



## National Association of Women Judges District 14

The Honorable Tamila E. Ipema  
NAWJ Director, District 14 (California and Nevada)



# E-BLAST

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## SAN DIEGO NEWS



**The Honorable Laura Halgren**  
**Chaired the First Court-Clergy Conference in San Diego**

### “BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH JUSTICE”

On May 15, 2015, the San Diego County Superior Court presented its first Court-Clergy Conference, hosted by First United Methodist Church, San Diego. The Honorable Laura Halgren, California Superior Court Judge from San Diego and a longtime NAWJ member, chaired this incredible conference. Approximately 100 clergy members attended and 26 San Diego Superior Court judges participated, either as speakers or lunchtime table discussion leaders. The response from everyone was overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

The theme of our program was “Building Community Through Justice.” The goal of the conference in San Diego was to reach out to clergy members who are called upon to minister to parishioners in times of legal crises. These troubles could be caused by marital discord, domestic violence, aging, immigration issues, crime, addiction, or child abuse and neglect. For example, when a parishioner has concerns about a child who has been arrested, or fears an elder is unable to care for him or herself, or has been a victim of domestic violence, the clergy member often has no idea of what to do or what will happen. If the clergy could leave our conference feeling better equipped to assist and support the members of their faith community and also come away with ideas of how they could work together with the courts to improve justice in our community, this effort would be worthwhile.

The focus of the day was on “nuts and bolts.” Ten judges from San Diego Superior Court presented on their area of expertise. The topics included a court overview (presented by Presiding Judge of San Diego Superior Court, Judge David Danielsen, also a NAWJ member, family law (Judge Harry Powazek), domestic violence (Judges Michael Groch and Enrique Camarena), aging issues, (probate, elder abuse and conservatorships, Judge Julia Kelety, a NAWJ member), immigration (Judge Tamila E. Ipema, NAWJ member and District 14 Director), criminal law (Judges Laura Halgren and Judge Desiree Bruce-Lyle, both NAWJ members, collaborative courts, juvenile delinquency and juvenile dependency (Judges Laura Birkmeyer, NAWJ member, and Judge Browder Willis. In addition, the general counsel from the local Catholic diocese spoke on mandatory reporting requirements for clergy and two community leaders spoke about faith-based organizations that deal with restorative justice, gang prevention and post-detention recovery.

The program format included the goal of encouraging dialogue between clergy and judges. Judge Halgren solicited questions as time permitted throughout the day and wrapped up with a general question and answer session. In addition, judges who were not speakers were invited to attend for the lunch portion of the event, sitting at tables throughout the room to answer questions and hear from the clergy members about their experiences with the court system. Twenty-four judges participated in this segment. The lunch hour was quite lively, generating a lot of energy from the conversations.

A variety of resources were provided in a program folder so that the clergy members could refer to them in the future when needed. For each topic, the speakers provided a summary sheet that identified three main points to remember, three ways in which clergy could help their congregants and three or more websites and contacts they could turn to for more information. Additional handouts and brochures were included in the materials. These items were very well received.

**Congratulations Judge Laura Halgren for this immensely successful community service program.**



## CONGRATULATIONS to Judge Yvonne Campos



The Honorable Yvonne Campos, Judge of San Diego Superior Court, will be honored for her support of diversity and advancement of the Latino legal community by San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association on June 18, 2015. **Congratulations Judge Campos!**

Judge Yvonne Campos has also been selected as this year’s Southern California Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award recipient. Recipients are evaluated for excellence as jurists and for longstanding vigorous service and inspiration to women lawyers of California. **Congratulations!**

## Court-Clergy Conference Speakers



If you have a story you would like featured in the NAWJ District 14 E-Blast, please send it to Hon. Tamila E. Ipema at [Tamila.Ipema@sdcourt.ca.gov](mailto:Tamila.Ipema@sdcourt.ca.gov)