

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

DISTRICT 14 (CALIFORNIA & NEVADA) E-NEWS!

District 14 E-BLAST

NOVEMBER 2015



Welcome From the Director

As your newly elected District 14 Director I'd like to welcome all to District 14— both those that are new and those that are experienced and seasoned! I have the pleasure of serving as your Director for the next two years and we will use this e-letter to keep everyone updated, informed and inspired about the activities and events in NAWJ!

Welcome New NAWJ Member

The Honorable Carrie M. Stephens is a Military Judge. Her present assignment is Chief Judge Navy and Marine Corps Trial Judiciary, Reserve Component. She was board selected by the US Navy approximately five years ago. Judge Stephens, welcome to NAWJ!



NAWJ District 14 Judges Shine in Bangkok, Thailand!

On September 25, 2015, Judges Diana Becton and Marguerite Downing of the National Association of Women Judges and State Bar Council on Access and Fairness, participated in a presenta-

tion to the Supreme Court of Thailand on state court systems in the United States. As part of their talk on issues affecting the judiciary in California, Judges Becton and Downing presented a power point presentation on the California Judicial Ap-

NAWJ in Thailand (continued)

At an informal meeting with the court prior to the presentation, Judge Becton spoke to the court about the ongoing programs that NAWJ has related to Human Trafficking, and referred the court to the website for further details. Judge Downing was also able to provide information about issues of children in the Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency who are victims of this trafficking.

In addition to the numerous questions posed by the Thai judges generally, NAWJ and COAF received special kudos from the female judges in attendance for our efforts to increase gender diversity. The judges were especially excited about the possibility of attending the 2016 NAWJ/IAWJ Biennial Conference in Washington, D.C.

Judges Becton and Downing visited Thailand as part of a cultural exchange program delegation sponsored by the Pacifica Institute of Los Angeles and their companion organizations and schools located in Arizona and Thailand.





San Diego NAWJ Members’ “Freedom Through Words” Book Club for Incarcerated Women

The Honorable Pennie McLaughlin of San Diego County Superior Court started the first NAWJ “Freedom Through Words” Book Club for Incarcerated women at the Las Colinas Detention Center in San Diego. Several NAWJ members in San Diego joined

participate in conducting book club sessions at the local jail. The Committee members include: Hon. Judith McConnell, Hon. Cynthia Bashant, Hon. Tamila E. Ipema, Hon. Stephanie Sontag, Hon. Terrie Roberts, Hon. Susan Finlay (ret.). Since the start of this program in October 2015, many other San Diego NAWJ members (both judicial officers and attorneys) have come forward volunteering their time to team up and go to the detention center to participate in the book club.

The Honorable Pennie McLaughlin and the Honorable Terrie Roberts described the first book club attendee’s as “. . . engaged, delightful, intelligent and very grateful. “ The goal was to “ share in the act of reading for fun and to experience books they would not ordinarily read and to help foster new bonds between them both inside and on the outside when they are released . . . These are simple types of bonds, but when you string them together, we can help foster a sense of belonging and a sense of community. Who knows, maybe the pride that comes from accomplishment of reading a book helps the women to walk a little taller and to feel proud. We certainly sensed their joy and sense of accomplishment at not giving up on the book and being up to the challenge. Maybe this realization that they can do more, be more, and to stand up and be counted is what will lead to less recidivism. I believe that we can help make a difference in these small efforts.”

If you are interested in starting a similar program in your area, please contact the NAWJ San Diego Regional Chair, the honorable Randa Trapp, who would be able to assist you and also put you in touch with Hon. Pennie McLaughlin.



Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Debra Katz Weintraub Received CRF's "James A. Cobey Judge of the Year" Award - CONGRATULATIONS!!!

On September 24, 2015, the Honorable Debra Katz Weintraub of Los Angeles County Superior Court, was honored with the CRF's "James A. Cobey Judge of the Year" Award in Los Angeles. This annual volunteer recognition event is

Appellate District, Division 3), who served as CRF's president from 1974 to 1975, and was actively involved in CRF. CONGRATULATIONS JUDGE WEINTRAUB!

NAWJ Judges Diana Becton, Contra Costa County, and Marguerite Downing, Los Angeles County, Lead Judicial Mentoring Workshops Statewide

Two of our own, on behalf of NAWJ and in conjunction with the State Bar's Council on Access and Fairness, travel the state (and now the world—see the lead story on pages 1 & 2) as part of their commitment to insure access and diversity on the California bench.



The judicial workshops are designed to increase the applicant pool of qualified minority candidates and to increase the appointment of diverse judges by providing an overview of the appointments process and the current status of the judiciary. The workshop includes specifics regarding the criteria considered by the Governor's office, information about the JNE review process and tips for completing the online application.

Judges Becton and Downing (center) 10/27/15 Workshop

In 2015, Judicial appointments workshops and mentoring workshops were held by Judges Becton and Downing in Los Angeles, Sacramento, Alameda (pictured here) and Contra Costa County. Additional workshops are being planned in Riverside, San Diego and Monterey.

FROM THE BAR TO THE BENCH IN DISTRICT 14 . . .

AND POTENTIAL NAWJ DISTRICT 14 MEMBERS:

WE WELCOME TO BENCH THE MOST RECENT JURISTS :

1) LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT	HON. MONICA L. BACHNER
2) LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT	HON. MARILYN MORDETZKY
3) LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT	HON. CAROL ROSE
4) LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT PRIOLEAU	HON. LATONYA HADNOT-
5) LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT	HON. JULIAN C. RECANA
6) LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT	HON. LAURA A. SEIGLE
7) LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT	HON. NICHELLE BLACKWELL
8) LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT	HON. ALICIA BLANCO
9) LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT	HON. DOREEN BOXER
10) LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT	HON. SHERYL M. BEASLEY
11) LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT	HON. LISA STRASSNER
12) LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT	HON. AMY YERKEY
13) ORANGE SUPERIOR COURT	HON. MELISSA R. MCCORMICK
14) ORANGE SUPERIOR COURT	HON. JULIE A. PALAFOX
15) ORANGE SUPERIOR COURT	HON. KIMBERLY MENNINGER
16) RIVERSIDE SUPERIOR COURT	HON. BAMBI J. MOYER
17) SAN JOAQUIN SUPERIOR COURT	HON. KRISTINE EAGLE
18) CONTRA COSTA SUPERIOR COURT	HON. KATHLEEN MURPHY
19) EL DORADO SUPERIOR COURT	HON. VICKI ASHWORTH
20) MONTEREY SUPERIOR COURT	HON. VANESSA W. VALLARTA

Please contact Judge Anita Santos at asant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov with your news.

You may also email your regional/state Chairs at the following email addresses to provide them with your news for publication in the next E-Blast. Please share your information with us so that we continue to learn from and support each other. Thank you!



Honorable Randa Trapp is the Chair for San Diego County (Randa.Trapp@sdcourt.ca.gov)

- Judge Tamila Ipema chaired two Color of Justice and Mentor Jet Programs in San Diego on 11/4/14 and April 2015. Judge Randa Trapp did a fabulous job as the moderator and the MC of both programs. The programs have made a big name amongst bench, the bar and the schools. The schools are eager to bring their kids to meet their mentors who will help inspire them to become attorneys and judges.
- As highlighted on page three of this newsletter, Judge Pennie McLaughlin was the inspiration for the book club for the incarcerated women in the San Diego Women’s detention facility.



The Honorable Jomoa Moberly is the Chair for Orange County (JMoberly@occourts.org)



The Honorable Elizabeth Allen White is the Chair for Los Angeles County (EWhite@lacourt.org)

As the representative from Los Angeles, I am pleased to report that we had a great turnout for the Salt Lake Conference, and that we look forward to next year's conference and to recruiting more new members from the ranks of the newly enrobed LA Su-



The Honorable Sharon Mettler (ret.) is the Chair for Kern County plus North (SWMettler@bak.rr.com)



The Honorable Patricia Lynch is the State Chair for Nevada (Plynch@washoecounty.us)

2015 NAWJ Conference: Salt Lake City, Utah



The NAWJ 37th Annual Conference with the theme of “With Liberty and Justice for All” was held at Salt Lake City, Utah, October 8-11, 2015.

In attendance were our very own Judges Tamila Impema and Diana Becton. Judge Becton served as our Vice President of Publications and is now our dynamic and awesome President-Elect!



The co-chairs of the annual conference were Judges Michele Christian-sen, Utah Court of Appeals, and Sharon McCully (Retired). The 2015 Planning Committee did a fabulous job in

providing quality education and a fabulous time in Salt Lake City! Here are photos of some of the highlights:



Left: Judge Julie Frantz passing the Presidency torch to incoming President Judge Lisa Walsh.

Right: Judge Nechtem, Maria Komisar, NAWJ Exec Director, and Justice Joan Dempsey Klein (a NAWJ founding mem-



2015 NAWJ Conference: Salt Lake City, Utah



25 International Judges from 15 countries attended the 2015 Salt Lake City Conference. As always, we are grateful to Judge Judy Chirlin (ret.), Los Angeles Superior



2015-2016 Executive Board Members

REMINDER FOR MEMBERS: DISTRICT 14 DUES ARE DUE:

Please remember to pay your District 14 dues. Our nominal \$25 additional dues payment are for our specific District 14 needs. The \$25 payment should be sent to Sharon DeCastro in our national office: NAWJ, 1341 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 4.2, Washington, D.C. 20036. Please specify that your payment is for

THANK YOU JUDGE IPEMA!



As a closing note, a special and well deserved kudos and a heartfelt thank you goes to Judge Tamila Ipema of San Diego, for her two years of service as the outgoing District 14 Director. Here is a photo of our personalized thank you gifts. Her commitment and dedication to NAWJ is matched only by her enthusiasm to continue to serve, currently as the *Vice President of*

Districts of NAWJ! **THANK YOU JUDGE IPEMA!!**

Please feel free to contact me at asant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov or your regional/state chairs above with information about awards, retirements, color of justice, mentor jet or any other NAWJ programs presented in your area.

Anita Santos

Judge, Contra Costa County Superior Court

NAWJ District 14 Director

November 2015 E-blast

UPCOMING CONFERENCES YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS:

Plan to Attend!

**The National Association of Women Judges
is proud to host the
2016 IAWJ Biennial Conference
May 26-30, 2016
Washington, D.C. USA**

**Women Judges and the Rule of Law:
Assessing the Past, Anticipating the Future**

NAWJ looks forward to welcoming you to Washington, D.C.!

More information:

<http://www.lawj.org/BiennialConference2016WashingtonDC.html>



***Also, please mark your calendars for the
NAWJ 38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE that will take
place in beautiful***

***Seattle, Washington: October 5-9, 2016 at the
Sheraton Seattle Hotel***



***The Planning Committee is hard at work
to provide us with incredible educational
programs as well as lots of fun activities
in Seattle!***



Faces of Justice

**National Association of Women Judges
38th Annual Conference
October 5-9, 2016
The Sheraton Seattle Hotel**