouts for each module can be adapted to include jurisdiction-specific information and resources, such as statutes, cases and protocols.

MODULE 1:

• *Elder Victims of Sexual Abuse*

Elder sexual abuse by intimate partners, relatives, caregivers, other nursing home residents and stranger assailants is a prevalent and distinct form of victimization. The age and health of the victims further complicate the challenges that every sexual abuse/assault case presents for the courts. This module presents current research on elder sexual abuse victims and offenders and strategies for handling these cases.

MODULE 2:

• *Interpreters in Adult Victim Sexual Assault Cases*

Many victims of sexual abuse or assault require an interpreter in order to access the courts. When the interpreter is untrained on sexual assault and domestic violence issues, or is determined to protect the image of his or her community even at the expense of the victim, the victim’s trauma is compounded. Beyond affecting a victim’s mental well-being, an untrained interpreter undermines the fair administration of justice. This module includes resources to improve court interpreter services.

MODULE 3:

• *Jury Selection and Decision Making in Adult Victim Sexual Assault Cases*

Research shows that jurors in adult victim sexual assault cases assess evidence through the lens of commonly-held misconceptions and myths about rape, rape victims and rapists. This module presents the research carried out with actual and mock jurors, as well as public opinion poll data about sexual assault. After learning about current research, judges discuss their role in selecting a fair jury, protecting juror privacy and minimizing juror stress and trauma in these difficult cases.

MODULE 4:

• *Women in Drug Treatment Courts: Sexual Assault as the Underlying Trauma*

Many women in drug treatment courts are self-medicating the psychological pain of childhood and adult sexual and physical violence. When drug treatment programs fail to address the underlying trauma, women fail the programs. This module explores the research on substance abuse among female sexual assault victims and the role of drug courts and treatment programs in their recovery.

MODULE 5:

• *The Challenges of Adult Victim Sexual Assault Cases – Materials for New Judges*

This curriculum alerts new and/or rotating judges to the unique challenges of the many types of adult victim sexual assault cases. Extensive resources to assist judges in meeting these challenges are included in full.

The curriculum includes a publication, *Judges Tell: What I Wish I Had Known Before I Presided in an Adult Victim Sexual Assault Case*, which can be a useful resource for anyone interested in adult victim sexual assault. To create *Judges Tell*, NJEP surveyed judges across the country about what they knew and did not know when they began presiding in cases involving adult sexual assault victims. Judges had long lists of issues that caught them by surprise or that they were unprepared to rule on when they first arose. Many judges indicated that they wished they had better training before they tried their first sexual assault case. *Judges Tell* is available for free download as a stand-alone PDF publication at <http://www.legalmomentum.org/our-work/vaw/njep-reports-and-resources/judges-tell.pdf>.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

• ***Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Adjudicating This Hidden Dimension of Domestic Violence Cases***

Intimate partner sexual abuse is a prevalent continuum of conduct ranging from degrading language about sex to rape and torture. When there is sexual abuse in a domestic violence situation, the severity of that abuse has critical implications for risk assessment concerning dangerousness, lethality, and custody and visitation.¹ Research into domestic violence fatalities documents that a battered woman also subjected to sexual assault is seven times more likely to be killed than a woman subjected to physical violence only.² When a mother is being sexually assaulted, her children are at higher risk of physical and sexual abuse.³

In 2009 NJEP published an extensive, interactive web course/resource ***Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Adjudicating This Hidden Dimension of Domestic Violence Cases***, funded by the State Justice Institute and the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. Registration is free and open to all at www.njep-ipsacourse.org. A detailed description of the web course and its components can be accessed at <http://www.legalmomentum.org/assets/pdfs/ipsa-flyer-09.pdf>.⁴

Based on this web course, NJEP has created six modules for in-person education programs varying in length from a fifteen-minute introduction of the topic to a half-day program with exercises, with versions tailored for civil/family and criminal courts.

These six modules are:

- o *180-Minute Civil/Family Court Module with Case Study Exercises*
- o *180-Minute Criminal Court Module with Case Study Exercises*
- o *90-Minute Civil/Family Court Module*
- o *90-Minute Criminal Court Module*
- o *60-Minute Risk Assessment Module*
- o *15-Minute Introduction to the Topic of Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse for Any Domestic Violence Presentation*

NJEP created six modules so that this topic can be integrated into domestic violence programs of any length. Even if there is not time for a lengthy examination of the issue, the topic can be introduced, and the audience can be made aware of its importance for risk assessment. Participants can also be referred to NJEP's Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse web course/resource for an in-depth examination of the issue as it relates to family, civil, and criminal courts.

ADDITIONAL MODULES

NJEP is currently developing additional modules on topics including: the misuse of the language of consensual sex to describe sexual violence and how that impacts the justice system; adult sexual assault victims with developmental disabilities; and adult victim sexual assault cases and the media. For more information about NJEP, any of its materials and resources, or for technical assistance, please e-mail njep@legalmomentum.org or call (212) 413-7554.

Lynn Hecht Schafran is an attorney, serving as Director of the National Judicial Education Program (NJEP), a project of Legal Momentum in cooperation with the National Association of Women Judges. She is also a member of the SAR Editorial Board and can be reached at lschafran@legalmomentum.org.

Tracy Vris is the NJEP Program Associate. She can be reached at tvris@legalmomentum.org

ENDNOTES

¹ Lynn Hecht Schafran, *Risk Assessment and Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: The hidden dimension of domestic violence*, JUDICATURE, January-February 2010 at 161.

² Professor Jacquelyn Campbell, *Assessing Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Homicides*, 250 NIJ JOURNAL 15 (2003).

³ Kathryn Ford, *Children's Exposure to Intimate Partner Sexual Assault*, 3 SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORT 15 (2007).

⁴ NJEP's *Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Adjudicating This Hidden Dimension of Domestic Violence Cases* web course can be customized to include the relevant law and practice of specific states and jurisdictions. To learn more about this option contact njep@legalmomentum.org.

NAWJ JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMITTEE SUPPORTS STRONG ADVOCACY FOR GENDER EQUITY IN THE SELECTION OF JUDGES

As part of its mission to advance gender equity in the courts, the National Association of Women Judges encourages women judges to seek advancement to higher courts as opportunities present themselves. NAWJ also promotes the selection of women to fill judicial vacancies. Although NAWJ does not endorse or support individual candidates for judicial vacancies, the organization is a strong advocate for gender equity in the selection of judges.

Women judges and attorneys should be aware that the NAWJ Judicial Selection Committee can assist judges seeking elevation to higher courts as well as women seeking their first judicial position. On request, the president of NAWJ will forward a letter articulating NAWJ's support for the selection of women judges to the appointing authority. Each letter points out the need for equity on the bench and the reasons gender equality is a legitimate concern when selecting judges. Statistics on the ratio of men and women judges in the particular jurisdiction where the vacancy exists are included. On behalf of a candidate for a federal court position, a letter can be sent to her state's U.S. Senators. A similar letter setting out facts and statistics in her state can be sent to a governor or other appointing authority.

For more information, please contact NAWJ Executive Director Marie Komisar.

GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES CONFERENCE SHOWCASES THE TALENTS OF NEWARK

After two years of inspiring planning and leadership, 2011 Annual Conference Chair Hon. Sue Pai Yang, Judge on the New Jersey Workers Compensation Court, and Conference Co-Chair Frances Bouchoux, Senior Associate Dean at Rutgers School of Law-Newark, presided over six days of educational programming on leading issues of current times and a gathering of the state, federal and international legal community of judges, attorneys, academics and nonprofit leaders. As one of our most well-attended conferences, *Global Women's Issues* attracted over five hundred people, fifty of whom were international attendees from twenty-three different countries.

The 33rd Annual Conference took place throughout downtown Newark, New Jersey from October 12-16, 2011, at venues including Rutgers School of Law-Newark, Seton Hall University Law School, Essex County Historic Courthouse, the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, The Newark Club and the Hilton Hotel. The myriad of inviting activities would not have been possible without the additional energy and dedication of the Conference Planning Committee including Lorraine A. Abraham, Esq., Hon. Frances L. Antonin (Retired), Hon. Judith Chirlin (Retired), Hon. Estela Maria De La Cruz, Hon. Barbara A. Curran (Retired), Hon. Rosemary Gambardella, Hon. Debra J. Gelson, Hon. Michelle Hollar-Gregory, Mamie M. Lau, Hon. Amy L. Nechtem, Hon. Sandra Ann Robinson, Hon. Lourdes I. Santiago, Hon. Isabel B. Stark (Retired), Hon. Siobhan A. Teare and Susan E. Volkert, Esq.

Friends Committee Chair Paulette Brown, Esq., Partner and Chief Diversity Officer at Edwards, Angell, Palmer & Dodge, LLP, whose fundraising talents matched the vision of conference chairs, raised considerable funds to support the Conference. Nearly \$200,000 was raised from the Newark community from approximately fifty firm, corporate, university, and individual contributors.

In addition, we acknowledge and greatly appreciate the many volunteers and exceptional guest speakers, who joined in making the experience in Newark unforgettable.

ENTHUSIASM IN ANTICIPATION

Before the conference officially began, judges visiting from other countries attended tours of the local courts. Attendees for the Mentor/Mentee session for first-time attendees and international judges praised conference organizers for providing an opportunity to share experiences and socialize with one other. Later that evening, conferees came together at the beautiful, storied Essex County Historic Courthouse for the Welcome Reception. New Jersey Supreme Court Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, with a gracious warm welcome, addressed the group, proudly noting the advances in judicial diversity made by New Jersey.

OPENING DAY

After more than two years in the making, an excited NAWJ President Hon. Marjorie Laird Carter, and an even more enthused Conference Chair Judge Yang, opened the Conference with a thankful welcome to all supporters and attendees. The Hon. Cory Booker, Mayor of the City of Newark, New Jersey opened the city to our congregation, and gave a hint of the gracious visit to come for the rest of the week. Right after, attendees quickly fell into conference mode with the presentation of the *Conversation with Leaders of Global Women's Issues* panel. Attorneys Raymond M. Brown, Esq., Wanda M. Akin, Esq., and Joseph M. Sellers, Esq., along with Federal Appeals Court Judge Rosemary Barkett and Simone Monasebian from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime spoke to themes which would run throughout the programs in the next two days.

THE FRIENDS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The extraordinary contributions made to this year's conference were championed by attorney Paulette Brown. A program at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center acknowledged Conference donors with masterful dance performances from the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company. Senior Counselor to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, the Hon. Alice Chamberlayne Hill (Judge, Retired) offered the keynote address describing the Department's many efforts to combat human trafficking.

☞ Continues on Page 33





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KEEPING CURRENT

While the opening panel, *Conversation with Leaders of Global Issues*, remained at the host hotel, this year's conference offered attendees an alternative experience by holding education sessions at academic bastions of Rutgers Law School-Newark and Seton Hall University Law School. As a source of many of the conference's participants, and instrumental provider of logistical organization and volunteer support, both Rutgers and Seton Hall afforded easily accessible venues and a wealth of knowledge on the many topics NAWJ wished to discuss with attendees. Sessions pertained to: Urban Revitalization; Forensic Evidence and *Daubert*; Family Law and Domestic Violence; and Effective Leadership Styles. In addition, many sessions surrounded this year's conference theme of Global Women's Issues.

DEDICATION TO FORMER NAWJ PRESIDENT, THE LATE HON. SHIRLEY TOLENTINO

The education programs at Seton Hall University School of Law were dedicated to the memory of the late Hon. Shirley Tolentino, who was NAWJ's President from 1996-97 and a Seton Hall alumna. Inspirational remarks were given by Paula Dow, Esq., Attorney General for the State of New Jersey, Hon. Renee Jones Weeks, Superior Court, State of New Jersey (Retired), and Hon. Joyce London Alexander-Ford (Judge, Retired), U.S. District Court, Massachusetts. All spoke to the extraordinary legacy Judge Tolentino left by touching the lives of many people in the legal profession and throughout the community. Heartfelt remarks were given by her husband, Dr. Ernesto Tolentino, and daughter, Ana-Ramona Tolentino, an attorney. As part of the dedication, the Hon. Tiffany Williams sang the national anthem, and an NAWJ Equal Access to Justice Scholarship was awarded in honor of the late Hon. Shirley Tolentino to Chrishana M. White, a law student at Seton Hall. Girl Scout Junior Troop 21263, Cadette Troop 594, and Troop 12182 served as color guards for the morning ceremonies, as the late Honorable Shirley Tolentino served on Hudson County's Girl Scouts Board of Directors.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, NEW PRESIDENT AND GREAT FOOD

At Newark's famous Don Pepe's Restaurant, members and guests joined to celebrate the achievements of the passing year, to looking forward to the exciting year ahead. NAWJ's devoted members, the Hon. Judith Chirlin, recently retired from the Los Angeles Superior Court, and Hon. Jennifer Gee, District Chief Judge at the U.S. Department of Labor, San Francisco, were proud recipients of awards recognizing their service and achievements. Outgoing NAWJ President Hon. Marjorie Laird Carter proudly presented Judge Chirlin with the Justice Vaino Spencer Leadership Award and presented Judge Gee with the Mattie Belle Davis Award. Congratulations to both!!

The elections of new board officers proved to be a festive event, as well, as new leaders were sworn into office by Founding Mother Justice Joan Dempsey Klein. Continuing this yearly meeting ritual, after the new President, Massachusetts Juvenile Court Judge Amy L. Nechem, was sworn-in, she was surrounded by a team of fellow Massachusetts and NAWJ District One judges in support of her upcoming service as President. The outstanding Portuguese cuisine at Don Pepe's was an experience in and of itself with over seven courses served to the delight of all in attendance.

U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG, AWARDS AND... SINGING AND DANCING!

The NAWJ Annual Awards Banquet began with frequent conference attendee Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg addressing our group, impressing upon them the importance of dissent. To a packed, but attentive room at The Newark Club, Justice Ginsburg illustrated the history of dissent on the bench leading to advancements in equal rights through future legislation. Equally pleasing for the Justice was her opportunity to present the Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Scholarship Award to Seton Hall, law student Megan Altman, already in pursuit of values in NAWJ's mission.

The banquet's namesake is reserved for one of the evening's most important events – the awarding of NAWJ awards. This year's recipient of the Florence K. Murray Award is Elaine Metlin, Esq. a partner at one of the nation's leading firms, Dickstein Shapiro LLP. Ms. Metlin humbly accepted this award in recognition of her service supporting women in the profession.

The Hon. Judith Chirlin presented the Joan Dempsey Klein Honoree of the Year Award to Hon. Judith S. Kaye, former Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals. The award recognized Judge Kaye's decades of trailblazing achievements for the courts of New York.

Despite these august presentations, the highlight of the evening was the performance of the young people in the Newark Symphony Hall's Ensemble. In a series of renditions of classic songs, the kids of the ensemble paid enthusiastic tribute to the brilliant, devoted and lovely women in the audience. You had to be there!

Attendees thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from all events, both social and educational, and appreciated the warm hospitality. Some attendees took advantage of excursions offered to grand estates deep within Essex County, New Jersey and to New York City. Many thanks to the security services provided by the Department of Homeland Security, Secret Service, FBI, and the New Jersey state and the local police. Thank you once again to the 2011 Annual Conference Chairs Judge Sue Pai Yang, who retired from the bench on March 1, 2012, Senior Associate Dean Frances Bouchoux, and to the entire Conference Planning Committee.

TEN YEARS OF COLOR OF JUSTICE

Judge Brenda Stith Loftin, NAWJ Past President, Creator of Color of Justice

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou



The NAWJ Color of Justice program has indeed motivated young girls and young women to be better students, better citizens and most of all, inspired them to become lawyers and judges. The Color of Justice program was launched in August 2001 in St. Louis, MO at the Washington University School of Law. The student participants were from Normandy High School. The teacher accompanying the students was Ms. Jacquelyn Harris. She had this to say about the program:

"...The students were, from an area in the city where students did not often have opportunities to participate in programs of this caliber. The students were excited to know that they were going to actually meet lawyers and judges in a congenial atmosphere, without being interrogated. On the bus back to school the teens talked about the judges that they met and made many positive comments. After being on a college campus, one student indicated that she would like to attend Washington University and she did indeed graduate from Washington University. While this experience included a limited number of students from Normandy, I believe that it has enriched their lives."

The second program was chaired and presented by NAWJ president, the late Judge Shirley Tolentino in New Jersey. The funding for the first two programs was provided by the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation. The purpose of the original program was to encourage young girls and minority students in seventh through twelfth grades to consider the law and judgeships as career goals. The program's focus on career preparation, panel discussions with judges and lawyers sharing personal and professional insights, and small group discussions. The original program provided an environment for discussion and debate among participants to flourish. The program continues to recognize the importance of young women incorporating skills such as social graces, interpersonal skills as a foundation for building self-esteem. The Color of Justice program also provides an opportunity for women judges to become involved in the community and at the same time broaden the visibility of NAWJ.

As we celebrate the 11th year of the Color of Justice program, NAWJ is proud to say that we have reached over 2,000 students in 25 states. NAWJ members have adapted the program to fit the particular needs of their communities. For example, the New York chapter under the leadership of past president Judge La Tia Martin presented programs each year inviting young men and women with up to 50 students present. In Alaska, past president Justice Dana Fabe has expanded the Color of Justice to a weekend program. The Alaska program has been presented each year since 2003 and has

received national recognition. The Color of Justice program has been adapted and presented to law students. In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Judge Phyllis Keaty co-chaired the presentation of the program to first and second year law students at Southern University School of Law. At the conclusion of the program, a very bright second year law student approached Judge Loftin and asked for help in obtaining a summer internship. Justice Bernette Johnson of the Louisiana Supreme Court interviewed the student and provided a summer internship for her at the Supreme Court in New Orleans. This is just one example of what the program has done for students throughout the country. The initial Color of Justice program invited students from public and private schools. As the program grew in popularity, many NAWJ districts invited students that belonged to organizations such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the YWCA, and the Girl Scouts to participate in the Color of Justice.

The Color of Justice program has received honorable mention from various organizations such as the American Bar Association. Judge Susan Criss, from the Galveston District Court, produced a video of the Color of Justice program in 2004 with a grant she received from the state of Texas. The President of the State Bar of Texas presented Judge Criss with a proclamation honoring her for her work in creating the Texas Color of Justice Video Project. Many of our NAWJ members have presented the program and have received recognition from their courts and local bar associations.

Members of the NAWJ Resource Board have provided financial support for programs in districts since 2001. LexisNexis has provided financial and program support for over 20 programs. In addition, board members have participated in programs by networking with the students and sharing their experiences as lawyers.

During 2012, NAWJ will take the Color of Justice program to a new level. We will present programs to Native American young women in their communities.

NAWJ is so much better for the opportunity to go into communities across the country and talk to young people about the greatest country on earth with the greatest legal system in the world. The most common comment about the Color of Justice program from NAWJ members is that they were so moved, so touched and so inspired by all of the smart and beautiful young people. For information about the program please visit the NAWJ website or contact Lavinia Cousin, Program and Publications Manager at our national office.

"It was a very cool thing to be a smart girl, as opposed to some other different kind. And I think that made a great deal of difference to me growing up and in my life afterward."

United States Supreme Court Justice Elana Kagan

REMEMBERING JEFF GROTON

By Hon. Bean Ann Smith, NAWJ Past President 2002-03

If it hadn't been for 9-11, Jeff Groton might not have left the bright lights of the Big Apple to return to Washington, D.C. And if NAWJ had not had an opening in our national office in the spring of 2002, a whole decade of women judges might have missed out on the unique talents and commitment of this inimitable man who grew into our versatile and lovable Chief Operating Officer. Hire a man? There were those who objected. But Jeff was clearly the best man or woman for the job and quickly won our allegiance and our affection.

One wonders what Jeff was thinking when he applied for a position with NAWJ. Did he not know how bossy and picky women judges are? Probably not, but he learned to handle all of us with grace and equanimity. It became clear that Jeff deeply respected the work that we do and would go to any lengths to help us do it better. As Jeff has stated, "I knew I had found a home." We knew it, too, because Jeff dedicated his boundless energy and many talents to making NAWJ and all its members look good.

Jeff's first annual conference was a preview of what we came to expect from him. It was our 25th Anniversary at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. Almost 1000 people attended the opening dinner in the gorgeous National Building Museum, and as far as I know, they all had a good seat and a lovely dinner. First Lady Laura Bush addressed the crowd of judges, which included two women judges from Iraq, creating enormous security issues. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg received our Joan Dempsey Klein Award (before we called it that) and shared a personal movie narrated by Tom Brokaw for her 70th birthday. At that very special conference, we were celebrating all that we had accomplished in our first twenty-five years, and the bright future that we were anticipating. Little did we know that our future had just become a little brighter because we now had Jeff Groton on our team.

No task was too large or too small for Jeff. When we had no money, he handled the budget and helped us through the lean years. When we had no executive director, Jeff held the reins until we could find the right leader. When we got the right executive directors, each time Jeff handled operations and the dirty work to let them concentrate on raising money and promoting our image.

When bickering began over this or that, Jeff was patient. He always knew we would move through our tribulations toward the greater good. If occasionally we took a wrong turn, he was confident that we would right the ship and stay the course. His patience and his confidence steadied us and buoyed us. But above all, his sense of humor brought us to our senses, or at least to our knees in laughter.

With his classic sense of style, Jeff redesigned the NAWJ president's pen to reflect our classy organization. When our conference hotel was picketed right before a conference, he arranged a new venue at the last minute and no one even noticed. At every gathering, Jeff's sense of fun came to the fore. He was thrilled to visit Texas for a mid-year meeting in Austin, finding his way to the famous Elephant Room to hear local music before I even had time to suggest that he might like it. He was appropriately decked out to attend the rodeo at the 2005 conference in Houston—black Stetson, white shirt, bandana, and big belt buckle. For our mid-year meeting in Puerto Rico, Jeff arranged the best resort, the best sights, the best foods, and even the best weather! We can rest assured that the upcoming 2012 Conference at the Eden Roc Resort in Miami will be both elegant and accommodating, as we have come to expect. Jeff loves to spoil his women judges!

But the crowning star in his party crown will always be the May 2011 Alaskan cruise for 100 NAWJ judges and their family members. Who better than Jeff to bring Justice Dana Fabe's dream into reality? The Statendam proved to be one long, floating party. From its decks we viewed ice-blue glaciers, diving whales, playful dolphins, snow-capped peaks, and misty fjords. After the stunning wilderness and exotic wildlife, we gathered for cocktail parties and dinners to share our favorite sights and adventures. It was such fun that I have been saving for the next cruise. If only Jeff had time to plan it before his April departure!

Through the years, we have met Jeff's parents, his sisters, his partner Mark, and some of those lucky nieces, each of whom receives a gorgeous string of pearls on her 18th birthday. Who wouldn't love to have an Uncle Jeff?

We have been blessed to have Jeff Groton as a loyal and enthusiastic member of our NAWJ family for ten years. He is truly a "Jeff-of-all-trades." Because of Jeff's dedication and creativity, we have grown and triumphed. And what a fun ride it has been! We send him off to IAWJ with deep appreciation and gratitude, and a small reminder: NAWJ is a place you can always call home!



SPEED MENTORING: NETWORKING FUN FOR JUDGES, LAWYERS AND OTHER LEGAL PROFESSIONAL AND THEIR LAW PROFESSIONAL MENTEES

Increasingly one of NAWJ's most popular outreach programs, MentorJet, a 'speed mentoring' networking opportunity for high school, college students and law students, is creatively stretching NAWJ's reach and relationships into a wide variety of communities. The program was created by Alaska Supreme Court Justice and NAWJ Past President Hon. Dana Fabe. With 'speed dating' in mind Justice Fabe imagined a similar informal and fun activity for that would provide one-on-one access to experienced legal professionals who can inform and advise people interested in pursuing legal careers. The program uses a 'speed mentoring' format similar 'speed dating' in that approximately fifteen mentors sit behind tables with students, traveling in groups of two or three, rotating along the path of the mentors. Each mentor "date" lasts around six minutes, and following the jet transportation theme, students carry with them a Mentor Passport, collecting the initials of mentors with whom they have learned about working in various fields in law. A Mentor Jet Marshall calls time to move on, and gives a one minute warning. Attendees who complete their passports are eligible for a drawing for door prizes. The program now has Mentor Jet Passports that look like traditional travel passports.

Members and Districts have found creative ways to partner with local bar associations and law schools to maximize available resources and the opportunities for the young people seeking advice. Alaska, Washington, D.C., Kentucky and Michigan and California are among the states having presented the program. Read about a few recent programs below.



SPEED MENTORING WITH THE ORANGE COUNTY BENCH AND BAR

By Hon. Joanne M. Coane

Distinguished Orange County judges and attorneys participated in the second annual Speed Mentoring with the Orange County Bench and Bar on Tuesday evening October 18, 2011. The program was sponsored by Chapman University School of Law. This unique mentoring program was presented in conjunction with

the valuable assistance of mentor judges from the National Association of Women Judges, the Orange County Superior Court, and the Santa Ana Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, as well as mentor attorneys from the Orange County Women Lawyers Association and the Orange County Bar Association. Chapman Law's Assistant Dean of Development, Cary Bowdich and Chapman Law's Student Bar Association and Queen's Bench co-sponsored this event with the Career Services Office and provided much appreciated assistance in making the program a great success.

The purpose of the Speed Mentoring program, the brainchild of the National Association of Women Judges, which has successfully presented several of these programs at various law schools throughout the United States, is to provide informal mentoring opportunities to law students and recent graduates, to afford them opportunities to learn more about various types of state and federal legal practice areas as they embark upon their own legal careers.

Notably, Chapman Law graciously invited all Orange County law students and recent graduates to participate in Speed Mentoring. This informative evening of mentoring began with opening remarks from Orange County Superior Court Judge Jamoa Moberly, who is a member of the National Association of Women Judges, having most recently served as its District 14 Director, and who is also a member of the Orange County Women Lawyers Association, Tom Campbell, Dean at Chapman Law and Donald P. Kennedy Chair of Law, and Jennifer Kim, Chapman Law's Assistant Director of Career Services. Judge Moberly, Dean Campbell and Ms. Kim welcomed all of the judges, attorneys, students, and recent graduates, emphasizing how important it is to have opportunities to be mentored and encouraged by experienced members of the bench and bar.



SUPPORTERS

The National Association of Women Judges is deeply grateful to individuals, many of them NAWJ members, whose gifts and donations play a vital role in sustaining the organization's strength. Thanks to all who made donations within the last year:

Hon. Leslie M. Alden
Hon. Mary Hotard Becnel
Hon. Anna Blackburne-Rigsby
Ms. Marcie Carter
Hon. Judith C. Chirlin
Hon. Joan V. Churchill
Hon. Jane Spencer Craney
Hon. Beverly Winslow Cutler
Hon. Fernande R.V. Duffly
Hon. Dana Fabe
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Hon. Renee Worke

Following opening remarks, mentors and mentees were directed to thirteen pre-assigned tables, where they partook of a delicious dinner and had their first opportunities to informally mingle with their tablemates. Upon completion of dinner, mentees were encouraged to talk to their mentors and ask questions about the various state and federal practice areas in which their mentors are professionally involved.

Mid-way through the program, there was a brief break so that all attendees could relax and enjoy coffee, tea and an array of delectable desserts. After the break, mentoring resumed in full swing and the mentees completed their circuit of mentor tables.

Chapman Law's Director of Career Services, Suzanna Adelizi, and Assistant Director, Jennifer Kim presented very thoughtful closing remarks, once again thanking all of the participants for their participation in the program.

Following closing remarks, there was an informal post-event mixer, which provided the mentees with opportunities to re-visit some of the mentors who were involved in the practice areas, which most interested them.

Speed Mentoring at Chapman Law was a rewarding experience for all. Needless to say, a great deal of its success is attributable to the dedicated participation of the mentor judges and attorneys who so generously volunteered their time. On this note, great thanks and appreciation is extended to all of them.

Judge mentors from the Orange County Superior Court included:

Presiding Judge Thomas J. Borris, Judge Marjorie Laird Carter, Immediate Past President of the National Association of Women Judges and a member of the Orange County Women Lawyers Association, and Judges Debra Carrillo, Deborah Chuang, James J. Di Cesare, John Flynn III, Craig Griffin, W. Michael Hayes, Linda Miller, Jamoa Moberly, Cheri Pham, Walter Schwarm, Nancy Wieben Stock, and Elaine Steger.

Judge mentors from the Santa Ana Workers' Compensation Appeals Board included Presiding Judge Norman Delaterre and Judges Joanne M. Coane and Pamella Stone.

Attorney mentors included Ashleigh Aitken, Irene Basdakis, Melinda Bell, Sallie Doyle, Teresa Edrington, Betty Fracisco, Dina Gray, Jaimi Groothuis, Agnna Guzman, Holly Hutchins, Sholeh Iravantchi, Jeannie Joseph, Jane Grilliot Kearl, Deirdre Kelly, Patricia Lee-Gulley, Teresa McQueen, Caroline Molloy, Susan Myers, Vanessa Novak, Sarah Nowels, Natasha Pippin, Michelle Tran, and Martina Vigil.

SPEED DATING MEETS THE LAW: MENTORJET NETWORKING EVENT CONDUCTED AT COOLEY

By Roberta M. Gubbins, Oakland County Legal News



Karen Poole, Assistant Dean Martha Moore, District Director Katherine Hansen, student Social Chair of the Women Lawyers of Michigan's (WLAM) Student Division of Thomas M. Cooley Law School Sinoeun Winkelhake, and student and President of the WLAM Student Division of Thomas M. Cooley Law School Maureen Heilmann.





MENTORJET: TAKING NETWORKING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Sponsored by the National Association of Women Judges

Special thanks to the Lansing Campus of Thomas M. Cooley Law School for hosting tonight's event!

MENTORJET NETWORKING PARTICIPANTS



NATALIE ALANE
ALANE & CHARTIER, P.L.C.

Natalie brings a wealth of legal and personal experience specializing in appellate law, family law, mediation, and collaborative practice. Before founding Alane & Chartier with business partner Mary Chartier, Natalie served as a staff attorney to Michigan Supreme Court Justice Michael F. Cavanagh and Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Stephen L. Borrello and worked as a Prehearing Attorney in the Michigan Court of Appeals Research Division. Natalie also clerked at one of Lansing's premier plaintiff firms and ran her own independent contracting business providing legal research and writing services to area attorneys.

In law school, Natalie excelled academically, earning an honors scholarship, graduating magna cum laude, and receiving numerous awards. Natalie was named Outstanding Woman Law Student by the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan and was one of only two recipients of the Distinguished Student Award in her graduating class. Natalie served as the Articles Editor on the Thomas M. Cooley Law Review Board, was the President of the Women's Law Alliance, and received eleven certificates of merit in her coursework. Natalie was also a national moot court champion, competing in three national and two local competitions and winning best advocate awards four times.

After graduating cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts at Central Michigan University, Natalie attended graduate school at the University of Kentucky and served in the Peace Corps in Zambia, Africa. She was the Chief Operating Officer of an entrepreneurial technology company, which she oversaw during the commissioning and implementation of Internet service provider software.

Along with running Alane & Chartier, Natalie teaches Advanced Legal Research and Writing at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She has also taught Scholarly Writing and Moot Court and has served on the Council of the National Women's Law Alliance. Natalie is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Ingham County Bar Association, and the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. She has presented to the Institute of Continuing Legal Education on multiple family law issues and sits on ICLE's Family Law Advisory Board. Natalie founded the Lansing Area Collaborative Practice Group and currently serves on that board and on the board of the Capital Area Child and Family Services. She is also the current President of the Collaborative Practice Institute of Michigan.



JUDGE DONALD ALLEN
55TH DISTRICT COURT

Judge Allen was appointed judge of the 55th District Court by Governor Jennifer Granholm on December 22, 2008. He was elected to the bench in 2010 for a six-year term. His current term expires January 1, 2017.

Prior to being appointed to the District Court, Judge Allen served as the director of the Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP). Judge Allen assumed the directorship of ODCP on June 5, 2006, after serving as deputy legal counsel for the Governor on her legal staff. Judge Allen's duties for the executive office included serving as a member of the Governor's senior staff with responsibilities for emergency management and homeland security, civil rights and criminal justice.

A mentor, according to Webster's II dictionary, is a person looked upon for wise advice and guidance. To mentor is to offer advice and guidance to a junior colleague. A speed version of the process took place at Cooley Law School in Lansing on Monday, March 5.

MentorJet: Taking Networking to New Heights, a program created and sponsored by the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and hosted by Cooley Law School, brought 29 practicing lawyers and 35 law students together for a six-minute conversation about the wide array of legal opportunities available to the students when they graduate.

"It is a chance for the students to learn about the variety of law options available," said Wayne County 36th District Court Judge Katherine Hanson, NAWJ representative for the event. "For example, did you know that Homeland Security has its own legal department?"

Who knew? Now some students know and may consider that as a career path.

Bradley Merritt, Career and Professional Development coordinator at Cooley Law School, helped organize the event. The lawyers were divided into three groups, ten to a group. "I organized them so that each group had at least one judge from either district, circuit or appellate courts, a lawyer with a large law firm, one with a small law firm or in private practice and lawyers working for federal, state, county or local governments and non-profits."

All but one of the lawyers participating were Cooley graduates and personally recruited by Merritt. While this is the first time for the event in Lansing, the response from the students was very good. "We had 15 to 20 on our waiting list," said Merritt.

Merritt received the following comments from the students:

- * They were glad they had this experience and once the event started the time flew by.
- * They received a lot of useful advice from the attorney mentors and were impressed the attorney mentors were open providing them with contact information and encouraging them to keep in contact.
- * The students were glad that most of the mentors were Cooley alums.

The students wanted to know if similar events were planned to which Merritt responded, "I let them know we will have a Speed Networking Event this summer."

Ingham County 55th District Court Judge Donald Allen, a mentor, said, "I think it was a great opportunity to provide busy law students with an unprecedented networking experience. The students had a chance to connect with professionals of their choosing and quickly bounce ideas about career choices and to plan further contact with individuals that had more information to offer."

"MentorJet was developed in Anchorage Alaska," said Dana Fabe, Alaska Supreme Court justice and NAWJ president 2009-2010. In March of 2010, the NAWJ board adopted the Alaska program as an NAWJ national program. "We put it on the first two times outside Alaska in September, 2010, at the University of Cincinnati Law School and Chapman University School of Law in Orange County, CA," Fabe said.

Fabe participated in the U. Cincinnati Law School MentorJet program as NAWJ president in September 2010 and NAWJ President-elect Marjorie Laird Carter attended the September 2010 Chapman program. When contacted, Fabe was in Louisville, KY where the MentorJet program was taking place at the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville.

"The program," she said, "is modeled after speed-dating and presents an informal and fun setting for students to meet a diverse group of judges and leading attorneys in their communities. The

students are able to ask the mentors about their career paths, the advantages of judicial clerkships, job possibilities in the public or private sectors, and tips for maintaining work-life balance in our profession."

MENTORJET AT THE BRANDEIS SCHOOL OF LAW

Justice Dana Fabe continued her enthusiasm for MentorJet on March 7, 2012 at the University of Louisville, Brandeis School of Law. Joined by NAWJ Membership Chair Judge Jane Craney the team, supported by Professor Laura Rothstein and the group at the law school, the networking opportunity was very successful. Fifteen mentors and about 45 students enthusiastically participated in the afternoon gathering.



RESOURCE BOARD

The NAWJ Resource Board are leaders in their field. Resource Board members work with NAWJ members and staff to raise judicial awareness about subjects of mutual interest, offer advice regarding education projects, and provide and cultivate crucial professional and financial support for the organization as it works towards its mission.

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ADDRESSING LANGUAGE ACCESS AT THE ABA



PRESENTATION BY HON. VANESSA RUIZ, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS AND NAWJ PAST PRESIDENT AT THE ABA HOUSE OF DELEGATES ABA MIDYEAR MEETING, NEW ORLEANS, FEBRUARY 6, 2012*

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants, I present Resolution 113 adopting the Standards for Language Access in Courts.

These Standards address core issues of access to justice and the fair and efficient administration of justice. We frequently speak of and demand the constitutional guarantee of due process. But notice and an opportunity to be

heard, the essential components of due process, cannot be meaningfully protected when a person does not understand the notice or cannot be understood by the court. We know that justice cannot be fairly and equally administered if the evidence that is presented for consideration by the factfinder – be it a jury or a judge – is incomplete or is inaccurate because of nonexistent or faulty interpretation.

To accomplish both purposes it is essential that adequate interpretation and translation services be provided for persons whose English is not sufficiently proficient to understand the complexities of a legal proceeding. Court proceedings are often stressful for most persons, as they may involve the loss of liberty, property or children, or the assertion of important legal rights. That stress is exacerbated when a language barrier is an added obstacle. For those who have no legal representation, and who cannot even present their own stories because the court literally does not understand them, the door to justice is effectively closed.

This frustration of justice affects many in our country. Just under 20% of the US population speaks a language other than English at home; that is approximately 55 million people. To put this number in perspective, there are about 11 million persons who are undocumented. We are talking about 45 million people more than that. Some, of course, speak English well enough to achieve a tolerable understanding of legal proceedings; but the fact that a person speaks another language at home says a lot about the level of facility and comfort with English, so it is significant in terms of understanding and being understood in the context of a legal proceeding.

Recognizing the dimension of the problem, the ABA took action. The standards were developed over many months by an incredibly hardworking and devoted Advisory Group composed of judges, lawyers, court administrators, advocates, and interpreters. In the last few months, since the annual meeting in Toronto, we worked closely with the leadership of the Conference of Chief Justices, National Center for State Courts and Conference of State Court Administrators. We are grateful for their attention to the issue and dedication to this project, and pleased to have their enthusiastic and wholehearted support for the Standards. I also want to thank the National Association of Women Judges for its constructive role in supporting and helping achieve broader support for the Standards.

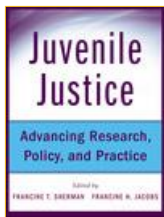
The Standards provide a blueprint for courts to follow in designing a comprehensive and enforceable system of language access services that is geared to local needs and conditions. The principles underlying the Standards are applicable to courts and other adjudicatory bodies, whether judicial or administrative, at the federal, state, local and tribal levels. Their aim is to provide competent language services on a timely basis, and consistent with ethical principles. There are 10 Standards, accompanied by extensive commentary on applicable law and principles of justice and best practices. The 100-plus page document is in your book. It is a rich resource for courts, for lawyers, for advocates and for the unrepresented.

For that reason, Resolution 113 calls on those with a responsibility to fund courts, at the state and federal level, to provide adequate funding for language access services. The Introduction recognizes that implementation of the Standards might need to be phased in if courts are underfunded. In that case, priority should be given to low and moderate income persons and unrepresented litigants. But, immediately, the Standards establish that the fair administration of justice requires language services as an integral part of the operation of the courts.

The Standards will make a real, substantive contribution. The Standards have the potential to do real good and achieve substantial justice that is now denied. They have garnered the support and co-sponsorship of 20 ABA sections, committees, and affiliated bar and judge groups. What remains is to have this House adopt them as ABA policy. We ask for your vote to adopt Resolution 113.

*Remarks have been edited for publication in *Counterbalance*.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

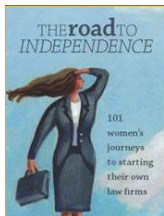


Juvenile Justice: Advancing Research, Policy, and Practice

by Francine Sherman, Francine Jacobs

According to its publisher, Wiley, this book offers a comprehensive reference presenting a rehabilitative, youth- and community-centered vision of juvenile justice. *Juvenile Justice: Advancing Research, Policy, and Practice* brings together experts in juvenile justice, child development, and public health to explore the intersections between juvenile justice and needed development of programs and policies that look out for the health and well-being of the youth who enter this system. It provides a usable framework for imagining juvenile justice systems that

emphasize the welfare of juveniles, achieved primarily through connections within their communities. *Juvenile Justice: Advancing Research, Policy, and Practice* reflects both the considerable advances and the challenges currently evident in the juvenile justice system, with an emphasis on the development and implementation of policies that can succeed in building a new generation of educated young people able to embrace their potential and build successful futures.

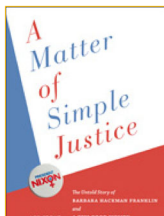


The Road to Independence: 101 Women's Journeys to Starting Their Own Law Firms

by the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession

The Road to Independence is a collection of 101 letters from women who have taken the difficult step of creating a law firm of their own, either alone or with others. Focusing on the experiences, challenges, and opportunities of women-owned law firms, these women, in their personal voices, reiterate key themes: of becoming businesswomen; of choosing a practice area true to their passion and the high character they bring to the bar; of controlling not only their days but their destinies; of

ambition in action. Grouped chronologically according to when each writer started her woman-owned practice, this collection implicitly portrays the profession's growth, society's evolution, the economy's fortunes, and the periodic changes in business models of private practice. Summary of contents: Chapter 1—Through 1979: The Pioneers and the First Advocates of Women-Owned Firms; Chapter 2—1980-1989: The Early Movers - Experimenting with Individual Reasons to Strike Out; Chapter 3—1990-1994: Controlling Types of Clients and Practice Philosophy; Chapter 4—1995-1999: Creating Work/Life Balance; Chapter 5—2000-2004: Responding to Tighter Constraints in the Large Law Firm Model; Chapter 6—2005-2008: Accelerating into the Recession; Chapter 7—2009-2010 Plus One: Diversifying the Practice Areas, Broadening the Seniority of Founders.



A Matter of Simple Justice: The Untold Story of Barbara Hackman Franklin and a Few Good Women

by Lee Stout

Today, opinions of the Nixon administration are strongly colored by foreign policy successes and the Watergate debacle. Its accomplishments in advancing the role of women in government have been largely forgotten. Based on the "A Few Good Women" oral history project at the Penn State University Libraries, *A Matter of Simple Justice* illuminates the administration's groundbreaking efforts to expand the role of women—and the long-term consequences for women in the American

workplace. The book focuses on Barbara Hackman Franklin, a staff assistant to the President who was hired to recruit more women into the upper levels of the federal government. Franklin, at the direction of President Nixon, White House counselor Robert Finch, and personnel director Fred Malek, helped bring more than one hundred women into executive positions in the government—almost four times more than in any previous administration. She also created a talent bank of over 1,000 names of qualified women and became the administration's de facto spokesperson on women's issues. In addition, the administration expanded the numbers of women on presidential commissions and boards, changed civil service rules to open thousands more federal jobs to women, and expanded enforcement of anti-discrimination laws to include gender discrimination. These advances were not limited to the public sector. Federal contractors and higher education institutions with federal grants needed to formulate action plans for hiring and promoting women, too, and during this time, Congress approved the Equal Rights Amendment and Nixon signed Title IX of the Education Amendments into law.



The New Politics of Judicial Elections 2009-10: How Special Interest "Super Spenders" Threatened Impartial Justice and Emboldened Legislative Attacks on America's Courts

by Adam Skaggs and Maria da Silva (Brennan Center for Justice); Linda Casey (National Institute for Money and State Politics); and Charles Hall (Justice at Stake)

These signature reports, published biannually by the Brennan Center for Justice, National Institute on Money in State Politics and Justice at Stake, describe the fundamental changes that have turned state Supreme Court elections into finan-

cial arms races. Reports cover the judicial election cycles of 1999-2000, 2001-02, 2003-04, 2005-06 and 2009-10.

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