



March 5, 2024

Report of the Annual Conference Site Selection Committee
Chair: Honorable Marcella A Holland

Our committee met on January 22, 2024. Prior to the meeting, a revised Request for Proposal (RFP) for hosting the Annual Conferences in 2026 and 2027 was circulated to the committee. This is the first year we are seeking to recommend a conference site for two consecutive years. We believe that some venues may need more than the less than 2 years once the Board votes, to actually prepare to host an annual conference, especially with fundraising. Therefore, our goal is to lengthen the time that a jurisdiction will have to finalize plans for hosting an annual conference to less than 3 years, starting with 2027. This change also helps staff to negotiate earlier for a better hotel rate in the chosen jurisdiction.

During our meeting a few minor changes were made to the RFP and it was approved to be circulated to District Directors and state chairs and to be posted on our website for all members to review. We also requested that the RFP be included as part of a notice or monthly update email. The deadline set for receipt of Proposals is April 15, 2024. The Committee will meet shortly thereafter to make a decision on the sites. If we do not receive any or only 1 proposal, we will assess other options of securing a second proposal for the other year or proposals for both years. We do not anticipate receiving no proposals this year since we are now free to go to any jurisdiction that complies with our anti-discrimination policy confirmed with an affirmation by the applicant member.

The Committee will present its recommendations to the Executive Committee at its August meeting and if accepted, at the outgoing Board meeting in October in San Diego.



March 11, 2024

Report of the Ensuring Racial Equity in the Justice System Committee
Chairs: Honorable Vickie L. Henry and Attorney Patricia M. Taitano-Valdovinos

- Monthly meetings: [Third (3rd) Tuesday of the month @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST]
 - January 10, 2024 @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST – 14 committee members in attendance
 - January 17, 2024 @ 3:00 PST/ 5:00 EST – 4 committee members in attendance
 - This was a duplicate of our January 10th meeting to support EST committee members who asked for a later time.
 - February 27, 2024 – 12 committee members in attendance
 - Next scheduled meeting:
 - April 16, 2024 @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST

- Virtual social hours:
 - January 23, 2024 @ 5:00 PST/ 8:00 EST – 4 committee members in attendance
 - March 12, 2024 @ 2:00 PST/ 5:00 EST – only co-chairs showed up, although we did meet our goal of creating opportunities for judges who couldn't attend our monthly meeting.

- NAWJ Webinars and Program Subcommittees
 - Girls in the Systems: A Journey Through the Child Welfare and Justice Systems
Co-sponsor w/ Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Committees
Program completed: February 1st @ 10:30-11:45 PST
 - Microaggressions 2: When the Judge Commits the Microaggression
Co-sponsor w/ Fairness and Access
Subcommittee members:
 - MA Justice Vickie Henry
 - MA Judge Arose Nielsen
 - MI Judge Lisa Martin
 - Atty Patricia Taitano-ValdovinosConfirmed date/time: May 8th at 3:00-4:15 p.m. EST
Moderator and panelists are confirmed:
 - Moderator:
Hon. Donovan J. Foughty, Presiding Judge for the Northeast Judicial District of North Dakota
 - Panelists:
Hon. Josie Garton, Superior Court Judge, Third Judicial District, Alaska
Hon. Jenifer Ashford, District Magistrate Judge, 10th Judicial District, Kansas

Hon. Lisa Hardwick, Appellate Judge, Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District

Hon. Jeffrey Locke, Chief Justice of the seven Massachusetts trial courts (retired)

D&I Program Certification Form completed and submitted to Janelle Mihoc.

- Citation to Slavery Cases in Modern Cases

Co-sponsor w/ Fairness and Access

Subcommittee members:

WA Justice David Keenan

CA Judge Renee Stackhouse

Atty Janelle Price

Proposed date/time: June 20th @ 12:30 PST (Juneteenth)

Proposed panelists and moderator: TBD

Justin Simard, professor at Michigan State University College of Law + students – confirmed

Dr. Michele Goodwin, professor at University of California, Irvine - proposed

List of citation to slavery cases can be found at Citing Slavery Project.

Article on issue: Opinion: Unprecedented California caste discrimination bill would address an important problem - The San Diego Union-Tribune

(sandiegouniontribune.com)

Program topic/description/2-3 learning objectives: TBD

D&I Program Certification Form completed and submitted to Janelle Mihoc.

- Discrimination based on Caste (as a Protected Class)

Co-sponsor w/ Fairness and Access

Subcommittee members:

Hon. Ann Breen-Greco

CA Judge Renee Stackhouse

Atty Tarina Mand

Proposed date/time: TBD

Proposed panelists and moderator: TBD

Attorney Tarina Mand – confirmed

Wendy Shiba, Chair of the ABA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Center and Chair of the ABA's DEI Advisory Council – confirmed

Isabel Wilkerson, author of the book, Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents – proposed. The subcommittee requested she waive her participation fee since we are promoting her book.

An additional speaker and moderator were recently proposed.

Program topic/description/2-3 learning objectives:

To educate attorneys and judges on caste:

What is Caste? Why Caste is being used to discriminate?

- NAWJ Counterbalance: Winter 2024 Committee Spotlight at pg.18 – Ensuring Racial Equity Committee Top Ten Tips to Reduce Bias: Here.

➤ NAWJ Monthly Update: 5-Minute Ensuring Racial Equity Corner

January ~ 5 Minute Ensuring Racial Equity Corner: Conversations on Race

Below are a series of short clips featuring everyday people discussing issues of race and identity in America. Choose a video and hear from someone with a different or similar perspective than your own - or watch them all! As you watch these videos, keep an open mind as you consider other people's perspectives. Listen carefully to each person's story before comparing it to your own experiences.

- [A Conversation with Asian Americans on Race](#)
- [A Conversation About Growing Up Black](#)
- [A Conversation with Latinos on Race](#)
- [A Conversation with White People on Race](#)
- [A Conversation with Black Women on Race](#)
- [A Conversation with Police on Race](#)

(A short commercial will play before the video.)

You may reach the committee co-chairs at vickie.henry@jud.state.ma.us and patricia.taitanovaldovinos@gmail.com.

February ~ 5 Minute Ensuring Racial Equity Corner: Words (and their Historical Roots) Matter

As we celebrate Black History Month, we invite NAWJ members to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous contributions of Black people in our nation's history. We further encourage you to think about common words or phrases that may have their roots in racial oppression. For example, when you hear the term "grandfathered in" or "grandfather clause," what do you think of? Did you know that the term originates from laws and constitutional amendments passed by Southern states during Reconstruction that effectively prevented Black citizens from voting? In brief, those laws and constitutions only allowed men whose fathers or grandfathers had the right to vote as of a certain, earlier date (e.g., before the Civil War) the ability to register to vote. Those restrictions, along with other requirements like poll taxes or literacy tests, made it nearly impossible for Black men to vote. Therefore, while some may consider it to be "just a word," the term "grandfathered" derives from a harmful, legal framework that disenfranchised scores of formerly enslaved persons following the Civil War. Instead of using the term, consider using "exempted." The Supreme Court has referred to grandfather clauses as one of "a variety of notorious methods" used by states to suppress the rights of Black voters after the 15th Amendment was ratified. [Brnovich v. Democratic Nat'l Comm.](#), 594 U.S. ---, 141 S. Ct. 2321, 2330 (2021). For another example of a judicial opinion noting this history see [Comstock v. Zoning Bd. of Appeals of Gloucester](#), 98 Mass. App. Ct. 168 n. 11 (2020). Moreover, take a moment to consider our nation's history and how that impacts terms and phrases that many deem innocuous.

For more information about "grandfathered," check out this 3-minute video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Q5GuAVKBX4&pp=ygUZZ3JhbmRmYXRoZXJpbmcgZGVmaW5pdGlvbG%3D%3D>. (A short commercial will play before the video.)

You may reach the committee co-chairs at vickie.henry@jud.state.ma.us and patricia.taitanovaldovinos@gmail.com.
Thank you to Judge Alison Bachus for this submission.

March 2024 ~ 5 Minute Ensuring Racial Equity Corner: Celebrations on BIPOC Women

Ah, Spring! In addition to the equinox, the month of March provides many opportunities - importantly, national holidays to reflect on racial equity as well as the legal and social challenges BIPOC women face. This month, we can take some time to enrich our knowledge of BIPOC women, music, and the justice system. Below are interesting articles, video clips, and web resources for you to consider

March 1 – National Black Women in Jazz and the Arts Day

(Georgia): <https://nationaltoday.com/national-black-women-in-jazz-and-the-arts-day/#:~:text=National%20Black%20Women%20in%20Jazz%20and%20the%20Arts%20Day%2C%20celebrated,arts%20in%20all%20its%20glory.>

The “cabaret card” was a license systematically revoked by New York law enforcement to stop musicians of color from performing, effectively restricting their means of income. <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/01/866933897/the-law-police-used-to-discriminate-against-musicians-of-color>

Who owns the rights to indigenous music?

<https://newsroom.ucla.edu/magazine/copyright-law-music-indigenous-peoples>

Immigration, Asian American women, and jazz culture:

<https://www.billboard.com/music/music-news/asia-born-women-new-big-band-era-8505653/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sN1GQvST3g>

March 10 – Harriet Tubman Day. Here is a website about Harriet Tubman, and a video clip from the dramatization of her life: <https://nationaltoday.com/harriet-tubman-day/> and <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4648786/>

Harriet Tubman’s “economic precarity”, and how Black women today face the same challenges: <https://msmagazine.com/2022/03/08/harriet-tubman-20-black-women-pay-gap-maternal-mortality-economic-justice/>

Harriet Tubman’s messages through music: <https://scalar.usc.edu/works/will-the-circle-be-unbroken/songs-of-the-underground-railroad>

Here’s a great jazz rendition of Marion Williams singing Tubman’s favorite “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”:

https://www.google.com/search?q=marion+williams+swing+low&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS940US940&oq=marion+williams+swing+low&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAIQIRigAdIBCDY2NzBqMGo3qAIAAsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:6d1a57b5,vid:EFGAySl2dXI,st:0

You may reach the committee co-chairs at vickie.henry@jud.state.ma.us and patricia.taitanovaldovinos@gmail.com.

Thank you to Judge Arose Nielsen for this submission.



The National Association of Women Judges
Diversity & Inclusion Committee
March 15, 2024

Co-Chair: Honorable Francine L. Applewhite

Co-Chair: Honorable Lisa M. Martin

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee's new co-chairs began their work in January 2024.

On January 17, 2024, the D&I Committee hosted a webinar, "Why D&I Plan Matters" for the membership body. The webinar began with Director Rachel Rossi of the Department of Justice's Office for Access to Justice, discussing diversity and inclusion its need and implementation. Judge Applewhite took the membership through NAWJ's Diversity and Inclusion Plan ("Plan") adopted by the Board in 2021. The Plan set forth details on the following:

- (1) Maintaining and increasing diversity in NAWJ Leadership and each district.*
- (2) Maintaining and increasing diversity in NAWJ committees.*
- (3) Fostering diversity in NAWJ's membership.*
- (4) Utilizing educational programs to promote diversity.*
- (5) Stressing importance of diversity through publications.*

As the Committee is charged with monitoring adherence to the Plan, in 2023 we created a Certification Form for monitoring and compliance purposes. An immediate goal is to have a fillable Certification Form placed on NAWJ's website for use by all program and committee chairs/co-chairs.

The Committee will focus on monitoring, outreach, and guidance. We will continue to disseminate the Plan and Certification Form as needed.

Our standing meeting has been changed to the first Monday of each month at 3:00pm ET.

Other topics the group will consider, which all require working in tandem with existing committees, include membership outreach, how we review or measure progress, D&I topics for annual meeting, and the state of D&I as a whole.



March 11, 2024

Report of the Fairness and Access Committee

Chairs: Attorney Patricia M. Taitano-Valdovinos and Honorable Vicky Kolakowski

- Monthly meetings: [First (1st) Friday of the month @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST]
February 2, 2024 @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST – 7 committee members in attendance
March 1, 2024 @ 3:00 PST/ 5:00 EST – 4 committee members in attendance

Next scheduled meeting:

May 3, 2024 @ 12:00 PST/ 3:00 EST

- NAWJ Webinars and Program Subcommittees

- Microaggressions 2: When the Judge Commits the Microaggression

Co-sponsor w/ Ensuring Racial Equity in the Justice System

Subcommittee members:

MA Justice Vickie Henry

MA Judge Arose Nielsen

MI Judge Lisa Martin

Atty Patricia Taitano-Valdovinos

Confirmed date/time: May 8th at 3:00-4:15 p.m. EST

Moderator and panelists are confirmed:

Moderator:

Hon. Donovan J. Foughty, Presiding Judge for the Northeast Judicial District of North Dakota

Panelists:

Hon. Josie Garton, Superior Court Judge, Third Judicial District, Alaska

Hon. Jenifer Ashford, District Magistrate Judge, 10th Judicial District, Kansas

Hon. Lisa Hardwick, Appellate Judge, Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District

Hon. Jeffrey Locke, Chief Justice of the seven Massachusetts trial courts (retired)

D&I Program Certification Form completed and submitted to Janelle Mihoc.

- Citation to Slavery Cases in Modern Cases

Co-sponsor w/ Ensuring Racial Equity in the Justice System

Subcommittee members:

WA Justice David Keenan
CA Judge Renee Stackhouse
Atty Janelle Price

Proposed date/time: June 20th @ 12:30 PST (Juneteenth)

Proposed panelists and moderator: TBD

Justin Simard, professor at Michigan State University College of Law + students – confirmed

Dr. Michele Goodwin, professor at University of California, Irvine - proposed

List of citation to slavery cases can be found at [Citing Slavery Project](#).

Article on issue: [Opinion: Unprecedented California caste discrimination bill would address an important problem - The San Diego Union-Tribune \(sandiegouniontribune.com\)](#)

Program topic/description/2-3 learning objectives: TBD

D&I Program Certification Form completed and submitted to Janelle Mihoc.

- Discrimination based on Caste (as a Protected Class)

Co-sponsor w/ Ensuring Racial Equity in the Justice System

Subcommittee members:

Hon. Ann Breen-Greco
CA Judge Renee Stackhouse
Atty Tarina Mand

Proposed date/time: TBD

Proposed panelists and moderator: TBD

Attorney Tarina Mand – confirmed

Wendy Shiba, Chair of the ABA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Center and Chair of the ABA's DEI Advisory Council – confirmed

Isabel Wilkerson, author of the book, Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents – proposed. The subcommittee requested she waive her participation fee since we are promoting her book.

An additional speaker and moderator were recently proposed.

Program topic/description/2-3 learning objectives:

To educate attorneys and judges on caste:

What is Caste? Why Caste is being used to discriminate?

- (Webinar in support of Pride Month)

Co-sponsor w/ LGBTQ

Subcommittee members:

TBD

Proposed date/time: June, specific date TBD.

Proposed panelists and moderator: TBD.

Program topic/description/2-3 learning objectives: TBD

- (Webinar: specific topic TBD)
We would like to co-sponsor w/ Self-Represented Litigants Committee
Subcommittee members:
 - Judge Courtney Boehm
 - Attorney Deborah Greenspan
 - TBDProposed date/time: TBD, potentially early September or late November.
Proposed panelists and moderator: TBD.
Program topic/description/2-3 learning objectives: TBD



Midyear Report, of the Immigration Committee
Honorable Joan Churchill, Chair
March 14, 2024

Membership

Membership on the NAWJ Immigration Committee, chaired by Retired Immigration Judge Joan Churchill and Retired Immigration Judge Carol King, Vice Chair, includes active and retired Immigration Judges, the current and immediate past President of NAIJ [the National Association of Immigration Judges], state court judges who have handled immigration cases as lawyers or judges and a retired judge who handles immigration cases pro bono for members of the U.S. military and has been mentoring and helping Afghan women judges who migrated to the United States after the fall of the Taliban.

Meetings

The Committee has met twice since the preparation of our 2023 Annual report. We met in person at the 2023 Annual jointly with the Retired/Senior Judges Committee which is also chaired yours truly. We met by zoom video conference call on December 7. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2024, by zoom.

WEBINARS

1. ABA JD NCALJ webinar on Article I courts.

The Committee has agreed to cosponsor a webinar on April 17, 2024, about Article I courts, which is being organized by the National Conference of Administrative Judges, [NCALJ] a conference of the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association [ABA]. The webinar is designed to present Article I courts as a possible model for administrative tribunals in general. The webinar will draw heavily from the extensive advocacy in recent years for restructuring of the Immigration Courts as Article I courts.

Speakers will include

- Karen Grisez, a pro bono immigration attorney who chaired the ABA Immigration Commission and spear headed the issuance of two reports which called for establishment of Article I Immigration Courts,
- Betty Stevens, a retired immigration attorney with the Office of Immigration Litigation in the U.S. Department of Justice [DOJ], who was involved with drafting a bill on behalf of the Federal Bar Association [FBA] to create an Article I Immigration court.
- Jeremy Grayboyes, Research Director for the Administrative Conference of the United States [ACUS], who has written extensively about administrative tribunals.

Immigration Judge Mimi Tsankov, has taken the lead in connection with this webinar. Judge Tsankov, a past cochair of this Committee, is President of the National

Association of Immigration Judges [NAIJ] and currently Chair Elect of NCALJ, Uncertainty has arisen about whether Judge Tsankov will be able to moderate the panel, as the DOJ, in which the Immigration Courts are housed, recently began requiring NAIJ officers to obtain advance approval for speaking engagements. Judge Tsankov's request for approval to participate in the panel is pending. In light of this development, Judge Churchill has agreed to join the panel as back up moderator.

2. **Child labor by Migrant Children**

The Committee agreed to develop a webinar on the phenomenon of child labor by recent migrant children, largely unaccompanied, who are in the United States to pursue asylum applications. This topic has been the subject of an expose by the New York Times, and has attracted attention by other media. We are in the early stages of developing this webinar. The NAWJ Human Trafficking Committee has agreed to joint sponsorship, as has the NAWJ Juvenile Justice Committee.

3. **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status**

Judge Tiffany Palmer of this committee, who organized our excellent webinar of this subject last year, emphasizing the role of state court judges, wrote up a comprehensive summary of the webinar in light of the fact that it was not recorded. Her article was published in the 2023 Summer/Fall issue of Counterbalance. It can be accessed on the NAWJ website at:

https://www.nawj.org/uploads/files/counterbalance/cb38_1.pdf, pages 9&10.

NAIJ

Our Committee continues to follow the status of the National Association of Immigration Judges, which was decertified as a bargaining unit by a decision of the Federal Labor Relations Authority about 50 years after the status was first accorded. There has been no progress to date in gaining recertification. As mentioned above, the Executive Office for Immigration Review, housed in the Department of Justice, has recently, citing NAWJ's loss of status as a collective bargaining unit, begun requiring NAIJ officers to obtain advance approval for speaking engagements, as well as written publications.

AFGHAN WOMEN JUDGES

Our Committee members continue to provide assistance to the Afghan Women judges located in the U.S. who fled the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Member Beverly Cutler has been particularly active in leading a team of NAWJ volunteers in the DC/MD/VA area. She wrote an inspiring article for CounterBalance, describing the many ways in which she has been providing assistance to Afghan women judges in the DC/MD/VA area who fled Afghanistan after the takeover by the Taliban. The article can be located on the NAWJ website at:

https://www.nawj.org/uploads/files/counterbalance/cb38_1.pdf -- pages 11-14]

Report of the NAWJ Membership Outreach and Retention Committee for the 2024 Midyear Conference Board Meeting

Co-Chair: Honorable Dawn Rogers, 334th Civil District Court, Harris County, TX
Co-Chair: Honorable Beverly Cutler, 3rd Jud. Dist., AK, retired

Summary:

We apologize that the NAWJ Membership Outreach and Retention Committee, a small committee, has not accomplished much since the October Annual Meeting—because only one committee member besides the co-chairs has shown interest in participating in the committee. Please see Appendix A where we detail the steps taken. We have beseeched the national office and President Sage to appoint more members. Recently President Sage included a message in the February Monthly Update inviting interest in the committee. This monthly update was distributed electronically to all NAWJ members. The apparent lack of response is disappointing, because our mission is to encourage women judges to join NAWJ, and to help engage existing NAWJ members to make them feel involved and connected to NAWJ.

Membership:

Our current committee includes only state judicial officers, albeit in a variety of types and levels of courts. We co-chairs believe the committee should be more inclusive to strengthen membership. Our committee has no federal judges or military judges, nor any NAWJ Past Presidents or current Board members. We encourage the Board or President to appoint a more robust group to better represent NAWJ's geographically broad, and personally and professionally diverse, membership.

Meetings:

Since the Annual Conference, the committee has not met due to lack of interest, although in the previous two years, we tried to meet about every six weeks. The new co-chair, Judge Dawn Rogers, has met several times with continuing co-chair, Bev Cutler, learning of all the committee's past work, reviewing previous meeting agendas and reports, and strategizing about how to get the committee going. There has been significant and lasting non-response to Judge Rogers' emails inviting participation. Like many NAWJ committees with members located all across the country, the challenge of finding a time to meet may be part of the problem.

Plan of Action:

Co-chairs will follow up, individually, with each committee member for confirmation they truly don't want to be members. Perhaps there is issue with emails. If no new members, we will proceed with whoever attends meetings (once we agree on monthly date/time.)

APPENDIX

On November 17, 2023, Janelle Mihoc provided the Co-Chairs the Membership Outreach and Retention Committee Roster, consisting of the following NAWJ judges:

Dawn Rogers
Beverly Cutler
Bianka Perez
Maria Salas Mendoza
Emily Shattil
Judith Wheat

On December 13, 2023, Dawn Rogers sent a Holiday Greeting email and introduction to the committee members on the roster.

In response to the email, Emily Shattil indicated she did not know if she would be able to serve on this committee.

In response, Bev Cutler extended herself for a conference call so both co-chairs could discuss a plan of action.

There were no other responses, but Judge Wheat was verbally in touch with Bev Cutler affirming assent to service.

On December 14, 2023, Janelle Mihoc provided an updated Membership Outreach & Retention Committee Roster consisting of the following Judges:

Dawn Rogers Beverly
Cutler Courtney
Boehm
Bianka Perez
Maria Salas Mendoza Emily
Shattil
Judith Wheat

On December 28, 2023, co-chairs, Dawn Rogers and Bev Cutler had a zoom conference call to discuss plans for the committee and ideas to increase membership, adding to the ideas already presented by this committee in the past several years. Such new ideas included but were not limited to:

- (1) contacting law schools and assigning student liaisons to increase student membership;
- (2) adding to the next meeting itinerary the pro and cons of more outreach to male judges;
- (3) reminding NAWJ members and informing nonmembers of upcoming conferences, including those with IAWJ, for increased membership.

Follow up email sent to committee members. On January 9, 2024, Dawn Rogers notified Janelle Mihoc of Emily Shattil's confirmation (received January 9, 2024) that she did not want to be a member of this committee. No further responses were submitted.

February 8, 2024, Dawn Rogers updated Janelle Mihoc of the lack of responses and asked for additional names to be added to the committee rosters. Promptly responding, Janelle Mihoc indicated that she would seek guidance from President Sage. President Sage then solicited new committee members in her February Monthly Update.



2024 Midyear Report to the Board
For the NAWJ Retired/Senior Judges Committee
By Honorable Joan Churchill, Committee Chair
March 12, 2024

Membership

Our membership spans the USA, with members from Florida to Alaska, from East Coast to West Coast, and from many states in the heartland. We are a large committee, with over 30 members. Our membership includes state and federal judges, who have served on a variety of types and levels of courts: Federal and State, administrative, Military, trial and appellate, including a state Supreme Court. Several NAWJ Past Presidents are on the Committee.

Meetings

We have met quarterly. Attendance at our meetings is robust.

Since our last annual report, prepared for the 2023 Annual Meeting, we have met 3 times.

--We met at the 2023 Annual meeting in person (jointly with the Immigration Committee which yours truly also chairs).

--Since the annual meeting we have met twice by zoom conference call:

- December 14, 2023
- February 29, 2024

--Our next meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2024 by zoom conference call.

CONFERENCES

NAWJ ANNUAL MEETING 2023: We organized our annual get together for all retired and senior judges during the first night of the Annual conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was scheduled in the hospitality suite for the first night of the conference.

NAWJ MIDYEAR MEETING 2024 –Austin TX -- APRIL 6-8, 2024

A few of us plan to attend

NAWJ ANNUAL MEETING 2024 –San Diego, CA -- October 17-19, 2024

A fair number of our members, plan to attend.

We plan to arrange our annual social get together for retired/senior judges during one of the hospitality suite evenings.

IAWJ BIENNIAL 2025 – April 9-12, 2025. Capetown, South Africa

About a half dozen of the members of our committee have expressed interest in attending.

We formed a subcommittee to explore organizing side trips in South Africa before and after the Biennial.

COUNTERBALANCE

The Committee regularly supplies at least one article per issue for the *Life After the Bench* column of *Counterbalance*

- The 2023 Summer/Fall issue contained an article on the activities of the Retired/Senior Judges Committee by Committee Chair Joan Churchill's in a column entitled *Spotlight on Committees*. This was previously unreported.
- The 2024 Winter/Spring issue includes a heartwarming article submitted by our committee for the *Life after the Bench* column, written by Judge Beverly Cutler about

the assistance she has been providing to several Afghan women judges and their families in the DC metropolitan area whom she has been helping acclimate to living in the United States. They require help becoming financially self-sufficient and finding employment that makes use of their legal/judicial background.

- For the *2025 Summer/Fall issue*, Judge Carol Scott-Berry has promised an article about the work that an informal group of attorneys in her community has been doing to arrange respectful dialogues between people of differing opinions about contentious issues.

WEBINAR PLANNING

Several members of the committee have formed a subcommittee to develop a program for a webinar, or possibly a session at an upcoming annual meeting, designed to educate our members about the range of activities available for retired judges after they leave the bench as well as unexpected events that can interfere with one's retirement plans.

Self-Represented Litigants Committee

Midyear Report

March 16, 2024

The committee has held several meetings, mostly because of varying time zones and availability. However, after the various meetings, assistance from Janelle and guidance from President Sage, the committee has set its goals.

- 1) Presentation on Self Represented Litigants and AI; and
- 2) Co-sponsoring a program with the Fairness and Access Committee.

The committee will be meeting again next week to start gathering thoughts on date, time and speakers for the SRL/AI program. Importantly, the committee has a preference for a breakout session at an annual or midyear meeting, but since President Sage indicated that all that programming has been finalized, we are still trying to decide whether to wait for next year or move forward with a webinar. On the second issue, 2 members of our committee will be collaborating with the Fairness and Access Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Salas Mendoza, Chair