



COUNTERBALANCE

Volume 24, Issue 2, Spring 2003

What's in this issue: ?

Membership News 3-4

District 14 Challenges All NAWJ Members 6

Mid-Year Meeting Highlights 7-9

Project Updates

Color of Justice	10
History Project	11
How to Become a Judge Program	11
Tamar's Children Project	12

2003 Conference Information 1, 22-23

District Reports 15

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Message from the President

Hon. Bea Ann Smith



Hon. Bea Ann Smith

Your Board of Directors came to Texas for its Midyear Meeting on March 21-23. It was my great pleasure to welcome everyone to Austin, and the spring weather lifted all our spirits. NAWJ Board members, along with local judges, were honored at a spirited judicial reception hosted by the Travis County Women Lawyers. The festivities flowed onto a balcony overlooking the State Capitol. We were presented with welcome gifts by the Travis County Bar Association as well. The reception's good food and good camaraderie set a lively and energetic tone for our weekend meetings. Many of the judges attended a theater event following the reception.

After very productive meetings all day Saturday, we were the guests of Texas Chief Justice Tom Phillips at his historic home in nearby Bastrop, where we enjoyed authentic Mexican food and margaritas, and were joined by several members of the supreme court and other local judges. Earlier this year Chief Justice Phillips hosted Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in his home, while she was in Texas to swear in Supreme Court justices. On that occasion, I presented her with a dozen yellow roses on behalf of NAWJ. (See photo page 2)

In our national office we have bid farewell to Donna Campanella (who moved to Seattle) and welcomed Jeff Groton as Director of Operations and Membership. Jeff brings a lot of enthusiasm to our office; you may have received an email from him as part of our email outreach service to our members. Geoffrey Platnick, one of our program attorneys, has taken a new position, but we still have the good services of Alexis Hill, who is now our Director of Programs, and has been the moving force in completing our exciting new history book that will be a treasured remembrance of NAWJ's history. Our newest addition is

(continued on page 2)

Come Celebrate at the 25th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

Cristina Silva, Assistant to the Executive Director

Don't miss NAWJ's upcoming 25th Annual Conference entitled *Justice in America - Justice in the World!* It will be held October 8-12, 2003, in Washington, D.C. The host committee is working hard to bring you exciting and innovative judicial education sessions, fabulous receptions including one at the United States Supreme Court, and an unforgettable Gala Dinner that will be held at the historic National Building Museum. Conference activities will be taking place in the heart of D.C., an ideal place to address the issue of justice around the globe.

The registration fee for conference attendees includes all education sessions, receptions, meals, transportation to events listed in the program, and use of the hospitality suite. Registration forms postmarked after the registration deadline of *September 9, 2003*, must include a \$50 late registration fee. Rooms at the Mayflower Hotel have been guaranteed at the rate of \$189.00 plus tax, single or double occupancy and are going fast!! Make sure to register soon to get

(continued on page 2)

Volume 24, Issue 1

2002-2003

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Cristina D. Silva
Assistant Editor

Counterbalance is published 3 times a year.

Message from the President *(continued from page 1)*

Cristina Silva, who is serving as Executive Assistant to Connie Belfiore, our very capable Executive Director. The office is abuzz with new energy and new skills to serve our organization.

Our Mid-Year Meeting was attended by Founding Mother Joan

Dempsey Klein, who was able to observe firsthand the financial stability her generous annual gifts have afforded NAWJ. Another enhancement to our financial well-being was the \$118,000 profit contributed

from Diana Eagon's careful stewardship of the Minneapolis Conference, with the help of her wonderful Friends Committee. Treasurer Sarah Curley reported that we have improved our accounting and audit procedures to better track and manage NAWJ's funds. We were also honored to have Norma Shapiro join us.

Noel Kramer, 2003 Annual Conference Chair, is bursting with exciting plans for NAWJ's 25th Annual Conference to be held in October in Washington, D. C. You do not want to miss this historic conference, which will include a reception at the United States Supreme Court! The very timely theme will be *Justice in America-Justice in the World*, and we are inviting many international women judges to attend. You can register on our web site at www.nawj.org, and it is not too early to make your reservation at the gracious Mayflower Hotel. We have authorized a full tuition scholarship for the District Director who adds the most members to her district this year — let the contest begin! The NAWJ History Book will be on sale at the conference. Plan to buy one for yourself and one for a local law school library or women's bar!

Brenda Loftin, Vice-President of

Project Development, has challenged each District Director to present at least one *Color of Justice* program in her district on or around Law Day to inspire minority students to consider a career as a lawyer or judge. The Board authorized additional funds to help sponsor more of these exciting outreach

programs.

We hope that our new list-serve of email addresses will facilitate communications between members and from the National Office. Connie Belfiore and Cristina Silva have begun to send a *Monthly Update* of current happenings to all members. Mel Flanagan and staff have given *Counterbalance* a lively

new look and made it available on the web site. If there are corrections to your listing in the new Membership Directory, or if your email address is not included, please contact Jeff at jgroton@nawj.org.

I have been proud to represent NAWJ at the midyear meetings of the American Judicature Society and the Conference of Chief Justices, along with the ABA Conference of Intermediate Chief Judges and a reception at the National Center for State Courts. In April I am being honored for my service to NAWJ as a Pacesetter at the Conference of Southern Women in Public Service. I am deeply honored to serve you and to publicize the programs and projects of this terrific organization. ■

Come Celebrate at NAWJ's 25th Annual Conference *(continued from page 1)*

a room at this special rate. Reservations must be made on or before September 12, 2003, to guarantee the conference rate and room availability. To register for the Conference, or for more information, visit NAWJ's web site at www.nawj.org, or call the National Office at (202) 393-0222. NAWJ and the host committee looks forward to seeing you there! ■



Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and President Bea Ann Smith at Swearing-In Ceremony of Texas Supreme Court Justices

NAWJ Congratulates Hon. Cissy Daughtrey

Alexis K. Hill, Director of Programs



Hon. Cissy Daughtrey

NAWJ is proud to congratulate Hon. Martha Craig "Cissy" Daughtrey, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, Nashville, Tennessee, for being named a 2003 Margaret Brent Award recipient. Established by the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession in 1991, when Senator Hillary Rodman Clinton was chair, the award celebrates the accomplishments of outstanding women lawyers who have excelled in the profession, and have either: 1) influenced other women to pursue legal careers; 2) opened doors for women lawyers in a variety of job settings that historically were closed to them; or 3) advanced opportunities for women within a practice area or segment of the profession. A founding member and leader of

NAWJ, Judge Daughtrey has done all of those things. Her vision has been a driving force in the organization.

Founding Mother Justice Joan Dempsey Klein explained why this recognition is very well deserved:

To say that Judge Daughtrey sees the "big picture" and how each piece needs to fit is an understatement. Today, I still marvel at all she has accomplished and that she is still on the front line.

[She] has not wasted time tilting at windmills but rather has channeled her efforts where she could be most effective in implementing her agenda....I would like to think I am one of those committed individuals, but my efforts pale in comparison to those of Judge Daughtrey.

The inspired, yet never quixotic, efforts of both Judge Daughtrey and Justice Klein, along with vivid stories of perseverance and jocularly of other members, are documented in the forthcoming NAWJ history book: *Keeping the Promise of Justice: The 25th Annual Conference of the National Association of Women Judges*. We are proud of Judge Daughtrey and her upcoming receipt of the Margaret Brent Award. ■

NAWJ members who have received the Margaret Brent Award

- 1992 Hon. Rosalie Wahl (NAWJ Founding Member)
- 1993 Hon. Betty Fletcher, Hon. Leah Sears
- 1994 Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Hon. Joyce Kennard
- 1995 Hon. Patricia Wald
- 1996 Hon. Shirley Abrahamson (NAWJ Founding Member)
- 1997 Hon. Rosemary Barkett, Hon. Beryl Levine, Lynn Hecht Schafran, Esq.
- 1998 Hon. Joan Dempsey Klein (NAWJ Founding Member)
- 1999 Hon. Bernette Joshua Johnson, Judith Resnik, Esq.
- 2000 Hon. Norma Shapiro, Hon. Carol Hunstein, Barbara Babcock, Esq.
- 2001 Hon. Sandra Day O'Connor (NAWJ Founding Member), Hon. Judith Kaye
- 2002 Hon. Rya Zobel
- 2003 Hon. Martha Craig Daughtrey (NAWJ Founding Member)

Appointment Dream Come True for NAWJ Member Diane Kroupa



Hon. Diane Kroupa

Diane Kroupa, a NAWJ member and Minneapolis tax attorney, has been appointed judge of the United States Tax Court. Judge Kroupa was nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the Senate, after undergoing two interviews with White House officials and a Senate confirmation hearing. She brings with her over 20 years of tax law experience, including serving six years as a Minnesota Tax Court Judge, where she served two and a half years as Chief Judge, twelve years as a tax lawyer in private practice, and four years as a government attorney in the Honors Program. In 2001, Judge Kroupa was recognized for her contributions to the tax profession and tax administration when she received the Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota Bar Association Tax Section, and in 1983 she was awarded the Chief Counsel Merit Award for drafting major tax legislation and regulations. The appointment fulfills a lifelong dream of longtime NAWJ member Judge Kroupa.

★ Recognitions and Awards ★

Judge Patricia Roggensack, Madison, WI, won a hotly contested election to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. She joins **Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson**, **Justice Ann Walsh Bradley**, and **Justice Diane Sykes**, making women the majority of justices on the court.

Seattle University School of Law honored Washington State Supreme Court Justices **Bobbe Bridge**, **Mary Fairhurst**, **Faith Ireland**, **Barbara Madsen** and **Susan Owens** at a Champagne and Strawberries reception on March 9, 2003. With the election of Justice Fairhurst, women constitute a majority on the Court.

Susan P. Read was appointed by the governor to be Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals. Her appointment made women the majority on the highest court in the state. Judge Read was given special honor at the NYS Association of Women Judges on January 25, 2003, and **Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin**, Associate Justice of the NYS Appellate Division, First Department, made the presentation.

Judge Maxine White, Milwaukee, WI, was given the Sacagawea Award from Professional Dimensions, for being a role model and mentor to women and minorities pursuing careers in the law.

On April 26, 2003, **Judge Jean DiMotto**, Milwaukee, WI, was honored with a National Alumni Merit Award by Marquette University. The award cited Judge DiMotto's achievement in integrating her professions of nursing and law with her work on the bench, her professional contributions

in teaching and publishing in both professions, and her commitment as an oblate to the Benedictine Women's Monastery in Madison, Wisconsin.

Hon. Karla Moskowitz was presented with the prestigious Edith I. Spivack Award by the New York County Lawyer's Association Women's Rights Committee on April 2, 2003. She is the sixth recipient of the award.

Justice Marla Luckert was sworn in on January 13, 2002, as the second woman ever to serve on the Kansas Supreme Court.

Nevada Supreme Court **Justice Nancy Becker** has been nominated for a Woman of Distinction Award, which is sponsored by the Nevada Association of Women Business Owners.

The Bronx County Gender Fairness Committee honored **Hon. Anita R. Florio**, New York State Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, at their annual Women's History Month program.

Hon. Mary Ann Driscoll is this year's recipient of the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers' (MAWL) Distinguished Jurist of the Year.

Hon. Emily Wilson was selected as a 2003-2004 Woodrow Wilson Fellow. The Fellows program was established to encourage the flow of ideas between the academic and non-academic sectors of society, and to connect a liberal education with the world beyond the campus.

Congratulations to **Justice Wanda Fowler**, Texas 14th Court of Appeals, who was named Appellate Judge of the Year by the Houston Chapter of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists.

(continued on page 5)

Women Shattering the Glass Ceiling!!!

For the first time, women make up the majority on the highest courts of the States of Ohio, New York, Washington, and Wisconsin!!!

Executive Director's Report

Constance L. Belfiore, Esq.

Women Judges are Gaining Ground...and Making a Difference!



Constance L. Belfiore

The statistics are startling – 19 of 58 chief justices are women! The news is invigorating – four states have a majority of women on their highest courts! The anecdotal evidence is strong – an increasing number of women are being appointed and/or elected to judgeships in many areas of the country! The reality is setting in – women judges are gaining ground.

The current president of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and chair of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), Chief Judge Judith Kaye (NY), cannot contain her excitement when she recounts that almost one-third of the country's chief justices now are women. Then she proudly adds that for two years in a row, the CCJ and NCSC have been led by women (Chief Judge Annice Wagner (DC) immediately preceded her in this dual role), and, after allowing a “non-woman” to hold the post next year, Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson (WI), will become the third woman in four years to lead the two groups. Of important note is that these three esteemed leaders are all active members of NAWJ!

As a result of last November's elections, four states now boast of majorities of women on their highest courts. They are preceded only by Minnesota, which pioneered a female majority on its highest court from 1991-93. All five of these historic courts, too, include active NAWJ members.

These dramatic events are supported by increases in the number of women graduating from law school, and ascending to the bench in many jurisdictions. Such pronouncements about women gaining prominence on the bench inevitably invite the inquiry: Do women judges really make a difference?

Much evidence has been gathered, and many different conclusions have been reached. However, a common sense approach to the issue is revealing. Of course women make a difference! They generally bring a different perspective to the bench, as they do to everything they undertake. They bring perspectives based not only on gender, but on socio-economic, familial and professional experiences. They add diversity to the bench, as do men who hail from different backgrounds and maintain different philosophies. Their ultimate decisions may not be much different from those reached by men, but they add credibility to the decisions of the entire bench.

I like the quote from Her Excellency Mary Robinson, that women judges act “not... to feminize the courts and the law, but to humanize them.” There are differences between women and men, between the wealthy and the working, between liberals and conservatives, and those differences should be celebrated. The more that the bench reflects the community, the more the community will trust judges and respect their decisions. The more that the community trusts and respects its judges, the more independent the judiciary can become.

All good things come from trust and respect, and thus the judiciary benefits from adding sufficient women and minorities to reflect their communities. We here at NAWJ try to increase diversity by reaching out to inspire underrepresented youth and lawyers to become judges. Please contact your NAWJ District Director and offer to help with NAWJ outreach programs in your communities. NAWJ is here to help you gain ground, and to make a difference within and well beyond your courtroom. ■

Recognitions and Awards (continued from page 4)

Hon. Martha Grace has been reappointed to a second five-year term as Chief of the Juvenile Court Department. Judge Grace served as a past District 1 Director and as International Director of the NAWJ. **Hon. Karyn Faith Scheier** has been appointed to be the new chief justice of the Massachusetts Land Court Department for a five-year term; Judge Scheier has served as associate justice of the Land Court since 1994.

Hon. Sharon Townsend has been appointed as the Administrative Judge for the 8th judicial district of New York. **Kathleen McCann** (MI) has been elected by her colleagues to fill a vacancy on the Judicial Tenure Commission.

NEW STAFF MEMBER HAILED!



An excellent example of NAWJ networking at its finest,

Cristina D. Silva Cristina D. Silva was referred to NAWJ by District 11 Director Hon. Sue Kurita, and she previously interned for NAWJ member Hon. Kathleen Cardone. Cristina already has made herself invaluable as Assistant to the Executive Director, and Connie sings her praises.

A native of El Paso, Texas, Cristina is a 2001 graduate of Wellesley College, where she majored in political science and Spanish. She worked as a development associate for the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, and as a legal assistant at a law firm. She currently volunteers for the National Hispanic Institute, the Women's Information Network, and NARAL Virginia. At NAWJ, Cristina currently is responsible for the *Monthly Update*, *Counterbalance*, *Color of Justice* communications, and a myriad of other tasks, all of which she juggles amazingly well.

NAWJ is Bringing the World Together

Hon. Mel Flanagan, Vice-President of Publications and Editor

As we prepare for our 25th Annual Conference in Washington D.C., we find ourselves in very troubling times. Our troops are abroad and true peace seems a long way off. Regardless of our individual feelings about this war, world events have and will continue to have an impact in our communities. NAWJ can help shape our future by becoming a voice for reason and justice internationally.

NAWJ is asking our membership to help sponsor women judges from war-torn countries to attend and contribute to the Conference. Our theme, *Justice in America - Justice in the World*, could not be more timely. We have the opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to justice throughout the world by drawing international women judges into our search for justice and providing them with much-needed support and encouragement.

NAWJ's International Director, Leslie Alden, is working with a committee to select international guests who would have no other means of attending and are willing and able to contribute to our planned programming. If you know of international judges visiting in your area or associated with a university or law school whom you think should be considered, please send the information to Judge Alden. Please assist NAWJ and women judges of the world in creating a valuable opportunity to communicate our unfailing commitment to justice here and abroad and contribute as you are able. We accept checks and credit cards at the National Office.

Members, districts, states or any interested parties may contribute. NAWJ members in California already have committed to sponsoring fully one woman judge from an Eastern European country and have issued the challenge detailed below.

Will you accept the Challenge?

District 14 Challenges You!

Hon. Judy Chirlin

In connection with the efforts of the International Outreach Committee, District 14 has pledged to pay the costs of one foreign woman judge to attend the Annual Conference in Washington, DC. We challenge other districts and chapters to do the same! For those smaller districts that might not be able to sponsor a judge entirely, we urge you to join with others to make some contribution to the expenses of an invited judge.

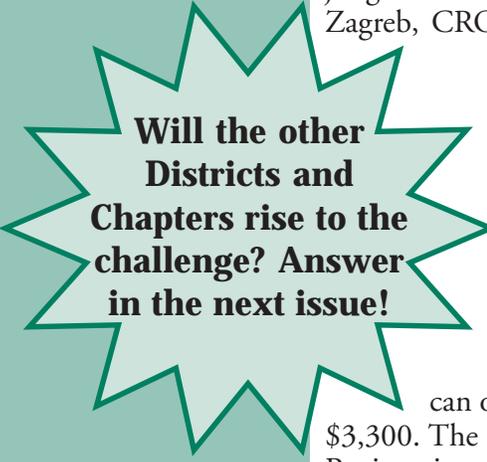
The goal is to invite judges from countries that do not have strong traditions of women's organizations, in an attempt to expose those women to the synergy, friendship and strength in our group.

I have taught numerous CEELI programs in Eastern Europe, and have identified four judges who would be ideal invitees. They are Melanija Grgic, a Juvenile Court Judge from Zagreb, CROATIA, Randzana Hadzibevovic, a Criminal Court Judge from BOSNIA, Manuela-Paula Preda-Popescu, a Civil Court Judge from ROMANIA, and Katerina Enchova, a Civil Court Judge from Sofia, BULGARIA.

All four were in a CEELI class I taught entitled "Judging in a Democratic Society." They all are bright, engaging, open and energetic women whom I'm sure would spread the notion of a dynamic women judges group within their countries. They speak excellent English, an important thing, as the cost of interpreters would be prohibitive. All have individual stories that would either warm or break your heart, when you hear of the struggles in some cases for existence and in others for judicial independence.

We in District 14 would like to invite all of them. Unfortunately, we can only afford to sponsor one. We figure the cost of each judge at approximately \$3,300. The cost breaks down as follows: Airfare, \$1600; Hotel, \$1000 (5 nights @200); Registration, \$400; Miscellaneous, \$300. The costs could be less if we invite more than one, as they most certainly would be willing to share hotel rooms.

If you'd like more information on any of the individuals or the details, please feel free to call me (213) 974-6973 or e-mail me at jchirlin@earthlink.net. You can also coordinate through Leslie Alden, NAWJ International Director. Thank You!



**Will the other
Districts and
Chapters rise to the
challenge? Answer
in the next issue!**

A Taste of Texas Hospitality

Mid-Year Meeting Update

Cristina Silva, Assistant to the Executive Director

Arriving just in time to see the famous Texas bluebonnets in bloom, the Board of Directors gathered in Austin, Texas for the annual Mid-Year Meeting. The meeting was held the weekend of March 21-23, and thanks to President Bea Ann Smith, the Board of Directors were treated to a taste of true Texas hospitality.



NAWJ Mid-Year Meeting Attendees

Friday evening the Board was greeted at a Welcome Reception hosted by the Travis County Women Lawyers Association, giving everyone an opportunity to relax after traveling and visit with one another. Judge Smith welcomed everyone to her hometown and set the tone for an outstanding meeting.

Throughout Saturday, the Board met to discuss projects, district reports, financials, by-laws, and other NAWJ business. There are some exciting developments in several districts. Districts 1 and 11 have been especially hard at work recruiting new members. Several presentations of NAWJ's *Color of Justice* program encouraging teenagers to consider careers in law and judging, will occur Law Day 2003 (*see article on page 10*). Congratulations to all the District Directors who have been working hard to activate your members!

Saturday evening, Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Phillips opened his historic home in Bastrop, Texas, and treated the Board to a traditional Mexican dinner. It was a festive evening full of good food and better company. The evening concluded with a surprise birthday celebration for Secretary and Resource Board Liaison, Hon. Vanessa Ruiz.

The meeting continued on Sunday with a report from Executive Director Connie Belfiore, regarding the preliminary results of the membership survey, which will be very helpful in forming the NAWJ strategic plan. Phoebe deReynier, a Chief Executive Officer for the Center for Public Policy Priorities, has volunteered her time to help create and evaluate the membership surveys, as well as advise in the development of a strategic plan. The Board also explored possible development efforts and anticipates launching a major fundraising effort in the near future.

The meeting was full of good news. The organization has grown tremendously over the past several years, thanks to the hard work of the Board of Directors, Resource Board and staff, it continues to flourish. Congratulations to President Bea Ann Smith for a wonderful and successful Mid-Year Meeting! (*See photos pages 8-9.*)

WELCOME!

New Members

January - March 2003

Hon. Patricia A. Flynn
Hon. Dori Contreras Garza
Hon. Anne M. Geoffrion
Hon. Judith Ann Hard
Hon. Michele Hogan
Hon. Yvonne L. Hughes
Hon. Sheryl Ramstad Hvass
Hon. Michele Dane Jakwitsch
Hon. Julie Kocurek
Hon. Kathleen B. Lang
Hon. Jo-Lynne Q. Lee
Hon. Elizabeth A. Lindsley
Hon. Elia C. Lopez
Hon. Orlinda Naranjo
Hon. Amy L. Nechtem
Ms. Debbie Potter
Hon. Edwina Richardson Thomas
Hon. Jennifer Rymell
Hon. Mary Sabulsky
Hon. Janet L. Sanders
Hon. Barbara M. Schepher
Hon. Jennifer B. Sobel
Hon. Sonja M. Spears
Hon. Ellen M. Spodek
Hon. Shirley Troutman
Hon. Jennifer L. Walker Elrod
Hon. Sandra L. Watts

Mid-Year Meeting 2003 Highlights



Mid-Year Meeting 2003 Highlights



Color of Justice Presentations Commemorate Law Day 2003

Cristina Silva, Assistant to the Executive Director

The National Association of Women Judges is proud to announce that our educational outreach program, the *Color of Justice*, has gone national! Thanks to the hard work of Project Director, Hon. Brenda Stith Loftin, the number of *Color of Justice* presentations has grown exponentially over the past two years. The program is dedicated to encouraging young women and minorities in seventh through twelfth grades to consider the law and judgeships as career goals.

The half-day to day-long program features law students, lawyers, and judges in panel discussions and allows for a question and answer period for the participants, giving young adults an inside look at life in the judiciary from law school to the bench. Programs already have been delivered in St. Louis and New Jersey, thanks to Judges Brenda Stith Loftin and Shirley Tolentino. This past April, Judge Diane Kavadias Schneider organized a very successful *Color of Justice* that attracted students from East Chicago Central High School.

In commemoration of Law Day 2003, districts across the nation held presentations of the program. Hon. Fernande Duffly, District 1 Director, organized a *Color of Justice* program held on the campus of Harvard Law School with students from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. In New York, programs were held in the Bronx, and New York, Kings, Queens and Westchester Counties. Thanks to Resource Board member Denise Kranz, Esq., a donation in the amount of \$1,000 was received to sponsor the New York County program. The program was co-sponsored by the Bronx County Women's Bar Association and the Association of Black Women Attorneys.

*The number of
Color of Justice
presentations has grown
exponentially over the
past two years.*

Justice Mary Muehlen Maring, together with Federal Magistrate Judge Karen Klein, State District Judge Debbie Kleven, and UND School of Law Professor Stacy Leeds, presented the *Color of Justice* program in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Students from three high schools participated. In St. Louis, past participants of the program who indicated an intention to pursue law as a major were invited to attend a two-hour follow-up program in connection with Law Day.

Future *Color of Justice* programs have already been planned. Judge Stephanie Joannides is working hard to help bring the program Anchorage, Alaska this summer. In October, 2003, St. Louis will host its Third Annual *Color of Justice* Program. Representatives from the Federal District Court, State Court, Division of Worker's Compensation, Administrative Law Judges, and local attorneys will participate.

The National Office looks forward to hearing more about the upcoming *Color of Justice* programs. If you are interested in organizing a program, or would like more information, please contact Cristina Silva, Assistant to the Executive Director, at (202) 393-0222 or csilva@nawj.org.

Save the Date!

OCTOBER 9, 2003

25th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
GALA DINNER

Thanks to the hard work of Friends Committee Chair Deborah Israel, of Piper Rudnick, conference attendees can look forward to a fabulous gala dinner on Thursday night. The dinner, included in your Conference registration fee, will be held at the historic National Building Museum and over 700 people are expected. You won't want to miss it! Check out your complimentary NBM brochure inside this issue of *Counterbalance* or visit www.nbm.org for more information.

Extra! Extra! Read All About Us!

Our intimate portrait of NAWJ commemorating the 25th Annual Conference has gone to press in time for distribution in October. The book utilizes first person narrative from a number of founding members, as well as other dedicated members, and relies in large part on exclusive NAWJ interviews which cannot be found in any other history or biography. The book contains highlights of every Conference, including the programming and the impromptu.

Learning from our history will be an invaluable way to identify which programs have been most effective, and which program areas have been overlooked that require attention now. In addition, readers of the book will learn about the roles NAWJ played in legislative processes such as the passage of

Features exclusive interviews not found in any other book!

federal child support legislation and the Violence Against Women Act. The book will also remind members that the gains we have made are not necessarily secured for the future, and we hope our members will be reinvigorated to insist upon equal access to justice in the new millennium. We trust that the multifaceted implications of our history are discussed at our 25th Annual Conference this October, and that those discussions will inform our future programs.

Every member is encouraged to buy books for her/his alma mater and local bar associations. Please call our publisher at (800)778-3350 x104 to order your books at the reduced price of \$79.95 or \$49.95. (Book prices will increase significantly after the initial printing.)

From the Bar to the Bench

New York sponsors “How to Become a Judge” Program

Cristina Silva, Assistant to the Executive Director

On January 18, 2003, as the result of extensive planning and coordination by the NAWJ District 2 Judicial Opportunities and Selection Committee, an inspiring forum entitled “From the Bar to the Bench: A ‘How to’ Guide for Attorneys,” was held in Rochester, New York. The forum was sponsored by NAWJ and the New York State Bar Association’s Task Force on Increasing Diversity in the Judiciary. Co-chairs Justices Marcy L. Kahn and La Tia Martin, and Program Co-chairs Judges Renée Forgens Minarik and Leslie Stein, worked with other Committee members to ensure that the program was a huge success.

The day-long program featured: a plenary panel discussion on judicial screening committees; concurrent panels on the different courts, including town, city, supreme, surrogate; and a section on appointed positions. Hon. Victoria A. Graffeo of the N.Y.S. Court of Appeals was the keynote speaker. Presenters included Hon. Marcy L. Kahn, Hon. Marilyn L. O’Connor, Hon. Judith Hard, and Hon. Renée Forensi Minarik. Attorneys on judicial screening panels and sitting judges were panelists. Co-sponsors included the N.Y.S. Association of Women Judges, Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York, Greater Rochester Association of Women Attorneys and the Monroe County Bar Association.

The program was designed as an outreach by the District 2 to encourage judicial service, particularly from underrepresented groups such as women and minorities.

The *Daily Record*, Rochester’s legal newspaper, published a favorable and lengthy article about the program accompanied by many photos of the Judges and participants. The program was extremely well attended and touted as an overwhelming success. Plans are progressing for similar seminar programs in Albany, Buffalo, and White Plains.

NAWJ, Women Legislators and New Secretary Join Forces To Establish “Tamar’s Children”

Hon. Patrice Lewis, District 4 Director



Hon. Patrice Lewis

It took two years of fighting red tape and the decisive actions of the new Secretary of Public Safety and Corrections, but Maryland now has a sentencing alternative for defendants who are pregnant or are caring for infants.

“Tamar’s Children” places pregnant defendants in an alternative setting, allows mothers and infants to remain together and provides counseling in trauma abuse, substance abuse and parenting, career options and access to computers.

The news of Secretary Mary Ann Saar’s decision came just two hours before the NAWJ Maryland Chapter’s annual dinner with Maryland women legislators, giving everyone at the dinner one more reason to celebrate!

Five days later, on March 15, 2003, Judge Brenda P. Murray, Chief Administrative Law Judge at the Securities and Exchange Commission and national chair of NAWJ’s Women in Prisons Project,

Judge Mimi Cooper, Harford County District Court and secretary of NAWJ’s Maryland Chapter, and I visited the program, which is located at the William P. Carter Center in Baltimore.

There we met four fascinating women who had been just placed at Tamar on early parole or probation. Three were pregnant and the fourth had just been reunited with her two-month-old baby. For Darlene, the mother, and her baby, Jasmine, the twenty-four hours preceding our arrival was the longest time they had been together since Jasmine’s birth. The pure pleasure and comfort of being restored to each others arms was an overwhelming sight. The mother kept remarking that she could not believe (though it was so apparent) that the infant remembered her.

NAWJ’s District 4 and Maryland Chapter, with the help of women legislators in the General Assembly, have been fighting for two years to provide a civilized and decent sentencing alternative for pregnant defendants who want to make better choices for themselves and their children. In fact, a week

(continued on page 13)

WANTED

LexisNexis Scholarship Winners!

Thanks to the generosity of **LexisNexis**, NAWJ is able to again offer two scholarships to attend the Annual Conference. The first scholarship will be awarded to the NAWJ member who submits the best proposal or concept paper for a new educational project. The second scholarship will be awarded to the District Director who recruits the most new members within the year.

Last year, Hon. Leslie Alden was awarded a scholarship for her proposal for the international program, *Beyond Borders*, currently being developed in conjunction with the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and National Judicial Education Program (NJEP).

The deadline for submitting a program proposal is July 1, 2003 and should be sent to Alexis Hill, Director of Programs, at ahill@nawj.org, or via post at the National Office. Good Luck to all!!

Calling All Future NAWJ Leaders!

The Nominating Committee of the National Association of Women Judges is seeking eligible members interested in serving for the 2003-2004 term as:

President-Elect
Vice President for Publications
Vice President for Districts
Secretary
Treasurer

International Director and Delegate to the International Association of Women Judges (*Will take office at the conclusion of the 2004 IAWJ meeting*)

Any member interested in a position should submit a letter via post or email describing the NAWJ activities in which she has participated, her role in the activities, and any other accomplishments she wishes to bring to the committee's attention. The letter also should include a paragraph with her vision for the organization. It is important that everyone interested submit such a letter, even if she is currently an officer. Voting members in good standing are eligible to hold office.

In addition to self-nomination, the By-laws provide that "A nomination for each officer's position also may be submitted in writing to the Nominating Committee, by petition of no less than nine voting members of the organization, at least sixty days prior to the Annual Meeting."

The By-laws require the circulation of the names of all nominees to the membership no less than thirty days before the Annual Meeting. As we shall publish the names of all nominees in the summer issue of *Counterbalance*, the deadline for receipt of nomination letters is **June 15, 2003**.

Letters should be addressed to:

Hon. Karla Moskowitz, Supreme Court of the State of New York
60 Centre Street, Room 532
New York, NY 10007

- OR -

Fax: (212) 374-3929

- OR -

E-mail: kmoskowi@courts.state.ny.us

MEMBERS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Karla Moskowitz, *Chair*

Marjorie Laird Carter Martha C. Daughtrey Carol W. Hunstein Ann Kough
Diane Kroupa Barbara S. Levenson Lora I. Livingston Ruth V. McGregor
Brenda P. Murray Norma Shapiro

"Tamar's Children" (*continued from page 12*)

before Secretary Saar's announcement, the Women's Legislative Caucus had urged the new secretary to open the Carter Center to Tamar's Children, making it clear that further delay would result in the loss of grant funding.

The opening of the unique and innovative Tamar's Children Program is a cause for celebration. We hope it will be used as a model for other States trying to improve the lives of women defendants in the judicial system.

The Maryland Chapter of NAWJ was organized about a decade and a half after the national organization was created and now has approximately 50 members. The president is Judge Julia Beth Weatherly, Circuit Court of Prince George's County. Priority issues for the Maryland Chapter are women in prisons, girls in juvenile detention, and the Tamar's Children program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

25th Annual Conference

Washington, DC
October 8-12, 2003

26th Annual Conference

Indianapolis, IN
October 7-10, 2004

27th Annual Conference

Houston, TX
Date TBA

28th Annual Conference

Las Vegas, NV
Date TBA

Mid-Year Board Meeting

Philadelphia, PA
March 19-21, 2004

SAVE THE DATE!
**IAWJ Biennial
Conference**

The next conference will be held in Kampala, Uganda on May 9-13, 2004.

The theme will be "Access to Justice: Women and the Judicial Process."

The IAWJ hopes that many NAWJ members will put this on their calendars now and plan to attend.

Be sure to build in some time for an optional safari in the countryside afterward!

Share your State Treasures with NAWJ Annual Conference Attendees

Is your State known for its sweet potato pie? Mexican food? Homemade quilts? Maple syrup? The 25th Annual Conference Silent Auction committee is soliciting Goodie Baskets from each State to display at the auction. The baskets are a creative way to showcase delicious and fun favorites from your State and at the same time support NAWJ! If you are interested in participating, please contact your District Director, or Cristina Silva, Assistant to the Executive Director, at csilva@nawj.org or (202) 393-0222.

Looking Ahead to the 26th Annual NAWJ Conference

Hon. Margaret Robb, 2004 Annual Conference Chair

We are excited about the Conference and although still over a year away, plans are progressing at a rapid pace. Our web page is in place and can be reached from the NAWJ's web site. It is a valuable source of information about Indianapolis and the Conference itself. We will have activities for spouses, significant others, children, and guests who will not be attending the Conference or only attending a part of it.

We have received tremendous support from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, as well as the entire Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. All of our committees are in place with over 35 people actively chairing or co-chairing committees and many more on the committees themselves. Not only has the legal community embraced the Conference, but other groups that want to showcase our wonderful City and State have become involved. Law schools are also making plans so their students can interact

with the judiciary and talk to people known to them through their studies.

Our international committee is actively engaged in ensuring a wide international presence and commitments for attendance by judges from several foreign courts have been received. The philanthropic committee has plans to work on a project and to involve attendees to highlight the good things in which NAWJ is involved. The program is taking shape and speakers are being selected. We look forward to being able to showcase our program and events during the Washington conference so that you too will know why we are so excited. Keep looking at our web page - the "hints" of things to come will appear there!

We are holding a logo contest to select the conference logo. It is open to all Indiana College students and a \$500 scholarship will be given to the winner.

DON'T MISS IT!

Make plans for real Hoosier Hospitality at the 26th Annual Conference! The entire state is looking forward to ensuring that everyone has a wonderful and memorable time. **October 7-10, 2004.**

District 1 ME, MA, NH, PR, RI

Hon. Fernande Duffy

The NAWJ History Project is well under way, with local assistance from District 1 committee members **Hon. Raya Dreben**, **Hon. Elizabeth Porada**, and **Hon. Elizabeth Dolan**. Justices Dreben and Porada are organizing a review of NAWJ documents that have been submitted to the Schlesinger library, for selection and inclusion in the upcoming Women Judges History Book. This is a major undertaking, and assistance from NAWJ members would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Justices Dreben, raya.dreben@appct.state.ma.us, or Porada elizabeth.porada@appct.state.ma.us directly if you are able to help in this important project.

Twenty-four judges met for dinner on January 30, 2003, for the first annual Joint Regional Meeting of the Women judges of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Twelve judges from Massachusetts traveled to North Providence to join twelve Rhode Island judges for an evening of good food and collegiality.

The District 1 annual dinner meeting was held this year on May 5, 2003, at the Westin Hotel in Waltham, MA. The speaker, Professor Ann Scales, discussed feminist jurisprudence and its impact on judicial decision making. ■

District 2 CT, NY, VT

Hon. LaTia Martin

Hon. Juanita Bing Newton, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Judicial Initiatives has assumed the additional responsibility to oversee the operations of the Criminal Courts for the entire City of New York.

At the well-attended annual meeting of the N.Y.S. Association of Women Judges held on January 25, 2003 at the Marriot Marquis Hotel. The former NAWJ president, **Hon. Phyllis Gangel-Jacob**, was recognized for her outstanding leadership. **Chief Judge Judith Kaye** who gave the welcome remarks and administered the oaths of office to the following new officers: President **Hon. Sandra Feuerstein**; First Vice President **Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman**; Vice Presidents **Hon. Phyllis Orlikoff-Flug**, **Hon. Barbara Howe**, **Hon. La Tia W. Martin**, **Hon. Barbara Panepinto**; Secretary **Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler** and Treasurer **Hon. Sheri S. Roman**.

The N.Y.S. Women Judges Association has begun an exciting project that involves taking oral histories and collecting memorabilia from women judges who have served on the New York State bench. The initial phase of the project has targeted judges with birth dates prior to 1940. These judges will be asked questions that evoke anecdotal responses regarding their life in the law, individual perspectives and judicial philosophies. A comprehensive publication will be created for distribution to the membership, libraries, educational institutions and other interested persons.

The N.Y.S. Women Judges Association co-sponsored an informative Women's History Month forum entitled "Violence Against Women-U.S. and Beyond" with the Metropolitan Women's Bar Association, and New York Women's Bar Association. The keynote speaker was former NYC Family Court Judge, **Marjory D. Fields**, a recognized expert in the field of family violence who has recently completed an eight week trip throughout Asia meeting with and lecturing to attorneys and judges. ■

District 3 DE, NJ, PA, VI

Hon. Cynthia Jackson

This is an exciting time in District 3. As always, we are seeking ways to actively recruit new members. On Sunday, April 13, 2003 we sponsored an Annual Women Lawyers/Women Judges event, in conjunction with the New Jersey State Bar Association, Women in the Professional Section, and the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey. At this event, we honored **Freda L. Wolfson**, U.S.M.J., **Octavia Melendez**, J.S.C., **Maureen Mantineo**, J.S.C., **Barbara Clarke Stolte**, J.S.C. and **Gail Mendyk**, J.T.C. **Hon. Shirley Tolentino**, J.S.C. was recently recognized for her outstanding contributions by our local school district in Jersey City, NJ. We wish to acknowledge the outgoing District Director, **Hon. Isabel Stark**, J.S.C., for her invaluable work in District 3.

District 4 DC, MD, VA

Hon. Patrice Lewis

In Memoriam

We announce with sadness the deaths of two colleagues and friends. On December 29, 2002, Rhode Island Supreme Court **Justice Victoria Lederberg** suffered a heart attack. Justice Lederberg, who was 65 years old, served on the Rhode Island Supreme Court for 9 years; she received many accolades for her accomplishments and dedication to public service.

Hon. Mary Ann Becker died on March 3, 2003. Judge Becker was the first female judge in Waukesha County, Wisconsin, and defeated 3 opponents in her election to the bench in 1985.

District 4 held its third District meeting at the U. S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals in Arlington, Virginia, on January 15, 2003. The buffet reception was followed by a panel discussion on Military Justice after 9/11. The panelists were **Col. Denise Vowell**, Chief Trial Judge, U. S. Army; **Capt. Carol Ricciardello**, Chief Judge, Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary; **Capt. Sharon Fijialka**, Chief Trial Judge U. S. Coast Guard; and **Col. Holly Stone**, Appellate Judge, U. S. Air Force Court of Military Appeals. Members were greatly impressed by, and very proud of, our sisters of the bench who have achieved well-earned distinction in the Military. I cannot say enough to encourage each District to reach out to potential members in the field of Military Justice who may appear in your District. Clearly, they enjoyed the sisterhood, and we were enriched by their presence.

The Virginia Chapter has been very busy. They have instituted a quarterly newsletter to keep the Women Judges connected and informed. The Virginia Chapter has scheduled two meetings, one at the District Court Judges Conference in Roanoke on April 23 and one at the Circuit Court Judges Conference on May 14th in Norfolk. The Board of the Virginia Chapter is meeting in May with the Board of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association to discuss ways in which they may support each other and share information and ideas.

On the other side of the River, **Judge Irma Raker**, of the Maryland Court of Appeals, hosted the Maryland Chapter's 9th Annual Dinner with the Maryland Women Legislators, which was held in the Court of Appeals building in Annapolis on March 4. Always a must-attend event for both legislators and judges, reservations maxed out the capacity of the rotunda. Two hours before the dinner, Mary Ann Saar, Secretary of Public Safety and Corrections, announced the reassignment of staff, facilitating the opening of Tamar's Children's Program the following Monday. (See article, page 12.) The Annual Dinner was invigorating!

In our spare time, members of the Host Committee of District 4 meet monthly, and the subcommittees at times more often, all with the goal of ensuring that the upcoming 25th Annual Conference at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D. C., is the best yet! Put your leave requests in NOW! Allow a few days before or after the Conference to take in the multitude of sites. And check the website for the most current information as to programs, speakers, and social events. I have a lot of information, but Noel has sworn me to secrecy. I promise you, you won't want to miss this one. We are pulling out all the stops! ■

District 5 FL, GA, NC, SC

Hon. Debra K. Behnke

District 5 is pleased to report that since our last Conference we have recruited 14 new Women Judges in the State of Florida: Judge Sarah I. Zabel, Dade, 11th Circuit, Judge Linda R. Alla Pinellas, 6th Circuit, Judge Linda H. Babb, Pasco, 6th Circuit, Judge Jacqueline H. Scola, Dade, 11th Circuit, Judge Martha J. Cook, Hillsborough, 13th Circuit, Judge Monica L. Sierra, Hillsborough, 13th Circuit, Judge Diana Lewis, Palm Beach, 15th Circuit, Judge Karen M. Miller, Palm Beach, 15th Circuit, Judge Diane V. Ward, Dade, 11th Circuit, Judge Mary R. Barzee, Dade, 11th Circuit, Judge Jacqueline Schwartz, Dade, 11th Circuit, Judge Laura S. Johnson, Palm Beach, 15th Circuit, Judge Linda Wells, Dade, 11th Circuit, Judge Cynthia Imperato, Broward, 17th Circuit. ■

District 6 AL, LA, MS, TN

Hon. Mary Hotard Becnel

Louisiana is pleased to report that judicial elections were held last year and four new women judges were elected: Page McClendon, 1st Circuit Court of Appeal; Lori A. Landry, 16th Judicial District; Jeanette G. Garrett, 1st Judicial District; and Patricia C. Cole, 33rd Judicial District. Louisiana also gained three women commissioners: Rachel Pitcher Morgan, 19th Judicial District; Caroline R. Kiff, 24th Judicial District; and Marie A. Bookman, Orleans Criminal District Court. All have been invited to join NAWJ and attend the D.C. Conference.

Judge Margaret Alfonso of Gulfport, Mississippi has graciously agreed to be the Mississippi Liaison for this district. She has been very helpful in providing the names of all Mississippi women judges, which list is being forwarded to the National Office. We are hoping to get more involvement from Mississippi judges as a result of this collaboration. New women judges recently elected in Mississippi are: Marie Wilson and Janace Harvey Goree, Chancery; Ann Lamar, Circuit; and Gwendolyn J. Thomas, Sharon W. Sigalas, and Cynthia Lee Brewer, County Courts.

District 8 IL, IN, KY

Hon. Diane K. Schneider

The planning committee for the 2004 NAWJ Annual Conference had an initial meeting in Indianapolis in October. Judge Margret G. Robb has assembled an energetic group of judges, attorneys, and court personnel who are working hard to plan for this Conference.

The first *Color of Justice* program in the district was held on February 21, 2003. An enthusiastic group of students from East Chicago (Indiana) Central High School attended the program, held in the courtroom of Judge Diane Schneider. Approximately twenty (20) judges, attorneys, and law students participated, and the program was very well received by both students and presenters. The Dean of the Valparaiso University School of Law was a panelist and offered his assistance with future programs. Ms. Susan Jacobs, Associate Executive Director of the Indiana State Bar Association, attended. The ISBA may be able to partner with NAWJ in offering the program in schools throughout the state. A second *Color of Justice* program for high school students in Gary, Indiana is planned for the fall. Judge Schneider also is a member of the Indiana Supreme Court Commission on Race and Gender Fairness. The Commission released its first report in January and continues to work to address issues affecting women and minorities in the legal system. Judge Schneider has shared information on the *Color of Justice* program and other NAWJ educational programs with the Commission.

Deputy District Director Hon. Kris Costa-Sakelaris co-chaired a bench-bar retreat for women judges and attorneys in Indiana during the weekend of February 21-23 in Culver, Indiana. Forty participants engaged in CLE programs and socializing. Judge Schneider spoke with judicial officers in attendance about NAWJ and distributed membership brochures.

Judge Schneider and Judge Robb have been invited to give a presentation on NAWJ to the Northwest Indiana Women Lawyers Association at their March or April meeting. They plan to show the NAWJ video and to distribute information on NAWJ's educational programs. Attorneys will also be encouraged to consider joining NAWJ. This bar association has already volunteered to assist NAWJ with the 2004 Conference.

Membership efforts in the district are continuing. The 2004 Indianapolis Conference has been a recruitment tool for Indiana judges. It has been more difficult to recruit in Illinois and Kentucky and membership chairs are being sought for those states. It is hoped that the 2003 D.C. Conference will renew interest among judges who have dropped their membership and will also help bring new judges to NAWJ. There are many judges and attorneys in District 8 who are planning to attend the D.C. Conference.

District 7 MI, OH, WV

Hon. Susan Moiseev

I am pleased to be serving as District 7 Director. Although there are many women serving in judicial positions in the District, we have, unfortunately, not participated in NAWJ to the extent we could. It is my hope to re-energize the membership and promote the programs, and more importantly, the friendships and comradery that participation in NAWJ provides.

District Reports

District 9 IA, MO, WI

Hon. Maxine A. White

St. Louis

In October, 2003, St. Louis will host its Third Annual *Color of Justice* Program. Representatives from the Federal District Court, State Court, Division of Worker's Compensation, Administrative Law Judges, and local attorneys will participate.

The NAWJ members in St. Louis continue to provide assistance to Judge Anessa Popal, a refugee from Afghanistan (*see Summer 2002 issue, page 4*). St. Louis is focusing on a membership drive and reviewing options for attracting new members. Several women have recently been appointed to the bench and the current members hope to host a social event to attract these women to NAWJ. St. Louis NAWJ members will be given an opportunity to participate in the St. Louis Girl Scouts "April Showers" Project — collecting sundries and toiletry articles to be distributed to women in St. Louis-area shelters.

Milwaukee

We are still organizing Wisconsin's first *Color of Justice* program. We are pursuing co-sponsorships with the Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers, the Milwaukee Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Division, and the State Bar of Wisconsin's Committee to Encourage the Placement of Minority Attorneys. However, the most promising match for our program is the Careers in Law & Justice Program, held every other year in Milwaukee and sponsored by Calvary Baptist Church, Marquette University Law School, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Criminal Justice Programs. This is a five week program for 9th through 12th graders designed to demonstrate to the students, especially students of color, that they too can be successful in their pursuit of a career in law. The next cycle for this program is September 2004. We will use this advance time to share the *Color of Justice* material with the prospective co-sponsors and develop a plan which will also promote the use of the NAWJ program in other counties across the state. We also will work to showcase the *Color of Justice* materials at Law Day celebrations during the month of May 2003.

The Wisconsin Judiciary is playing a more significant role in the 2003 Annual Convention of the State Bar of Wisconsin, to be held in Milwaukee from May 7-9, 2003.

This is significant due to the fact that 2003 is a momentous year for Wisconsin - the 150th anniversary of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the 125th anniversary of the State Bar, and the 25th anniversary of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. Judge Maxine White will present a plenary session on "The Changing Face of the Legal Profession" which will include women lawyers and judges who have assumed greater leadership roles in Wisconsin and nationally. Among the highlights planned are snippets of NAWJ members, including Wisconsin Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson and NAWJ Vice President Hon. Mel Flanagan, in their historic leadership roles. At the convention I will also make every effort to promote NAWJ among Wisconsin women and notify them of our plans to host a membership drive during the Fall 2003 meetings of the Wisconsin judiciary. ■

District 10 KS, MN, NE, ND, SD

Hon. Mary M. Maring

District 10 has two new Deputy Directors: Hon. Carol A. Eckersen, a Workers Compensation Judge from Minneapolis, Minnesota; and the Hon. Renee Worke, a District Judge from Waseca, Minnesota.

In our effort to increase membership, we have asked those members who have dropped their memberships to reconsider joining NAWJ. Also, we are sending the NAWJ brochure to the new women judges in our District and asking them to consider joining NAWJ. The membership in District 10 has increased by two since October 2002.

The Hon. Carol A. Beier, Kansas Court of Appeals, has reported that Kansas City, Wichita, and Topeka, Kansas, each have a summer intern program for racial minorities and students from lower socioeconomic households. The internship program in each city will incorporate the *Color of Justice* program into its educational seminar component.

On January 13, 2002, the second woman ever to serve on the Kansas Supreme Court was sworn in by the first. Justice Marla Luckert, was sworn in by Chief Justice Kay McFarland during inauguration ceremonies on the steps of the state Capitol in Topeka. Justice Luckert is a Kansas native and a graduate of Washburn Law School. She is a former president of the state bar association, as well as a former trial court judge. She joins Justice McFarland and five male colleagues on the state's highest bench. Justice Luckert's husband, Ken Morse,

District 10 continued

spoke at her robing ceremony later in the day, introducing her to her new colleagues, and her three daughters assisted her in donning her robe.

Kansas also has a new woman on the trial bench in Johnson County's Tenth Judicial District. Her name is **Hon. Brenda Cameron**. **Hon. Deb Anderson** also was recently sworn in as a magistrate judge in Norton, Kansas.

Judge Karen Arnold-Burger, currently a municipal court judge in Overland Park, is one of three whose names have been submitted to Governor Kathleen Sebelius for consideration for another Johnson County trial bench seat. (Governor Sebelius is our second woman governor, and Kansas is enormously proud of her too.) ■

District 11 AR, OK, TX

Hon. M. Sue Kurita

District 11 has been very active since October, inspired by **Justice Bea Ann Smith's** tenure as NAWJ president. The main focus of the activities has been to raise membership and to encourage attendance at the 2003 Conference.

President Smith and District Director **Hon. Sue Kurita** attended the Bexar Bench and Bar Brunch in San Antonio, Texas. The Brunch honors women judges at this yearly function. Both NAWJ leaders were recognized in a video presentation organized by the Bexar County Women Bar Association.

In December, during the College for New Judges, the Austin law firm of Kemp Smith, headed by Partner Ken Slavin, hosted a reception for the newly elected members of the Texas judiciary. The reception honored not only the new judges, but also President Smith. A gathering of over fifty people including District Director Sue Kurita, Deputy Director **Hon. Susan Criss** and NAWJ members of Travis County met at Serrano's Restaurant. The reception resulted in several new memberships and generated great interest in the D.C. Conference.

On behalf of the Texas Chapter of NAWJ, President Bea Ann Smith welcomed **Justice Sandra Day O'Connor** to Austin in January and presented her with a dozen yellow

roses, naming her "an honorary Texan."

In March at the regional meeting, El Paso **Judge Guadalupe Rivera** hosted a reception for NAWJ President Smith and for newly named federal judge **Hon. Kathleen Cardone**. Over 25 women judges enjoyed Judge Rivera's hospitality, and President Smith took the opportunity to invite every one to join NAWJ, and to sign up for the 2003 D.C. Conference. **Justice Wanda Fowler** also asked for volunteers to begin planning the 2005 Annual Conference in Houston.

Deputy Director Susan Criss is working with the Galveston Bar Association to co-sponsor the *Color of Justice* program in that county. Bexar County Women's Bar has also been approached about co-sponsoring a program in San Antonio.

President Smith and District Director Kurita have made plans to recruit outside of Texas, in Oklahoma and Arkansas. President Smith has been invited to attend the Southern Women Public Service in Little Rock and has made contacts to reach out to Arkansas judges. Additionally, contact has been made with Oklahoma Judge Reta M. Strubar to plan a visit and recruit in Oklahoma. ■

District 12 AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY

Hon. Denise P. Lindberg

Justice Ruth McGregor of the Arizona Supreme Court acted as local coordinator of activities for a reunion of former law clerks of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, held Feb. 7-8 in Phoenix, Arizona. Past and present O'Connor law clerks, including Justice McGregor and **Judge Denise Lindberg** (Region 12 Director) honored Justice O'Connor. The principal reunion dinner was held at the Justice Sandra Day O'Connor U.S. Courthouse in Phoenix, allowing participants to view and privately celebrate the placement of a statue of Justice O'Connor at the courthouse. The project to commission the statute was initially the brain child of Justice McGregor and Scott Bales, another former O'Connor clerk, and was supported financially by the Justice's friends and former clerks.

In response to our solicitation to the various states in the region, Justice Ruth McGregor and **Judge Eileen Willett** have agreed to implement the *Color of Justice* program in Arizona in

District 12 continued

May. Although on a slower time track, we are also working with judges in New Mexico and with another law-related organization in Utah (the Minority Law Center) to broaden implementation of the *Color of Justice* program to those states.

We organized and conducted a mailing to all NAWJ members in the region soliciting input regarding ideas for regional NAWJ activities. A reasonably good response rate was obtained, and member responses have been cataloged for future implementation as funds permit.

We have identified local contacts in each state and on a quarterly basis we are following up to solicit information regarding new appointments, promotions, and special recognition of women judges in our region for inclusion in Counterbalance. As this information is received, we have also conducted mass mailings to new appointees to the bench inviting their membership in NAWJ. ■

District 13 AK, American Samoa, Guam, HI, ID, MT, OR, WA

Hon. Beverly W. Cutler

Due to the low population of our district and the distance separating the members from the various states, we have not had any district meetings in the last few years. I hope to change that, by determining at the D.C. Conference the level of interest in having such a meeting. We had one in Alaska and one in Seattle in the 90s and they were both successful.

The State of Alaska has plans for a *Color of Justice* program to be led by **Judge Stephanie Joannides** sometime this summer. Seattle University is bringing a summer law school program to the University of Alaska for the first time (we have no law school in our state at all). Judge Joannides is going to pool resources with that program in Anchorage to make the *Color of Justice* program happen.

Our District's membership has shrunk considerably in recent years, although the number of women judges in each state seems to be greater. I plan to work on increasing our membership and already have written to all persons whose memberships recently have expired to try to re-involve them. I have had good success so far in my own state. We have several life members in our District, and their interest level remains high. ■

District 14 CA, NV

Hon. Sharon Mettler

Due to the serious medical condition of my husband, I have relied heavily on the very able District 14 members for assistance with district business. **Hon. Sandra Thompson** is handling the *Color of Justice* program. **Hon. Charlene Mitchell** attended the Mid-Year Meeting for me. Thank you one and all!

Hon. Barbara Zuñiga arranged with Ninth Circuit Chief Judge **Mary Schroeder** for the NAWJ reception at the annual California Judicial Education and Research (CJER) Judges College to be held in the Old Federal Court of Appeals building on June 18. We will have two chiefs speaking, Chief Judge Schroeder, and California Supreme Court Chief Justice Ron George. Rod Cathcart of CJER told me that NAWJ was so highly thought of by CJER that CJER wants to cosponsor this event with us. (A first!)

Hon. Nancy Saitta, my "informal reporter" for Nevada, informs me that they are excited about hosting the 2006 NAWJ Conference in Las Vegas and have already begun committee work. She and **Justice Miriam**

Shearing will co-chair the event. Nancy also reported that they are rapidly reaching an equal division of women and men in their judiciary, having added several women after the last election. Since the Minneapolis Conference in October, **Hon. Valorie Cooke** hosted a Reno area reception, which pretty well rounded out the district receptions for 2001-02. Unfortunately, someone had stolen the NAWJ video, "The Changing Face of Justice," so it was not shown. Probably shook the thief when he or she got an eyeful of all those judges!

Hon. Mary Jo Levenger completed a year of sending welcome letters to many of the new California state court judicial officers, and I currently have 13 relatively new women judicial officers in California to send greetings and invitations for membership. I am in the process of replacing Mary Jo. This is a huge District. **Hon. Janet Kintner** contacts new judicial officers in San Diego, and **Hon. Donna Crandall** takes care of Orange County. ■

Why go to the Annual Conference?

To Meet Persons Like Col. Murnane

Hon. Sharon Mettler, District 14 Director



Col. Murnane entering "Chambers" for trial during Operation Enduring Freedom

So, "why go to Annual Conference?" you ask. The answer you almost always hear is, "it's the people!" To make that answer a little more real to you readers, I thought I would tell you about someone I met for the first time last fall at Annual Conference in Minnesota.

Air Force Colonel Linda Murnane (pronounced like the MUR in Murphy and the NAN in Nancy - MUR-NAN) is headquartered in Germany where she is Chief Circuit Military Judge for the European Circuit, which also covers Southwest Asia and northern Africa. One of five Air Force Chief Circuit Military Judges who work for the Chief Trial Judge of the Air Force, she is scheduled to move this summer to Washington, DC, and become the Chief Circuit Military Judge of the Eastern Circuit.

Her Air Force husband is also stationed in Europe, serving as the Mission Support Squadron Commander at Aviano Air Base, in Italy. Although they don't live in the same country, Colonel Murnane says not to weep for her. To visit her husband she must drive for hours through the breathtaking, snow covered Alps with her stereo playing classical music.

She is currently working with Leslie Alden on a presentation for the IAWJ in conjunction with a recent European Court of Human Rights decision.

The Ohio State Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession selected her to receive the 2003 Nettie Cronise Lutes Award May 7 at the Ohio State Bar Association's annual meeting in Dayton. "The Nettie" is awarded to "a woman lawyer who has improved the legal profession through her own high level of professionalism and commitment to open doors for girls and women." Nettie Cronise Lutes was the first woman admitted to practice law in Ohio, overcoming overwhelming obstacles.

Knowing that she wanted to be an attorney at an early age, and money being a significant factor, the Ohio native enlisted in the Air Force in 1974, which funded the last year of her undergraduate degree. She graduated in May 1976, completed Officer training and was commissioned.

The Air Force Funded Legal Education Program allows commissioned officers to compete for seven openings each year to obtain their law degree while on active duty. To make her application more competitive, Linda spent one year in night school at Loyola Law School in New Orleans, LA, while stationed at Biloxi, Mississippi. This involved commuting two hundred miles a day four days a week.

In February 1978, she learned that she was selected to the Funded Legal Education Program for full time study in August 1978. The same day that news arrived, she learned that she was pregnant with her first child. Since the Air Force had not permitted women to have children and remain in the Air Force prior to 1976, it was not prepared in 1978 to pay for law school knowing that Linda would have to be out of class to deliver a baby.

Through this tense time Linda worked with her boss to show the Air Force the wisdom of opening this door. They were successful, and she entered law school, on schedule, eight months pregnant. Two days after she started the funded law program, she returned home to find her then-husband had suffered a compression of the spinal cord, rendering him

(Continued on page 22)

NEED A ROOMMATE?

Need a Roommate for the 25th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.? The National Office may be able to help! Contact Jeff Groton at the National Office at jgorton@nawj.org or (202) 393-0222.

Board Adopts New Policy Regarding Judicial Endorsements

The NAWJ Board of Directors officially adopted a new policy during the 2003 Mid-Year Meeting in Austin, Texas. The policy addresses the important subject of NAWJ endorsements of judicial nominees. The adopted policy reads as follows:

NAWJ is committed to diversity on the bench as essential to the excellence of, and public confidence in, the judiciary. Therefore, NAWJ strongly supports the appointment, election and promotion of women and minorities who will enhance diversity at all levels of the judiciary.

Through its programs and individual members, NAWJ offers assistance to candidates whose qualifications will contribute to diversity on the bench. Consistent with policy and ethical constraints, NAWJ, as an organization, does not endorse individual judicial candidates.

Don't forget to register for the Annual Conference! Hotel rooms at NAWJ's special rate are going fast!

Why Attend the **Annual Conference?** *(continued from page 21)*

paralyzed. He was hospitalized until after the birth of her first daughter in October 1978. In spite of a Cesarean delivery, Linda missed just five class days and won the AmJur prize for academic excellence in Constitutional Law that semester.

Due to the medical issues of her husband, and her daughter, Linda transferred to the University of Cincinnati College of Law midway through her law program. She had a second child in March 1980 who was born blind and deaf.

Despite these overwhelming obstacles, Linda finished her degree in December 1980, graduating early and with honors. Having been given the chance to attend law school while pregnant, she knew she couldn't blow this opportunity for herself or for women who might try to do the same in the future.

Twenty-two years later, Linda's older daughter is a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and has provided her mother with a four-year-old grandson. Her younger daughter, hearing restored through surgery and able to read with an optic scanner, is about to graduate from the same college with a major in sports medicine. Compellingly, and with the obvious pride of a mother, she told me that everything she knows about courage and perseverance she learned from her daughters.

She originally joined the Air Force for the education, planning to leave after obtaining it. With the birth of her daughter with disabilities, she knew she could not provide for her medical care without Air Force insurance. She has made being a good judicial officer a top priority in her life, and her commitment and abilities have been rewarded with her fourth three-year term as a judge. Four terms as a military judge is very unusual in the Air Force. She thinks it is a small pond in which she finds herself but determined early to have as big an impact as she could through doing her job diligently, fairly, and with excellence.

JUSTICE IN AMERICA - JUSTICE IN THE WORLD

NAWJ's 25th Annual Conference In Washington, DC

October 8-12, 2003

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

NAWJ Member registration fee includes all educational sessions, receptions, meals, transportation to events listed in the program and use of the hospitality suite. Partner/guest registration fee includes all receptions, meals, transportation to events listed in the program and use of the hospitality suite.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE AND LATE REGISTRATION

Registration forms postmarked after the registration deadline of September 9, 2003, must include a \$50 late registration fee. **You may register online at www.NAWJ.org.**

CANCELLATION POLICY

If notice of cancellation is received after September 9, 2003, the registration fee, less a \$50 processing fee, is refundable. Cancellations received within 3 days of the conference are refundable less a \$50 processing fee plus the cost of any hotel meals or guest guarantee expense incurred by NAWJ.

LODGING

Rooms at the historic Mayflower Hotel, located in downtown Washington, DC have been guaranteed at the rate of \$189.00 plus tax, single or double occupancy. Upgrades are available. For reservations, call 1-800-468-3571 or (202) 347-3000 and state that you are with the NAWJ/Women Judges conference. Reservations must be made on or before **September 12, 2003**, to guarantee the conference rate and room availability.

REGISTRATION (You may also register online at www.NAWJ.org.)

Please print your name and title as you wish them to appear on your name badge.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ EMAIL: (**please**, if available) _____

Fax: _____

Name of Guest: _____

Need a Roommate? _____; Require vegetarian meals? (*Circle*) Self Guest

Require specific aids or services under the Americans with Disabilities Act? (*Circle*) Audio Visual Mobile

Other special restrictions: _____

Date of arrival: _____ Date of Departure: _____

I will attend: ___ Wednesday Evening Opening Reception ___ Thursday Lunch ___
Thursday Gala Dinner ___ Friday Lunch ___ Friday Supreme Court Reception
___ Saturday Honoree of the Year Banquet ___ Sunday President's Breakfast

REGISTRATION FEES (Please add \$50 to each category after September 9, 2003)

NAWJ Member: \$400 \$ _____

First Time Attendee: \$375 (member only) \$ _____

Spouse/Guest: \$350 \$ _____

Non-NAWJ Member: \$425 \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT (Payment Due at Time of Registration)

Enclosed is a check payable to NAWJ for \$ _____ or Credit Card (*Circle*) MasterCard Visa

Account Number: _____ Expiration: _____ Security Code _____

Signature: _____

Billing Address (street, city, state, zipcode) _____

Conference Registration

Registration made easy!

Now you can charge your Annual Conference registration fee to your Visa or MasterCard.

You can obtain a conference registration form on our website at www.nawj.org.

For your convenience you may complete the electronic process, or print the form and send it via mail or fax to the National Office at (202) 393-0125.



COUNTERBALANCE

*The National Association of Women Judges
1112 16th Street, NW, Suite 520
Washington, DC 20036*

Attention: The deadline for submission of material for the Spring issue is July 1,

Application for NAWJ Membership

Please print

Name _____ Court/Agency/Affiliation _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Title (please check) Chief Justice Chief Judge Justice Judge Ms. Mr. Other _____

Telephone _____ - _____ - _____ Fax _____ - _____ - _____ Email _____

Please check: Federal State Gen. Juris Ltd. Juris Adm.

Years on Bench _____ Elected Appointed

Subject Matter Jurisdiction _____

NAWJ Member dues and all contributions are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to NAWJ or

Credit Card No. _____

Visa MasterCard Expiration Date ___/___ Security Code _____

Signature _____

Check payable to NAWJ

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- ___ Life Member \$3,000 (One-time fee)*
- ___ Voting Member \$200 (First time members pay \$175)
- ___ Associate Member \$175
- ___ Retired Member \$175
- ___ Amicus Judicii \$175
- ___ Subscription to *Counterbalance* \$25**

MAILING ADDRESS

Please send application with payment to:
The National Association of Women
Judges
Membership Office
Attn. Kathleen Moseley
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23185

*One-time only fee. May be made in two installments. Annual administrative fee of \$25 requested.

** For law libraries and associations only.