

National Association of Women Judges

District 1 Quarterly Newsletter

New Women Judges

Congratulations to the following women judges who were appointed to the bench from 10/15 to 5/17



SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT: Elspeth Cypher

APPEALS COURT: Vickie L. Henry

DISTRICT COURT: Jean Curran, Sara Weyland Ellis

HOUSING COURT: Maria Theophilis

US BANKRUPTCY COURT: Elizabeth D. Katz

JUVENILE COURT: Susan Oker, Kathryn Phelan Brown, Michela C. Stewart, Kelli Ryan DiLisio and Arose Nielsen

PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT: Mary Rudolph Black, Claudine Wyner



Retired judges Margot Botsford, Cynthia Cohen and Geraldine Hines are honored by NAWJ past presidents Nan Duffly (SJC ret) and Amy Nechtem (Chief Justice Juvenile Court) and members of District One. (photo credit: C. Anne Fitzgerald)



MaryLou Muirhead (Boston Housing Court) and District One hosted a Reception Honoring the Women Judges of Massachusetts at the Brooke Courthouse on June 21, 2017. Many NAWJ members were in attendance as Amy Nechtem (Chief Justice of the Juvenile Court) welcomed and introduced all the women who had been appointed to the bench or elevated to the bench on a higher court since the last Welcome Reception in October 2015.

Nan Duffly (SJC ret.) introduced recently retired judges Margot Botsford (SJC), Geraldine Hines (SJC) and Cynthia Cohen (Appeals Court). NAWJ presented them with a small token of gratitude for their collective sixty years of dedicated service on the courts of the Commonwealth.

Quick News

- U.S. Magistrate Judge Judith G. Dein has been designated to serve as magistrate judge for the District of Puerto Rico in Puerto Rico's bankruptcy proceedings recently filed in federal court in San Juan. Because of the unavailability of magistrate judges in the District of Puerto Rico, Judge Dein was designated pursuant to a statute allowing chief judges to designate magistrate judges to perform judicial duties outside of their appointed district. District of Massachusetts Chief Judge Patti B. Saris agreed to the designation. Judge Dein will work with five federal judges, led by U.S. District Court Judge Laura Taylor Swain of the Southern District of New York, who was appointed by U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts in June, days after the Commonwealth filed for protection. The case is seen as the largest bankruptcy in the history of the United States municipal debt market. Because Puerto Rico is not covered by traditional bankruptcy laws, the government of Puerto Rico sought protection pursuant to Title III of PROMESA, the federal Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act passed by Congress in 2016. Judge Dein has served as Magistrate Judge for the District of Massachusetts since 2000. She served as Chief Magistrate Judge of the court from 2009 to 2012.

- U.S. Magistrate Judge Marianne B. Bowler of the District of Massachusetts presented *Reflections on a Career* at her fiftieth reunion at Regis College in Weston, Massachusetts on May 13, 2017. After serving in the District Attorney's Office and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Judge Bowler was appointed to the federal bench in 1990. She served as Chief Magistrate Judge for the District of Massachusetts from 2002 to 2005. Her influence is felt internationally as she served two terms as a member of the International Judicial Relations Committee of the U.S. Judicial Conference. A crowded room of fellow alumni listened as Judge Bowler offered insights into many of the high profile civil and criminal cases over which she has presided during her twenty-seven year career as a magistrate judge.

- Haiganush Bedrosian retired in January 2016. She was the daughter of Armenian immigrants. The name "Haiganush" in Armenian means "sweet woman." She grew up in Cranston, Rhode Island. She graduated from Pembroke College (Brown University) and went to Suffolk University Law School in Boston, MA. Thirty years ago Bedrosian became the first female judge to serve in the Rhode Island Family Court. Bedrosian, as the senior associate justice on the Family court, became the acting chief judge in June 30, 2010 after which she was permanently appointed to that position by the Governor of the State of Rhode Island. Before her appointment to the Bench, Judge Bedrosian was in private practice specializing in family law for several years after working as Assistant General Counsel to the Providence & Worcester Railroad Company. She also worked as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General in the Criminal Prosecution Unit in the early 1970s. Judge Bedrosian was instrumental in creating statewide standards for Guardian ad litem in Family Court cases. She founded the Rhode Island Trial Judges Association and served as its president for several years.

District One Leaders Meet with Federal Bench

On March 24, 2017, NAWJ Past Presidents Amy Nechtem (Chief Justice of the Juvenile Court) and Nan Duffly (SJC Justice ret.) along with Appeals Court Justices Ariane Vuono and Mary Sullivan met for a brown-bag lunch with seven of the women serving on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. The NAWJ leaders met with Sandra L. Lynch, the first woman to serve on the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and its first female Chief Judge (2008 – 2015), Chief Judge of the District Court Patti B. Saris, Judge Indira Talwani of the District Court, and Magistrate Judges of the District Court Marianne B. Bowler, Judith G. Dein, Jennifer C. Boal, and Page M. Kelley. At the federal courthouse overlooking Boston Harbor, the group discussed the various NAWJ national programs as well as immigration/deportation issues, women in prison and their re-entry into society, and how these issues are discussed. District One looks forward to continued collaboration with the federal bench.



Judges Share Their Knowledge and Expertise with Practitioners

Women of the judiciary were busy this spring as faculty and presenters for educational programs for the bar sponsored by Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education. Programs included judicial forums, trial and mediation skills workshops, as well as seminars on substantive areas and emerging areas of the law. Thank you to the following judges who shared their expertise with practitioners at MCLE programs:

Family Law Conference 2017 – Hon. Angela M. Ordonez (Chief Justice, Probate and Family Court), Hon. Lee M. Peterson (Middlesex Probate and Family Court)

Housing Court Judicial Forum 2017 – Hon. Diana H. Horan (Worcester Housing Court), Hon. Fairlie A. Dalton (Northeast Housing Court)

Criminal Superior Court Judicial Forum 2017 – Hon. Janet Kenton-Walker (MA Superior Court)

Trial Preparation & Presentation Skills – Hon. Shannon Frison (MA Superior Court)

Making Objections Workshop 2017 – Hon. Heidi E. Brieger (MA Superior Court)

Civil Mediation Workshop 2017 – Hon. Elizabeth Butler (MA Superior Court – ret.)

Federal Court Summer Orientation – Hon. Denise J. Casper (U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts)

Personal Injury Law Conference 2017 – Hon. Heidi E. Brieger (MA Superior Court),

Handling Sexual Assault Cases from Investigation to Trial – Hon. Beverly J. Cannone (MA Superior Court)

Workers' Compensation – Hon. Sabina T. Herlihy (MA Department of Industrial Accidents)

Reasonable Accommodations in Housing Demystified – Hon. Fairlie A. Dalton (Northeast Housing Court)

When DCF Steps Into Your Case – Hon. Maureen H. Monks (Middlesex Probate and Family Court)

Divorce Law – Hon. Susan D. Ricci (Worcester Probate and Family Court)

Upcoming Events

39th Annual Conference

October 11-15, 2017

Atlanta, Georgia

Theme: “Access to Justice: Past, Present, and Future”

Conference highlights: A Conversation with President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter
Lessons from the Civil Rights Movement for Today's Judges

Optional tours: Carter Presidential Library and Museum led by Jason Carter
Civil Rights tour led by former aide to Martin Luther King, Jr., Tom Houck

Any other news? Send it our way so it can be included in the next newsletter!

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