



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES COUNTERBALANCE

Volume 29 Issue 3

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Judicial Friends 27th Annual Rivers, Toney, Watson Dinner, left to right Deputy Administrative Judge Juanita Bing Newton, Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals Jonathan Lippman, NAWJ Past President Judge Betty Ellerin, NAWJ President LaTia W. Martin, Hon. Judith S. Kaye, former Chief Judge of the State of New York

## *Judicial Friends' New York Holiday Gala Honors NAWJ Members, Judge Juanita Bing Newton Remarks*

It was a clear moonlit night in downtown Brooklyn. The venue was enveloped in surroundings that were spectacular: a waterfront view of the Manhattan night skyline which was framed by New York's magnificent Brooklyn, Manhattan and Williamsburg bridges. The assemblage was glowing and beautiful in formal attire. We were at the Steiner Movie Studio Stage 6: was this live or was this Memorex?

To be sure, it was live and it was memorable! On December 4, 2008 the Judicial Friends and the New York State African-American Judges Association held its 27th Annual Holiday Gala and feted, as their honorees, Southern District Judge George Daniels and New York State Deputy Chief Administrative Judge and NAWJ member Juanita Bing Newton. Well over 500 hundred guests joined in the celebration including Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye, New York City Presiding Judges of the Appellate Divisions, Hon. Jonathan Lippman and Hon. Gail Prudenti, NAWJ President La Tia Martin, and Past NAWJ Presidents Betty Weinberg Ellerin and Karla Moskowitz.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### MISSION

NAWJ's mission is to promote the judicial role of protecting the rights of individuals under the rule of law through strong, committed, diverse judicial leadership; fairness and equality in the courts; and equal access to justice.

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#### Dear NAWJ Members and Friends,

I am delighted to serve as the President of the National Association of Women Judges for the 2008-09 year. It is both an honor and privilege to represent our organization of outstanding judicial scholars and dynamic members of the legal profession. For more than a decade I have personally supported the mission of NAWJ, which includes the preservation of judicial independence, equal justice and access to the courts for minority members of our society, the increase and advancement of women on all levels of the judiciary and conducting current judicial education programs. The necessity of diversity among the members of the judicial branch of government is paramount. NAWJ has been steadfast in its dedication and commitment to the achieving these goals as set forth by our founding members, Justice Joan Dempsey Klein and Judge Vaino Spencer.

I was sworn in as the 29th President of NAWJ during our "Keeping the Promise" Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon in October, 2008. The conference was well attended and included many New York state judges who traveled far to support my leadership role in NAWJ. Now former, then current, New York State Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye was unable to attend the induction ceremony but sent a note of congratulations which was read by Justice Laura Jacobson, NAWJ Treasurer. My mentor and dear friend former appellate division Judge Betty Weinberg Ellerin did attend the conference. In 1995 while Judge Ellerin was NAWJ President she urged me to become active in the organization and has been a mentor to me and so many other women judges.

As I stated during my acceptance speech at the conference I have held numerous elected leadership positions in NAWJ: namely, District Two Director, Vice President of Districts, Vice President of Publications, Projects Committee Chair, Treasurer and President-Elect. Additionally, I was elected to several New York chapter offices such as Treasurer, Vice President, First Vice President and President. I have consistently been a vital voice for the women jurists in New York state and a strong proponent of the ideals and mission of NAWJ. During my recent presidency of the New York chapter we held numerous educational programs, receptions, forums and other sponsorship events. In 2007 I organized a visit to London, England which included a tour of the courts and meeting with appeals judges. Our second international visit to foreign courts was in 2008 in Paris, France. We also had a tour conducted by a member of their local bar and met with a court administrator and woman member of the supreme court.

I believe that leadership skills are rarely inherited. Those who have been recognized as outstanding leaders dedicate themselves to the pursuit of stated goals. A leader must exhibit a spirit of enthusiasm and dedication to the purpose of the organization. As the President of NAWJ I pledge to place my imprimatur of excellence and commitment upon all NAWJ activities. To that end I will continue to promote access to justice, fairness, gender equality and judicial diversity so as to follow in the footsteps of our founders. I have the demonstrated ability as a visionary leader to engage others to join with me to fulfill the mission of NAWJ. This year I have challenged each member of the NAWJ Executive Committee to host at least one event in their district. The 14 District Directors have already begun to plan various functions throughout the nation. I encourage all to participate in any way in NAWJ events particularly in your respective districts. I will conduct a national campaign to increase membership and to also include law student and law clerks members.

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Some of the exciting planned 2009 NAWJ programs are as follows:

- Southeast Mid Year Meeting: April 3-5th in Atlanta, Georgia. Featuring former Chief Presiding Judge of the Fulton County Juvenile Court, noted author and TV judge Glenda Hatchett.
- District Nine Conference: April 17-19th in St. Louis, Missouri.
- Joint judicial and congressional caucus on women's issues Summer 2009.
- Law School Symposium to address the increase in the female incarcerated juvenile population Fall 2009.
- Annual Conference "Justice on the River- Navigating Change" in Memphis, Tennessee October 15-18.

In conclusion, I am truly excited and look forward to a wonderful and successful year of conducting NAWJ events.

On January 20, 2009 I had the most amazing, remarkable and unique experience attending the inauguration ceremony of the first African American president. We were seated in close proximity to observe this event and heard these most inspirational words "the time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit, to choose our better history: to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea passed on from generation to generation: the god given promise that all men are created equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of

Happiness." I ask all to join with me to fulfill the mission of NAWJ to promote fairness and equality in the judicial system.

All the best,

La Tia W. Martin  
President

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I am privileged and honored to begin my tenure as the Executive Director of the National Association of Women Judges and I am fortunate to start this position at a time when gender fairness issues and equal justice and access to the courts for women, minorities and other historically disfavored groups have our nation's attention. I approach this position with great enthusiasm and a strong commitment to the mission and ideals of NAWJ.

ment to the mission and ideals of NAWJ.

I have over 25 years of experience working with not-for-profit organizations. Fifteen of those years were spent as the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Bar Association in Poughkeepsie, New York. Some of the highlights of my tenure included my active participation in the New York State Bar Association (NYSB) and National Association of Bar Executives (NABE), two organizations that provide valuable resources to bar executives on issues facing the legal profession. Mandatory Pro Bono and Mandatory Continuing Legal Education were the burning issues in New York and it was an interesting point in time filled with healthy discussions at the state and national levels. Thanks to both the NYSB and NABE, bar executives were kept informed and up to date on the issues.

During my tenure at the DCBA, I helped to establish the Dutchess County Tel Law/Tel Med information help line, a partnership program with the American Medical Society which provides general legal advice to the public as well as general information on medical issues. Working closely with the Dutchess County Legal Aid Society and providing workshops for battered and abused women was also a high priority issue for me.

I left the DCBA to become the Executive Director of the Fairfax County Bar Association (FBA) where I worked closely with Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV) to provide relief to individu-

als who could not afford the regular rates of attorneys and who did not qualify for legal aid. By designing a screening process that was jointly managed by the FBA and LSNV, we were able to bridge the gap and assign attorneys who agreed to help on a reduced rate.

For the past 8 years I have been proud to work with Young Audiences Arts for Learning, Inc. (YAI), the nation's leading source of arts education programs. YAI is a \$40 million not-for-profit organization with 30 affiliates nation-wide. Its mission is to help make the arts an essential part of young people's education. As the National Director of Development, I assisted the affiliate network with their fundraising, board development, management of corporate sponsored national programs and grant writing opportunities.

I hit the ground running as I began my tenure at NAWJ. Fundraising, growing the membership and raising the profile of NAWJ are all top priorities. I look forward to working with the NAWJ Board, Executive Committee, District Directors, International Director, ABA delegates, Landmark Donors and Resource Board Members. I am especially excited to be working closely with Judge La Tia Martin and I look forward to meeting all of you at the upcoming meetings.

My educational background includes an undergraduate degree in Communications from Marist College, a Paralegal Degree also from Marist College, and a Masters in Public Administration from the Wagner School at New York University. My husband Jerry and I reside in Reston, Virginia and are the proud parents of 3 adult children and 6 grandchildren.

Marie Komisar  
Executive Director

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

MIDYEAR MEETING AND SOUTHEASTERN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
INTERCONTINENTAL BUCKHEAD, ATLANTA, GEORGIA

April 3-5, 2009



### FRIDAY KEYNOTE LUNCHEON

Sponsored by Butler, Wooten & Fryhofer, LLP

- *Keynote Speaker: Hon. Glenda Hatchett*  
Former Chief Presiding Judge, Fulton County, Georgia Juvenile Court  
Host of syndicated show "Judge Hatchett."

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON PANELS - FAMILY LAW\*

- *De Facto Parenthood and Child Well-Being*  
Professor Robin Fretwell Wilson, Washington & Lee University Law School  
The American Law Institute (ALI) has proposed sweeping changes in the legal conception of parenthood that would confer custody and visitation rights on de facto parents, and strip legal parents of the prerogative to decide who has contact with their child. In many ways, the ALI is engaged in an admirable undertaking: to provide children with enduring contact with the only father a child has known, but significant unintended consequences are likely to result.
- *Protecting Children and Our Liberty*  
Hon. Tom Rawlings, Director, Georgia Office of the Child Advocate  
What is the proper balance between aggressive action to protect children from abuse and neglect and undesirable over-reaction resulting in the erosion of civil liberties? What about the state imposition of psychological harm on children and their families? What is the law? This session will discuss these issues in the context of the recent case involving the removal of 460 children from the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS) compound in Texas.

\*These programs have been approved for CLE credit by the State Bar of Georgia.

### FRIDAY EVENING RECEPTION AT THE OFFICES OF NELSON MULLINS

- Sponsored by Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP  
*Equal Access to Justice Scholarship Awards*

### SATURDAY NAWJ BOARD MEETINGS

### SATURDAY EVENING JUDICIAL RECEPTION

- Sponsored by King & Spalding  
At the home of Georgia Supreme Court Presiding Justice Carol W. Hunstein

## CONFERENCE CHAIRS

Hon. Leah Ward Sears, Supreme Court of Georgia  
Hon. Carol W. Hunstein, Supreme Court of Georgia

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Ms. Silvia A. Gaines, Georgia Committee on Access & Fairness in the Courts, Administrative Office of the Courts  
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## JUSTICE ON THE RIVER, NAVIGATING CHANGE NAWJ 31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE PEABODY HOTEL  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

OCTOBER 15-18, 2009

### JOIN US!

Register online at [www.nawj.org](http://www.nawj.org)!  
Call 1-800-PEABODY to reserve a hotel room!

### PROGRAM TOPIC HIGHLIGHTS\*

Gender Bias in Media Coverage  
Bankruptcy  
Judicial Independence  
Developing our Authentic Leadership  
Implicit Bias  
Emerging Issues in Litigation Resulting from New Legislation  
Open Courts and Secret Settlements  
Judicial Productivity and Stress Management  
Role of the Courts in Overseeing Executive Functions in Difficult Economic Times  
Immigration  
Law and Literature  
International Technical Assistance and Outreach  
Collateral Consequences of Criminal Convictions

\*subject to change

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\*\*in alphabetical order

# "Justice on the River: Navigating Change"

**NAWJ 31st Annual Conference – October 15-18, 2009**

## **Conference Registration**

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Attendee registration fee includes all educational sessions, receptions, meals, transportation to events listed in the program and use of the hospitality suite. Guest registration fee includes all of the above except educational sessions.

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE AND LATE REGISTRATION

Registration forms postmarked after the registration deadline of September 15, 2009 must include a \$50 late registration fee.

### CANCELLATION POLICY

If notice of cancellation is received after October 1, 2009, the registration fee, less a \$50 processing fee, is refundable. Cancellations received within 3 days of the conference are refundable less a \$100 processing fee.

### LODGING

Rooms at the Peabody Hotel have been guaranteed at the rate of \$199.00 plus tax, single or double occupancy. For reservations, call 1-800-PEABODY and state that you are with the National Association of Women Judges. Reservations must be made on or before **September 26, 2009**, to guarantee the conference rate (subject to availability).

### REGISTRATION (You may register online at [www.NAWJ.org](http://www.NAWJ.org).)

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Court/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guest if Applicable: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Require vegetarian meals? Self  Guest  Require aids or services? Audio  Visual  Mobile

Date of arrival: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_

### REGISTRATION FEES (Please add \$50 to each category after September 15, 2009)

NAWJ Member First Time Attendee: \$450 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAWJ Member Attendee: \$475 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-NAWJ Member Attendee: \$495 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Guest: \$450 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Does not include education sessions.

### METHOD OF PAYMENT (Payment due at time of registration)

Enclosed is a check payable to NAWJ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or Credit Card: MasterCard, Visa or AMEX

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature/Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

### RETURN THIS REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:

National Association of Women Judges

1341 Connecticut Ave, NW

Washington, D.C. 20036

Fax: 202-393-0125

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Court of Common Pleas, 1st Judicial District, PA

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Hon. Cara T. Neville  
4th Judicial District Court, MN



### ADMINISTRATIVE, MILITARY & SPECIALIZED COURTS

Longtime and active NAWJ member and current VP for Districts Hon. Joan V. Churchill has developed an informative new program on behalf of NAWJ District 4 and the Administrative Judiciary Committee to guide NAWJ District Directors and conference planners in designing programs that provides education on the often unknown and unfamiliar role of the administrative and military judiciary, as well as that of certain specialized courts, which are not part of the regular court system.

There are three primary objectives for this program:

1. Familiarizing the general judiciary and others about the work of the administrative judiciary, to increase knowledge, correct misconceptions, explain resource limitations, and engender respect.
2. Providing District Directors who need ideas for interesting programs with a prepackaged program that can be adapted to various locations within their Districts.
3. Attracting more members to NAWJ from the Administrative and other special courts, by identifying state and local administrative military and special court judges, in preparation for the respective programs.

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program examines the role of administrative, military and other local, State and Federal specialized courts. Tribal courts could be included.

The role of the administrative judiciary is not well known. Judges in the general judiciary lack familiarity with the scope, jurisdiction, and procedures of administrative hearings. Even judges in the general judiciary who must review appeals of administrative decisions often lack information about the administrative process, and the types of resources limitations and institutional pressures faced by administrative judges.

This program is designed as an event intended to attract NAWJ members and prospective members from throughout each of the Districts. Members and prospective members are scattered over a wide geographic area. Programs are needed that appeal to members in different parts of the District. The program can be put on in a variety of locations within a District, or can be adapted for a regional or annual conference. There is enough material for a 1½ day conference, or the topics could be condensed for a short evening program or panel discussion as part of a larger conference.

There are a large number of administrative judges throughout the United States, who are probably unaware of NAWJ, and who would be interested in joining. In addition to the state and federal administrative courts located in different parts of the United States, there are certain specialized courts that operate apart from the regular court system at both the State and Federal levels. Judges serving on military courts and tribal courts can be located in many states. During the process of locating local speakers, District leadership may locate judges who are unfamiliar with NAWJ who might be interested in membership. The work of the Districts in locating those administrative judges in different parts of the country could work to the mutual benefit of judges who would be interested in joining NAWJ but who are unaware of its existence, and of NAWJ, by gradually tapping a large potential membership pool.

**PANEL MEMBERS**

Program presenters may offer a typical panel of:

- State administrative judge
- Federal administrative law judge  
*Social Security ALJs are stationed throughout the U.S.*
- Federal administrative judge  
*Immigration judges are stationed in 54 locations in the US*  
*Federal judges in many agencies travel frequently to conduct hearings around the US*
- Military judge  
*the Navy-Marine, Coast Guard, and Army Judges are stationed throughout the U.S.*  
*The AF judges are in 3 locations*
- Federal or state judge who hears appeals from administrative tribunals
- Academic who studies the work of administrative tribunals

**PROSPECTIVE TOPICS****General**

- The variety of the types of Courts
- The variation and similarity of types of hearings, their scope, methodology and place in the judicial process, including comparisons between the different types of administrative tribunals, as well as comparisons with Article III and state judicial courts.
- The selection process
- Independence and challenges to decisional independence in the administrative structure

**Specific**

The Military Judge could describe the military justice system, and the jurisdiction and functioning of her/his court, along with its interface with state and other federal criminal systems, and a comparison with state criminal courts.

**Each of the administrative or special court judges could discuss:**

- The type of cases they hear
- An example of an interesting case which has come before the tribunal
- The procedural structure of their tribunal, such as
- Whether the Court is centralized or specialized
- Whether their decisions are final, or recommendations
- Whether the Court is within an agency, or is separate from the agency it reviews
- Whether the parties before the Court are usually represented, and the role of the judge when the Government and/or applicants are not represented
- Evidentiary rules
- The appeal process
- The judicial selection process

The reviewing judge could present a brief description of the role of the Court in reviewing the administrative tribunal, and an opinion about the role of administrative courts which her Court oversees.

The academic could briefly describe the reasons for establishing administrative courts, and current issues faced by the administrative judiciary.

**Contact**

A list of available NAWJ educational materials, publications and outreach programs such as the aforementioned Administrative, Military & Specialized Courts may be found at [www.nawj.org/programs.asp](http://www.nawj.org/programs.asp). Contact program developer Judge Joan Churchill directly for assistance, or Lavinia Cousin at 202.393.0222.

### DISTRICT ONE

- The **Honorable Joyce London Alexander**, the longest-serving magistrate judge in the history of the U.S. District Court in Massachusetts and one of only two African Americans on the District Court bench, retired in February. Judge Alexander was appointed in 1979, becoming the country's first African-American woman magistrate judge. From 1996 to 1999 she served as chief magistrate judge for the district, becoming the first African-American woman to lead any court unit in Massachusetts. Judge Alexander is well known for a program she created for the federal courts in Massachusetts in 1989 entitled "**Kids, Courts & Citizenship**" where each year 700 fifth-grade pupils from Boston schools arrive in her courtroom to watch and discuss the legal system.



Hon. Joyce Alexander

- District One held its **2008 Annual Dinner Meeting** at the Hotel Marlowe Cambridge Galleria on October 27, 2008. Attendees greeted old and new members and congratulated new District One Director Ariane Vuono, Treasurer Patricia Hurst and Secretary Amy Nechtem and celebrated Justice Fernande R.V. Duffy's past presidential year.
- The Honorable Maureen McKenna Goldberg, as the **first female Acting Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court**, administered the oath of office to Newport Sen. Teresa Paiva-Weed, as the first female president of the Rhode Island Senate.
- In honor of University of New Hampshire's 19th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, students, community members and photographers availed themselves to "A Prison Nation: Unlocking The Stories," photography exhibit of incarcerated women. "The main goal I think is to try to bring their issues to the surface and let people know what's going on, also to bring humanity to these women," said presenter Holly Tate.

### DISTRICT TWO

- New York Governor David Patterson announced on March 5, 2009 that he has appointed the Honorable L. Priscilla Hall, Administrative Judge of the Criminal Term of the Supreme Court, to the Appellate Division, Second Department. Justice Hall was elected to the Supreme Court in 1993. She previously served on the bench of the New York City Criminal Court and the Court of Claims. Justice Hall is a long time member of the NAWJ and is active in the New York State chapter of the NAWJ.
- On New Year's Day former Oswego County Legislator Kim Seager became **the county's first female judge upon taking the oath for Family Court service**. No other woman has served in the capacity of judge in any county court. Judge Seager was elected to the position of Family Court judge in November.
- **The Honorable Judith S. Kaye, former Chief Judge of the New York State Courts**, retired last year having reached the mandatory retirement age. Judge Kaye was the first woman to serve on New York State's highest court when Governor Mario Cuomo appointed her from private practice to Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals on September 12, 1983.
- The Correctional Association of New York recently released its report on higher education entitled, **Education from the Inside, Out**, which examines the benefits of in-prison college programs. The report recounts the recent history of federal and state cuts that have virtually eliminated in-prison college programs in New York and across the country.
- **The Coalition for Women Prisoners' Violence Against Women Committee** and filmmaker Allison Caviness held the premier screening of the film "Strength of a Woman," a 22 minute documentary depicting the stories of formerly incarcerated women who committed crimes as a result of the abuse they suffered. After the screening of the film, advocates explored the relationship between domestic violence and womens' pathways to prison. There was also a discussion with the filmmaker and the committee as well as a dialogue about the Committee's continued advocacy for the Merit Time Bill. The screening program took place February 5th at Columbia University School of Law, and was co-sponsored by Amnesty International, Columbia Law School Criminal Justice Action Network, Columbia Law School, and the National Association of Women Judges.
- Retired Judge Lucille Tostanoski Buell who made New York court history in 1974 when she became **the first woman to serve as a Westchester Family Court judge**, died in December of last year. Her 'firsts' also included election to the state Supreme Court's 9th Judicial District in 1981, which includes Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange and Dutchess counties. Judge Buell also taught at Cornell Law School in Ithaca and she was one of the first women to teach law at Fordham University, where she graduated first in her class.
- The New York NAWJ chapter inducted new officers on January 31st at its first meeting of the year: President Barbara Howe, President-Elect Laura Jacobson, VP Cheryl Gonzales, VP Darcel Clark, VP Shirley Troutman, VP Rachel Kretser, Secretary Carol Feinman and Treasurer Rene F. Minarik. Swearing in was Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman.



- The Correctional Association of New York's premiere screening of **"Strength of a Women"**, which took place on February 5 at Columbia Law School, was an unqualified success. This program, which was co-sponsored by NAWJ, Amnesty International and Columbia Law School Prison Project, was very well attended, including the many law students (males, as well as female) in the audience. Among the panelists were former prisoner survivors of domestic violence, as well as Sister Mary Nerny. **The landmark hearings on domestic violence at which women at Bedford Hills gave testimony in 1985, were co-chaired by our own Hon. Marjory Fields and Hon. Karen Burstein.** The hearings were a major force motivating the Commissioners of State agencies (nearly all of whom attended) to make immediate administrative rule changes. Prior to WIP's November 5th, 2008 DV training forum, Hon. Fields referred me to the history of the movement against domestic violence in New York State. Unfortunately, in response to my request, the state Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence was unable to find any transcripts of or executive summary for the hearings in its archives. It would be wonderful for the committee to meet with retired Judge Fields, at some point, to hear her reflections about this fascinating period in the movement.
- Hon. Cheryl Gonzales made the arrangements for housing workshop, which took place at the Taconic Correction Facility on Friday, February 27, 2009. **Thank you Judge Gonzales for all that you do for WIP!**
- Women in Prison, through chair emeritus Hon. Betty Williams, arranged a seminar on housing, which will take place at the Taconic Correction Facility Friday, February 27, 2009. Several lawyers volunteered with participation. **The last fifty copies of the "Children of Incarcerated Parents" coloring books were also delivered,** and the remaining toiletry gift bags collected through your generous donations, will be given to the children of women at the facility. Thank you to the judges who have agreed to provide transportation to our presenters.
- Hon. Betty Williams, as chair of the Legislative Issues subcommittee, continues to coordinate NAWJ's **support of the passage of the Domestic Violence Merit Time Credit bill, sponsored by the Correctional Association of New York.** **Hon. Marcy Kahn** has offered insightful input in discussions about the bill with various state agency heads, including the commissioner of NYS Division of Parole. We will advise you of its progress, as well as our support of other legislative initiatives.
- Glenn Martin, Vice President of Development and Public Affairs, Fortune Society, will be among the panelists at NAWJ's **upcoming Annual Conference in Memphis, Tennessee October 15-18, 2009.** **His topic is the "Collateral Consequences of Criminal Convictions".** He conducted an excellent "How to Overcome Criminal Barriers" workshop at our Bayview "Beyond the Bars" program in December 2008, which was attended by a packed auditorium. The Legislative Issues subcommittee will review legislative proposals that relate to this issue for NAWJ consideration.
- For those of you who attended our theatre party for "The Castle" Off Broadway, see the attached link for channel New York 1's recent story about the groundbreaking on **Fortune Society's newest project Affordable and Environmentally Healthy Housing.** The story includes an interview of one of the performers in the docudrama. (<http://www.ny1.com/Default.aspx?ArID=94258>)
- **Please see Women in Prison Committee news further in this issue of Counterbalance.**

## DISTRICT THREE



### **About District Three Director Hon. Dr. Stephanie Domitrovich**

Longtime and active NAWJ member Judge Stephanie A. Domitrovich sits on the bench of the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, Pennsylvania serving its Family and Orphans Court. A longtime educator, Dr. Domitrovich is a faculty member for The National Judicial College, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and Gannon University. Globally she has supported the efforts of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to educate judges in the former Soviet Republic nations of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in the development of their judicial systems. Judge Domitrovich is President of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges and Past President of American Inns of Court. In addition to being a member of the American Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, and Erie County Bar Association. Judge Domitrovich makes time to serve on the Board of Boy Scouts of America, the Erie Youth Symphony, and the Quality of Life Learning Center. The Honorable Dr. Stephanie Domitrovich is the first judge in the nation to receive a Doctorate in Judicial Studies, which was obtained from the University of Nevada, Reno. She received her J.D. from Duquesne University School of Law, and a B.A. from Carlow College in art history.

- Judge Midge Rendell and the **Pennsylvania Governor's Office confirms District Three's Luncheon** at the Pennsylvania Governor's Residence for September 26, 2009 from 11:30am to 2:00pm.
- NAWJ held a District meeting at the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges Mid-Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh in February.
- Kudos to former District Three Director Sue Pai Yang for her work in educating us about the issue of **Workplace Bullying**, first presented at the 2006 NAWJ Annual Conference in Las Vegas. New Jersey assemblywoman Linda Greenstein has proposed a healthy workplace bill to address this issue and New Jersey employees may be the first in the nation to have protection against workplace bullying. Last year's workplace bullying workshop in New Jersey was a resounding success with over 100 people in attendance. Thanks go to the New Jersey State Bar Foundation.
- Ever active, last September in Tapei Judge Yang met with the Chief Justice of the Taiwan Supreme Court, who is committed to funding a judge to study our criminal justice system in both state and federal courts. Plans are underway to make this **visiting scholar program** a reality. Judge Yang welcomes suggestions.
- **Superior Court Judge Karen Cassidy** will hold the top judicial post in Union County after the retirement of assignment Judge Walter Barisonek. Judge Cassidy was appointed to the bench in April 2000 by then Gov. Christie Whitman and has served in Union County, first in the family division, then in the civil division from 2002 to 2005. She returned to the family division in 2005 to serve as presiding judge where she was struck by the sheer number of domestic violence cases. "Domestic violence, day in and day out," Cassidy described. "I had no idea of the enormity of the issues that come with that. ... It was a real education for me."
- **NAWJ member Sybil R. Moses**, a trailblazing lawyer who rose to Bergen County's top judgeship, died last month. She was 69. Judge Moses was named Superior Court Assignment Judge in

1997, the first woman to hold that post in New Jersey. The assignment judge oversees administration of the Superior Court's four divisions and supervises 32 judges at the Bergen County Courthouse in Hackensack, as well as dozens of municipal judges. Her promotion marked the third in a series of glass ceilings shattered in the Garden State. Judge Moses was appointed by New Jersey's first female chief justice, Hon. Deborah Poritz, who herself was appointed nine months earlier by New Jersey's first female governor Christie Whitman.

Hackensack attorney Joseph Rem, President of the Bergen County Bar Association noted: "Judge Moses raised her family before she went to law school and attended law school with people who were a decade or two younger, and that was courageous," said Rem, who was a year behind Moses at Rutgers School of Law in Newark. "She was in the vanguard of women who had both a life as a mother and a professional career." Hon. Peter Verniero, a former New Jersey Supreme Court justice and attorney general, said "I'm not sure she'd want to be remembered as the first female judge of any county, but rather a judge who tried to achieve justice in all her cases and who set high standards, but reserved the highest standards for herself. The Newark-born Moses received a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Maryland and a master's in international relations from the University of Pennsylvania. She was 32 and a mother of two when she entered Rutgers School of Law.

- The **Honorable Joan Marinkovits**, who was elected 13 years ago as the first female judge in Northampton Borough, Pennsylvania will retire this year. "She was always fair and open, even when we disagreed," Northampton police Chief Ronald Morey said. Judge Marinkovits said she's had a lot of fun and that her first hearing, a summary offense case, lasted six hours because she had no idea how a hearing was structured or how to move it along.

## DISTRICT FOUR

**About District Four Director Hon. Cathy Hollenberg Serrette**

*Cathy Hollenberg Serrette, a Circuit Court Judge for the 7th Judicial Circuit of Maryland, is a member of the Maryland Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services, chair of the Maryland Judicial Conference Family Law Committee, chair of the Critical Barriers Subcommittee of the Maryland Access to Justice Commission, district director for the National Association of Women Judges, chair of the Maryland Women's Bar Association's Pro Bono Committee, director on the board of Community Legal Services of Prince George's County, member of the Prince George's County Local Pro Bono Committee, and an Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource Fellow. Judge Serrette received a B.S., Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude, from the University of Pittsburgh, a J.D. from George Washington University, and an LL.M. in International Legal Studies from American University. She recently participated in the International Judicial Academy's Sir Richard May Seminar on International Law and International Courts and the North American Judicial Colloquium at Brandeis University's International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life.*

*Judge Serrette is the recipient of the Women's Bar Association of Maryland Pro Bono Award, Prince George's County Bar Association Distinguished Service Award, Daily Record Leadership in Law Award, Law Foundation outstanding leadership commendation, Maryland Pro Bono Service Award, the ACLU Advocate for Justice Award (PGC), and the Maryland Bono Resource Center 15th Anniversary honor. Best of all, she has three wonderful sons, an amazing daughter-in-law, and a phenomenal husband.*

- District Four held its annual dinner with the Maryland Legislative Women's Caucus and honored Judge Irma S. Raker who retired from Maryland's highest court, the Court of Appeals. The dinner took place at the Government House, the official residence of the Governor of Maryland and his family. It is located in Annapolis.
- On October 4, 2008 the District sponsored the very successful **Women Moving Forward Conference** co-chaired by Judges Brenda Murray and Cathy Serrette at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCIW). Judges Theresa Nolan, Julia Weatherly, Susan Gauvey and Sue-Ellen Hantman participated on the conference steering committee. The all-day conference gave over 125 participants the opportunity to attend several workshops on more than 15 topics, including financial management, housing, education, drug and mental health resources, employment, anger management, resume writing, family reunification and physical health. According to L. Tracy Brown, director of the Women's Law Center of Maryland, the conference gives the women the resources they need to transition to life outside prison. "It is women who hold families together and they need jobs and homes," Brown said. "About 70 percent of the women have children. You can see the impact it has when they can transition successfully to the community." About 20 inmates did a fashion show wearing clothes donated by Suited to Succeed, a Baltimore nonprofit that helps women transition from unemployment to self-sufficiency," says our Judge Brenda Murray, the other NAWJ committee co-chair and the chief administrative law judge at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington. "We rented a red carpet for them to march up and down on — and they can keep the clothes!" Judge Murray, who regularly volunteers by leading a reading group at the prison, recognized that the women prisoners' needs regarding re-entry are neglected, especially relative to men.



Conference evaluations, administered and analyzed by a professional evaluator, documented the impact of the program, which was, perhaps, best conveyed by the words of some of the participants:

- *Excellent conference. Truly was a blessing and provided so much hope and direction for an ex-offender such as myself. Thank you.*
- *I would once again like to thank all of you for bringing this conference to us. It was truly a learning experience and also treated us with dignity, empathy and respect.*
- *I just think conference was a great thing for us! To know there*

*are so many resources made available to me and there are so many people and places that actually care, it was great conference and I'm so grateful for being able to attend.*

- *I really enjoyed this conference. It gave me a new outlook on leaving prison. I have made new goals and I have hope for the future.*
- *Just to thank all who made this wonderful and uplifting day a success. I am so much more confident in my work search.*
- *The conference was a great asset that will assist me in being a productive member of society.*
- Judge Brenda Murray and others have successfully brought **college credit courses to Maryland Corrections Institute for Women** (see Women in Prison reports later in Counterbalance.)
- **Judges Toni Clarke** and Cathy Serrette have been meeting with Maryland's Secretary of Juvenile Services and the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation to foster a collaborative effort to replace the **Waxter Detention Center**, the rundown antiquated facility currently housing detained and committed girls. The group continues to team up with the Prince George's County chapter of the Women's Bar Association (PG-WBA) in bringing programs to Waxter. The District also co-sponsored a reception with PG-WBA to which attendees brought gently worn business clothing to donate to Suited for Change, a D.C. based non-profit that provides professional clothing and career and life skills education to low-income women.
- **Baltimore Circuit Court Administrative Judge Marcella Holland** continues to work with the Girl Scouts in the Bridge Beyond Bars program which held a sleepover at the pre-release center in Baltimore on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009.
- There are now three female judges on Maryland's highest court, the Court of Appeals, which was noted by Maryland Gov.

Martin O'Malley at the swearing in ceremony for Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, who is the governor's third appointment to the seven-member Court of Appeals. Gov. O'Malley also appointed Judge Sally Adkins to the Court of Appeals. Judge Lynne Battaglia, the third female judge on the bench, was appointed by former Gov. Parris Glendening.

- **Judge Claudia Barber** is organizing a presentation of the play "Full Truth" on the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall's struggle against segregation in the **landmark Brown v. Board of Education case**, presented by Judge Paul Handy and featuring a cast of judges from Washington, D.C. The play will be preceded by a 30-minute panel discussion from a panel of judges and practitioners on "Winning Civil Rights Cases in State and Federal Courts Yesterday and Today.
- Judge Karen Heneberg is organizing a panel of women judges to **speak to law students at George Mason University School of Law**.
- The **Virginia Women Judges Association (VAWJ)** has initiated a Scholarship Essay Contest on the subject of women and the law. Participants will interview at least one woman judge and one woman legislator and afterwards write an essay on the influences, contributions, experiences etc. of women making, practicing and upholding the law. The winner will receive a \$500 scholarship at a Spring Luncheon Event celebrating Women in the Law and attended by women judges, legislators, educators, essay writers, and maybe even a few women of the press. The scholarship is available to all high school seniors, male and female, the first scholarship will be awarded this spring to a student in the Greater Hampton Roads region.
- Judge Alotha C. Willis concluded her term as President of NAWJ's Virginia Chapter. The new President is the Honorable Roxie Holder of the General District Court in Portsmouth, Virginia.

## DISTRICT FIVE

- April's NAWJ Midyear Meeting Conference Chairs the **Hon. Carol W. Hunstein** and the **Hon. Leah Ward Sears**, both of the Supreme Court of Georgia, are excited and busy working with other Planning Committee members: **Hon. Cynthia J. Becker, DeKalb Co. Superior Court; Ms. Silvia A. Gaines, Georgia Committee on Access & Fairness in the Courts, Administrative Office of the Courts; Ms. Leah K. Givan, MSW, Supreme Court of Georgia; and Hon. Nina M. Radakovich (Retired.)** The Keynote Speaker will be Hon. Glenda Hatchett, former Chief Presiding Judge, Fulton County, Georgia Juvenile Court, and host of syndicated show "Judge Hatchett."
- **Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears** gave her final State of the Judiciary address early February and used the opportunity to point out the dangers of failing to adequately fund the justice system. "The judicial system's budget is less than 1 percent of the overall state budget, but we play a large role in protecting the safety and security of Georgia citizens," said Sears, who is retiring at the age of 53 and officially steps down June 30. Chief Justice Sears also addressed pay raises for judges: "I suppose my failure as Chief Justice was my inability to get our state's judges a much-needed raise, a raise they have not had in more

than a decade," she said. "Many of you here worked hard for that goal, and I thank you. I was honored to have so many join in the effort. When our economy improves, for the sake of this state's judicial system, I urge you to renew that effort."

- Judge Kimberly S. Taylor, the **first female judge in the state's 22nd Judicial District**, was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest civilian honor that can be granted in North Carolina. The award is granted by the governor to retiring individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to their organization, their community and the state of North Carolina. Taylor will return this month to private practice with Lewis & Daggett Attorneys at Law in a new office that the firm will open in Statesville.
- Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Cindy Lederman overturned a state law blocking gay people from adopting children. Florida is **the only state** with an outright ban on gay adoption irrespective of the adoptees' marriage status.
- Chisa J. Putman, an alum of presenting a **Color of Justice Program in Charleston, South Carolina** will present another program on May 1st from 9:00-1:00 pm at the City of Rock Hill. For more information and to support her efforts email her at [mrsputman04@gmail.com](mailto:mrsputman04@gmail.com).

## DISTRICT SIX

**About District Six Director Honorable Rosemary Ledet**

The Honorable Rose Ledet was elected Judge of Division "B" of Orleans Parish Civil District Court in October, 1999. Judge Ledet began her legal career as an Assistant City Attorney. In January 1986, she joined the firm of Berrigan, Litchfield, Schonekas, and Mann where she practiced general civil litigation. In August, 1989, still maintaining a part-time law practice, Judge Ledet was appointed Clerk of First City Court and elected to that position in March 1990 where she served until her election to the Civil Court bench. Judge Ledet is a board member of the Louisiana Judicial College. She also serves as a member of the Executive Committee, Mentoring Committee, and New Judges Training Committee of the Louisiana District Judges Association and is a former member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Professionalism and Quality of Life Committee and Supreme Court Rules Committee. Judge Ledet was elected as a 2008 district board member of the National Association of Women Judges and secretary treasurer of the Loyola Alumni Board.

Judge Ledet is also a member of the National Bar Association, Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Louisiana Judicial Council, American Bar Association, Association of Women Attorneys and New Orleans Bar Association. Since serving as judge, Ms. Ledet has participated as a speaker in various continuing legal education seminars. A native New

Orleanian, Judge Ledet, graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1975. She attended Loyola University, receiving a B.A. degree in Communications in 1979. A 1985 graduate of Loyola Law School, Judge Ledet received the outstanding student award from the Loyola Law Clinic.

- **NAWJ awarded \$4,000 in scholarships to Louisianan law students.**

Each year the Louisiana Judicial Council of the National Bar Association (NBA) presents a scholarship to a student from the State's four law schools.

The recipients, Tiffany Campbell from Southern University Law Center; Allison McCray from Loyola University College of Law; Erica Gibson from Tulane Law School; and Stephanie Chavis from Louisiana State University Law School, were all third year law students. Students are selected based on an essay competition. Last year's topic was "Lethal Injection: Cruel and Unusual Punishment?" At the October 2008 meeting of the LA Judicial Council, District 6 Director, Judge Rose Ledet, presented the organization with a check from NAWJ at the scholarship award ceremony.]



- Former NAWJ member **Justice Catherine D. Kimball**, the first woman to be elected to the **Louisiana Supreme Court**, will be sworn-in as Chief of the court, making her the first woman in the history of the state to be Chief Justice. She presides over Louisiana's 5th Judicial District. The other two women on Louisiana's Supreme Court are NAWJ lifetime member Hon. Bernette Joshua Johnson and member Hon. Jeannette Theriot Knoll.

- **The Honorable Rita L. Stotts**, the first African-American female judge in Shelby County Circuit Court and one of about two dozen African Americans serving on the bench locally, died in January. A Memphis native, Judge Stotts would have celebrated her 56th birthday this year. In May 2000, she was appointed to Circuit Court – Division IV by then Governor Don Sundquist to fill a vacancy left by the retirement of Judge James Swearingen. Subsequently, she was elected to complete the remainder of

his term. Judge Stotts ran unopposed in August 2006 and was re-elected to a full eight-year term. "Outgoing, outspoken and concerned" Judge Stotts was active in judicial-related family issues and in the community.

- Retired 9th Judicial District Judge Rae Swent was honored in a ceremony while Judge Mary Lauve Doggett was sworn in with the other judges to fill Judge Swent's seat. Judge Doggett won the seat in November in a runoff race with Rapides Parish Assistant District Attorney Rocky Willson. Judge Doggett also noted the effort of Judge Swent being **the first female judge elected to the Louisiana's 9th Judicial District Court**. Judge Doggett has maintained Swent's staff and believes that the transition will go smoothly.
- A campaign that could speak to some judges running anywhere, **NAWJ lifetime member State District Judge Mary Hotard Becnel** is running for the Louisiana 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, saying "it is important to have a person who understands and respects our way of life" serving in that court. The 5th Circuit judgeship represents St. James and St. John the Baptist parishes. The election is scheduled for April 4. Judge Becnel is Chief Judge of the 40th Judicial District Court. She has served in that court since 1993. "It is essential to have an appeals judge who has experience as a trial judge, one who understands the dynamics of decision-making," according to 2theadvocate.com. Judge Becnel has worked in the courts 40 years, first as a court reporter, then as a lawyer and as a judge.
- The librarians at the Louisiana Supreme Court are planning "**Louisiana's Celebration of Women in American Law**," which the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society is aiming for launch later this spring. The Society, a new group, intends to present a number of programs featuring veteran Louisiana women lawyers, judges, and law professors. No dates have been set. For more information contact Carol Billings at the Museum phone (504) 310-2526.

DISTRICT SEVEN



**About District 7 Director Honorable Margaret A. Clark**

Judge Margaret A. Clark has been on the bench in rural Georgetown, Brown County, Ohio, for 26 years, and is the first woman (and still the only) to serve as judge in the small (population 42,000) Appalachian county. First she served 20 years as judge of the County Court (now known as Municipal Court) and then in 2002 was elected to the position she now holds, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Probate/Juvenile Division. As a judge in a small county, she does it all--only one part-time magistrate to assist in the caseload. The hearings range from probate estates and guardianships to juvenile delinquency--anything from speeding tickets and truancy up to murder and rape. Margaret has been married for 34 years to Patrick Hornschemeier, an attorney in Georgetown, Ohio. They have three grown children: Ann, a scientist with NASA in Maryland, Paul, a cartoonist in Chicago, and Mary, an employee of the DePaul University Law School in Chicago.

■ **Profiles in Service.** With the start of 2009, **NAWJ's Judge Susan Moiseev**, Chief Judge on the 46th District Court bench in Southfield, Michigan will take on the additional office of **President of the Michigan District Judges Association**, an organization of all State District and Municipal Court Judges. The Association actively takes positions on legislation affecting the court and justice in Michigan and promotes continuing education among the membership. Judge Moiseev's newest leadership role compliments her history and tradition of extensive involvement in the NAWJ, and in the American Bar Association (ABA), as well as in other judicial organizations. In addition to her new duties as President of the Michigan District Judges Association, Susan serves as President of the Oakland County (Michigan) Bar Association, and serves as the Chair of the Ethics Committee of the National Conference of Specialized Court Judges for the ABA's Judicial Division. Susan has also served on the State Bar of Michigan Standing Committee on Professional and Judicial Ethics, and is a past President of the Women Lawyers Foundation and the Oakland County District Judges Association.



Hon. Susan Moiseev

■ **Current NAWJ VP, Publications** and former District Seven Director **Judge Shelia Johnson** was elected President of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, the largest statewide association of African American judges and judicial officers. The Association takes an active role in addressing issues related to the fair and equal



Hon. Shelia Johnson

administration of justice in all aspects of the judicial process and it promotes continuing legal education among its members and education of the community at large on issues involving the courts and all aspects of the judicial process. Judge Johnson also serves on the 46th District Court bench in Southfield, Michigan as Chief Judge Pro Tem.

- Newly elected Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper, an **NAWJ founding member**, became the first woman ever elected prosecutor in Oakland County, Michigan in November, 2008. A reporter for The Detroit News noted several pieces of bubble-wrapped artwork leaning against two walls, and a few framed honors, including one from the National Association of Women Judges.
- Judge Cynthia Diane Stephens, of the Wayne County Circuit Court, was **recently appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals by Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm**. She is only the second African American female to serve on this appellate court and she succeeds former **NAWJ member Judge Helene White**, who was recently appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit. On February 13, Judge Stephens took her formal oath of office, administered by new Chief Judge Marilyn Kelly of the Michigan Supreme Court, before an impressive array of lawyers, judges, elected officials, dignitaries and well wishers. Prior to her appointment, Judge Stevens served on the 36th District Court bench for several years and thereafter she served with distinction on the Circuit Court bench for 24 years.
- **Judge Pamela A. Rintala** was recipient of the President's Award by the Trumbull County Bar Association, becoming the first female to receive the honor bestowed each year on an individual for outstanding achievements and accomplishments benefiting the bar association. She was the **first female judge of Trumbull County, Ohio and first female president of the bar association**. Rintala has been a judge for 13 years. She served as magistrate from 1988 to 1994 and started her career as a probation officer in juvenile court.

## DISTRICT EIGHT

- **The Honorable Jane Drew Waller** retired recently after 27 years of service in Lake County, Illinois Courts. In the 19th Circuit, Waller was the first woman associate judge, first woman circuit judge, first woman presiding judge, first woman chief judge and first woman president of the bar association. In Lake County, Judge Waller was one of 10 female judges out of the total of 35. She will be replaced by Judge Diane Winter, who was elevated by the state Supreme Court. Two women judges

appointed to the bench after Judge Waller – Hon. Barbara Gilleran Johnson and Hon. Mary Seminara Schostok - went on to appointments on the appellate court.

- **Former NAWJ member Hon. Karen G. Shields**, a retired Cook County Circuit Court judge, joins JAMS, The Resolution Experts, a provider of alternative dispute resolution services. Judge Shields is based in the JAMS Chicago Resolution Center in Chicago and will serve as a mediator and arbitrator of disputes with a focus on family law matters.

## DISTRICT NINE

- NAWJ Past President and current board director of Strategic Planning and Implementation **Judge Brenda Stith Loftin**, recipient of the **Racial Justice Leader Award from the YWCA** in December, will chair District Nine's first District-wide Conference. The Conference will take place in St. Louis, Missouri April 17-19, 2009.
- Former NAWJ member Judge Nanette Baker was **elected Chief of the Eastern District Appeals Court of Missouri**. She is the first African American female to serve in this position.
- Iowa Court of Appeals Judge Anuradha Vaitheswaran recently co-chaired the **Iowa Child Support Advisory Committee**, which recommended major revisions to Iowa's child support guidelines. District Court Judge Eliza Ovrom also served on the committee. The committee recommended replacing Iowa's child support charts with schedules based on the "pure income shares" method of computing child support. This change will bring Iowa in line with the majority of states in its method of computing child support. In addition, the guidelines will provide more transparency for child support payors and payees, and will ensure that Iowa's child support schedules actually reflect the costs of raising children in the state.
- Last summer, **Iowa Governor Chet Culver appointed NAWJ member Judge Amanda Potterfield to the Iowa Court of Appeals**. Judge Potterfield had been serving as a judge in Iowa's Sixth District prior to her appointment. She is a graduate of the National Law Center at George Washington University, and Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia. Judge

Potterfield worked as a criminal defense attorney for the Georgia Criminal Justice Council and, later, for Prisoners' Legal Services in New York City. She moved to Iowa in 1982 and worked in the Linn County Public Defender's office.

- Civil rights pioneer Vel Phillips will be honored when the Milwaukee County Children's Court Center will be renamed for her as the **Vel R. Phillips Juvenile Justice Center**. In 1956 she joined the Milwaukee Common Council as the first woman and first African-American to do so. She insisted that the words juvenile justice be made part of the building's name. "Some of the poor kids who came out there didn't get much justice.



Vel Phillips

I was very determined that while I was there, justice would be distributed evenly," Judge Phillips said. Judge Phillips still practices law part time and, will do so at the building named in her honor.

- The Honorable Rita Ann Keshena, the sitting Supreme Court Chief Justice on the Menominee Tribal Court, died at her home in August of last year. Chief Justice Keshena, 87, was the granddaughter of Band Chief Keshena for whom the Village of Keshena was named. She also was the **first woman to serve as the tribal court's Chief Justice**.

## DISTRICT TEN



### About District 10 Director Hon. Carol Beier

Carol A. Beier was born in Kansas City, Kansas, on September 27, 1958. She attended Benedictine College in Atchison and the University of Kansas, Lawrence, where she obtained a B.S. in Journalism in 1981. Before law school, she worked as an editor at *The Kansas City Times*. Justice Beier received her law degree from the University of Kansas in 1985. She graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law, Graduate Program for Judges in 2004, with an LL.M., Masters of Law in the Judicial Process. Before joining the Court on September 5, 2003, she had served as a judge of the Court of Appeals since February 2000.

Justice Beier spent eleven years before joining the Court of Appeals at Foulston & Siefkin, L.L.P., in Wichita, where her trial and appellate practice focused on commercial disputes. Justice Beier also spent one year teaching and directing two student clinical programs at the University of Kansas School of Law. Prior to joining Foulston & Siefkin, Justice Beier practiced in Washington D.C., first as a staff attorney at the National Women's Law Center through the Women's Rights and Public Policy fellowship program of the

*Georgetown Law Center, and then at Arent, Fox, Kintner, Plotkin & Kahn, where her practice focused on white collar criminal defense. Immediately after law school graduation, Justice Beier had served as a clerk to then Judge James K. Logan of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Justice Beier is the author of several legal publications and is a frequent presenter for legal and lay audiences. Justice Beier is married to Richard W. Green and has three children.*

- **The Honorable Kay McFarland retired** as Chief Justice from the Kansas Supreme Court in early January. She was the first woman to serve on the state's highest court. Fellow Kansas Supreme Court Justice Robert E. Davis succeeded her with his appointment by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. According to Judge Beier, Governor Sebelius took credit in public for appointing fully half of the women in the state judiciary. That percentage reflects both the strength of her record and the low absolute numbers.
- Several new women took positions on Kansas' bench: **Hon. Sally D. Pokorny, Seventh District Judge and Hon.**

**Constance Alvey, 29th District Judge. Magistrate Judges Hon. Kristin Hutchinson** will serve at the Elk County Courthouse, while **Hon. Julie Cowell** will serve at the Pawnee County Courthouse. With the addition of Judge Sally Pokorny to the Douglas County District Court bench the Seventh Judicial District's judges became majority female - four women and two men. The 17th Judicial District, made up of six northwestern counties, is the other Kansas court with a female majority. Kansas' largest bench, Sedgwick County's 18th Judicial District, gained two judgeships but lost its lone female judge in the November election; five women ran in contested partisan elections for seats in the 18th Judicial District in November but none of them was successful, including a long-time incumbent who was a member of NAWJ. This outcome, when compared with two of the three other urban judicial districts that have appointments systems and several women on the trial bench, demonstrates that, in Kansas at least, **an appointments system may correlates to greater gender diversity among judges.**

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### DISTRICT ELEVEN

- On February 19th, 2009 from 9:30 am -1:30 pm **District Ten will hold a Color of Justice Program** event in the Eidman Courtroom on the campus of the University of Texas Law School in Austin. In coordination with the University of Texas Law School in outreach to encourage minority students to consider the law and judgeships as career goals, a Judges Panel will include: Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson, Judge Orlinda Naranjo (Civil District), Judge Brenda Kennedy (Criminal District) and Judge Carlos Berrera (Criminal County Court); along with a Lawyers Panel to include Nikelle Meade, Geronimo Rodriguez and Demetrius McDaniel, including a law professor. Contact NAWJ District Director Judge Marisela Saldana, 148th District Court, mgsaldana@aol.com, or phone 361-888-0333 for more information.

- **The Women's Resource Fair's** planning is building quite nicely. The District have added services, the Seton Mammography Unit to provide mammograms, debt and credit counseling as well as estate planning services from the Estate and Probate section of the Austin Bar Association, as well haircuts, and a massage company to volunteer giving the women chair massages. The number of physicians for well-women exams and general health screenings will increase this year. Still in the middle of fundraising the group expects to double last year's attendance, so look forward to 250-300 this year.
- Judge Cynthia Stevens Kent will retire into private practice after 24 years on the bench, in the 114th District Court in Smith County, Texas. She was the **first elected female judge in Smith County when she became County Court-at-Law No. 2** judge in 1984 at 30 years old.

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### DISTRICT TWELVE

- The Utah Federal Bar Association awarded the **Honorable Brooke C. Wells**, United States Magistrate for the District of Utah, its inaugural **Pro Bono Award**. Judge Wells was recognized for her pivotal role in developing the new Federal Appointment Wheel and in creating RISE. The Federal Appointment Wheel is a joint effort between the Utah Federal District Court and the Utah FBA to streamline the process of finding pro bono legal representation to deserving civil litigants who could otherwise not afford it. Judge Wells was also the driving force behind RISE (Re-Entry Independence through Sustainable Efforts), a federal re-entry program that helps people with mental health or drug addiction issues re-enter society after incarceration by treating these issues instead of merely relying on the threat of re-incarceration to deter recidivism. As part of this program, Judge Wells presides over the federal mental health court, which was the first of its kind in the nation, and the federal drug court, which was one of the first of its kind in the nation. These are only a few of the many ways that

Judge Wells has contributed to the legal community and the public good. Judge Wells is truly deserving of this recognition. Congratulations Judge Wells!

- On October 22, 2008, **Honorable Christine M. Durham, Chief Justice, Utah Supreme Court**, was honored with the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System's (IAALS) **2008 Transparent Courthouse Award**. "From her pioneering work to push for progressive judicial education to more recent efforts to develop innovative approaches to caseload management, Chief Justice Durham's leadership has brought significant reform to Utah and provided a model for the rest of the nation," said IAALS Executive Director and former Colorado Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Love Kourlis. Chief Justice Durham is the second recipient of this award. In 2007, retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor received the inaugural award.
- Zonta Foothills Club and Zonta Foothills Foundation will host its Fourth Annual Author's Luncheon on March 14 at the Omni Interlocken Hotel in Broomfield. The Authors' Luncheon is a

unique literary event that brings together local authors who share their craft and insights about their creative process. Proceeds from the silent auction will benefit local and international service agencies that advance the status of women. **This year's honorary chair is the Honorable Jean Dubofsky, the first woman appointed to the Colorado Supreme Court.**

## DISTRICT THIRTEEN



### About District 13 Director Honorable Julie Frantz

*Julie Frantz has served on the Multnomah County Circuit Court bench since 1994. She received her undergraduate degree in 1971 from Stanford University and law degree in 1975 from Lewis and Clark Law School where she currently serves on its Board of Visitors. She was a trial attorney with the Metropolitan Public Defender before joining in 1982 the civil litigation firm of Schulte, Anderson et.al., where she became a shareholder in 1986. Judge Frantz has served as the President of the Oregon Circuit Judges Association, Vice-chair of the Judicial Conduct Committee, and President of the Oregon Law Foundation.*

*In 1992, after several years on the Board of Governors, Judge Frantz became the first woman President of the Oregon State Bar in its then 57 year history. She is the Chair of the State Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, on the faculty of the New Judges 'College,' and co-chairs the implementation of the county's first Mental Health Court. She has been an adjunct law school professor (trial practice), a high school mock trial coach for many years, and served on boards for Legal Aid, Campaign for Equal Justice, Girl Scouts Beyond Bars and the Classroom Law Project.*

*Judge Frantz has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Multnomah Bar Association Award of Merit, Distinguished Graduate Award from her law school, and the Fred A. Stickel Public Sector Award. She has been a mentor to minority and young lawyers for many years, a frequent CLE speaker, and is an active member of her community, including serving on the Board of the I Have a Dream Foundation and as President of the Oregon Episcopal School Board of Trustees. On a different note, Judge Frantz was the first State of Oregon Women's Racquetball champion in 1977. She is married to a lawyer and has two children, ages 16 and 23, with whom she enjoys outdoor adventures, community service projects and traveling.*

### Washington

- In October 2008, Washington NAWJ members cosponsored the launch of the **Initiative for Diversity Governing Council (IDGC)**. IDGC's mission is to increase diver-



IDGC Olympia launch event held in Oct.



Olympia attorney Jessica Fogel and Justice Charles Johnson, Washington Supreme Court and co chair of the Washington Minority and Justice Commission

sity within the legal field. Three receptions were held around the state and law firms and public agencies that employee attorneys were encouraged to sign a resolution committing themselves to this effort, which focuses on recruiting, retaining, and promoting women and attorneys of color.

- In December, NAWJ partnered with the Washington State Bar Association's Future of the Law Institute to present the Color of Justice program at the University of Washington Law School. **NAWJ Board Finance Chair Justice Barbara Madsen served as a judge for the moot court session**, the culmination of this two day program

### Alaska

- The **Third Annual Success Inside and Out** Conference was held Saturday, November 1, 2008, at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center in Eagle River. Over 95 women inmates participated in the conference, and many community volunteers presented workshops and other activities. Success Inside & Out is jointly sponsored by the National Association of Women Judges, the Alaska Court System, the Alaska Native Justice Center, and Hiland Mountain Correctional Center.
- On March 4 Anchorage Superior Court Judge Morgan Christen was selected to be **appointed to the Alaska Supreme Court by Alaska Governor Sarah Palin**. Judge Christen was born in Chehalis, Washington. Judge Christen worked as a law clerk to Anchorage Superior Court Justice Brian Shortell from 1986-87, then joined Preston, Gates & Ellis in 1987, becoming a partner



Chief Justice Dana Fabe, founder of the Success Inside & Out program at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center, visits with corrections officials after the opening ceremony of this year's event. L-R: Chief Justice Fabe, Department of Corrections Commissioner Joe Schmidt; HMCC Deputy Superintendent Amy Rabeau; and HMCC Superintendent Dean Marshall.



Anchorage District Court Judge Catherine Easter, second from left, enjoys SIO program events with HMCC inmates.



The Color of Justice Welcome Luncheon took place in the UAA Commons and featured remarks by, L-R: Denise Morris, Executive Director, Alaska Native Justice Center; Provost Michael Driscoll, University of Alaska Anchorage; and Palmer Superior Court Judge Beverly Cutler, a co-founder of Color of Justice in Alaska.



Color of Justice High School Track participant Laura Fox of Takotna displays her certificate of completion during the closing ceremony.

in 1992. She was appointed as an Anchorage Superior Court justice in 2002, and has been presiding judge since 2005. The Alaska Supreme Court serves as the ultimate court of appeals for the state's District and Superior Courts. The court also administers the state's judicial system.

- **For the first time this year's Color of Justice program included an "Advisors Track"** for adults who work in career development, education, community diversity initiatives or other fields that involve regular engagement with youth. Over 120 youth and adults took part in Color of Justice 2008, with 80 youth participating in the High School Track, 20 adults participating in the Advisors Track, and 20 youth and adults participating in the Career Track for college students and other adults interested in legal careers. Visiting professors and admissions officials from the three major law schools in the Pacific Northwest offered workshops on both substantive legal issues and education and career planning, and many volunteer attorneys from Anchorage helped coach and mentor participants.

**Oregon**

- The primary event of fall 2008 was the hosting of the 2008 NAWJ Annual Conference in Portland in mid October. (See Portland Retrospective further in Counterbalance.)
- It has been nearly 20 years since Lincoln County, Oregon has had a new circuit court judge. But last year **Hon. Sheryl Bachart** was sworn in as the newest, and first-ever female judge in Lincoln County. Judge Bachart was recently appointed to the bench by Gov. Ted Kulongoski to replace retired Judge Robert Huckleberry.
- **The Honorable Carol E. Jones**, the first female judge on the Yamhill County Circuit Court died in January. Her last day on the bench was Dec. 16. Judge Jones was appointed by Gov. Ted Kulongoski in August 2004 and was elected to a term later that year. "She made strong contributions to the county's juvenile and drug courts," Gov. Kulongoski said.
- **Former NAWJ member the Hon. Cathy Silak**, who served on **Idaho's** bench from 1990 and 2000, first on its Court of Appeals and later on the Supreme Court, will become Dean of newly created Concordia University Law School scheduled to open in Boise, Idaho as early as 2010. The closest law schools to Boise are at the University of Idaho in Moscow and the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.
- **The Honorable Karla Gray** is stepping down from her post as **Chief Justice of the Montana Supreme Court**. Judge Gray was not only the first woman Chief Justice but also the first woman ever elected to the Montana Supreme Court. As a jurist, Justice Gray's longest legacy may be the restructuring of the Montana judicial system, begun after the 2001 Legislature. Throughout Montana's history, its lower courts had been the responsibility of Montana's 56 counties. The high court's decision trumped a lower court's, of course, and the Montana Supreme Court laid out the rules for judges and lawyers. But the Montana court system was never organized into one single branch. Justice Gray is an NAWJ member.

## DISTRICT FOURTEEN

- March 11, 2009 District 14 will present the Bankruptcy Program, **The Bankruptcy Card and How to Play It**, designed by Arizona Bankruptcy Court Judge and NAWJ member Sarah Curley) for Bay Area State Judges in our Alameda County Courthouse. Bankruptcy Judge Leslie Tchaikovsky will be our featured speaker for the program; Judge Curley is providing us with copies of her invaluable booklet;
- A **"Getting to Know You" Tea** for newly elected or appointed women judges in the Bay Area took place February 22, 2009.
- A Reception for new newly elected or appointed California Judges will be sponsored in June in connection with the **California Judicial College in San Jose, California**.
- This year's recipient of the California Women Lawyers' Rose Bird Award, to be presented at CWL's Northern California Judicial Reception March 20, 2009, will be Hon. Peggy Hora who served 21 years on the Alameda County Bench. Nominated by the Judiciary and the Courts Administration Authority of South Australia the **Honorable Peggy Hora** has been chosen as a Thinker in Residence for Adelaide, South Australia. The Premier of South Australia invites two or three world-class thinkers to Adelaide each year to live and work. Judge Hora's subject will be therapeutic jurisprudence and restorative justice. For more information: [www.thinkers.sa.gov.au](http://www.thinkers.sa.gov.au).
- North Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Natalie L. Tyrrell has been named the **first Chief Judge of North Las Vegas Justice Court** which handles misdemeanors, traffic matters, felony arraignments, civil disputes under \$10,000, small claims and landlord tenant disputes.
- Western Nevada College President Carol Lucey said first round budget cuts last fall took \$3 million from WNC's budgets and put an end to the prison education program.
- From Metropolitan News: In September, 2008 the **Honorable Lee Edmon**, [NAWJ member] was elected assistant presiding judge of the court, becoming the first woman to ever take that position, she presumably will become the first female presiding judge on Jan. 1, 2011. Elected at 52, she may be the youngest assistant presiding judge-elect ever. **Court of Appeal Presiding Justice Joan Dempsey Klein** [NAWJ co-founder] of this district's Division Three, the first woman ever to serve as presiding justice of a California appellate court, praises Edmon for being "the only woman in the many, many years of women judges on the Los Angeles Superior Court who was able to calculate what was required to put herself on the path to becoming an assistant presiding judge, and a presiding judge, and to carry out that plan to where in a couple of years she will be the **first woman presiding judge on the largest trial court in the world**. She adds: "I am very, very proud of her for doing that." **Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Judith C. Chirlin** [NAWJ member] said of Judge Edmon she "works incredibly hard," is "dynamic," "personable," "smart," and "engenders loyalty among everybody that she deals with." "She's got that magic touch and "such characteristics make a perfect candidate for presiding judge, male or female."
- **Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Gretchen W. Taylor** announced she will retire on March 31. Judge Taylor plans to work as a neutral arbitrator/mediator with Alternative Resolution Centers and do pro bono work both for the court and family law community, sit on assignment, or do mediations and voluntary settlements. Judge Taylor spent 18 years in private practice before being appointed as a Riverside Superior Court family law commissioner in 1997. She spent six years at the Indio courthouse before she was appointed to the bench in Los Angeles.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

*New dates announced for the International Association of Women Judges 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference May 11-15, 2010 in Seoul, Korea. Look for more information about the conference, jointly convened by the IAWJ and its Korea Chapter, on the IAWJ's website: [www.iawj.org](http://www.iawj.org).*

- On March 3-5, 2009, several judges attended the Global Forum for Women and Justice funded by Avon Products, Inc. which was organized by the International Association of Women Judges. According to Judge Brenda Murray, Past President of NAWJ, it was a gathering of about one hundred U.S. and international women judges with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor as keynote speaker. At the Forum Avon announced that it was creating the Avon Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School. The Avon Center's Director is Sital Kalantry, Assistant Clinical Professor and head of the International Human Rights Clinic. It expects to act in four ways:

*Clinical projects to improve access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence that may include training, investigating, and reporting on significant issues;*

*Provide judges and others with legal research that supports international and national domestic violence laws;*  
*Host an annual conference to promote worldwide efforts to secure justice for survivors of gender-based violence; and*  
*Publish a website that will provide a library of laws, articles, and reports on gender-based violence.*

Kim Azzarelli, Avon Vice President for Legal and Public Affairs is the moving force behind the Avon Center, and after Judge Murray and Judge Gladys Kessler, a Cornell undergraduate, and another Past President of NAWJ, met with Ms. Azzarelli while she was in Washington, DC., Ms. Azzarelli expressed great enthusiasm and believes that the Avon Center can support the efforts of groups like NAWJ make a difference.

## ***Keeping the Promise NAWJ's 30th Annual Conference***

Near 400 attendees from across the country convened for 'Keeping the Promise' NAWJ's 30th Annual Conference held in Portland, Oregon from October 15-19, 2008. The conference was an overwhelming successful due to the tremendous hard work of the Conference Chairs Judges Ellen Rosenblum, Julie Frantz, Jill Tanner and Mary Deits, Friends Committee Chair Lindsey H. Hughes, Deans Elizabeth Stephens and Elizabeth Davis, and Heather Weigler of the Oregon Department of Justice. We salute them for their outstanding efforts.

Judges, attorneys, academics and many others associated within the legal community were on hand to participate and gather new information in over 30 programs over the course of the four day Conference. Judges from Egypt shared an amusingly infectious, yet striking, portrayal of their personal experiences with law in their own country and described the nature of the legal and judicial system there. Local attorneys from OWLS, the Oregon Women Lawyers Society, generously supported Conference activities throughout the yearlong planning process, particularly with its organizing sponsorship of the Keynote Luncheon featuring Linda Greenhouse, former New York Times Supreme Court reporter and Pamela Karlan, Stanford University Public Interest Law professor, and its weeklong collection of books donated to the local Coffee Creek Women's Correctional Institution library.

Setting the tone of 'Keeping the Promise' early conference speaker Donzaleigh Abernathy led audiences in a trip through the Civil Rights movement as she movingly described life growing up with her father the Reverend Ralph Abernathy co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In keeping with tradition NAWJ's Annual Awards Banquets capped the Conference which include true crime author Ann Rule's window into a few of America's most seemly criminals.

A significant number of NAWJ Resource Board members were in attendance and expressed a continued commitment to assist in the fulfillment of our mission. NAWJ's gratitude to these Resource Board Members is boundless. Two firms, Orrick Sutcliffe and Herrington and WimerHale, had Resource Board Members on hand to receive recognition with special NAWJ Awards for extraordinary service to NAWJ during the year. NAWJ has long sought partnership in raising the profile of the status of women in law and on the bench, and these firms through the particular support of WilmerHale's Karen Green and Orrick's Karen Johnson-McKewan who assisted NAWJ in making the Judicial Gender Diversity Report Card Project a reality.

Additional NAWJ 2008 Honorees included JUSTICE JOAN DEMPSEY KLEIN HONOREE OF THE YEAR the Honorable Bernice Bouie Donald; MATTIE BELLE DAVIS AWARD honoree the Honorable Sue Pai Yang; JUSTICE VAINO SPENCER LEADERSHIP AWARD HONOREE the Honorable Vanessa Ruiz; and FLORENCE K. MURRAY AWARD honoree Drucilla Stender Ramey.

The Association elected its 2008-2009 Executive Committee members Hon. La Tia Martin, President; Hon. Dana Fabe, President-Elect; Hon. Joan V. Churchill, Vice President - Districts; Hon. Shelia Johnson, Vice President - Publications; Hon. Amy Nechtem, Secretary; Hon. Patricia Hurst, Treasurer; Hon. Fernande R.V. Duffly, Immediate Past President; Hon. Laura Jacobson, Projects Committee Chair; Hon. Barbara Madsen, Finance Committee Chair; Hon. Susan Owens, Director of Compliance and Training; Hon. Brenda Stith Loftin, Director of Strategic Planning and Implementation; Hon. Carolyn Engel Temin, International Director; Hon. Cara Lee Neville, ABA Delegate.

District Directors for 2008-2009 are Hon. Ariane Vuono, District One Director (MA, ME, NH, PR); Hon. Sherry Heitler and Hon. Barbara Leak District Two Co-Directors (NY, CT, VT); Hon. Stephanie Domitrovich, District Three Director (NJ, PA, DE); Hon. Cathy Hollenberg Serrette, District Four Director (MD, DC, VA); Hon. Cynthia Becker, District Five Director (FL, GA, NC, SC), Hon. Rosemary Ledet, District Six Director (AL, LA, MS, TN); Hon. Margaret Clark, District Seven Director (MI, OH, WV); Hon. Patricia Riley, District Eight Director (IN, IL, KY); Hon. Nancy Whittenburg, District Nine Director (MO, IA, WI); Hon. Carol Beier, District Ten Director (KS, MN, NE, ND, SD); Hon. Marisela Saldana, District 11 Director (TX, AR, OK); Hon. Vernice Trease, District 12 Director (AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY); Hon. Julie Frantz, District 13 Director (WA, OR, AK, HI, ID, MT); Hon. Cecilia Castellanos, District 14 Director (CA, NV).





## **Chicago Retrospective: Best Regional Attendance Ever**

The National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) presented its most well-attended regional conference ever with nearly 370 people attending the three-day event which was held at the InterContinental Hotel in Chicago from August 27-29, 2008. Chaired by Cook County Administrative Presiding Judge Sophia Hall, Cook County Circuit Court Judge Cheryl Cesario and Indiana Superior Court Judge Jane Craney, the Midwest Leadership Conference drew attendees including women - and male - judges from across Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and other Midwestern states, as well as bar leaders, corporate counsel and law school deans from across the region. A memorable and riveting highlight of the Conference took place in the stately Renaissance Ballroom where the Keynote Luncheon Address of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg conveyed the not so oft told history of Belva Lockwood, a pioneer in women's advancement who became one of the earliest female lawyers to practice in the United States in the late 19th century, and the first woman member of the U.S. Supreme Court bar in 1879.

A Scholarship Committee composed of Co-Chairs Hon. Jacqueline Lustig and Judge Nina Puglia, presented the first-ever Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Award to DePaul University law student Allegra Cira.

Presiding over the Conference was then NAWJ President, Massachusetts Court of Appeals Justice Fernande R.V. Duffy who "delighted in representing NAWJ Officers and Board at this wonderful Conference, held in the aptly named City of Broad Shoulders." Then NAWJ President Justice Duffy expressed how deeply honored we all were by Justice Ginsburg's presence and participation, and how much we have been looking forward to welcoming distinguished members of the bench and bar from across the Midwest, as well as members of the wider public. NAWJ was gratified by the outpouring of support from the Chicago legal community, and we are especially appreciative of the leadership of our distinguished Friends Committee, co-chaired by Leslie Davis of Sonnenschein Nath and Rosenthal, Kathy Roach of Sidley Austin, Tina Tchen of Skadden Arps, Linda Listrom of Jenner & Block.

The Program began with a Thursday morning panel *Tradition on Trial: Cross-Cultural Issues in the Courts*, jointly sponsored by the American Bar Association and the American Judicature Society. Program Chair Hon. Delissa A. Ridgway, U.S. Court of International Trade, New York was supported by moderator Professor Jonathan Turley, George Washington University Law School and panelists Hon. Bernice B. Donald, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee Professor Alison Dundes Renteln, University of Southern California, Rene L. Valladares, Esq., Chief of the Trial and Appellate Division, Federal Public Defender Office, Nevada.

Following the Keynote Luncheon and remarks by author Scott Turow was the timely panel *Impact of Attrition of Women in Large Firms on Judicial Diversity and Judicial Independence*. Panel moderator Hon. Sophia H. Hall, Administrative Presiding Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County and a Past President of NAWJ joined speakers: Hon. Fernande R. V. Duffy; Jane DiRenzo Pigott, Managing Director, R3 Group LLC; Lauren Stiller Rikleen, Esq. Bowditch & Dewey, author, *Ending the Gauntlet: Removing Barriers to Women's Success in Law*; Stephanie A. Scharf, Esq., Schoeman, Updike, Kaufman & Scharf; Judith L. Schuch, Esq., DLA Piper LLP; and Assistant Dean Francine Soliunas, Chicago-Kent College of Law.





Continued from Page 1

The Judicial Friends, a long standing association in New York State since 1978, annually meets at its gala dinner dance to provide opportunities for fellowship for its members, members of the Bar, family and friends. It was also an occasion to pay tribute to two judges who exemplify the virtues and hard work of the Association. At the recent December Gala, there was also a special tribute to recognize the unique and long standing relationship between the retiring Chief Judge Kaye and the Judicial Friends.

The hostess for the evening was New York State Supreme Court Justice and Administrator of the New York City Civil Court, the Hon. Fern Fisher. Justice Fisher and her staff presented Chief Judge Kaye with a remarkable video reflection of her many collaborations with the Judicial Friends. The thoughtful and touching video presentation left many in the audience teary eyed as the Chief Judge came to the podium to give brief remarks to the audience. She has been a perennial attendee at the annual gala and said that she was overwhelmed. Chief Judge Kaye has worked tirelessly during her tenure to address the concerns of the Judicial Friends which include racial and gender fairness and access to justice. She vowed to continue to work alongside the Friends and to continue to pursue justice in these vital areas.

NAWJ member Juanita Bing Newton was awarded the Association's Jane M. Bolin Award. Jane Matilda Bolin was the first Black woman to serve as a judge in the United States when she was sworn in to the bench of the New York City Domestic Relations Court in 1939. She remained a judge of the court, renamed the Family Court in 1962, for 40 years. She was also the first African-American woman to graduate from Yale Law School and the first to join the New York City Bar Association. Judge Bolin tirelessly worked to encourage racially integrated child services, ensuring that probation officers were assigned without regard to race or religion, and publicly-funded childcare agencies accepted children without regard to ethnic background. She was a fierce advocate for children's rights and education.

In accepting the Jane M. Bolin Award Judge Newton reflected first on the great pride she felt in receiving such a prestigious award and then challenged all judges and particularly the Judicial Friends to continue their service to justice issues in this new century in order to insure the realization of the values and hopes of Jane Bolin.

In her crowd pleasing and stirring remarks Judge Newton, who is the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives, reminded her colleagues of the continued and significant importance of their role in society as African-American Judges. The following is an excerpt of her remarks:

*And last, a few observations and suggestions for us all. At the end of the American Civil War and when my slave great-grandmother was 10 years old, her mistress and owner said "Mamie, you are a free girl now." It is reported that Great-Grandmother Mamie began to cry and said, "I don't*

*want to be free, I don't know what free is, I don't know how to live free." It seems that my great-grandmother was in truth asking how does one live free in our time. It is a question relevant even today and even for us. For Judges, I submit that living free requires that we live independent and in that independence we vigorously and affirmatively support justice for all. We have come a mighty long way. We live in an extraordinary time when Barack Obama, a Black man, will be President of the United States. It is a blessing indeed. But, there is still work, much work to be done. We, the Judicial Friends, must continue, along with our many allies, to charter a course and undertake the journey that will permit us to live free and just and to insure that justice for all is a fact not merely an aspiration or slogan.*

*For me, I offer four areas which are ripe for our continuing labor, a labor for justice. First, we must continue to pursue diversity in our profession and for our non judicial employees as well. We must continue or start anew, to educate about what diversity means, about the need for diversity and about the value of diversity. A system that is not diverse appears to be unjust. Such an unjust system will taint us all, even the innocent and the good. Ultimately, it will fall on itself.*

*Second, we must vigorously support and be mindful of the needs of the least among us who are presented throughout our system but especially in the family, criminal and civil terms of courts. This requires a tremendous amount of refocusing on what justice means and dictates that we pursue it vigorously.*

*Third, we must insist on fairness from other branches government. We should carefully consider legislative enactments that are hurtful in ways not often considered by policy makers but which may cause damage, as we see often, in dramatic fashion, in our courtrooms. Fourth, we must actively mentor and work in the community, not just for an hour but for the long haul. So, when the NAWJ and its President La Tia Martin call on us to mentor to young women in the Color of Justice Program, sign on! When the One Hundred Black Mean and Judge Alvin Yearwood call for mentors for the young men at the Eagle Academies, sign on! When NAWJ Committee Chairs Debra James and Betty Williams require assistance for the women in prison programs, sign on! Our stature as Judges and leaders in the community demands this much of us.*

*In closing, and from the bottom of my heart, I thank you for joining in tonight's celebration and mostly, I thank you for permitting me to know, really know how wonderful it is to live free and proud.*

It was a remarkable gala and a festive evening at the Steiner Studio Stage 6. There was a lights, camera, action, sense of excitement. There was drama, elegance and joy in the audience as the Judicial Friends stepped forward to continue its organizational work as drum majors for justice in this new time and in this new century.

## LOUISIANA



Bernette J. Johnson, a Louisiana Supreme Court Justice and long-term member of NAWJ, does not believe that the administration of justice ends with ruling from the bench. Concerned about the growing population of Louisiana prisons and the alarming recidivism rates, Justice Johnson wants to concentrate her efforts on rehabilitation programs available for the female inmates of Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW). To that end Justice Johnson put together a group of people to visit the prison in October 2008. In addition to Justice Johnson and her assistant Laverne Tropez; the group included Monique Edwards, Executive Counsel for the Office of the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources; Jean Armstrong, the President of the Baton Rouge chapter of the League of Women Voters; three representatives of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System: Jim Henderson, Vice President of Career and Technical Education (Workforce), Dr. Joe Ben Welch, Chancellor of River Parishes Community College and Donna Seale, Assistant Dean/Campus Administrator, Region 9 LTC for the Ascension Campus; and Irina Fox, a second-year law student at the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. The goal of the visit was to learn of rehabilitation programs already in place and to offer help and resources in sustaining and improving such endeavors.

The LCIW facility is located about 15 minutes outside of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's capital city. The first impression a visitor gets from the prison is that the inmates are treated in a humane fashion. The grounds are clean and well-kept, the lawns have beautiful landscaping, and there are fountains and water falls in the courtyard. More heartwarming is the clean and well-equipped playground. Warden Marianna Leger explains that children of the inmates visit on regularly scheduled dates.

LCIW currently has the capacity to house 1189 female offenders of all security classes. It is the only female correctional facility operating on the state level. There are currently two offenders on death row. The racial breakdown is approximately 53% black and 46% white. In comparison, the male facilities are 75% black and 25% white.<sup>1</sup>

The Warden described the facility and the prison employees' efforts in keeping it up, it was apparent that she genuinely cares about the present conditions at the prison, and about the destiny of the inmates upon their departure. Among some of the things that LCIW now offers are 24-hour a day inpatient medical care, mental health, substance abuse, sex offender treatment, character building, and anger management. Inmates who have children can participate in the Parenting Program, the completion of which allows inmates to enroll children and grandchildren under the age of 10. The enrolled children are then permitted to regularly come onto the grounds to spend the day with their mothers and/or grandmoth-

ers. Other special family-centered events include Easter and Christmas extravaganzas.

Ms. Leger emphasized that the inmates stay busy throughout the day. For instance, some female offenders can participate in the IMPACT Program located next door at Hunt Correctional Center. IMPACT is essentially a boot camp, which boasts the lowest recidivism rate of any of the DOC programs. Inmates who complete the program are eligible for parole in six (6) months, which is a considerable reduction in the sentences they would otherwise serve. Most inmates who are not involved in the IMPACT program have other daily jobs, including housekeeping, maintenance, kitchen, warehouse, beauty shop, etc. Additionally, LCIW has two work crews that perform services off site including: a litter crew which picks up litter on State highways, and a janitorial crew that maintains a State office building in Baton Rouge. All these tasks are extremely important for the efficient administration of the facility, and they make the lives of the inmates meaningful, giving them a sense of accomplishment.

To ensure that the inmates are released as diligent members of society, LCIW has instituted a variety of educational and vocational training programs ranging from the basic adult literacy and GED training to culinary arts, horticulture, upholstery and office systems technology classes. Moreover, inmates get involved in a variety of clubs and organizations all of which are designed to ensure that inmates spend their time productively and make a significant contribution to society upon their release.

It certainly appeared that the Warden does an outstanding job with the limited resources that are available to her. The facility has a surprisingly uplifting spirit, however, the conditions are far from perfect with a critical shortage of space. For instance, visitation takes place in the gym, which suspends gym activities on visiting days. Additionally, the small room where the Warden arranged our meeting is the only conference space on the territory of the prison.

These concerns are exactly the kinds of issues that Justice Johnson had in mind when she arranged the visit. Justice Johnson had several ideas on how to assist the Warden with her difficult task of ensuring that inmates return as fully-functional members of society. First and foremost, Justice Johnson, Jean Armstrong and Monique Edwards have committed themselves to helping the Warden raise funds for her expansion projects. Justice Johnson also wants to organize a book club for the inmates willing to participate. Specifically for that purpose, Justice Johnson invited some of Baton Rouge's most prominent educators from the Louisiana Community and Technical College System: Jim Henderson, Dr. Joe Ben Welch and Donna Seale. The educators expressed their enthusiasm about administering the book club project at the prison. Another plan discussed with the Warden will involve law students from the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center in assisting inmates in creation of resumes and practicing their interviewing skills.

Overall, the visit was a successful one. LCIW is run by a caring and enthusiastic crew. Ms. Leger identified the issues she was facing and the visitors expressed their desire to help with resolving those issues. Hopefully, programs available at the prisons will sustain the trend of decreasing recidivism rates among female prisoners in Louisiana which went down from 38.5% in 2003 to 22% in 2006, and to 12.9% in 2007. Perhaps, the decrease can be explained by the remarkable efforts of the Louisiana DOC employees like Ms. Leger and her assistant Ms. Travis.

—Irina Fox

<sup>1</sup>This information and other data comes from and is available at the Louisiana Department of Corrections (DOC) website at <http://www.doc.louisiana.gov>.

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## ALASKA

### Inmate Orchestras

The Hiland Mountain Correctional Center in Eagle River, Alaska, the state's sole women's facility, presented a Holiday Concert on December 6, featuring elegantly dressed women inmates performing with violas, violins, cellos and basses inside the prison's gymnasium. According to Hiland's two string orchestras' beginning and advanced members, the music allows them to express their quite ineffable human emotions.

"What I've gotten from the music words can't express," said Kim Kingsford, 42, who's been incarcerated since August 2007. For Kingsford, music is an outlet for frustration, a boost to self-esteem and path to a new outlook. "It's built things I didn't have before: respect for others and respect for myself," she said.

Most orchestra members at Hiland have never played a musical instrument, nor shown interest in learning one, prior to incarceration. But after hearing last year's Christmas concert some decided that playing the viola just might be for them.

Supported by local nonprofit Arts on the Edge, the orchestra is in its fifth year. Orchestra classes are conducted at the prison on Saturdays. Community members donated the instruments and funds to start the program. Anchorage-area volunteers and high school music teachers keep it going. However, the majority of funding for the orchestra comes from the \$25 tickets to the holiday concert, as well as a craft sale held after the concert.

Inmate Cassandra Russell plays with the advanced orchestra and she chose the violin because of its wide range of genres, from country to Celtic to rock. She holds her time with the violin precious. "I can pick up the violin in the worst moods, especially in this environment, and just lose myself in it," she said. At the holiday concert, both Ms. Kingsford and Ms. Russell were excited about a guest appearance from well-known violinist Linda Rosenthal. Ms. Russell hopes to someday achieve Rosenthal's skill with the violin.

In her ideal world, Ms. Russell would love to play Celtic music in an Irish pub. A more realistic aspiration, she said, would be to play with the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Russell also hopes to one day work in disability law. In furtherance of that goal, she is currently enrolled in long-distance college courses. "I have multiple sclerosis. I know the struggles I've had to go through to be able to get me help," she said.

### Training Shelter Dogs, and More

The Correctional Center has a program called SPOT which allows inmates to care for and train shelter dogs. It also sponsors an adopt-a-village program, which lets inmates make crafts, such as crocheted hats and blankets, as well as hold their own in-house fundraisers. Proceeds from craft sales are used to buy gifts for an Alaska Native village. Gifts include games, crafts and safety gear. "(These programs) give them a whole new perspective on what's out there in the community and whole new tool when they go out there," said Hiland Mountain Correctional Center Superintendent Dean Marshall.

## MARYLAND

■ As you can tell from this issue of Counterbalance, NAWJ's Women in Prison Project has been active in many ways, and in many places. **The Book Club and Writing Instruction** continues at the MD Correctional

Institution for Women (MCIW), thanks to NAWJ and several local college professors, primarily of Goucher College in Baltimore.

- Due to the support of Martha Smith, Anne Arundel Community College President (AACC); Kathy Oliver, Mark Mechliniski, and Ray Harbert at the MD Department of Education; and Warden Brenda Shell at MCIW, a dedicated group of volunteers made the long awaited MCIW-College Degree Program a reality. The Program began in January 2009, with **two classes in English Composition and two classes in Sociology**. AACC will award **Certificates and Associate degrees to MCIW women** who meet the college's entry requirements and complete the necessary course work. Credits will be transferable to other two-year and four-year academic institutions.

**Fifty-eight** MCIW women have met the AACC's entry requirements and have enrolled for the first classes. Many more MCIW women are interested but need tutoring. As a result, in January volunteers began tutoring in Math, English, and Reading four nights per week inside MCIW.

With the pro bono assistance of Kenneth R. Hoffman at Venable LLP, volunteers have incorporated the MCIW - College Degree Program, Inc., for the purpose of supporting the education of women incarcerated at MD's only women prison. The program is seeking nonprofit status with IRS.

One of the saddest aspects of a women's prison is the complete lack of culture or scholarship. Any ideas on how the MCIW-College Degree Program can initiate a speakers program or visits by nationally recognized writers or poets would be welcomed.

## NEW YORK



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Last November, 2008 NAWJ members took part in a training session on the **relationship between domestic violence and incarceration**, in connection with New York's Domestic Violence Merit Time bill. The venue was the conference center of the United States District Court, Pearl Street, New York City. In presenting "Incarceration & Domestic Violence: A Complex Relationship" in cooperation with the Correctional Association of New York, NAWJ wishes to train judges about the legal and social history of efforts to combat domestic violence and to reduce crime arising from such violence. Attendees will also receive an overview of New York State's **Domestic Violence Merit Time Proposal (A.6150/S.3164)**, which would allow eligibility for merit time and early release for domestic violence survivors who are incarcerated for committing violent crimes because of abuse.

The program's chair, Hon. Debra A. James, also chair of the New York chapter's Women in Prison Committee, was supported by longstanding colleagues: Serena Alfieri, panel moderator, Correctional Association of New York; Jessica Vasquez, Esq., Executive Director of the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Jesenia Santana, STEPS to End Family Violence; Sharon White, Housing Plus Solutions (survivor); and Cathy Selin, Esq., STEPS to End Family Violence. Before the discussion participants viewed a screening of "Strength of A Woman," a film produced by Allison Caviness and produced by the Correctional Association.



NAWJ members Judges Cheryl Gonzales and Betty J. Williams delivered clothing and facilitated a **motivational seminar at the Beacon Correctional Facility for Women**. Beacon



is a medium correctional facility with a population of over 192 women which is located in Beacon, New York. Dr. Adelaide Sanford, Vice Chancellor Emeritus, New York State Board of Regents was the featured speaker. Beacon's Superintendent Gail S. Thomas; Taconic Deputy Superintendent Andrea Hester; members of Beacon's executive staff: Roberto Browne, Dr. Jacqueline Dunbar and Tony Hart; and retired Superintendent Delores Thornton participated in the seminar and joined Dr. Sanford in answering questions from the audience at the end of her presentation. Judges Gonzales and Williams informed the women of the progress of the Women in Prison legislative sub-Committee. Justice Laura Jacobson coordinated the distribution of donated clothing and accessories.

Dr. Sanford opened her presentation to the Beacon women stating: "I see you, I recognize you, I value you, I embrace you, you are my beloved." Dr. Sanford's words were received with thunderous applause by over 110 women representing over half of Beacon's total population. All attendees actively participated in the seminar. Superintendent Thomas stated that the prevailing feedback from the women in the days following the presentation was that the women "felt valued as a person and human being and were proud and encouraged."

Hon. Laura Jacobson, Hon. Betty Williams, Hon. Cheryl Gonzalez and Hon. Debra James took a tour of the Long Island City offices of the Fortune Society, where they met with policy personnel. Founded almost 40 years ago, the **Fortune Society's "Building People Not Prisons"** mission is to help former prisoners to rebuild their lives and families by providing an extraordinary range of services including counseling, education, employment services, substance abuse treatment, health services and housing. Its Fortune Academy, located in Harlem, New York, is a unique re-entry residence. The Academy is the subject of a compelling off Broadway play entitled **"The Castle"**. The play is a docudrama about the lives of four formerly incarcerated persons who completed an aggregate total of 70 years in prison and who are current or past residents of the Academy. WIP-NY held a theatre party for the play on September 20, 2008.

The **8th Annual Beyond the Bars Workshops at the Bayview Correctional Facility**, was held in New York, NY. The re-entry workshops offered attendees useful information on topics such as how to overcome record barriers, foster care and parental rights, housing, custody, sartorial suggestions and parole management. Post lunch entertainment was provided by jazz saxophonist Curtis Haywood, a delight for everyone present. In cooperation with local court employee and bar associations, and as a part of the Beyond the Bars program at Bayview, NAWJ-NY members serve as a repository for books, stuffed animals and games collected for the children and grandchildren of Bayview prisoners. Toiletries for holiday gift bags were presented to workshop attendees as well.

**Beyond The Bars Bayview Correctional Facility Faculty Participants included:** Josh Goldfein, Esq., staff attorney in the Homeless Rights Project of the Legal Aid Society; Eve Rosahn, Esq., Director of the Parole Revocation Defense Unit of the Legal Aid Society; Robert Dennison, former chairman of the New York Board of Parole, 2003-2007; Alan Gompers, a former inmate, speaker on the healing qualities of meditation; Sarika Gore, meditation practitioner; Madeleine Kurtz, Esq., Associate Director, Public Interest, Seton Hall University School of Law; Debra Clarke, founder and president of ImageOrganized; and Glenn Martin, Vice President of Development and Public Affairs at The Fortune Society, Inc.

New York's "Beyond the Bars" program is modeled on "Project Joy," sponsored by the Women for Human Rights and Dignity organization of Buffalo, New York. Project Joy held its 30th annual program for more than 1,000 inmates at Albion Correctional Facility on December 6, 2008.

### RESOURCE BOARD

The NAWJ Resource Board are leaders in their field. Resource Board members work with NAWJ members and staff to raise judicial awareness about subjects of mutual interest, offer advice regarding education projects, and provide and cultivate crucial professional and financial support for the organization as it works towards its mission.

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### NAWJ President Justice La Tia W. Martin Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by Pace University Law School

The Public Interest Scholarship Organization (PILSO) has recognized Justice La Tia W. Martin with its 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award. Judge Martin has led a distinguished career in public service, and whose dedication began shortly after earning her J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law when soon after she was appointed Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx County District Attorney's Office. In 1982, she was named Inspector General of the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs by the agency's then Commissioner. She was later promoted to the role of Inspector General of the Department of Finance, Tax Commission, Financial Information Services Agency and Office of Payroll Administration. Following four years as General Counsel for the New York City Office of the Sheriff, she was appointed to Criminal Court of the City of New York and was elected to Bronx County Civil Court in 1998. During the same period, she was appointed Presiding Judge of the newly created Bronx County Domestic Violence Court. As a result of her success on the bench, the court was designated as the domestic violence model for the entire City of New York, Judge Martin was elected to State Supreme Court, Bronx County in 2003. Since 2006, Judge Martin has been assigned to the Westchester County Supreme Court Matrimonial Part.

The Public Interest Scholarship Organization (PILSO) provides grants to students pursuing public interest law summer internships and careers. PILSO's mission is "to establish an awareness of the continuing need for legal services of the disadvantaged and to support the aspirations of those who seek careers in public interest law by funding student summer projects and employment in organizations that work on behalf of disempowered and underrepresented groups of people."

### NAWJ Calls on President Barak Obama to Support Pilot Nursery Program

In a letter to then President-Elect's Barak Obama's Justice Department Transition Team the National Association of Women Judges described its more than six year efforts through the Women in Prison Project to address the conditions of incarceration, reentry and the lives of women inmates and their children. NAWJ reiterated its determination to make those issues a priority and asked the Bureau of Prisons to recommit to creating a 12-18 bed in-house nursery at the federal correctional institution in Greenville, Illinois, which it has currently placed on hold. NAWJ is hopeful that with a change in administration the Justice Department's Bureau of Prisons will re consider current policies towards more humane treatment for incarcerated women and the impact on their families.

### NAWJ Co-Sponsors Program on Prejudice and Bias

NAWJ joined the Association of Women Lawyers and National Conference of Women's Bar Associations to co-sponsor the American Bar Association's 'Mindbugs: The Psychology of Ordinary Prejudice' program presented by the Commission on Women in the Profession. A participatory discussion led by Harvard Professor Mahzarin Banaji educated attendees on the effects of implicit and unconscious biases on all members of the legal profession. Growing research is illuminating how subtle biases influence how clients and witnesses are perceived, and the ensuing interactions between attorneys, judges and juries. The program was held in Boston in February 13, 2009 at the Hynes Convention Center.

### New Center for Women in Law

This Spring, a newly founded Center for Women in Law at the University of Texas Law School in Austin will host its first gathering - Women's Power Summit on Law and Leadership - of leading women in the legal and judicial community. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will be the Keynote Speaker, her remarks to address challenges facing women in the profession. The Summit, chaired by Diane Yu, former Chair of the ABA's Commission on Women, will follow its principal objectives to "signal a collective intention and public commitment to work together to advance gender diversity and equality in the legal profession and endorse concrete initiatives to accomplish this goal." NAWJ Immediate Past President Fernande R.V. Duffy, lifetime members Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey and Hon. Christine M. Durham, members Hon. Carolyn Dineen King, Hon. Harriet O'Neill, Hon. Jean H. Toal, and Lauren Stiller Rikleen Esq. are members of the Center's Advisory Board.



### Judge Jennifer Gee Appointed District Chief

Longtime and active NAWJ member Judge Jennifer Gee was appointed District Chief Judge for the U.S. Department of Labor's San Francisco Office of Administrative Law Judges in 2007 when her predecessor retired. Her office covers the entire western United States west of the Mississippi, including Alaska and Hawaii, as well as the Far East. She conducts administrative hearings under over 80 different Federal statutes involving labor-related actions such as Longshore workers' compensation benefits, including civilian workers injured or killed in the Iraq war, black lung benefits, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Child Labor Act, labor-related immigration issues involving H-1B and H-2A workers, coal mine safety, and the whistleblower protection provisions of over 15 different Federal statutes that cover the nuclear, environmental, trucking, airline, and railroad industries, as well as whistleblower protection provisions of the Sarbanes Oxley Act.

### NAWJ Past President Judith M. Billings Retires from the Utah Court of Appeals

Judge Judith Billings, one of the original members of the Utah Court of Appeals appointed by Governor Norman Banterer in January 1987 will retire. Prior to her appointment to the appellate court, Judge Billings served for four years as a trial judge for the Third Judicial District of the State of Utah. She received her law degree from the University of Utah College of Law in 1977 and an LL.M. from the University of Virginia Law School in 1990. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Billings was a partner at the Salt Lake City law firm of Ray, Quinsy & Meeker, where she specialized in complex civil litigation. She was the president of the National Association of Women Judges 1993-94.

The loss to Idaho's Court will be unfathomable because Judge Billings brings so many positive attributes to the court and to the community. She is a consummate professional, issuing consistently excellent and timely decisions; a zealot, bringing her unbridled enthusiasm for our Constitution to the community through educational programs, lectures, and demonstrations; a mentor, leading countless young lawyers and judges throughout the state by both example and instruction; and an inspiration, serving with poise and distinction throughout her career. NAWJ along with her colleagues on the Utah Court of Appeals, wish her all the best. Thank you, Judy, for the many years you have dedicated to the cause of justice for all who have come before you.

## COUNCIL OF CHIEF JUSTICES MIDYEAR MEETING



Chief Justice Catherine Kimball, Supreme Court of Louisiana; Chief Justice Janice Holder, Tennessee Supreme Court; NAWJ President Elect Dana Fable, Alaska Supreme Court; and Justice Martin, Westchester County Supreme Court.



Council of Chief Justices Midyear Meeting, Scottsdale, Arizona. Chief Justice Robert Bell, Maryland Court of Appeals and NAWJ President La Tia W. Martin.

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