

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

DISTRICT 14 (CALIFORNIA & NEVADA) E-NEWS!

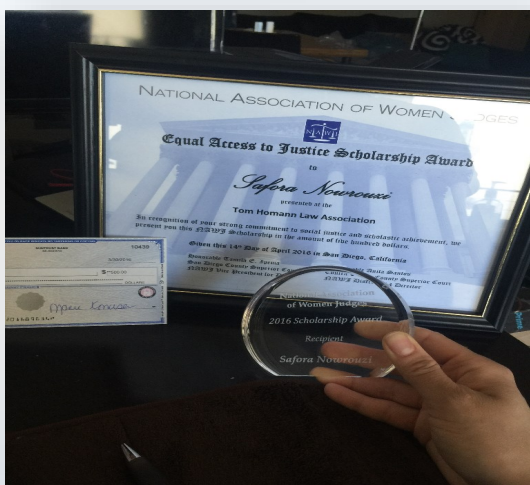
District 14 E-BLAST

MAY 2016



Greetings From the Director!

Hello to all of our amazing west coast bench. You have been busy jurists since my last blast! Many of you have been recognized for your dedication to the public, as you will read on the pages that follow, and many more have been serving and planning. Our international convention is right around the corner and I hope to see many of you in our nations capital in a few weeks. Cheers!



DISTRICT 14 CONGRATULATES NAWJ 2016 “ACCESS TO JUSTICE” SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SAFORA NOWROUZI!

Each year, the NAWJ through its *Access to Justice Scholarship Program*, provides one \$500.00 scholarship to each of our 14 Districts. The scholarship is for a law student who has demonstrated a commitment to diversity and equal opportunity and access in the justice system.

District 14 has selected Safora Nowrouzi, a third-year law student at *California Western School of Law* in San Diego. She received her B.A. in English literature from California State University, Northridge. After taking the LSAT, Safora returned to Iran for several months to work on a documentary covering the underground scene of the LGBT community in Iran. She made friends with female soccer players who exposed her to the widespread, yet secret LGBT community in Iran.



© Paul Clark Photography

Safora accepting the scholarship award with Judge Tamila Ipema, NAWJ Vice President of Districts, NAWJ members and the selection committee: Judges Randa Trapp, Paula Rosenstein, Cindy Davis and Theodore Weathers.

Her documentary is still in the works because she returned to the U.S. to start law school. In law school, Safora worked with in *diversity services*, promoting diversity on campus, and held leadership roles in *Pride Law* and the *Middle Eastern Law Students Association*. Congratulations Safora!



Safora Nowrouzi at the THLA awards dinner with Shohreh.



Safora Nowrouzi and Judge Paula Rosenstein, a Member of the NAWJ 2016 Scholarship Selection Committee.



DID YOU KNOW?

EACH DISTRICT IN NAWJ HAS FUNDING FOR AN ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP TO AWARD TO A DESERVING STUDENT?

CONTACT YOUR NAWJ STATE CHAIR, DISTRICT CHAIR, OR ANY BOARD MEMBER FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Congratulations Judge Elizabeth A. Riggs!



The *Lawyers Club of San Diego* celebrated *International Women of Color Day* on March 29, 2016 at the firm of *Higgs Fletcher & Mack, LLP*. March was women's history month and a time to honor the many contributions that women have made to shape history and society. *International Women's Day* marks a time to recognize the struggles, as well as honor the acts of courage and achievements, made by women of color.

This year, the *Lawyers Club* honored Judge Elizabeth A. Riggs (Ret.). Judge Riggs served on the bench from 1979-2001. She was the first African-American female Judge in San Diego County. Governor Jerry Brown appointed Judge Riggs in 1979. During her time on the Municipal Court, Judge Riggs opened the first *Domestic Violence* court in San Diego County. In 1998, she became a Superior Court Judge, working both in adult and juvenile courts. I

In 2001, Judge Riggs retired after 22 years of service. Her many accolades include being inducted as a *Trailblazer* in the *San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame* and being honored as a legend of the bar by the *San Diego County Bar Association*. Judge Riggs' contributions to the community include founding the *Black Attorneys' Association of San Diego* and serving as President of the *Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association*.

NAWJ salutes you, Judge Riggs!



San Diego Superior Court Judge Randa Trapp with Judge Riggs at an event in February 2016.

DISTRICT 14 CONGRATULATES SAN MATEO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE ELIZABETH LEE

2016 ROSE BIRD MEMORIAL AWARD RECIPIENT!



The *California Women Lawyers' Association* (CWL) honored San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Lee with the *Rose Bird Memorial Award* on April 8, 2016. CWL commented, "Judge Lee exemplifies the qualities of compassion and courage in a field that is, still, largely dominated by men. She has worked with purpose to improve the legal process and profession, and has become not only a role model to female attorneys and judges, but also an asset to the community due to her outstanding service."

CWL instituted the *Rose Bird Memorial Award* in 2000 in honor of Chief Justice Rose Elizabeth Bird (1936-1999). The award honors judges for judicial excellence, public service and inspiration to women lawyers. CWL selected NAWJ's very own Judge Lee, a long standing and invaluable NAWJ leader and mentor, taking on the challenge of human trafficking and modern day slavery among her causes. We join with CWL in honor of you and all that you do!



The bar, bench, family, friends and community who gathered in honor of Judge Lee at the stunning San Mateo County History Museum in Redwood City



Judge Elizabeth Lee accepting the honor from CWL President Kelly Robbins, left, and later with her proud son, Thomas.



NAWJ President Elect Judge Diana Becton, spoke in honor of Judge Lee.



Judge Anita Santos & Judge Diana Becton. Judge Santos, NAWJ Dist. 14 Director, presented congratulations on behalf of NAWJ.

**Tom Homann LGBT Law Association honored
Judge Tamila Ipema
With the “Friend of the Community Award”**



CONGRATULATIONS JUDGE TAMILA E. IPEMA!

Judge Tamila Ipema was the recipient of the *Friend of the Community Award* from the LGBT Law Association. This award is given to an exemplary jurist who provides outstanding community service, above and beyond service to the legal profession.



Judge Ipema with her husband Judge Hank Ipema, Judge Michael Groch, and local San Diego attorneys Mr. Halgren and Mr. Pulos.



Judge Ipema accepting the award.

NAWJ Recognizes International Women of Courage Awardee Nisha Ayub!



Nisha Ayub is the leading advocate for transgender rights in Malaysia. She is the co-founder of *The SEED Foundation*, which provides support to transgender individuals and other marginalized communities, and *Justice for Sisters*, which provides legal aid to transgender individuals and seeks to end persecution of LGBT people. Recently, Ms. Ayub spearheaded a campaign to promote positive images of transgender people, and currently runs workshops on sexual orientation and hate crimes for government, corporate, and civil society groups. As a transgender Muslim woman living in a Muslim-majority country, Ms. Ayub has been beaten and imprisoned simply for who she is. At age 21, she was arrested for dressing as a woman and served three months in a men's' prison, where she was sexually abused. Despite continuing threats, Ms. Ayub perseveres infighting for the rights of LGBT individuals throughout her country.



Nisha Ayub met with Judges Ted Weathers and Tamila Ipema, San Diego Superior Court, DDA Oscar Garcia, Sgt. Dan Meyer (SDPD), Matthews Stephens (Progressive Law Group), Carolina Ramos (“The Center”), Rachel Cheeseborough (Department of State Liaison) Natalie Maroun (SDDC), and Fabienne Perlov (SDDC). The two-hour conversation included the role of law enforcement and the judicial system in protecting/supporting the LGBT population and other minority populations from violence, hate crimes, and other forms of discrimination.

NAWJ JOINS IN CELEBRATING JUSTICE JUDITH McCONNELL FOR HER WORK IN CIVIC EDUCATION !



Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye has selected Administrative Presiding Justice Judith D. McConnell, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, for the *Chief Justice's Award for Exemplary Service and Leadership* for her outstanding work in civic learning.

The award honors an individual, entity or program deserving of special recognition for outstanding service to the judicial branch.

Justice McConnell chairs the *Power of Democracy Steering Committee*, a non-partisan non-political statewide civic learning initiative consisting of leaders from the judiciary, business, and education. The committee developed a Civic Learning Award program for K-12 schools throughout the state, as well as a blueprint for revitalizing civic education. Civic leaders, judicial officers and business leaders in six counties are partnering with their local school districts to engage students in rigorous and engaging civic learning opportunities. Twenty-eight school districts have passed resolutions endorsing the importance of civic learning.

Thank you Justice McConnell!



NAWJ JOINS IN HONORING JUDGE DIANA BECTON THE BENARD S. JEFFERSON JUDGE OF THE YEAR!



On April 30, 2016, the California Association of Black Lawyer 's selected Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge Diana Becton as their *Bernard S. Jefferson Judge of the Year* for her continuous and long-standing commitment to serving the community. Judge Becton is a native of the bay area, where she has lived, practiced law, raised her family, and has served as a jurist since her appointment in 1995.

Recently, in 2014, she earned her *Masters of Theological Studies* and is teaching theology in addition to being a jurist. She organized a *Know Your Rights* symposium and a *Clean Slate Day* for a local church where she and fellow volunteers assisted over 800 community members resolve outstanding citations and expunge their criminal records.

Judge Becton is also our very own President Elect. We join in saluting her!



Judge Becton with Contra Costa County Presiding Judge Elect Jill Fannin (left).

Judge Becton with San Francisco County Presiding Judge Teri Jackson (right).

California Association of Black Lawyers



39th Annual State Conference



Judge Becton accepting the award (above).



Los Angeles County Judge Bobbi Tillmon with Judges Becton and Santos (above). Judge Tillmon administering the oath to incoming CABL officers (below).



Judges Becton and Santos with Justice Martin Jenkins, California Court of Appeals, 1st District.



SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT BOOK DRIVE UPDATE!

In December 2015 we told you of about the book drive conducted by the San Diego Superior Court bench that was coordinated by judicial officers: Terrie Roberts, Tamila Ipema and Pennie McLaughlin, pictured here.



We are pleased to update that the *La Colinas Women's Detention Facility* library is being filled with the books donated by the bench, check out their new library.

Thank you to the NAWJ coordinators and all that contributed to this wonderful accomplishment!



La Colinas Women's Detention Facility new library stocked with the books collected by NAWJ members.

NAWJ Welcomes New Member Judge CLARE MAIER !



We extend our welcome to another awesome Judge has joined NAWJ—Clare Maier, Superior Court Judge, Contra Costa County. Judge Maier is currently assigned to the felony criminal trial department.

Judge Maier was appointed in 2007 after serving as a Judge Pro Tempore for six years. As an attorney, she worked at civil firms for a few years before serving as a Deputy Public Defender for eight years,. She is a graduate of U.C.L.A., followed by U.C. Berkeley Law, Boalt Hall.

Judge Maier has distinguished herself as a trainer and educator, and was a U.S. trainer for Macedonian Judges , Criminal Procedure Training, U.S. Dept. of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Office of Criminal Justice and Assistance Partnerships, Macedonia.

She has also served as an Adjunct Professor at Berkeley Law School, and as part of the faculty for New Judges Orientation and Primary Assignment Orientation. She has been an instructor statewide in the areas of domestic violence, collaborative courts, temporary judges conduct, and child custody evaluations.

Judge Maier has received the following awards: *2015 Rose Bird Memorial Award; 2014 Women’s section of the Contra Costa County Bar Association Service Award; Zero Tolerance Award for Leadership and Service – 2010-2012.* **WELCOME JUDGE MAIER!**

FOR ALL NEW OR RETURNING MEMBERS OF DISTRICT 14:

WE WOULD LOVE TO HIGHLIGHT YOU!

If you are a new or returning NAWJ District 14 member and would like to let all of us meet you in our E-blast, please send me your information , photo and a brief statement, biography or vitae. Send to asant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov

Correction and humble apologies to Judge Kristin Rosi

In the February E-blast Judge Kristin Rosi’s, name was misspelled and is corrected here. We are excited and continue to welcome back Kristin Rosi, Acting Chief Administrative Law Judge, California Department of Insurance.



DISTRICT 14 CURRENT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

April, 2016

(4/1- 4/30/16)

March, 2016 Total	1,227
New	10
Reinstated	4
Dropped/Purged: (2 dropped, 32 purged)	-34
Total Membership	1,207

Membership By Categories:

Lifetime	111
Lifetime (Installment)	2
Honorary (no expiration date)	8
Voting Member	856
Associate Member	22
Amicus Judicial	57
Retired Member	116
Subscriber	2
Student	5
Law Clerk	5
Resource Board Member (no expiration date)	23
Total Membership	1,207

EMAIL ANITA SANTOS, BELOW, IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THE DISTRICT 14 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER THAT CONTAINS CURRENT MEMBERS' CONTACT INFORMATION!

Please send me or your regional/state chairs, 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
asant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov

May 2016 E-blast

D.C. is filling up fast and we hope to see you there!

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.iawj.org/BiennialConference2016WashingtonDC.html>



The logo features a large number '25' in the center, flanked by blue ribbons containing the years '1991' and '2016'. A small globe icon is positioned between the two '5's.

*Registration is Open 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