



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES C O U N T E R B A L A N C E

Summer 2015 Volume 31 Issue 9

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Midyear Keynote Speaker Cheryl Brown Henderson (left), daughter of the late Rev. Oliver L. Brown who filed suit against the local Board of Education, (*Brown v. Board of Education*) and NAWJ President Hon. Julie E. Frantz.

NAWJ'S 2015 CHICAGO MIDYEAR INSPIRES HUNDREDS OF 'VOICES OF JUSTICES'

The National Association of Women Judges returned to Chicago, Illinois for "Voices of Justice: Keeping the Promise of the Rule of Law through Enhancing Judicial Diversity and Leadership," its 2015 Midyear Meeting and Leadership Conference. After a year of planning under the leadership of NAWJ President Hon. Julie E. Frantz, who served as Conference Chair, over 130 judges, attorneys, officials, and other legal professionals attended our dynamic conference which took place from April 23-25 at the Palmer Hilton Hotel. The theme of the conference "Voices of Justice" was addressed from multiple perspectives by diverse and compelling speakers each of whom provided the participants with invaluable information and insight.

Conference Chair Judge Julie E. Frantz received tremendous support from the local planning committee chaired by Judge Ann Breen-Greco (Illinois State Board of Education) who is also NAWJ's VP for Districts, Hon. Joy Airaudi, Hon. Patrice Ball-Reed, Hon. Helaine Berger, Hon. Cheryl Cesario, Hon. Margaret Fitzpatrick, Hon. Renee Goldfarb, Hon. Sophia H. Hall, Hon. Pam Meyerson, Hon. Dominique Ross, Hon. Audrey Wade. Honorary Host Committee: Hon. Anne Burke, Hon. Virginia Kendall, Hon. Joan Lefkow, Hon. Diane Wood.

Friends Committee Co-Chairs Gabrielle M. Buckley, Esq., Elizabeth Herrington, Esq. and Margo Wolf O'Donnell, Esq. industriously ensured the conference's financial success by obtaining support of donors United Automobile Insurance Company (Underwriter Sponsor); State Justice Institute (Platinum Sponsor); AbbVie Inc., Clifford Law Offices, Pfizer Inc. (Gold Sponsors); Charles Cheevers, GEICO, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, LexisNexis (Silver Sponsors); CourtCall; LLC, Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.; Thomson Reuters, Vedder Price P.C. (Bronze Sponsors); The Conway Family Foundation, DePaul University, Dickstein Shapiro LLP, Hollingsworth LLP, McDermott Will Emery LLP, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Trident Orpett & Meyer P.C. (Supporters). A very special thank you to Jenner & Block LLP for hosting a wonderful reception with spectacular views.

At its core the conference was about 'voices'. After warm welcomes by Judge Frantz, and remarks by Kimberly Foxx (Chief of Staff to Cook County Board President, Toni Preckwinkle) to open Thursday's activities, Keynote Speaker Laurel G. Bellows, Esq. challenged the

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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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Back cover: Middle school students from Washington School for Girls meet and converse with attorneys of White & Case LLP at their law offices in Washington, D.C.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings,

NAWJ Matters.

Almost four decades have passed since the Hon. Joan Dempsey Klein and the Hon. Vaino Spencer, together with one hundred 'intrepid' women, founded the National Association of Women Judges. The mission statement set out the organization's purpose:

To promote the judicial role in protecting the rights of individuals under the rule of law through strong, committed and diverse judicial leadership, fairness and equality in the courts, and equal access to justice.

Occasionally, we are confronted with the question, "Is a women's judges association still necessary? Is NAWJ still relevant?" There are many ways to answer this challenge, but all answers lead to "Yes!" On the one hand, we need only to look at events in recent years that have created significant concern, and on the other at a host of remarkable accomplishments by our regional district members, committees, and board to detail a persuasive response. The depth of information provided through our educational programs in this past year has helped us to further understand the importance of NAWJ and how we might respond to known challenges as we strive to further our mission driven goals.

I ardently believe that to be truly effective and remain relevant we must act, as we also continue to educate. Inherent in this year's theme, "Keeping the Promise of the Rule of Law through Enhancing Judicial Diversity and Leadership" is the imperative that we respond to the call to action, as well as discuss the underlying concerns, in order to advance our objectives. This means that our voice must be heard and impact those who can bring about change. It means providing practical guidance, developing strategies, and packaging 'take aways' at our conferences and local events. It means reaching out to vulnerable populations in our communities, networking with each other and with our partners, and attracting a diverse membership through a vast array of events, programs and projects. And, it also means reaching out to enjoy the rich and enduring collegiality for which NAWJ is known that comes with sharing experiences and exchanging ideas with those from diverse backgrounds. With the NAWJ hosted 2016 IAWJ Biennial conference in our nation's capital quickly approaching, that sharing will take place with many hundreds of international judges as well. Exciting times!

Strong and effective judicial leadership requires more than possessing core competencies and skills to adjudicate evidence and apply the rule of law in a given case. The mix of judges serving in our courts at all levels should be generally reflective of the demographics of our society to instill trust and confidence in our justice system. Women, and judges of color, bring a range of experience, perspective and a unique cultural context that enhances informed decision making within the parameters of the law, and strengthens the principle of 'procedural fairness' – that the parties feel they have been heard and leave understanding the basis for the court's decision

So, what are we doing to increase diversity on the bench, and to retain it? Through our involvement with ABA Commission on Women, and the recent study of the status of women in the legal profession released at our midyear conference in Chicago, it remains painfully clear how considerable the gap is between the men and women in positions of prominence. Examine who is making partner, being named lead counsel in significant trials, and receiving appointments to position of decision-making responsibility. What action has NAWJ taken? A stellar panel of judges, prominent firm partners belonging to our Resource Board, and government lawyers presented a strategy at the midyear conference for raising the visibility of qualified women and minorities who seek a judicial career through appointment as special masters, bankruptcy receivers and trustees, and to boards and commissions. Over time, as a result of building credibility through these high profile appointments, judicial diversity on the bench would increase, enhancing access to justice and creating greater trust and confidence in the justice system.

It is not enough, however, to only devise strategies to enhance opportunities for women to be appointed to the bench. The concern about remaining on the bench as we have seen in recent years is very real. A glimpse into the progress we have made and how far we have to go on issues of gender and racial equality was provided at the annual meeting of the Conference of Chief Justices to which the NAWJ president is invited. While I was pleased to note that 19 of the 50 states and D.C. have a woman Chief Justice, including two of our former NAWJ presidents, I continue to be extremely concerned about the tactics being used to unseat a number of our jurists - tactics clearly motivated by other than an assessment of judicial qualifications. A disproportionate number of those targeted to be ousted from office are women, and these efforts are not uncommonly being fueled by donations by those with a special agenda, and often from outside the jurisdiction.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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So, what action has NAWJ taken to counteract these efforts? A couple of years ago, the Informed Voters – Fair Judges Project was formed to educate the voters about the qualifications critical to elect those who would administer the rule of law fairly and impartially. Through media dissemination of information, and the creation of a widely distributed Emmy winning video narrated by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, it is believed that a number of judicial seats were saved. The project's efforts have continued, including an excellent panel presentation and the distribution at this year's midyear conference of an updated manual on how to educate voters

Challenges to several of our veteran NAWJ members by members of their own court have added another dimension to this struggle. Colleagues of the very well respected Chief Justice of Wisconsin engineered a constitutional amendment that gave them the power to select another justice to be chief. No more evident was this challenge than in the contentious battle finally resolved through a court decision enabling the first black Chief of Louisiana to assume her rightfully earned position.

And what are some other areas in which NAWJ has acted? The entangled evil web of human trafficking quickly comes to the forefront. Thanks to the efforts of an initial few and now of many on the tireless Human Trafficking Committee, NAWJ has been a leader in gathering data and compiling an array of actual histories of those subjected to the many forms of what is often aptly referred to as modern day slavery. This past spring, a panel overflowing with expertise presented at the midyear a session entitled, "Human Trafficking: What Judges Can Do." One significant 'take away' was the detailing of a court that engages the victims of human trafficking, a truly vulnerable population, in services rather than their being prosecuted for prostitution or other offenses. At the same conference, a very scholarly and practical manual on how to address issues of human trafficking prepared by our long standing committed NAWJ members was released for widespread use.

And consider the impact the Women in Prison committee has had on the plight of incarcerated women. Their meetings with officials from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, in which they adamantly presented the harm that would result from closing the Danbury Connecticut prison and moving the women to Alabama, far from their families, contributed to a decision to instead renovate the facility. The investigation and report of the conditions in the temporary detention center in Brooklyn caught the attention of National Public Radio, which highlighted the advocacy of NAWJ in drawing attention to the deplorable conditions. A lengthy written report supported by the NAWJ board was subsequently discussed with the appropriate federal government officials. Making the topic of incarcerated women the focus of our tenth annual meeting in July with the Congressional Women's Caucus in our nation's capital attracted passionate Congresswomen and a constellation of dynamic speakers.

Although I have not mentioned other programs where the call to action has been answered, I would be remiss if I did not note the ongoing work of the District Directors and their regional members to engage girls and young women in a number of preparatory programs. NAWJ's signature program, the Color of Justice, exposes middle and high school girls to the possibility of a legal, or possibly a judicial career through a day long program with attorneys and judges. The scholarship events at the law schools also are active ways in which NAWJ members begin early outreach to support diversity in the legal profession. MentorJet, not unlike 'speed dating,' gives law students and lawyers looking for employment an opportunity to speak with judges and lawyers about their interests and seek advice about job prospects. And so the list goes on ...

From a professional perspective, I am reminded every day of the privilege and responsibility that has been bestowed upon us to serve the public in a judicial capacity. As members of NAWJ, we embrace a broader scope of responsibility that goes beyond presiding over cases and addressing the parties that come before us. The passion and commitment of our members is palpable, and we are blessed with a seasoned and truly dedicated staff. I am very proud to identify with an organization of women leaders who not only serve with distinction on the bench, but who also step off the bench, remove the black robe, and demonstrate their deep commitment to building better communities by engaging and working with others around issues of concern, and in serving as mentors and role models in so many ways.

Yes, NAWJ matters – and is still very relevant.

Warmly,

Julie Frantz

IAWJ 13th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

May 26-29, 2016

Washington, D.C.

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www.iawj.org/Biennial

Conference2016

WashingtonDC.html

Hosted by the

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES - USA

*Celebrating the 25th
Anniversary of IAWJ*

**Women Judges and
the Rule of Law:**

Assessing the Past,

Anticipating the Future

Registration is now open. Register on or before December 31, 2015 to take advantage of the early-bird savings. For more information visit www.iawj.org

CONFERENCE CHAIRS

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RESOURCE BOARD

The Resource Board of the National Association of Women Judges is committed to supporting NAWJ both financially and programmatically, for the purposes of (a) assuring that NAWJ has sufficient economic and human resources to execute its strategic plan; (b) developing bonds of mutual support and respect between and among Resource Board members and NAWJ members; and (c) promoting the professional advancement and elevating the standing of women from both the bench and bar.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear NAWJ Members and Friends,

NAWJ's success is truly a collaborative effort. In addition to our active and committed membership base, NAWJ greatly values and is appreciative of the many contributions of our partners which include our corporate and Landmark Sponsors, Resource Board members, government grantors and affiliate organizations. We are deeply indebted for their committee involvement, pro bono legal assistance, and the expertise they provide for our educational programs. Without ongoing funding support from our partners, NAWJ would not be able to provide the same high level of programming and community outreach. Membership dues cover only a portion of the costs for putting on first rate conferences and supporting the array of projects in which NAWJ engages.

As we are all well aware, not for profit organizations are facing diminishing funding streams. Thus, we are diversifying our funding sources by reaching out to a wider community of funders whose missions align well with that of NAWJ, and who recognize the value in partnering with a strong not for profit organization. We have seen successful "cause" related marketing partnerships develop as result of networking at business or social events, or in connection with a corporate executive or board member who has an interest in an issue about which our organization is also passionate, such as human trafficking, women in prison, domestic violence or immigration.

These alliances require vigilant nurturing to keep our valued partners engaged and to confirm their participation is making a difference. We strive to form long lasting, mutually beneficial relationships that will result in long term partnerships that will sustain NAWJ's mission for years to come.

I encourage our membership at every opportunity to cultivate new relationships and to strengthen and maintain existing ones by emphasizing the following; That NAWJ,

- is a proven and stable organization, the leading voice of the judiciary;
- has a long track record of financial stability;
- consistently elects dynamic and visionary leaders;
- has an impeccable, proud reputation;
- is a nationwide organization active in its 14 districts;
- has a strong relationship with the three branches of government, and is recognized as the 'go to' organization on many issues facing the courts and Congress;
- has a long list of programs that address important issues facing the judicial and legal communities, and issues of social justice in our communities;
- has a global voice through its affiliation with the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ);
- has a professional and dedicated staff to support the level of work that is produced at the national office.

Strategic collaborations between nonprofit organizations, such as those which exist between NAWJ and our funders, are critical to NAWJ's continued success toward fulfilling our mission driven goals. The end result of these partnerships is that both organizations benefit and become stronger from the shared relationship: NAWJ is better positioned to withstand fluctuations in funding through these alliances, and at the same time is able to provide a vehicle for our funders to accomplish their philanthropic goals and interests.

As always I wish to thank the NAWJ Board of Directors, District Directors, Landmark Sponsors, Resource Board members as well as NAWJ members for all of the support and assistance that we receive from you. I am very thankful for the wonderful hardworking and dedicated staff. It is a privilege and a true honor to serve as NAWJ's Executive Director.

This quote from Henry Ford sums it up nicely: "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; and working together is success!"

Warmly,

NAWJ Executive Director



With LIBERTY *and* JUSTICE *for* ALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *of* WOMEN JUDGES 37TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE CHAIRS: *Hon. Michele Christiansen & Hon. Sharon McCully*

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015

- Optional Hike: Dog Lake Trail, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- Film Screening of the First 100
- International Judges Reception
- New Judges/First-Time Attendee Reception
- Welcome Reception at the GRAND AMERICA HOTEL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015

- Gender Bias: How Far Have We Come in 25 Years?
- After Marriage: A Dialogue on LGBT Rights and Religious Liberties
- Sujata Warriar
- Impact of Media/Social Media on High Profile Cases
- Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline
- Uneasy Intersection of Law and Medicine
- Reception at the Natural History Museum of Utah

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015

- Erwin Chemerinsky
- Immigration Issues Facing Local, State and Federal Courts
- Domestic Sex Trafficking: Overcoming the Barriers to Successful Prosecutions
- And Justice for All
- Friends Appreciation Luncheon
- Evidentiary Issues Involving Magnetic Images of the Brain
- Decision-Making in Custody Cases Involving Domestic Violence
- Predictable Misjudgment: How Intuition Misleads Judges
- Justice Reinvestment Initiative: A National Perspective
- Federal Circuit Judge Ilana Rovner
- In the Matter of Gerald Gault - 51 Years Later
- Utah Women Lawyers Judicial Reception at the Federal Courthouse

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2015

- Annual NAWJ Business Meeting
- Diane Hamilton on Mindfulness
- Deborah Jiang-Stein on Women in Prison
- Annual NAWJ Gala Banquet

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2015

- Optional: *Music and the Spoken Word* featuring the Mormon Tabernacle Choir

Continued from Cover

attendees to overcome the discomfort associated with standing for equal pay and opportunity for women. Ms. Bellows, in private practice now, was previously President of the American Bar Association. That fiery liftoff was followed by the presciently informative sessions on Gang Involvement in Human Trafficking moderated by Judge William H. Hooks (Criminal Division, Circuit Court of Cook County) and including panelists Anita Alvarez (State's Attorney, Cook County), Sergeant Michael Geiger (formerly of the Portland Police Human Trafficking Unit), Judge Virginia Kendall (U.S. District Court, Northern Illinois), and John Martin, Ph.D. (Director, Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative, CPPS). And, Human Trafficking: What Judges Can Do moderated by Judge Marilyn Johnson (Child Protection Division, Juvenile Court of Cook County) and panelist Judge Fernando Camacho (New York Supreme Court), Danielle Malangone (Associate Director, Technical Assistance, Center for Court Innovation), Brenda Myers-Powell (Co-Founder and Executive Director, The Dreamcatcher Foundation) and Commissioner Catherine Pratt (Compton Juvenile Court).

After a brief break Judge Cheryl Kingfisher, (Co-Chair, Informed Voters-Fair Judges Project, Shawnee County District Court, Kansas), Linda Leali, Esq. (Linda Leali, P.A., Co-Chair, Informed Voters-Fair Judges Project) and Annette Boyd Pitts (Executive Director, Florida Law Related Education Group) presented the Nuts and Bolts of NAWJ's Informed Voters-Fair Judges Project discussed how members can educate voters about the importance of a fair and impartial judiciary.

Friday began with breakfast with the engaging speaker Chief Judge Ruben Castillo (U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois) and quickly turned to examining ways in which voices may be heard. The speakers for the Women in the Legal Profession session: Justice Anne M. Burke (Illinois Supreme Court), Justice Shelvin Louise Marie Hall (Illinois Appellate Court, First District), Stephanie Scharf, Esq. (Scharf Banks Marmor LLC) and Chief Judge Diane P. Wood (U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit). Followed by the Access to Justice through Diverse Leadership—Appointing Women to Boards and Commissions well served by moderator Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby (District of Columbia Court of Appeals) and speakers Judge Janet S. Baer (U.S. Bankruptcy Court,

Northern District of Illinois), Justice Fernande R.V. Duffly (Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court), Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney Margaret Hickey (U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois), Karen G. Johnson-McKewan, Esq. (Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP; Co-Chair, NAWJ Resource Board), Linda Leali, Esq. and Elaine Metlin, Esq. (Dickstein Shapiro LLP; Co-Chair, NAWJ Resource Board).

In the Palmer House's historic Empire Room, Cheryl Brown Henderson, daughter of the late Rev. Oliver L. Brown who in 1950 along with 12 parents and attorneys for the NAACP, filed suit on behalf of their children against the local Board of Education in Topeka, Kansas (Brown v. Board of Education), and president of the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research, shared the story of her father's role in Brown, while raising the voices of the women whose actions ignited the charge.

Judge Sophia H. Hall (Administrative Presiding Judge, Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Resource Section, Circuit Court of Cook County) and Judge Colleen Sheehan (Juvenile Justice Division, Cook County Judicial Circuit) both gave inspiring accounts of the design and practice of restorative justice in the Chicago community: Restorative Justice: Judges Working with the Community to Heal Injustice.

The conference's final program focused on the still prevalent issue of Immigration, moderated by Judge Mauricio Araujo (Criminal Division, Circuit Court of Cook County) and supported by panelists Hon. Joan Churchill (Immigration Judge, Retired; Chair, NAWJ Immigration Committee), Vanessa Esparza-López, Esq. (Supervising Attorney, Immigrant Legal Defense Project, NIJC), Karen E. Lundgren (Chief Counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement), Immigration Judge Sheila McNulty (U.S. Department of Justice) and Steven Weller, J.D., Ph.D. (Senior Consultant, Center for Public Policy Studies.)

When board and committee members were not in meetings, acquaintances were restored, for all, on Chicago's ever popular Architecture Foundation River Cruise. All in all, this year's Midyear offered members NAWJ's classic combination of surprising insight and revelations, and lasting camaraderie.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DEVELOPING BRAINS, AND THE LIFESPAN: NEW KNOWLEDGE FROM NEUROSCIENCE

by Lynn Hecht Schafran

This article was previously published in ABA's The Judges' Journal Vol. 53, No. 3, Summer 2014. Copyright Lynn Hecht Schafran 2014 The author suggests that before reading this article please go to YouTube.com and watch First Impressions: Exposure to Violence and a Child's Developing Brain (15 minutes) featuring Dr. Bruce Perry, Senior Fellow of the ChildTrauma Academy in Houston, Texas¹ and Dr. Linda Chamberlain, Founding Director, Alaska Family Violence Prevention Project², available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brVOYtNMmKk>³



The New England Journal of Medicine recently published an article titled *Silent Victims – An Epidemic of Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence*. It called on healthcare providers to understand the prevalence and neurobiological consequences of children's exposure to domestic violence and take action to mitigate it.

“Childhood IPV [Intimate Partner Violence] exposure has been repeatedly linked to higher rates of myriad physical health problems in children. Altered neuroendocrine stress response may be one important mechanism accounting for this correlation. Highly stressful environmental exposure, such as exposure to IPV, causes children to repeatedly mount the ‘fight or flight’ reaction. Although this response may be adaptive in the short term, repeated activation ... results in pathologic changes in multiple systems over time; some experts refer to this effect as the biologic embedding of stress.”⁴

The *First Impressions Exposure to Violence and a Child's Developing Brain* video starts with Dr. Perry explaining that contrary to what was long believed, neuroscience shows that the brains of babies and young children are sponges that soak up and are shaped by everything in their environment, including the harm of exposure to domestic violence. Dr. Linda Chamberlain, Founding Director of the Alaska Family Violence Prevention Project, explains the evolution of her understanding that even babies and young children are impacted by exposure to domestic violence, and how that impact is experienced and expressed by children of different ages. *The Enduring Effects of Abuse and Related Adverse Experiences in Childhood: A Convergence of Evidence from Neurobiology and Epidemiology* is an article by nine neuroscientists, pediatricians, physicians, and public health experts who assessed the findings of the long-running Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study in the context of the new knowledge from neuroscience. The ACE questionnaire includes questions about childhood exposure to domestic violence and adult perpetration. After reviewing the more than 17,000 responses from the mostly white, well-educated sample they wrote:

“[T]he detrimental effects of traumatic stress on developing neural networks and on the neuroendocrine systems that regulate them have until recently remained hidden even to the eyes of most neuroscientists. However, the information and data that we present herein suggest that this veiled cascade of events represents a common pathway to a variety of important long-term behavioral, health, and social problems.

¹<http://childtrauma.org>

²<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Chronic/Pages/InjuryPrevention/akfvpp/default.aspx>

³FIRST IMPRESSIONS: EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE AND A CHILD'S DEVELOPING BRAIN (California Attorney General 2008).

⁴Megan Bair-Merritt, et al. Silent Victims – An Epidemic of Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence, N. ENG. J. MED.(Oct. 31, 2013) <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJM1307643?query=TOC> (last visited February 8, 2014).

The convergence of evidence from neurobiology and epidemiology calls for an integrated perspective on the origins of health and social problems through the lifespan.”⁵

This evidence leaves no doubt that when a non-abusing parent seeks help from the courts to protect her child from exposure to domestic violence, judges’ decisions can literally shape the child’s brain and impact the child’s mental and physical health, learning capacity and behavior, across the child’s lifetime.

Defining Domestic Violence. The justice system’s efforts to address domestic violence have been hampered by a schema that defines domestic violence as fist-in-the-face physical assault, and harm to children as possible only if they see it. But domestic violence has many dimensions that together create an on-going climate of tension and fear. In *A Judicial Guide to Child Safety in Custody Cases* the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges provides this comprehensive definition:

“[Domestic Violence is] a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors that operate at a variety of levels – physical, psychological, emotional, financial or sexual – that one parent uses against the other parent. The pattern of behaviors is neither impulsive nor ‘out of control’ but is purposeful and instrumental in order to gain compliance or control.”⁶

Articles about domestic violence sometimes describe children as “witnesses,” a problematic term for two reasons. First, “witness” implies a passive bystander, whereas children are deeply engaged with everything that happens in their family environment. Second, a child might never see or hear the physical or sexual abuse yet be profoundly harmed by the atmosphere of fear in which they live. The preferred terminology is children “exposed” to domestic violence.

The Social Science is Confirmed and Explained by the Neuroscience. Social science research amassed over the last decades documents the many ways exposure to domestic violence undermines children’s mental and physical health, social and emotional development, and interpersonal relationships, as well as the fact that it is often intergenerational.⁷ Exposure to domestic violence can lead to behaviors such as substance abuse, suicide attempts, and depressive disorders.”⁸ A review of the social science literature published just between 1995 and 2006 identified over 1,000 articles and concluded:

“At its most basic level, living with the abuse of their mother is to be considered a form of emotional abuse, with negative implications for children’s emotional and mental health and future relationships..... Growing up in an abusive home⁹ can critically jeopardize the developmental progress and personal ability of children, the cumulative effect of which may be carried into adulthood and can contribute significantly to the cycle of adversity and violence. Exposure to domestic violence may have a varied impact at different stages with early and prolonged exposure potentially creating more severe problems because it affects the subsequent chain of development.”¹⁰

⁵Robert F. Anda, Vincent J. Feitti, J. Douglas Bremner, John D. Walker, Charles Whitfield, Bruce D. Perry, Shanta R. Dube & Wayne H. Giles, *The Enduring Effects of Abuse and Related Adverse Experiences in Childhood: A Convergence of Evidence from Neurobiology and Epidemiology*, EUR.ARCH PSYCHIATRY CLIN.NEUROSCIENCE, April 2006 at 174, reprinted in NIH Public Access, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3232061/pdf/nihms340170.pdf> at 8.

⁶NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURTS JUDGES, A JUDICIAL GUIDE TO CHILD SAFETY IN CUSTODY CASES 8 (2008). With respect to sexual abuse see NATIONAL JUDICIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM, INTIMATE PARTNER SEXUAL ABUSE: THE HIDDEN DIMENSION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES, web course available at <http://www.njep-ipsacourse.org>, and Lynn Hecht Schafran, *Risk Assessment and Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: The Hidden Dimension of Domestic Violence*, JUDICATURE, Jan.–Feb. 2010 at 161. The concept of ongoing “coercive control” was developed by Dr. Evan Stark and is central to understanding domestic violence. EVAN STARK, COERCIVE CONTROL: HOW MEN ENTRAP WOMEN IN PERSONAL LIFE (2007); Evan Stark, *Coercive Control*, FATALITY REV. BULL., Spring 2010 at 2, available at http://www.ncdsv.org/images/NDVFR1_FatalityReviewBulletin_Spring2010.pdf.

⁷E.g. AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION CENTER ON CHILDREN AND THE LAW, THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN (1994); Spouse Abuse – Statutory Presumption in Child Custody Litigation, H. Con. Res. 172, 101st Cong. (1990) (Sense of Congress that every state should create a statutory presumption “That it is detrimental to the child to be placed in the custody of the abusive parent.”

⁸Robert F. Anda, Vincent J. Feitti, J. Douglas Bremner, John D. Walker, Charles Whitfield, Bruce D. Perry, Shanta R. Dube & Wayne H. Giles, *The Enduring Effects of Abuse and Related Adverse Experiences in Childhood: A Convergence of Evidence from Neurobiology and Epidemiology*, EUR. ARCH PSYCHIATRY CLIN NEUROSCIENCE, April 2006 at 174, reprinted in NIH Public Access, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3232061/pdf/nihms340170.pdf> at 3.

⁹With respect to writing about domestic violence generally, phrases such as “abusive relationship” or “abusive home” are inaccurate because they create the invisible perpetrator. Relationships and homes are not abusive; people are.

¹⁰Stephanie Holt, Helen Buckley & Sadhbh Whelan, *The Impact of Exposure to Domestic Violence on Children and Young People: A Review of the Literature*, 32 CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT 797,799, 802 (2008) (citations omitted). This article provides specifics on the way exposure to domestic violence impacts children of different ages: infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers, school-aged children, and teenagers. A useful resource for this detailed information is a free E-book, published by the London, Ontario Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System, ALLISON CUNNINGHAM & LINDA BAKER, LITTLE EYES, LITTLE EARS: HOW VIOLENCE AGAINST A MOTHER SHAPES CHILDREN AS THEY GROW, (2007) available at <http://www.yellowbrickhouse.org/english/2010/03/17/free-e-book-little-eyes-little-ears/>.

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The social science and the neuroscience may be thought of as the “what” and the “why.” Social science tells us what exposure to domestic violence does to children’s development and behavior. Neuroscience tells us *why*.

The Neuroscience. Dr. Bruce Perry, as noted above, is Senior Fellow at the ChildTrauma Academy in Houston. Dr. Jack P. Shonkoff is Director of the Center for the Developing Child at Harvard University. Dr. Edward Tronick is Director of the Child Development Unit at Harvard. Many of their publications on the neuroscience of developing brains are intended for non-scientists in the hope that this new knowledge will find its way into public policy, the legal system, education, and public health, to the benefit of the individual child and society as a whole. This summary is drawn from several of their publications and videos, all available online.¹¹

In infancy and young childhood the human brain is extremely plastic, growing new neurons and making synaptic connections in response to sensory, perceptual, and affective experiences. Infants’ experiences – most importantly their relationship with their primary caregiver – literally shape the architecture of their brains.



Developing brains are acutely sensitive to stress and to the internal state of the caregiver upon whom the child depends. Even babies experience the fight or flight response and can dissociate in the face of an acute or persistent threat. In a safe environment where the child has a nurturing relationship with a caregiver, moderate stress produces resilience. Some stress is normal and healthy for brain development. Children need to learn to deal with every day stress. But in an unpredictable, tension-filled, violent environment where the stress is inescapable it becomes toxic, unleashing a storm of stress-related neurochemicals that result in “embedded stress.”¹² Children learn to become fearful through this “fear conditioning,” which is strongly connected to anxiety disorders across the lifespan.

Lundy Bancroft, an expert on batterers as parents, writes that “[the] abuser creates a pervasive atmosphere of crisis in his home.”¹³ Children persistently exposed to domestic violence live in an ongoing “alarm” state, with powerful stress hormones, particularly cortisol, repeatedly priming them to flee or fight. This alarm state has many negative consequences for brain development. The hippocampus is critical for learning and memory. Toxic stress shrinks this area of the brain, leading to memory deficits, as seen in children and adults with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The work of the brain is carried out by circuits created by synaptic connections. When the level of cortisol and other stress hormones rises and remains elevated for days or months at a time, these hormones “poison” the circuits developing in the brain at that time, with lifetime consequences. If it’s the circuit for building trust in a relationship, for example, absent an effective intervention that circuit is disrupted for life.

While some children exposed to domestic violence are trapped in a fight or flight alarm state others – especially infants and young children who can neither fight or flee – dissociate, sometimes called the defeat response. They turn inward, go somewhere safe in their imagination, feel as if they are observing rather than experiencing the situation from which escape is impossible. Like adults, for most children the response to an extreme stress is a combination – when neither fight nor flight is possible, they may turn to dissociation.



¹¹National Scientific Council on the Developing Child (2010), *Persistent Fear and Anxiety Can Affect Young Children’s Learning and Development: Working Paper No. 9*. (2010), <http://www.developingchild.harvard.edu>, FIRST IMPRESSIONS, *supra* note 3; HELPING BABIES FROM THE BENCH: USING THE SCIENCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IN COURT (Zero to Three 2007), <http://www.zerotothree.org/courtteams>;

Bruce D. Perry, *Maltreatment and the Developing Child: How Early Childhood Experience Shapes Child and Culture*, Sept. 23, 2004, <http://www.lfcc.on.ca/mccain/perry.pdf>; Bruce D. Perry, *Effects of Traumatic Events on Children* (2003) <http://ChildTrauma.org>;

¹²Bair-Merritt, *supra* note 4.

¹³Lundy Bancroft, *Understanding the Batterer in Custody and Visitation Disputes* (1998), http://www.lundybancroft.com/?page_id+279.

Children subjected to toxic stress often display symptoms linked to the neurobiology of their major coping adaptation. The more prolonged the stressor, the greater the likelihood of long-term symptoms over the lifespan. The neurochemical system of the dissociating child predisposes to somatic complaints, withdrawal, helplessness, dependence, anxiety disorders, and major depression. The neurochemical system of the fight or flight child predispose to symptoms related to persistent hyperarousal such as increased startle response, serious sleep disorders, anxiety, hyperactivity, conduct disorder, Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The fact that children raised in an environment of persistent exposure to domestic violence are more likely to be violent themselves as children and adults is likely linked to their being in constant fight or flight mode, and the cognitive distortions their fear produces. Everything – even eye contact or a shoulder tap – is perceived as threatening and elicits impulsive, violent reactions.



Dr. Perry explains that living in an alarm state has critical implications for children’s ability to learn.

“When a child is in a persisting state of low-level fear that results from exposure to violence, the primary areas of the brain that are processing information are different from those in a child from a safe environment. The calm child may sit in the same classroom next to the child in an alarm state, both hearing the same lecture by the teacher. Even if they have identical IQs, the child that is calm can focus on the words of the teacher and, using neocortex, engage in abstract cognition. The child in an alarm state will be less efficient at processing and storing the verbal information the teacher is providing.”¹⁴

Obviously failure to learn has consequences across the lifespan.

What Can a Judge Do for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence? Children’s healthy brain development is supported by a nurturing relationship with one or more adults, especially the child’s primary caregiver, usually the mother. The most important things a judge can do to protect children exposed to domestic violence and help them heal is to end their exposure and support the child’s relationship with the non-abusing parent.

The critical importance of the child’s connection to the nurturing parent is dramatically illustrated in a DVD titled *Helping Babies From the Bench: Using the Science of Early Childhood Development in Court*,¹⁵ created by Florida Judge Cindy Lederman, a pioneer in using neuroscience to improve children’s lives. Judge Lederman’s DVD presents the neuroscience of the developing brain and the operations of her court and related agencies. She advises that there is a DVD segment judges find helpful in understanding why it is vital to support and protect the bond between a child and his or her nurturing parent. It is the “Still Face Experiment” in which Dr. Tronick films a mother interacting with her year-old baby. It is available on YouTube.¹⁶



The child is in an infant seat, the mother crouches to be on eye level with her. She greets the baby, the baby greets her. The baby points, the mother looks in the direction in which the baby is pointing. They are closely engaged with each other, keeping eye contact, smiling, talking or making responsive noises, coordinating their emotions and intentions.

Then the mother is asked to turn away and turn back with a “still” face. The baby is immediately puzzled and tries to engage her in the kind of reciprocal communication she expects, but the mother remains impassive. Within two minutes the baby’s

¹⁴BRUCE D. PERRY, THE NEURODEVELOPMENTAL IMPACT OF VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD, TEXTBOOK OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY (Diane Schetky & Elaine P. Benedik, eds. 2001), http://childtrauma.org/wp-content/uploads2013/11/Neurodevel_Impact_Perry.pdf.

¹⁵HELPING BABIES FROM THE BENCH: USING THE SCIENCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IN COURT (Zero to Three 2007), <http://www.zerotothree.org/courtteams>.

¹⁶STILL FACE EXPERIMENT, available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apzXGEbZht0>

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stress is palpable. When she cannot elicit the engaged reaction she expects she reacts with clearly negative emotions, and screechy, beseeching sounds. Then the mother smiles and engages in her usual interactive play with the baby. Instantly the child is happy again.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COURTS OF THE NEW KNOWLEDGE FROM NEUROSCIENCE

The new knowledge from neuroscience has significant implications for many kinds of court cases as well as community safety.

Abuse and Neglect. Sometimes mothers seeking an order of protection are themselves charged with “failure to protect” and lose their children to foster care for “allowing” their children to be exposed to domestic violence. Apart from the fact that this is unconstitutional,¹⁷ and the irony of charging a protective mother with “failure to protect,” from a neuroscience point of view this is profoundly harmful for children. The most beneficial action a court can take for a child exposed to domestic violence is to end the exposure and support the non-abusive parent’s efforts to protect the child. Support includes helping her to secure the services she needs, a safe place to live, and economic independence so that she and the child need not return to the batterer.



In some cases, it is necessary to remove children because the mother does not recognize that the maltreatment, cruelty, and exploitation to which she is being subjected is harmful to her and her children.¹⁸ These are complex cases, but in *Helping Babies from the Bench* Dr. Shonkoff observes that child welfare agencies blunder in how they use foster care. Repeatedly changing children’s placements is intended to prevent children from forming a close attachment with their foster parents. Neuroscience shows that having a close attachment with a nurturing parental figure supports healthy brain development, and in cases like these, can restore brain health.¹⁹

Custody and Visitation. Today every state’s custody statute includes domestic violence as a factor to be considered in determining the best interests of the child, the standard for determining custody and visitation. Yet numerous studies over many years document that courts often award custody, joint custody, and unsupervised visitation to abusers.²⁰ What if, instead of saying that children exposed to domestic violence are “at risk” we said children exposed to domestic violence are “at risk of brain damage”? How would that shape perceptions of the “best interests of the child”?



The United States is having a national conversation about whether children should participate in contact sports because neuroscience has shown that concussions bounce the brain against the skull (“brain slosh”) resulting in traumatic brain injury and the long term consequences that led former players to sue the National Football League.²¹ Neuroscience has also shown us that for children, chronic exposure to domestic violence also results in physical changes to the brain, impairment of brain function, and consequences for physical and mental health over the lifespan. Toxic stress changes the architecture of the child’s brain. It is no less a physical agent of injury than brain slosh.

¹⁷Nicholson v. Williams, 787 N.Y.S.2d 196 (Ct. App. 2004), In re Nicholson, 181 F. Supp. 2d, 182 (E.D. N.Y. 2002)

¹⁸CANDACE L. MAZE, SHARON M. AARON & JUDGE CINDY S. LEDERMAN, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY IN DEPENDENCY COURT: THE MIAMI-DADE DEPENDENCY COURT INTERVENTION PROGRAM FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE HANDBOOK 7 (2005). (In addition to the domestic violence perpetrated against the mother studies have found rates of physical and sexual abuse ranging from 30-50% in homes where there is domestic violence.)

¹⁹*Id.* at 10. Best, of course, is for the nurturing adult to be the child’s parent. The Miami-Dade Dependency Court Intervention Program “is based on the premise that a battered mother can regain the ability to care for herself and her children if her access to personal and community resources is facilitated at the earliest opportunity and her personal growth is supported.”

²⁰LUNDY BANCROFT & JAY SILVERMAN, THE BATTERER AS PARENT (2d ed. 2011),

²¹Gregory D. Myer, *Can Animals Help Limit Concussions?* N.Y.TIMES, JAN. 2, 2014, http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/03/opinion/can-animals-help-limit-concussions.html?_r=0



Custody Evaluators. Many judges rely on custody evaluators when making custody and visitation decisions. Repeated studies find that many evaluators know nothing about domestic violence and insist it does not harm children.²² Neuroscience shows us that exposure to domestic violence harms children's brains at the neuronal level, with lifetime consequences. Judges should require anyone seeking appointment as a custody evaluator to demonstrate knowledge of domestic violence and the relevant social science and neuroscience. Children's lives are at risk.

The Hague Convention: The 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction²³ provides that apart from a few defenses, children

abducted from their country of habitual residence should be quickly returned. Many "taking" parents are caregiver mothers,²⁴ who assert that they were fleeing domestic violence to secure safety for their children and themselves.²⁵ They invoke the Sec.13(b) defense which states that a child need not be returned if there is "a grave risk that his or her return would expose the child to physical or psychological harm or otherwise place the child in an intolerable situation." In 2010 the U.S. State Department acknowledged that "many" U.S. courts ignore the scientific evidence documenting that domestic violence against mothers harms children and return children to their mothers' abusers,²⁶ raising "significant issues related to the safety of the child and the accompanying parent."²⁷ Neuroscience helps judges assess "grave risk" in the domestic violence context. The toxic stress that harms developing brains comes from living in a chronic state of tension and fear. The risk for children cannot be measured solely by the gravity of their mother's physical wounds.

Judicial Education. Judicial education programs about domestic violence often include the social science research demonstrating the harm of exposure for children. It is time for these programs to include the new knowledge from neuroscience. Judge Cindy Lederman writes, "Although judges have limited time off the bench, they need to be made aware of relevant child-development research as often as they stay abreast of relevant appellate decisions involving procedure, evidence, and substantive law."²⁸ With the new knowledge from neuroscience, "The court can be viewed as a unique public-health setting with great potential for changing human behavior."²⁹



²²DANIEL G. SAUNDERS ET AL., CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATORS' BELIEFS ABOUT DOMESTIC ABUSE ALLEGATIONS: THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO EVALUATORS' DEMOGRAPHICS, BACKGROUND, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE KNOWLEDGE, AND CUSTODY-VISITATION RECOMMENDATIONS, (2012), <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/238891.pdf>; MICHAEL S. DAVIS ET AL., CUSTODY EVALUATIONS WHEN THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: PRACTICES, BELIEFS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL EVALUATORS (2011) <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/234465.pdf>; Lynn Hecht Schafran, Evaluating the Evaluators: Problems with "Outside Neutrals," JUDGES' J., Winter 2003 at 10.

²³Implemented by the United States through the International Child Abduction Remedies Act U.S.C. § 1160 et. seq.

²⁴See Nigel Lowe, *A Statistical Analysis of Applications Made in 2008 Under the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*, Hague Conference Private International Law, Part 1, 14-25 (Nov. 2011) available at <http://jecj.et/upload/wop/abduct2011pd08ae.pdf>.

²⁵Merle H. Weiner, *Half-Truths, Mistakes, and Embarrassments: The United States Goes to the Fifth Meeting of the Special Commission to Review the Operation of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*, 2008 UTAH L. REV. 221, 223 n.5. (2008) citing countries' answers to the pre-meeting questionnaire which showed that "country after country, including the United States, recognized that domestic violence is frequently raised as an issue by the respondent in Hague proceedings.

²⁶U.S. Response to Preliminary Doc. No. 21 Questionnaire concerning the practical operation of the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and the Hague Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children, Hague Conference on Private International Law, Sec. 5.1 (Nov. 2010) available at http://hcch.net/index_en.php?act=publications.details&dtid=33 (follow "United States" hyperlink).

²⁷U.S. Response to Preliminary Doc. No. 2, Questionnaire on the Desirability and Feasibility of a Protocol to the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, Hague Conference on Private International Law Sec. 5.1, (Dec. 2010) available at http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=publications.details&pic=5290&dtid=33 (follow "United States" hyperlink).

²⁸Cindy Lederman, *From Lab Bench to Court Bench: Using Science to Inform Decisions in Juvenile Court*, CEREBRUM, Sept. 2011, available at <http://dana.org/Cerebrum/Default.aspx?id=39466>.

²⁹*Id.*

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Conclusion. Many neuroscientists focus not only on the individual child, but also on how children’s exposure to domestic violence has created a massive public health problem with serious implications for community safety. The U.S. Attorney General’s National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence reported that children’s exposure to violence, including domestic violence, is a “national crisis...with effects lasting well into adulthood.”³⁰ The social science literature review quoted earlier reported:

“[L]ongitudinal studies on pathways to delinquency have shown that young offenders are more likely to have been exposed to domestic violence, compared to their non-exposed counterparts and to become involved in anti-social behavior, violent crime, substance abuse, further delinquency and adult criminality. Finally, there is an association between exposure to domestic violence and peer aggression and bullying.”³¹

Now we learn from neuroscience why this is so: Children exposed to repeated violence live in a perpetual “alarm” state, always ready to fight or flee, and carry that childhood adaptation into their adult lives. Dr. Perry offers this lesson for public policy, health policy, and the courts:



“Law, policy and practice that are biologically respectful are more effective and enduring...If society ignores the laws of biology, there will inevitably be neurodevelopmental consequences. If, on the other hand, we choose to continue researching, educating and creating problem-solving models, we can shape optimal developmental experiences for our children. The result will be no less than a realization of our potential as a humane society.”³²

Human brain development is a long process. Research documents that exposure to domestic violence has specific impacts on children of all ages, from infants to teens. Thus, judges need to be mindful that in any case where a child has been exposed to domestic violence and/

or is at risk of exposure in the future, in the words of Dr. Shonkoff, “Judges hold the integrity of a developing child’s brain in their hands.”³³



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³⁰REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL’S NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE, DEFENDING CHILDHOOD (2011) at iv, available at <http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf>

³¹Stephanie Holt, *supra* note 10, at 805 -806 (citations omitted).

³²*Maltreatment*, *supra* note 11, at 4.

³³*Helping Babies*, *supra* note 15.

#SocialMedia101: Suggested DOs and DON'Ts for Smart Social Networking Judges

By Judge Simone Marsteller, First District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee, FL

A judge may participate in electronic social networking, but as with all social relationships and contacts, a judge must comply with relevant provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct and avoid any conduct that would undermine the judge's independence, integrity, or impartiality, or create an appearance of impropriety.¹



This statement, from the ABA, should be the Golden Rule for judges active in—or thinking of joining—the social networking community. But how does one specifically apply the rule to her activities on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and the like? Judges need not feel like they have to avoid social media altogether or create online aliases in order to stay in safe territory, ethically and otherwise. Social networking is an activity enjoyed by millions of people; it should be one judges can enjoy, as well. This article offers several suggestions to help new and seasoned judges manage their social media presence as to avoid ethical pitfalls and address safety concerns.²

First, an important proviso. The suggestions offered here are not intended to be authoritative, especially if your state's judicial ethics or regulating body has issued an opinion, based on your state's canons of judicial conduct, laying out guidelines for social media usage or addressing a specific social media usage question and defining conduct parameters. Rather, this article's intent is to give broad guidance where such jurisdiction-specific statements are unavailable.³

Second, this article focuses on Facebook and Twitter as they are the top two most widely used social networks, and presumably the two most familiar to the judicial-user subset of social networkers.⁴ Other popular networks include LinkedIn, Pinterest, Google+, Instagram, Tumblr and Vine.⁵ It is hoped that the suggestions for Facebook and Twitter use will help inform users of other networks, as well.

Facebook

Most of us are familiar with Facebook, even if we aren't on Facebook. It is the Mark Zuckerberg creation whose home page says benevolently, "You're with friends. Wherever you go, whatever you do, stay close to the people who matter."⁶ Accumulating and interacting with Facebook friends—posting pictures of yourself and your family, "checking in" at various places, joining in on lively online debates, etc.—can be great fun. But when you become a judge, the canons of judicial conduct govern and limit what you do and say, and your and your family's safety becomes of greater concern. The transition from private citizen to judicial officer can be challenging, particularly as related to your online activities. Here are some common concerns judges have about maintaining a Facebook presence, and ways to avoid violating the judicial-social-networking Golden Rule.

Having lawyers as Facebook friends. Florida, Massachusetts and Oklahoma essentially forbid it; California, Kentucky, New York, Ohio and South Carolina permit it within certain parameters.⁷ The concern here is avoiding an appearance of partiality, or giving the impression that certain lawyers are favored or have more influence on the judge than other non-Facebook-friend lawyers. This is because in order for someone to become your Facebook friend ("FBF"), you must accept his or her "Friend Request." Thus, you, the judge, are (theoretically, if not in reality) picking and choosing between requesters.

DO develop a protocol for handling lawyer FBFs. To avoid the problem altogether, a judge could simply "unfriend" all her lawyer FBFs and refuse all future requests. A less Draconian approach—and one that still largely avoids the possibility of having to disqualify oneself from a case—would be to unfriend and refuse friend requests from those lawyers who practice, or are reasonably likely to practice, in the jurisdiction of the court the judge sits on, but remain FBFs with those well outside the judge's jurisdiction and who are very unlikely to appear before her. This line

may be difficult to draw, however, for appellate judges whose geographic jurisdictions are significantly larger than those of trial judges.

DO consider maintaining a separate Facebook Page for your public persona in addition to your personal page. Often used by candidates, public figures and organizations,⁸ to list a few, a “fan” page lets the subject communicate with constituents who follow the page via a “LIKE” button, and avoids the lawyer-friend-request problem. See <https://www.facebook.com/pages/create.php> for step-by-step directions.

Facebook posts. Here, all of the Big Three concerns are in play: integrity, impartiality and impropriety. A judge is a judge 24/7/365. Whatever she says and does will be scrutinized—judges are held to a higher standard than most other public servants, and with good reason. “A judge shall uphold and promote the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary[.]” “Conduct that compromises or appears to compromise the independence, integrity, and impartiality of a judge undermines public confidence in the judiciary.”¹⁰ Consequently, “[a] judge should expect to be the subject of public scrutiny that might be viewed as burdensome if applied to other citizens[.]”¹¹

Bottom line: a judge simply cannot express herself as freely in words and photos the way she used to before taking the bench.

For a new judge, **DO** conduct some cleanup of previous photograph posts. Unfortunately, those images are stored *somewhere* and can be retrieved even though deleted from one’s Facebook page. Nevertheless, scrutinize the photos for any that clearly or likely could depict you in a setting or involved in some activity that reflects negatively on you and on the judicial office, and delete them.

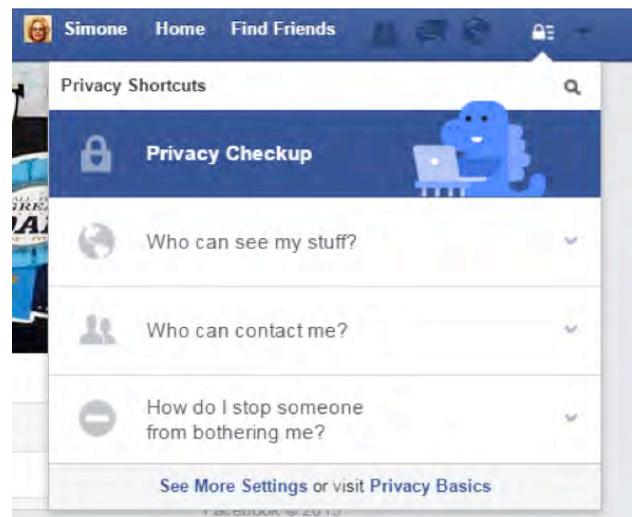
Moving forward, **DO** keep in mind that photos posted on Facebook can be downloaded by FBFs and followers, and sent on electronically. Therefore, **DON’T** post a photo if you wouldn’t want to see it on the front page of your hometown newspaper. **DO** think about whether the photo shows you in a less-than-wholesome activity (e.g., holding an alcoholic drink, or what appears to be one).

A similar “gut check” should apply to posting status updates and comments. Before posting anything, **DO** ask yourself whether the statement(s) you intend to post could be seen as inappropriate, or could convey partiality or bias. Again, judges are extremely limited in what we can publicly say and on what matters we can publicly opine. **DON’T** comment on cases pending before you or controversies that could come before you. **DON’T** comment on political issues or political

issues/candidates.¹² **DON’T** make disparaging comments about anyone. **DON’T** engage in an online debate that could lead you to say something that would bring your integrity and impartiality into question.

Commenting on Facebook may also take the form of clicking on the “Like” or “Share” links that accompany the posts of your FBFs or people and organizations whose fan pages you follow. Obviously, when a judge shares another’s post, it shows up on her Facebook page for her FBFs to see. A judge’s FBFs also know when she “likes” a post from another Facebook user. Therefore, **DO** consider whether liking or sharing a Facebook post could be construed as an expression of opinion or as an endorsement of a person/organization/cause, etc.

Privacy and security. Facebook provides a panoply of tools that allow a user to control who sees what on her page and the overall visibility of her Facebook presence.



For example, FBFs can be classified as “close friends,” “friends,” and “acquaintances,” and the Facebook user can control which group can see a particular post. **DO** familiarize yourself with these privacy tools **and use them**.

DO also limit the personal information you reveal on your Facebook page. Things like birthdates, “relationship” status, family members’ names, and contact information should remain private, even if the privacy controls are used.

Finally, **DO** employ common sense when posting pictures of family—kids, especially—and sharing your location via “check-ins” that let your FBFs know where you are eating, vacationing, etc.

Twitter

It is probably safe to say that the number of judges with Twitter accounts is significantly lower than the number of judges on Facebook. Twitter brands itself “your window to the world.”¹³ Indeed it is. One can have a Twitter account and use it only to acquire information, never actually sending an outgoing message. But that sort of one-sided use arguably defeats the purpose of this social networking medium. The whole point of Twitter is to amass followers, and let followers and others operating in the Twittersphere¹⁴ know what you’re doing and what you think about what’s going on.

Tweets

Tweets are the outgoing messages one sends under his or her Twitter persona. (Thus, you are “tweeting,” not “twittering.”) They are only 140 characters long, which means there is not much space to wax philosophical on anything. Think of a tweet as a written sound bite—a statement, concisely worded to pique the interest of the person reading it so that he or she will click on the link included in the tweet, respond to the tweet, and/or follow the tweeter.

Twitter, much more so than Facebook, can be dangerous territory for a judge because people tweet about an infinite number of topics that are very often controversial and always hotly debated. And it’s tempting to join in the debate, or to instigate one. But as with Facebook comments, a judge’s Twitter activity implicates the Big Three concerns from the judicial-social-networking Golden Rule: integrity, impartiality and impropriety. Still, judges need not be afraid to join the Twittersphere.

One judge is such a prolific tweeter that he was recently named “Tweeter Laureate” of Texas by that state’s House of Representatives.¹⁵ Texas Supreme Court Justice Don R. Willett, who, as of this writing, has nearly 19,000 Twitter followers (including this writer),¹⁶ shares his approach to tweeting:

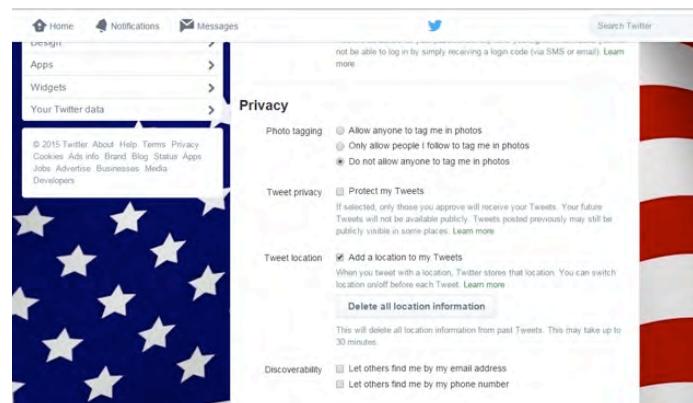
One cardinal rule: I don’t throw partisan sharp elbows or discuss issues that could appear before the Court. While I post links to U.S. legal news, I never give my \$0.02 on disputed legal issues or pending cases. I strive to keep things witty, informative and interesting. . . . It’s tough to be precise in 140 characters, so conveying tone/nuance is tough. I just self-censor and try to be careful.¹⁷

Justice Willett’s approach is on point: **DO** self-censor. Before sending or responding to a tweet, **DO** ask yourself whether your statement could be seen as inappropriate, or could convey partiality or bias.

Privacy and security. Twitter has its own set of privacy and security tools for users. **DO** familiarize yourself with them before sending out that first tweet.



Most notably, a judge may “lock” her Twitter account so that (1) other users have to request permission to follow her account, (2) only permitted followers may see the judge’s tweets, and (3) her tweets cannot be retweeted. (See the “Protect my Tweets” option in the screen shot below.)





The controlled access does not in any way limit the judge’s ability to follow whomever she chooses. But, as indicated in the screen shot above, people who are not approved followers will not see the judge’s replies to their tweets.

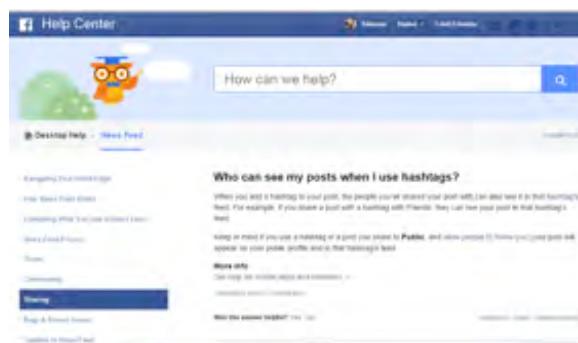
Other usage considerations

Aliases. Both Facebook and Twitter (and probably most other social media sites) allow users to create an online alias instead of using their own names. A judge who takes advantage of this feature gains some measure of anonymity, perhaps. An alias may protect the judge’s Facebook and/or Twitter account from being discovered via a routine Internet search. Thus, from a security perspective, operating under an online alias may be advantageous. But the judge certainly won’t be fully anonymous because her FBFs and some Twitter followers will surely know who the real person is behind the alias. Nothing is completely undiscoverable; and posting and tweeting under an alias could encourage inappropriate activity. **DON’T** violate the canons of judicial conduct by hiding behind a Facebook or Twitter alias.

Hashtags. Originally used mostly in tweets, hashtags now are commonly used in Facebook and other social media posts. A hashtag is a word or term, preceded by the “#” sign, used to categorize a tweet or a post (e.g., #womenjudges; #socialmedia; #smarttweeting). Depending on how open your Facebook or Twitter account is, hashtags you include in the tweet or Facebook post significantly broaden your potential audience: the hashtag can be used as a search term, or as on Twitter, can be used to tailor one’s “feed.”¹⁸ So, **DO** keep in mind that Twitter users who may not already be following you, and who are viewing all tweets containing a particular hashtag, will see your tweet if it contains that hashtag. On Facebook, the result is similar if your post is set for “public” viewing.

Limiting your Facebook and Twitter audience (as explained previously) appears to also limit the reach of any hashtag(s) included in your posts and tweets. Thus, on Facebook, where you can specify who can

see a particular post (e.g., friends only; close friends only; friends except acquaintances), only those people will see the post containing a hashtag.



And on Twitter, if you have chosen to protect all your tweets, then only your permitted followers will see your tweet containing a hashtag.

Additional considerations for judges

Professor Michael Cromwell from the University of North Carolina, School of Government, offers these additional guidelines for judges using, or thinking of using, social media:

- Social networks create opportunities and temptations for ex parte communication that judges must be careful to avoid.
- Judges are still judges when posting materials on their social networking pages and need to realize that the kinds of comments and photographs posted by others may not be appropriate for them.
- Judges need to avoid on-line ties to organizations that discriminate, just as they are prohibited from joining such organizations.
- Judges also need to avoid on-line ties to organizations that may be advocates before the court.
- Judges need to avoid posting comments on social network sites or taking other actions on such sites that lend the prestige of the judge’s office to the advancement of a private interest.

#FinalWords

DON’T close yourself off from the social networking world. But **DO** be aware of the potential ethical pitfalls. **DO** self-censor and use common sense when using social media. And **DO** remember the Golden Rule.

This article is submitted on behalf of the NAWJ’s New Judges Committee: Jamoa Moberly (CA) (chair); Beverly Cutler (AK); Bernadette D’Souza (LA); Ellar Duff (IL); Jennifer Gee (Fed.) (CA); Pammela Lattier (LA); Antoinette Leoney (MA); Simone Marsteller (FL); Ann Moorman (CA); Wendy Morton (AZ); Charmaine Pemberton (Trinidad and Tobago); Ioana Petrou (CA);

DISTRICT TWO (CT, NY, VT)

Mentor Jet at New York University School of Law



(l-r) Hon. Sally Krauss (ret.), Hon. Margaret A. Chan, Hon. Nancy M. Bannon, Hon. Judith J. Gische, Morgan Mouchette, Esq., Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones, Hon. Cheryl J. Gonzalez, Hon. Verna Saunders.

On March 9, 2015, the **New York Women’s Bar Association Diversity Committee** and NAWJ District 2 co-sponsored an exciting networking program at New York University School of Law, “MentorJet: Speed Mentoring & Networking Fun for Law Students, Judges, Lawyers, and Other Professionals.” The “speed mentoring” networking event was co-hosted by NYU Law Women and provided law students and recent law school graduates with the opportunity to interact one-on-one with mentors. Ms. Yacine Barry-Wun, Esq., President, New York Women’s Bar Association and Judge Joanne D. Quiñones, District 2 Program Coordinator and NYNAWJ Treasurer facilitated the Mentor Jet Program. Mentors were judges from different courts, including Housing Court, Civil Court, Criminal Court and Supreme Court, and practicing attorneys who represented diverse areas of the law, including court attorneys and a Special Referee from Family Court.

Color of Justice at the YMCA

On April 19, 2015, NY NAWJ, in conjunction with LexisNexis and the Bedford Stuyvesant YMCA, held its annual Color of Justice program at the YMCA in Bedford Stuyvesant. The program, which seeks to introduce high school girls of color to the legal and judicial system, began with the introduction of students who were recruited to the program by Dordy Jourdain, Director of the YMCA, and his staff. The students hailed from the Bedford Academy High School, the Ron Brown Academy, the Young Women’s Leadership School, Academy for Career in Television and Film, Health Professions High School, Williamsburg Charter High School and IS318. Public Advocate and attorney Letitia James spoke to the students about the nature of her role as Public Advocate and encouraged them to work hard as they pursued their goals both at school and in life.

The first panel, “Law as a Career - Preparing the Way” consisted of Janeel Hall, a third-year law student at Brooklyn Law School; Dorothy Moran, Associate Director of Admissions at St. Johns University School of Law; Camille Varlack, Principal Court Attorney to the Honorable Ruth Shillingford; the Honorable Susana Rojas, Clerk of the Court, the Appellate Division, First Department; and Sheryl Orwel, Associate University Counsel at Weill Cornell Medical College. They addressed paths that their lives had taken; requirements for law school and the practice of law; and the nature of their work. Both Hon. Rojas and Ms. Orwel spoke about what it meant to be the “first” person of color in their respective positions. The panel fielded questions from the students after their presentations.

Before the final panel, the students enjoyed a lovely lunch outdoors, where they broke into small groups and engaged in one-on-one conversations with the panelists, including the judges scheduled for the final panel. **The final panel “The Color of Justice - Judges Making a Difference,”** consisted of Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix, Associate Justice, the Appellate Division, Second Department; Hon. Margo Brodie, Judge, the United States District Court - Eastern District of New York; Hon. Cheryl Gonzales, Judge, Civil Court of the City of New York, Housing Part; Hon. Evelyn LaPorte, Supreme Court, Kings County - Criminal Term; Hon. Carolyn Wade, Supreme Court, Kings County (Mental Hygiene Court); and Hon. Lillian Wan, Family Court, Kings County. The judges spoke about the nature of their work; the importance of not letting any person or circumstance deter them from their dreams (and encouraged the students to do the same while working hard at school); the need for girls of color ultimately to

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DISTRICT NEWS

become engaged in the legal profession and the judiciary in order to have a “voice” reflecting a diversity of thought; and the surprises the judges encountered as judges. (“That I got elected as a judge,” joked one panelist).

The program ended with the presentation of certificates and gift bags to the students. **T-shirts were given to all students who posed questions to the panelists.** The students were encouraged to continue the dialogue with the panelists, including either visiting and/or seeking internships with the judges. Brooklyn Coordinator, Hon. Ruth Shillingford, District 2 Coordinator, Hon. Joanne Quinones, District Director, Hon. Betty Williams, and President, NY NAWJ Chapter, Hon. Kathy King thanked The YMCA staff and all panelists including Dordy Jourdain, YMCA Director, Photographer Henry Lancaster; and, of course, our student participants.



(l-r) Hon. Carolyn Wade (center); Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix; Hon. Ruth Shillingford; Hon. Cheryl Gonzalez; Janeel Hall; Dorothy Moran; Hon. Ruth Shillingford; Camille Varlack, Esq.

NAWJ Joins Queens County Women’s Bar Association for Color of Justice

On May 8, 2015, the Color of Justice Program – Queens County was held at the Queens County Criminal Court. Judges Bernice Siegal and Michelle Armstrong organized this year’s program co-sponsored by the Queens County Women’s Bar Association. Lourdes Ventura, Vice president and President-elect of QCWBA was in attendance and helped to distribute the certificates and souvenirs to the students at the end of the program. Special thanks should be extended to Mr. Richard Celestin, Esq., Coordinator of The Young Debaters Program, who was instrumental in securing student participation and attendance for the Color of Justice Program for two years in a row. **Twenty-six students from Flushing High School** attended the program, more than half of the students in attendance already have acceptance letters to college. **The 12 panelists were all of varied backgrounds and experience (including immigrants or first generation American’s from Pakistan, Nigeria, Ecuador, Panama, Japan etc.)** The program was a success. All panelists shared very personal stories of obstacles they faced and overcame in pursuing careers in the law. **Obstacles shared included graduating High School with a C- average;** the experience of growing up in New York without a parent who had been deported following a criminal arrest and having to change first name to avoid discrimination faced by people of Pakistani descent. The students were extremely engaged during the speaker’s presentations.

The first panel entitled “Who am I...I am You,” introduced students to a range of jobs and careers available with a law degree. Panelists included Ed Woods, Esq. a private entertainment lawyer; Magda Jimenez Train, Director of Americas Litigation, Investigations, & Enforcement Team for Barclays Bank; Margaret Chu, Esq., Queens Assistant District Attorney in the Domestic Violence Bureau and Sade Stephenson, Esq., Queens County Legal Aid Society.

The second panel entitled “The Road to the Bench,” informed the students of the path to becoming an attorney and ultimately to ascending to the bench. Panelists spoke of grade requirements, discipline, reaching for your dreams, self-confidence, financial resources to pay for school, and issues regarding making themselves more attractive to college and law school admissions offices. The panelists included Mariam Sanni-Adigun, Law Secretary to the Hon. Michelle Armstrong and a Marine with the US Armed Forces; Sara Musa, a 2L part-time night law student at Touro Law School; and Degna Levister, Interim Dean of Admissions/Clinical Professor at City University of New York Law School.

The third panel entitled “Here Come the Judges,” allowed the students to see and question judges about their personal life and educational obstacles and successes which culminated in their ascension to the bench. The judges also introduced the students to the varying types of cases that judges handle and the ways in which the court system attempts to address societal issues facing everyday individuals to ensure equal justice and access for all. The panelists included Hon. Toko Serita (Queens County Criminal Court presiding over the Human Trafficking/Mental Health Court); Hon. Connie Gonzalez (Queens County Family Court); Hon. Bernice Siegal (Justice of the Supreme Court, Civil Term); Hon. Carmen Velasquez (Justice of the Supreme Court, Civil Term); and the Hon. Lydia Lai (Queens County Civil Court presiding over the Housing Part).

The program culminated with a speed mentoring **luncheon discussion entitled “Each One...Teach One.”** The students were divided into groups of 5 - 6 people. During this session, the panelists rotated amongst the 6 groups of students in 10 minute intervals. The students were able to interact with and ask individual questions of the judges and other panelists about topics of their choosing. Justice Bernice Siegal and Lourdes Ventura distributed a souvenir bag and certificate of completion to all student participants prior to departure. The program was coordinated by Judges Michelle A. Armstrong, Justices Marguerite Graves, Bernice D. Siegal, and Judges Carmen Velasquez and Joanne D. Quiñones.



Seated (L-R): Hon. Connie Gonzalez; Hon. Carmen Velasquez; Lourdes Ventura, Esq. 2nd Row (L-R) Hon. Michelle Armstrong; Sara Musa (2L Law Student); Richard Celestin, Esq.; Hon. Toko Serita; Hon. Bernice Siegal; Sade Stephenson, Esq.; Degna Levister, Esq.; Hon. Lydia Lai; Magda Jimenez Train, Esq.; Mariam Sanni-Adigun, Esq.



From the Bar to Bench at Cornell University



(L-R) Ariel Atlas, '16, President, Cornell Women's Law Caucus; Hon. Anne M. Patterson; Hon. Elizabeth A. Garry; Hon. Debra A. James; Charlotte Savino '16, Cornell Women's Law Coalition

Justice Debra James facilitated a program at Cornell University. With the co-sponsorship of Cornell Law School's Women's Law Coalition and Office of Public Service, NAWJ members Debra James (New York Supreme Court), Elizabeth A. Garry (New York State Appellate Division, Third Department), and Anne M. Patterson (New Jersey Supreme Court) comprised an outreach panel, which took place at the law school in Ithaca, New York on March 19, 2015. Each talked about her individual and disparate pathway to the bar and bench with about thirty law students. In honor of Women's History month, Judge James began with a power point presentation that described the founding, mission and work of the NAWJ and talked about her public sector trial law experience as a precursor to her successful run for trial court positions in New York City. Using a map of the Judicial Departments and Judicial Districts, Judge Garry offered the students an overview of the geography of the New York court system. Judge Garry explained the process for her first election to the local Town Court, followed by the State Supreme Court, culminating in her gubernatorial appointment to New York's intermediate appellate court. Judge Patterson (District 3) described New Jersey's system of appointing judges and her rise to the top court in New Jersey after an extensive career in private practice.

Human and Sex Trafficking Continuing Legal Education

On April 16, 2015, NAWJ member, Judge Amy Martoche was part of a three member panel on a 3 credit Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Program entitled: "Human Trafficking:

Prisoners in Our Own Backyard". Judge Martoche presides in the Human Trafficking part of Buffalo City Court. Human Trafficking is a concern in the Niagara Falls/Buffalo region. The NAWJ District 2 co-sponsored the CLE along with WNY Women's Bar Association & Niagara University.

On April 28, 2015, at the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA) NAWJ New York Chapter co-sponsored a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Program "Sex Trafficking: Underage Victims in New York Courts." The panel includes **Hon. Fernando Camacho**, *Supreme Court, Suffolk County*; **Miriam Goodman**, *Center for Court Innovation*; **Susan Morley**, *NYC Administration for Children Services*; **Kate Mogulescu**, *The Legal Aid Society*; **Simone Monasebian**, *UN Office on Drugs and Crime, NY Office*. The CLE was moderated by **Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson**, *Administrative Judge, Family Court, New York City*. NAWJ committee members Judges Cheryl J. Gonzalez, Joan Madden, Edwina Richardson-Mendelson, Juanita Bing-Newton and Betty J. Williams facilitated the CLE.

New York State Women Judges: Service, Awards and Honors:

State Chair Justice E. Jeannette Ogden reports that on October 22, 2014 a **ceremony was held at the Fourth Department Appellate Division** where NAWJ members joined members of the 8th Judicial District Gender & Racial Fairness Committee to expand the names on a plaque, displayed in the Appellate Division Library, with names of the recipients of the Women in the Law Award. NAWJ members whose names were included are: Justice Paula Feroletto, 8th Judicial Division (JD) Administrative Judge, Justice Erin Peradotto (Appellate Division 4th Dept.), Justice Penny Wolfgang (NYS Supreme Court 8th JD), and former Buffalo City Court Judge Barbara Sims. Justice E. Jeannette Ogden is the Chair of the 8th JD Gender & Racial Fairness Committee.

The NAWJ NY Chapter & District Two **Annual Holiday Party** was held on December 9, 2014 at New York Law School. The NAWJ Equal Access to Justice Scholarship was presented to Ms. Daphne Pierre, a third year New York Law School student. Ms. Pierre, in her acceptance speech thanked her mother and the "strong women in my life that have set the example for me and Paula Edgar, NY Law School Mentor." Ms. Pierre closed her acceptance speech with: "The best way to illustrate my appreciation for this award is to use the words of a parable that sticks in my head when I need a little motivation in my day:

One morning an elderly man was walking on a nearly deserted beach. He came upon a girl (the character was originally a young boy - but I change the character to apply to myself) surrounded by thousands and thousands of starfish. As eagerly as she could, the young girl was picking them up and throwing them back into the ocean. Puzzled, the older man looked at the young girl and asked, "Little girl, what are you doing?" The young girl responded without looking up, "I'm trying to save these starfish, sir." The old man chuckled aloud, and queried, "Young girl, there are thousands of starfish and only one of you. What difference can you make?" Holding a starfish in her hand, the girl turned to the man and, gently tossing the starfish into the water, said, "It will make a difference to that one!" I want to let all of you in on a secret -you are the young girl in the story and I am the starfish. This scholarship made a difference to me."

DISTRICT NEWS



(l-r) Hon. Verna Saunders, Hon. Darcel Clark, Suzie D. Pierre, Daphne Pierre, Hon. Betty J. Williams

On January 13, 2015 at The Pierre Hotel, Justice Tanya R. Kennedy, NAWJ Finance Committee Chair was recognized at the **Eighth Annual Cardozo Law School Alumni Association Dinner** and presented with the “Alumni of the Year: Leaders and Builders” award.

On January 30, 2015, the NAWJ’s *New York Chapter held its Annual Meeting at the New York Hilton Hotel*. Chief Justice Jonathan Lippman installed the chapter’s 2015 Officers and the Board of Directors including: Hon. Kathy J. King, President; Hon. Arlene Hahn, Vice President First Department; Hon. Margaret Walsh, Vice President Third Department; Hon. Marguerite Grays, Secretary; Hon. Renee Forgensi Minarik, President Elect; Hon. Harriet Thompson, Vice President Second Department; Hon. Shirley Troutman, Vice President Fourth Department; Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones, Treasurer and Board of Directors members: Hon. Doris Gonzalez, Hon. E. Jeanette Ogden, Hon. Laura Visitacion-Lewis, Hon. Rachel Kretser, and Hon. Karen Uplinger.

On February 24, 2015, **in recognition of Black History Month**, the Eighth Judicial District Steering Committee, Minority Bar Association of WNY, Inc., Women’s Bar Association of the State of NY Diversity Committee, and the Erie County Bar Association Minority Outreach Committee hosted a special presentation. The topic was a Century of Black Life, History, and Culture. The keynote speaker was Cindy Odom, CEO of the Girls Scouts of Western New York.

In March of 2015, **NAWJ Past President, Judge Barbara Howe, Erie County Surrogate Court was honored by the Western New York Chapter of the Women Lawyers** for a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) presentation that she provided on practice and procedure in Surrogate’s Court as well as for her role as a mentor to young lawyers and judges.

On March 2, 2015, members of the Brooklyn Women’s Bar Association (BWBA), including NAWJ members Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix, Justice of the Appellate Division Second Department, and Hon. Nancy M. Bannon, Justice of the Supreme Court, New York County and Judge Joanne D. Quiñones, Kings County Criminal Court, participated in the **18th Annual Read Across America Day**. The program was coordinated by NY NAWJ Treasurer & District 2 Program Coordinator Judge Quiñones. The reading program, designed to celebrate and encourage the joy of reading, is held annually on the birthday of beloved children’s author, Dr. Seuss. The 2015 program was held at PS 274, an elementary school in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Judge Quiñones is a 1980 graduate of

PS 274. The reading program was fun-filled and began with the judge and lawyer readers telling the students about their jobs, followed by students assembling into small reading groups. The first graders and Judge Quiñones, donned in Cat in the Hat paper hats and Dr. Seuss name tags provided by the BWBA, sat with big smiles as the students were read Dr. Seuss stories including *The Cat in the Hat*, *Fox in Sox*, and this year’s featured book, *The Places You’ll Go*.



(l-r) Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix and Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones with PS 274 First Grade students.

“Anne & Emmett” at The Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) Tribeca Performing Arts Center



(l-r) Williams S. Cohen, Hon. L. Priscilla Hall, Hon. Betty J. Williams, Keith Beauchamp, Hon. Bernice D. Siegal, Shiri Sandler, Janet Langhart-Cohen

On March 5, 2015, District Two held a Women’s History Month Educational Program “Anne & Emmett”, at The Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) Tribeca Performing Arts Center. “Anne & Emmett”, written by Janet Langhart-Cohen, is a one act play depicting a fictional meeting between Anne Frank and Emmett Till confronting issues of race, tolerance and harmony. A reception was held in the BMCC Richard Harris Terrace before the performance. The audience included judges, attorneys, students, educators and New York City Police Commissioner William Bratton and his wife, Rikki Klieman. Appellate Court Justice Priscilla Hall moderated a panel discussion with a question and answer period following the performance. The panelists included Keith Beauchamp, Filmmaker “The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till”, Janet Langhart-Cohen, Playwright “Anne & Emmett”, William S. Cohen, former US. Secretary of Defense, and Shiri Sandler, U.S. Director Auschwitz Jewish Center. This program was facilitated by Justices Bernice D. Siegal and Betty J. Williams. Three (3) “Anne & Emmett” scholarships and NAWJ certificates were presented to students at the June 10, 2015 NAWJ Annual Dinner. The scholarships were presented to Kya G. Lewis, Cinque

Lipscomb and Toluani Roberts, who attended the March 5, 2015 Annie & Emmett Presentation and participated in an essay writing competition. The scholarships will be matched by Playwright, Janet Langhart Cohen.

On March 11, 2015, **Justice Juanita Bing-Newton, Dean of the New York State Judicial Institute held a Continuing Legal Education Program “The Judicial Response to Claims of Actual Innocence: The Role of New York Courts after Hamilton and Thomas.”** Justice Sylvia Hinds-Radix, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, and the author of the decision People v. Hamilton 115 AD3d 12 (2nd Dept. 2014), a panelist, also provided the welcome, introductions and opening remarks.

District 2 Vermont State Chair, **Chief Bankruptcy Judge Colleen Brown attended the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) National Workshop for Bankruptcy Judges March 23-25, 2015**, where she facilitated a round table conversation about hot topics in evidence and led a small group discussion on the challenge judges face when trying to decide whether law or justice should control. Judge Brown also attended and presented at a Joint CLE hosted by the VBA Bankruptcy Section and Albany Bankruptcy Association, on March 27, 2015, at the Equinox Resort in Manchester, Vermont. She did a joint presentation with Joann Sternheimer, Esq., of Deily & Glatetter, LLP on “The Six Bankruptcy Cases currently pending before the United States Supreme Court.”

On March 27, 2015, the Gender and Fairness Committees of Kings County Civil and Supreme Courts in collaboration with the Brooklyn Women’s Bar Association presented **“Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives” at Kings County Civil Court.** Justice Genine D. Edwards introduced the panel which included Assembly member Jo Anne Simon, Assembly member Annette Robinson, Deputy Borough President Diana Reyna and District Leader Dilia Schack. The women shared their experiences regarding gender and ethnic discrimination.

On March 31, 2015, in **celebration of Women’s History Month the Gender and Fairness Committees of New York County Civil, Criminal and Family Courts**, New York Women’s Bar Association and NAWJ District 2 held a lunchtime Seminar Series focusing on “Women & Depression”. The keynote speaker was Terrie M. Williams, MSW, a mental health advocate and President and Founder of the Terrie Williams Agency. Justice Tanya R. Kennedy facilitated the event and introduced Ms. Williams to an audience that included all court staff.



(l-r) Janet Curley, Co-Chair of New York County Criminal Court Gender and Fairness Committee; Yacine Barry-Wun, President of New York Women’s Bar Association; Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy, Chair of New York County Civil Court Gender and Fairness Committee and NAWJ Finance Chair; Terrie M. Williams, MSW; Hon. Betty Williams, NAWJ District 2 Director; and Hon. Kathy King, President of NY Chapter of NAWJ

On April 7 and April 8, 2015, Justices Tandra L. Dawson, Debra James and Betty J. Williams each hosted a student shadow day in collaboration with the New York Coalition of One Hundred Black Women Signature Role Model Program. The Program concluded with a Closing Ceremony held on Thursday April 9, 2015 at L’Oreal USA where the students shared their experiences with each Judge. Scholarships and certificates were presented to the young women.

On April 14, 2015, Justices Laura Jacobson, Debra James, LaTia Martin and Betty J. Williams attended the **2015 Women and Justice Conference “Women, Prison and Gender-Based Violence”** in Washington, D.C. NAWJ Women in Prison Co-Chair, Judge Brenda Murray and Jaya Vasandani, Women in Prison Project, Director Correctional Association of NY were panelists at the conference. Ms. Vasandani is a prior NAWJ Access to Justice Scholarship recipient. The conference was sponsored by Cornell University Law School, AVON Foundation for Women, Seneca Women and Virtue Foundation. Justice Debra James was acknowledged as having facilitated NAWJ’s relationship with Cornell University.

On April 16, 2015, **Justice Kathy J. King, President, NAWJ New York Chapter, hosted “Judge-to-Judge: A Judicial Mentoring Program”** at Kings County Civil Court. The event is designed to provide newly elected and recently elected judges with mentoring opportunities. A panel of experienced jurists shared their views from the bench and provided instructive tips to judges who are starting their judicial careers. Justice King has followed up by providing senior judge mentors to the newly elected and appointed judges.

On June 9, 2015, the NY NAWJ held their Annual Spring Dinner at The Water’s Edge. Judges Betty J. Williams and Victoria Graffeo were honored. Hon. Patricia DiMango, a former Kings County Supreme Court Justice and currently a Judge on “Hot Bench”, TV show, delivered the keynote speech. NY NAWJ President Kathy J. King was Mistress of Ceremonies and welcomed the 150 guests who included judges, attorneys and scholarship recipients.



(l-r): Hon. Bernice D. Siegal; Hon. Cheryl Gonzalez; Hon. Betty J. Williams; Hon. Kathy J. King; Hon. Patricia DiMango

DISTRICT NEWS

On June 15, 2015, a Women Judges Luncheon and **celebration recognizing the judicial career of Justice Rose Scioners** was held in Upstate NY. A summer mentoring program was highlighted at the Women's Judges Luncheon, where sixteen judges were paired for the program. Justice Shirley Troutman facilitated the Luncheon and shared that without the support of Justice Paula Feroletto "the Luncheon would not have been such a great success."



(L-R): **Row 1:** Judges Catherine Nugent Panepinto, Kathleen Wotaszek-Garino, Amy Martoche, Judith Claire, Penney Wolfgang, JaHarr Pridgen, Deborah Chimes, Rose Scioners, E. Jeannette Ogden, Diane Devlin, Shirley Troutman, Mary Carney, Sara Sheldon. **Row 2:** Judges Susan Egan, Barbara Jonson-Lee, Sharon Townsend, Sharon Lovallo, Margaret Szczur, Lisa Bloch Rodwin, Debra Givens, Tracey Bannister, Deborah Haendiges



On June 16, 2015 the **Brooklyn Women's Bar Association held an installation ceremony for incoming officers and directors** at Brooklyn Borough Hall. The Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix swore in President Helene Blank, while outgoing BWBA President, Hon. Marsha Steinhardt swore in the officers and directors. The newly installed officers and directors include: President, Helene Blank; President-Elect Sara J. Gozo; Vice Presidents, Hon. Ellen M. Spodek, Marea Wachsman and Michele Mirman; Corresponding Secretary, Derefim Neckles; Treasurer Meryl Schwartz and Recording Secretary, Natoya L. McGhie.



Sara J. Gozo, Helene Blank, Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix and Hon. Marsha Steinhardt



The officers are sworn in (from left): Corresponding Secretary Derefim Neckles, Treasurer Meryl Schwartz, Vice Presidents Marea Wachsman, Hon. Ellen M. Spodek and Michele Mirman, President-Elect Sara J. Gozo and Recording Secretary Natoya L. McGhi

On June 17, 2015, Justice L. Priscilla Hall, Associate Justice, New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department was honored with the Legal Leadership Award at the Brooklyn NAACP Freedom Fund held at Brooklyn Law School, Feil Hall.

NAWJ District 2 Connecticut State Chair Justice Mary Sommer is coordinating a September 2015 NAWJ District 2 Event "Honoring the Federal Judiciary" at Graduate Club in Hartford, Connecticut. Retired Federal District Court Judge Ellen Bree Burns will be honored at the Luncheon. The 2015 District 2 NAWJ Equal Access to Justice Scholarship will be presented at the event.

Justice Bernice D. Siegal was elected 2015 President of the New York Network Bar Leaders, which consists of fifty-two (52) New York member Bar Associations.

New York State Judges - Appointed, Re-Appointed, Elected and Re-Elected

Judges Miriam M. Breier and Enedina P. Sanchez were appointed to Housing Part of the Civil Court of the City of New York, Bronx County in 2014 by Chief Administrative Judge A. Gail Prudenti.

On October 17, 2014, **Hon. Leslie Stein, New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department was nominated to the State of New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court**, by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. Justice Stein's was confirmed by the New York Senate on February 9, 2015. Justice Stein began her legal career in 1981 as a confidential law clerk on the Schenectady County Family Court and in 1983 went into private practice specializing in matrimonial family law. In 1997 Justice Stein was elected Albany City Court Judge and served as an Acting Family Court Judge from 2001 until her election to the New York Supreme Court 3rd Judicial District. As the Administrative Judge of the Rensselaer County Integrated Domestic Violence Part (2006-2008), she chaired the 3rd Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee from 2001 to 2005. http://judgepedia.org/Leslie_Stein

Congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected Judges in New York State Supreme Court: Justices Evelyn J. Laporte, Kathy J. King, Kathryn Freed, Lara J. Genovesi and Wavny Toussaint and in New York City Civil Court: Judges Arlene Bluth, Joy Campanelli, Cenceria P. Edwards, Rosemarie Montalbano, J. Machel Sweeting, Lizette Colon and Sharon Clarke.

Justice E. Jeanette Ogden, NAWJ District 2 State Chair, was elected to New York State Supreme Court, 8th District on November 4, 2014.

On December 29, 2014, **Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin appointed Nancy Waples to serve as a Superior Court Judge**. Nancy is an outstanding attorney and her appointment was met with much acclaim. She received her bachelor's degree from College of William of Mary in 1982, and her J.D. from St. John's University School of Law in 1987. She is the daughter of Chinese immigrants and restaurant owners, who was born in Canada, became a U.S. citizen in 1977, and learned to speak English at age nine. Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Waples was an attorney at the law firm of Hoff Curtis, in Burlington, Vermont, where she worked as both a prosecutor and defense lawyer. Nancy is the first person of Asian descent to be appointed to the Vermont state court bench.

Administrative Judge Feroletto presided over the **2015 Judicial Welcoming Ceremony. The ceremony is held at the beginning of each New Year to congratulate and welcome newly elected and re-elected members of the judiciary to the bench.** The ceremony is sponsored by the Bar Association of Erie County, the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, and the WNY Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. The presidents of each group welcomed the candidates. All courts of record were represented. The honorees this year included: from Buffalo City Court: Hon. Thomas P. Amodeo, Hon. Patrick J. Carney, Hon. Barbara Johnson-Lee, and Hon. JaHarr Pridgen. From Erie County Family Court: Hon. Margaret Olszewski Szczur. From New York State Supreme Court: Hon. Frederick J. Marshall, Hon. Donna M. Siwek, Hon. E. Jeanette Ogden, Hon. Paul B. Wojtaszek, and Hon. Dennis E. Ward. **CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!**

On March 17, 2015, Judges Kimberly A. O'Connor and Catherine C. Schaewe were confirmed by the State Senate for renewed terms to the New York Court of Claims.

On March 24, 2015, the following judges were **confirmed by the State Senate for renewed terms to the New York Court of Claims**: Judges Margaret L. Clancy, Elizabeth A. Foley, Marcia P. Hirsch, Rene Forgensi Minarik, Cassandra M. Mullen, Juanita Bing Newton, Dineen Ann Riviezzo and Faviola A. Soto.

On May 5, 2015, **Judge Katherine Bartlett** was reappointed and confirmed by the State Senate for a renewed term to the New York Court of Claims. The following judges were confirmed for new terms on the same date: **Judges Ellen Biben, Denise Hartman, Cheryl Joseph, Debra Martin, Margaret McGowan, and Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick.**

From February 2015 through June 2015, NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio made the following Judicial Appointments: **Family Court**: Judges Elizabeth Barnett, Jacqueline Deane, Alicea Elloras, Carol Goldstein, Alma Gomez, Connie Gonzalez, Jeannine Kuzniewski, Fiordaliza Rodriguez and Emily Ruben. **Criminal Court**: Judges Abena Darkeh, Claudia DePeyster, Kathryn Paek and Raja Rajeswari. **Interim Civil Court**: Judges Heidi Cesare, Marguerite Dougherty and Althea Drysdale.

On June 17, 2015, Judges Diane Fitzpatrick, Jill Konviser, and Terry Jane Ruderman were reappointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate to the New York State Court of Claims.

NAWJ New York's Annual Dinner



Former New York State Supreme Court Justice Hon. Mary McGowan Davis was appointed to replace Judge William Schabas as head of the United Nations Human Rights Council's probe into last summer's war in the Gaza Strip between Israel and Hamas.

2015 Avon Women and Justice Conference



Left to right: NAWJ Past President and Co-Chair of the Women in Prison Committee Judge Brenda Murray, NAWJ Past President Justice La Tia Martin, New York State Supreme Court Justice Debra James, Supreme Court Justice Laura L. Jacobson, and Co-Chair of the Women in Prison Committee Justice Betty J. Williams.

DISTRICT NEWS

DISTRICT FOUR (DC,MD,VA)

American Constitution Society (ACS)



On Thursday, June 11, 2015, the American Constitution Society (ACS) of Law and Policy held its Annual Meeting, which included a speed-networking event in the Congressional Senate Room of the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC. **Immediate Past District 4 Director Judge Claudia Barber** was present for the occasion. Many law students throughout the country attended this event where they networked with judges, lawyers, Congressional staff and other employers.

On Saturday, June 13, 2015, **U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg** was the featured speaker at the well-attended ACS Annual Conference along with California Associate Justice Goodwin Liu. Afterwards, **NAWJ Past President Judge Vanessa Ruiz** along with **Judge Barber** met and greeted Justice Ginsburg in a private judicial reception sponsored by ACS. NAWJ has long partnered with ACS. They believe: “that law should be a force to improve the lives of all people. ACS works for positive change by shaping debate on vitally important legal and constitutional issues through development and promotion of high-impact ideas to opinion leaders and the media.” From 2011-2013, ACS frequently co-sponsored District Four events, one of which “How to Become a Judge,” is a signature program.

On Saturday, June 13, 2015, **Immediate Past District 4 Director Judge Claudia Barber** organized and hosted a Baltimore City Community Job Fair and Symposium at Transformation Church of Jesus Christ, 5150 Baltimore National Pike, Baltimore, MD. **The theme of the job fair was, “Rebuilding our Community.”** More than a dozen employers were present with open and available positions. Workshops were conducted on networking, apprenticeship opportunities in engineering, resources for online job searching and resume writing, small business resources, and job interviewing techniques. The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) was also on hand to unveil its updated eligibility criteria for UNCF scholarships for college students, which covers UNCF and non-UNCF colleges. Judge Barber is an associate minister at Transformation Church.

Kickoff for the IAWJ 13th Biennial Conference

On July 9, 2015, over people attended the Kick-Off Reception for the International Association of Women Judges 2016 Biennial Conference which will be hosted by the

NAWJ in Washington, D.C. from May 26-29, 2016. The Kickoff was generously hosted by NAWJ Landmark Sponsor Hunton & Williams LLP.



White & Case Presents Third Color of Justice Program





On March 26, 2015 District members joined NAWJ Landmark Sponsor White & Case LLP to present the Color of Justice program to 40 engaged seventh and eighth grade students from the Washington School for Girls. White & Case's long supporting managing partners Jane Plomley and Kristina Zissis welcomed everyone to the day's gathering, and was followed by District Director Judge Toni E. Clarke, who shared a short history of NAWJ and its role and meaning in social life today. The students took note when an interactive panel of judges, composed of Judge Caryn L. Hines (District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings), Administrative Law Judge Jennifer M. Long (Social Security Administration, Office of Disability Adjudication/Review), NAWJ Past President and Federal Judge Brenda P. Murray (United States Securities & Exchange Commission), Teresa Jennings (Head of Public Policy, Reed Elsevier) and Judge Toni Clarke (Circuit Court for Prince George's County, MD). The pace picked up with a MentorJet activity through which White & Case attorneys and legal assistants network with the students and discussed steps the students might take in high school and beyond to orient themselves toward a legal career. After a Trivia Lunch with same attorneys and professionals, students heard from White & Case powerhouses Sonia Murphy and Trisha Grant who directed an Empowerment Workshop guiding them through a set of acting exercises which successfully demonstrated the power of composure and attitude. Closing the program, NAWJ Past President Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby (District of Columbia Court of Appeals), circled back the dialogue to women in the judiciary.

MARYLAND

In October, 2014 the District conducted its **Women Moving Forward** program for women transitioning into the community from the department of corrections. The Girl Scouts Program continues, working with a troop of girls whose mothers are in detention. The Storybook Project is still going strong. Women in detention record reading books to their children. The recordings are then sent to each child so they will

On March 6, 2015, the **Maryland Chapter had its Annual Irma Raker Dinner** with the Maryland Women Legislators. The event was hosted by the new Governor of Maryland, Larry Hogan, and the First Lady of Maryland at the Governor's mansion (Government House). **Governor Hogan greeted everyone at the door** upon arrival and graciously posed for individual photographs. **For 21 years the Maryland Chapter has convened with Maryland Women Legislators** to have dialogue about issues in the legislature and women's issues in general. This event was a great success as approximately 100 people attended.

Several members of the **Maryland Chapter participated in Women's History Month** programs at the Waxter Detention Center for Girls. They were joined by the supportive Women's Bar Association of Prince Georges County Maryland. Each Saturday morning in March volunteers conduct self-esteem sessions with the girls in detention. The topics this year, in weekly order, were: *Introduce Yourself, Define Yourself, Protect Yourself, and Celebrate Yourself*. By everyone's accounts these were well received.

Maryland's *The Daily Record* named 7th Judicial Circuit of Maryland **Judge Cathy Hollenberg Serrette Innovator of the Year**. The award recognizes individuals and companies that have created a product, service or program that has had a positive effect on their business, industry or community. Awardees will be recognized October 15, 2015 at The Center Club in Baltimore, Maryland.

VIRGINIA

The Virginia Chapter (VAWJ) met for its annual meeting in Norfolk, VA on October 1, 2014. It established a Nominating Committee to develop a slate of candidates for its election of officers at the Judicial Conference August 23-26, 2015. Judge Ellen White (Campbell County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court) is Chair of the Nominating Committee. The Virginia Chapter held a VAWJ breakfast meeting with the appellate judges in Williamsburg. They hope to make an annual event. VAWJ runs a bi-annual \$ 1,000 scholarship competition and awards luncheon that scheduled for May 2, 2015 at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond, VA. **In order to encourage women to apply for judicial positions**, several VAWJ judges attended the Virginia Women Attorney's Association State Conference and **served on a panel entitled *You Be the Judge***. It was well attended and generated a lot of interest.

On Saturday, March 28, 2015 Judge Frogale attended the Annual Color of Justice Program in Northern Virginia as a panelist at the United States District Courthouse for the Eastern District of Virginia in Alexandria, VA. The program was designed to foster interest in the law and encourage high school students to develop a better appreciation and understanding of the legal system. All of the judicial panelists had very wonderful stories to inspire and encourage the young people to consider careers in the law and the judiciary.

DISTRICT NEWS

DISTRICT FIVE (FL,GA,NC,SC)



Miami Mayor Tomas Regaládo welcomed many of Miami's legal and community leaders for a reception in honor of Judge Lisa Walsh NAWJ President-Elect in December, 2014. Present were the Miami-Dade State Attorney, Katherine Fernandez Rundle, Public Defender, Carlos Martínez, Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Bertila Soto, City Attorney, Victoria Mendez, District 5 Director, Judge Diana Eagon, Florida State Chair, Judge Myriam Lehr, Resource Board Members Linda Leali, of Linda Leali, P.A., Elizabeth Hernandez, of Akerman LLP, Past President of NAWJ Judge Cindy Lederman, as well as many members of the judiciary and legal community.

The Informed Voters Fair Judges Project presented a program at Miami Dade College on February 12 entitled **Perspective on Current Threats to a Fair and Impartial Judiciary**. The moderator was Dr. Pascole Charlot, Dean of the Honors College. Panelists were former Justice Raoul G. Cantero III, Florida Supreme Court, Justice Barbara Pariente, Florida Supreme Court, and Oscar Sanchez, Partner Akerman LLP.

On March 11, 2015, NAWJ President-Elect Judge Lisa Walsh and Resource Board members Linda Leali and Jamie Isani presented a panel entitled, **"Judicial Appointments of Counsel - Developing Diverse Leadership in the Law,"** hosted by the Miami office of **Akerman LLP**. Over 40 members of the judiciary, attorneys, and other interested members of the community joined a lively discussion with panelists, Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court Judges Linda Singer Stein and Sarah Zabel, U.S. District Judge, Beth Bloom, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Meenu Sasser, and Resource Board member and Informed Voters/Fair Judges Project Co-Chair Linda Leali. Resource Board member Jamie Isani moderated the discussion of how judges can use their powers to appoint counsel to promote diversity and develop future leaders of the bar. The panel was modeled on a highly successful panel presented at the 2014 annual conference in San Diego, but also addressed issues specific to the South Florida judicial system. The Judges and Resource Board members are hopeful that this will be a first of many collaborative projects.

Judge Linda Singer Stein and Judge Myriam Lehr presented a **Color of Justice Program** at the North Dade Justice Center on April 5. They partnered with the Alonso and Tracy Mourning Law Academy. Twice a year they bring prominent attorneys to speak to the students. The **featured speaker for this program was Mr. Walter Harvey, who is counsel for the Miami - Dade Public Schools**. He talked to the students about Education Law.

On May 6, 2015, judges celebrated Law Day at the North Dade Justice Center. This wonderful event is planned in conjunction with various bar associations. State Senator Flores is guest speaker. Many local politicians such as mayors, city attorneys, commissioners, and of course students attended. Retired Judge Barbara Levenson has written an article for this issue of Counterbalance entitled "Life Beyond the Bench" describing her new passion and profession as a mystery writer. She is currently writing her fifth book.

GEORGIA

Professor Rebecca Davis is NAWJ State Chair for Georgia. Professor Rebecca Davis's online Judicial Process course at Georgia Southern University devoted a week to the study of judicial selection, featuring NAWJ's Informed Voters Fair Judges video.

Judge Kimberly Esmond Adams, Superior Court, Atlanta Judicial Circuit, received the **Gate City Bar Association Judicial Section Appreciation Award** for outstanding dedication and leadership to the Judicial Section as Outgoing Chair (2014), and the Gate City Bar Association President's Award of Excellence (2015). She was elected to the Leadership of Atlanta Board of Trustees and was selected 2016 Program Chair. She was also elected to the Atlanta Bar Association Judicial Section Board.

Judge Cindy Morris, Superior Court, Dalton, GA started a Domestic Violence Accountability Court for the Conasauga Judicial Circuit. She also received the 2014 Jackie Williams Criminal Justice/Domestic Violence Service Award from the Conasauga Family Violence Alliance.

Judge Brenda S. Weaver, Appalachian Judicial Circuit Superior Court, Jasper, GA received the Georgia State Bar William B. Spann Award.

NORTH CAROLINA

Judge Jane Harper, North Carolina State Court, is NAWJ State Chair for North Carolina.

Justice Robin Hudson won her bid for reelection to the North Carolina Supreme Court. She has agreed to head up the IVP for North Carolina.

The trial bench in Mecklenburg County has a majority of women at the district court level, 12 out of 21 judges. Seven women judges are African-American, four of the male judges are African-American. At the superior court level, of the seven resident judges, three are now women.

SOUTH CAROLINA

State Chair is Judge Carolyn Cason Matthews, South Carolina Administrative Law Court.

DISTRICT SIX (AL,LA,MS,TN)

District Six would like to **thank and recognize the awesome work of the NAWJ Subcommittee on Human Trafficking on the distribution of the NAWJ document entitled "Human Sex Trafficking - Modern Day Slavery: A Guide for the Development of Training Programs in Federal and State Courts"** and complied by the NAWJ Subcommittee on Human Trafficking. Committee Chair Judge Elizabeth Lee and the committee member did a

tremendous job in creating this useful guide. The guide was utilized at the following presentations this year in Louisiana: Young Lawyer's Division of the New Orleans Federal Bar Association and Eden House ("Louisiana Human Trafficking Law and the Courts"); St. Thomas More 2nd Annual Law Conference ("Justice and Mercy: The Perennial Challenges to Law and Judging relative to Homelessness and Human Trafficking"); and Modern Slavery Research Project Loyola University ("Trafficking, Social Justice, and the Criminal Justice System"). The guide will be distributed to all judges in District Six.

The District is organizing a Color of Justice program this Fall at Dillard University in New Orleans to encourage girls and minority students to consider pursuing careers in the law and judiciary.

2015 Law Day in Louisiana

Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson announced that in recognition of Law Day (May 1), the Louisiana Supreme Court issued a resolution urging all Louisiana state court judges to dedicate the month of May 2015 to reaching out to schools to provide students with an opportunity to learn about the law, the role of judges, and the court system from members of the judiciary. Law Day was established in 1958 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to strengthen our heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the law. In 1961, Congress issued a joint resolution designating May 1 as the official date for celebrating Law Day. Every president since then has issued a Law Day proclamation on May 1st to celebrate the nation's commitment to the rule of law. The 2015 national Law Day theme is *Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law*. According to the Chief Justice Johnson, during the month of May, the Louisiana Supreme Court will host school students participating in Law Day activities including: mock trials and tours of the Royal Street courthouse which include visits to the Louisiana Supreme Court Museum and the Law Library of Louisiana. On this 57th anniversary of Law Day, the resolution states in part that "all judges have a unique ability to educate young people about our legal system and respect for the law."

The Access to Justice Commission, created by the Mississippi Supreme Court, will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2016. The mission of the Commission is to develop a unified strategy to improve access to justice for the poor in Mississippi. NAWJ members Judge Jacqueline Mask, Judge Deborah Gambrell, and Judge Margaret Alfonso were appointed by the Mississippi Supreme Court to serve on the Commission. NAWJ member Judge Denise Owens was appointed as its Co-Chair.

Crossroads Diversion Program



Judge Desiree Charbonnet (first from left) celebrating the graduation of a woman who completed the Crossroads Diversion Program.

New Orleans Municipal Court Judge Desiree Charbonnet implemented the Crossroads Diversion Program as an alternative to incarceration that offers counseling, skills workshops, and leadership development **for women arrested for involvement in street-based sex work**. Crossroads aims to divert persons charged with misdemeanor prostitution offenses out of the criminal justice system. The program seeks to provide an alternative to incarceration and criminal adjudication for sex workers in New Orleans, linking them to social services and other assistance. Successful completion of Crossroads allows women to avoid trial, conviction, and jail time. Women With A Vision, New Orleans Municipal Court, Orleans District Attorney's Office, the City Attorney, Orleans Public Defenders, and the New Orleans Police Department have partnered together to develop holistic, wrap-around case management services to participants in Crossroads. **Women With A Vision is the service provider and gives the women a case manager** who helps the client come up with an individual service plan that they must complete in order to successfully fulfill the program. Founded in 1989, Women With A Vision, is a community-based non-profit working to improve the lives of marginalized women, their families, and communities by addressing the social conditions and punitive policies that hinder their health and well-being.

Human Trafficking Stakeholder's Meeting at Eden House in New Orleans



Judge Serita (right) and Judge Lobrano in the Rare Documents Room at the Louisiana Law Library located at the Louisiana Supreme Court and Louisiana State Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal in New Orleans.

NAWJ member New York City Criminal Court Judge Toko Serita, the presiding judge of the Human Trafficking Intervention Court in Queens, was a guest at a human trafficking stakeholder's meeting held at Eden House in New Orleans in April 2015. Judge Serita shared information about the coordinated response to human trafficking being made by the judiciary in New York and recommended ways this could be accomplished by the judiciary in District Six. Judge Lobrano provided Judge Serita with a tour of the Louisiana Supreme Court and Louisiana State Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, and Judge Charbonnet provided Judge Serita with an overview of her Crossroads Diversion program. A big thank you is given to Judge Serita for collaborating with individuals in Louisiana who are working with victims of human trafficking.

DISTRICT NEWS

Shut Out Trafficking Week at Tulane University

Judge Lobrano participated in an undergraduate program of Tulane University and UNICEF called Shut Out Trafficking Week held October 27-31, 2014. The project was sponsored by Tulane Athletics, in conjunction with the National Consortium for Academics and Sport (NCAS). The program's goal was to educate college students on the brutality of human trafficking and the \$150 billion dollar industry it has become, and to empower students to take action against it. The program also discussed ways undergraduate students can pursue careers that help eliminate human trafficking and encouraged women students to consider pursuing careers in the law and judiciary.



(Diane Amos, New Orleans Dream Center Free NOLA; Kara van de Carr, Co-founder of Eden House; Malea Otranto, U.S. Fund for UNICEF End Trafficking Fellow; Judge Lobrano; Mae Lobrano, Founder of Tulane Chapter of Free the Slaves.)

DISTRICT SEVEN (MI,OH,WV)

MentorJet



District Seven has been busy in Michigan since our meeting in San Diego. On October 30, 2014 the University of Michigan College of Law hosted MentorJet. **More than 20 lawyers and judges offered tips in the practice of law.** We were especially excited to have

the current president of the Michigan State Bar, Thomas C. Rombach, and the Executive Director of the State Bar of Michigan Janet Welch (a UM law alumna) as mentors.

On November 6, 2014 Michigan State University College of Law hosted MentorJet. Nearly two dozen mentors – many of whom were returning mentor members – came to offer insights into the practice of law. Four of the mentors were so engaged in the reception that followed, that they had to be encouraged to stop their mentoring on site, so that the staff could go home! NAWJ members Judges Katherine Hansen and Michelle Rick were among the participants.

On November 12, 2014 the University of Detroit (UDM) Mercy School of Law hosted MentorJet. This event had been rescheduled from earlier in the fall semester, due to what UDM Assistant Dean Markeisha Miner termed “storm-a-geddon.” Approximately 20 mentors and 30 students participated in the event, including NAWJ members, Judge Susan Moiseev (ret) and Judges Katherine Hansen and Michelle Rick. Judge Michelle Rick assumed the State Director position for NAWJ

for Michigan on January 2, 2015. She made plans for Color of Justice programs for the Fall semester 2015. Michigan State Bar President Thomas C. Rombach mentioned MentorJet in his February 2015 column in the Michigan State Bar Journal, *Ten Hallmarks of Professionalism*.

Western Michigan University Cooley Law School Holds Fourth Annual MentorJet

On Thursday, June 11, 2015, Western Michigan University (WMU) Cooley Law School, Auburn Hills campus held its Fourth Annual MentorJet program which included many program alumni.



The program was hosted by Hon. Michelle M. Rick (29th Circuit Court), and sponsored by the WMU-Cooley Law School Student Bar Association (Auburn Hills), Kizy Law, PLLC, and NAWJ. The event brought together judges, lawyers and law students who

speed-networked with one another in short incremental rotations. Joan Vestrand, Associate Dean of the Auburn Hills campus said “It was very inspiring seeing so many successful practicing attorneys and judges willing to give their time and sage advice to the next generation of lawyers.”



Pictured Left to Right: Bottom Row: Hon. Katherine Hansen, 36th District Court; Hon. Michelle M. Rick, 29th Circuit Court; Hon. William Richards, 46th District Court; Associate Dean and Professor Joan P. Vestrand.

Middle Row: Anisha Rutkowski ('07), Rutkowski Law Firm; Samantha Jolene Orvis, Collins Einhorn Farrell, P.C.; Kristina Bilowus ('12), Judicial Law Clerk to the Hon. Elizabeth Pezzetti; Carolyn Noble, Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook

Top Row: Shari F. Lesnick, Career and Professional Development Coordinator, WMU-Cooley Law School; Erin Moss Ferguson ('13), The Mike Morse Law Firm; Richard Sulaka ('12), Public Works Commission, Macomb County; Jeffrey May ('11), Career Law Clerk to the Hon. Mona K. Majoub, United States District Court, Eastern District, Michigan; Lewis Langham ('01), Prof. Emeritus, WMU-Cooley Law School; Ali K. Hammoud ('07), The At Law Group, P.L.L.C.; Choi Portis ('13) – Seikaly & Stewart

DISTRICT EIGHT (IL,IN,KY)



NAWJ at the ABA Midyear Conference

NAWJ President, Judge Julie Frantz, joined Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, NAWJ Past Presidents, Judges Anna Blackburne-Rigsby and Nan Duffly, NAWJ Vice President of Districts, Judge Ann Breen-Greco, and Judge Mary Kelly, NAWJ Administrative Judiciary Committee member, at the ABA’s Midyear Conference in Houston.

ABA’s President’s Reception at the Chicago Art Institute



NAWJ members, Judges Miki McGovern, Ann Breen-Greco, Emily Chafa, and Joan Churchill (Past President) attended the ABA’s President’s Reception at the Chicago Art Institute during the ABA Annual Meeting. At the meeting **Judge Breen-Greco was elected the Vice Chair of the Judicial Division** when no challenge was brought to her nomination by her Judicial Division conference or the National Conference of Administrative Law Judges (NCALJ).

Forum on Mass Incarceration of Black Males and Other Effects of Urban Life

On April 18, 2015, the District held a Forum on the “Mass Incarceration of Black Males and Other Effects of Urban Life” in East St. Louis. Featured speakers included Professor Jack Kirkland, Washington University, St. Louis; Professor Joseph Brown, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale; Professor Christina Campbell, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale; Judge Walter Brandon, Juvenile Court Judge-Circuit Court 20th Judicial Circuit, St. Clair County; James Ingram, publicist and scholar, Boston University; and moderator Nichole Berlie, Anchor-KSDK Channel 5. Special remarks were offered by Illinois Supreme Court Justice

Lloyd Karmeier. “Our Black males have been labeled felons and being incarcerated at increasing rates.” This forum was a candid discussion on the reasons why, and how we can stop this increasing epidemic. The forum was sponsored by Judge Laninya A. Cason, NAWJ District Director, East St. Louis Community College Center, and the East St. Louis Public Library for which Marlon P. Bush is Director.

DISTRICT TEN (KS,MN,ND,SD)

Kansas

Judge Diana Erickson joined the bench in Kansas City, Kansas on May 2, 2015.

North Dakota

For the fifth consecutive year, **Judge Laurie Fontaine is hosting a mock murder trial for the junior class from Walhalla High School**, Walhalla.

Judge Lolita Romanick was sworn in as a District Judge in the Northeast Central Judicial District in Grand Forks, ND on April 10, 2015. Judge Romanick received her undergraduate degree from the University of North Dakota and her J.D. from the University of Idaho. Judge Romanick began her legal career with McGee, Hankla, Backes and Wheeler in Minot, where she practiced estate planning, probate, and elder, administrative and family law. She moved to Grand Forks, ND, where worked for American West Insurance Company. In 1999, she went to work with the Morley Law Firm in Grand Forks and shared cases in insurance defense, employment, personal injury, workers compensation and general litigation.

Judge Susan Bailey was elected District Judge in the East Central Judicial District in 2014, and assumed the bench on January 1, 2015. She graduated from the University of North Dakota with a B.S. degree in Math in 1986, an M.A. in counseling in 1988, and a J.D. from the School of Law in 1997. Served as an Administrative Law Judge from 2006-2014 and a Municipal Judge in several municipalities from 2004 to 2014. Prior to serving as a judge, she was an Assistant State’s Attorney in Cass County, North Dakota, from 2001-2006.

DISTRICT ELEVEN (AR,OK,TX)



Judge Karen Arnold-Burger Receives 2015 Phil Lewis Medal of Distinction for Work on Informing Voters on a Fair Judiciary

NAWJ member Judge Karen Arnold-Burger (Kansas Court of Appeals) accepted the 2015 Phil Lewis Medal

of Distinction on behalf of the Kansas NAWJ Informed Voters –Fair Judges Project from Jerry Green, President of the Kansas Bar Association at its Annual Meeting in Overland Park, Kansas. The award is reserved for individuals

DISTRICT NEWS

or organizations in Kansas who have performed outstanding service and conspicuous service at the state, nation or international level in the administration of justice, science, the arts, government, philosophy, or any other field offering relief or enrichment to others.

DISTRICT THIRTEEN (AK, HI, ID, MT, OR, WA)

Kick off to Seattle 2016 NAWJ Annual Conference!

Co-Chairs for the Friends Committee have been selected by the Conference Committee chair Washington State Supreme Court Justice Susan Owens. The Sheraton Hotel downtown Seattle will host the event October 5-9, 2016. Planning is now under way. Executive Director Marie Komisar and Conference Manger Mary-Kathleen Todd are going to be of great assistance to us.

Equal Access to Justice Scholarships

Just a week after the fall conference in San Diego, the District expended scholarship funds, in partnership with the women lawyers of the Washington State Association for Justice and the State Gender and Justice Commission to honor three worthy young women: Erika Evans, Amy McNair Larson and Yessenia Madrono-Vossler. Each is a second or third year law student at Seattle University School of Law and has shown outstanding academic achievement and community service varying from Southside Chicago community organizing, Domestic Violence prevention, and service to immigrants seeking integration into the United States. Each of the Equal Access to Justice Scholarships was awarded to these women who demonstrate a sustained commitment to diversity and equality in our system of justice.

Success Inside and Out

Success Inside and Out with the **Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women**, a Washington State institution for low risk women offenders (remaining sentence less than 4 years) is planned for fall 2015. More judges have volunteered, including Washington State Supreme Court Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud and Seattle Municipal Court Judge Karen Donohue, our NAWJ Washington State Chair. Acknowledging many of our parallel missions, the Washington State Supreme Court has offered very welcome staff assistance from the Supreme Courts Gender and Justice Commission to the Success Inside and Out project, and by providing associate membership in the NAWJ by our Commission Executive Director, Ms. Danielle Pugh-Markie. We applaud and will make great use of her education and conference planning expertise. Judge Cathy Easter has graciously agreed to be Alaska State Chair and keep everyone posted.

The active Alaska judges have planned their **10th Annual Success Inside and Out event at the women's correction institution near Anchorage** for October of 2015.

DISTRICT FOURTEEN (CA, NV)

Retirement Celebration for Justice Joan Dempsey Klein



Hosted by California Women Lawyers (CWL), Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (WLALA), Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Inc. (BWLLA), Latina Lawyers Bar Association (LLBA), Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance (APAWLA), National Association of

Women Judges (NAWJ), and the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), in January, 2015 the legal community joined to celebrate Justice Joan Dempsey Klein. Speakers included Justice Lee Smalley, Presiding Justice Norman L. Epstein, Administrative Presiding Justice Judith McConnell, Wendy Behan, President of California Women Lawyers, (who presented Justice Klein the Lifetime Achievement Award) and District Director Judge Tamila E. Ipema. Justice Klein was founding president of the California Women Lawyers and the cofounder

and first president of NAWJ. Justice Klein understood that both organizations could play a critical role in advocating for women in the legal profession and the judiciary, and in changing the culture to combat discrimination, harassment, and gender bias against women in the court system. In recognition of her contributions to the legal community, her commitment to serving the public, her formidable presence and leadership as a jurist, and the spirit, drive, and energy that have characterized her, she has been lauded time and again, inside the legal world and beyond.



Judge Joan Weber (San Diego County Superior Court) will lead the first all-female officer team of the California Judges Association. She was elected 83rd President of the California Judges Association (CJA) by the group's

Executive Board at its meeting held today in Sacramento last year. Other CJA officers elected for the 2014/2015 term were Vice Presidents

Judge Lee Smalley Edmon of Los Angeles Superior Court and Judge Kathleen Kelly of San Francisco Superior Court. Elected for another term as Secretary/Treasurer is Judge Michele Flurer of the Los Angeles Superior Court. This is the first time in the Association's 85-year history that an all-female Executive Officer team has been elected to serve the membership.

Judge Jamoa Moberly Honored by the Society of Fellows

Judge Jamoa Moberly received the **Distinguished Society of Fellows Judicial Award** at the annual Orange County Bar Foundation annual installation reception in December 2014. This distinguished award is given for long term loyalty and support to the youth and family programs of the Orange County Bar Foundation which is a separate charitable organization. Judge Moberly is extremely passionate about this program and plans to devote her efforts to this program once she retires. Congratulations Judge Moberly!

Presiding Justice Lee Smalley Edmon



Governor Edmund Brown, Jr. confirmed the appointments of Honorable Lee S. Edmon, as Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Three (Los Angeles). **She fills the vacancy created by the upcoming retirement of the presiding justice Joan Dempsey Klein** on January 4, 2015. Justice Edmon, 58, of Los Angeles, has served as a Judge at the Los Angeles County Superior Court since 2000 and was the first female presiding judge of the court from 2011 to 2012.

2015 Rose Bird Memorial Award



The Hon. Clare Maier, Judge of California Superior Court, Contra Costa County was presented with the 2015 Rose Bird Memorial Award on Friday, March 13, 2015 by the California Women Lawyers during their Fifteenth Annual Northern California Judicial Reception. Congratulations Judge Maier!

NEW JUDGES CORNER

☞ Continued from Page 16

Sheva Sims (LA); Theresa Timlin (Fed.) (NJ); Elizabeth Yablon (NY); Daria Zane (DC). The New Judges Committee includes new and seasoned judges; its mission is to guide NAWJ in addressing the needs of new judges in all sectors of the judiciary.

¹ABA Comm. on Ethics & Prof'l Responsibility, Formal Op. 462 (2013).

²The focus of this column is on non-election-related social networking activities.

³The National Center for State Courts website includes a section called the "Social Media and the Courts Network." See <http://www.ncsc.org/Topics/Media/Social-Media-and-the-Courts/Social-Media/Home.aspx>. There, state court judges will find a link to an up-to-date listing of state-issued judicial ethics opinions on social networking. For federal judges, the Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on Codes of Conduct has devised guidelines that are set forth in Advisory Opinion No. 112, "Use of Electronic Social Media by Judges and Judicial Employees." It can be downloaded from <http://www.uscourts.gov/rules-policies/judiciary-policies/code-conduct/published-advisory-opinions>.

⁴See, e.g., eBizMBA Guide, *Top 15 Most Popular Social Networking Sites / June 2015*, <http://www.ebizmba.com/articles/social-networking-websites>.

⁵*Id.*

⁶<https://www.facebook.com/about/>

⁷Michael Crowell, *Judicial Ethics and Social Networking Sites*, U.N.C. Sch. Gov't (Aug. 10, 2012), <http://www.sog.unc.edu/sites/www.sog.unc.edu/files/RS01-Drennan-Judges%20social%20networking%20Aug%2012.pdf>.

⁸NAWJ has such a page. See <https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Association-of-Women-Judges/171788766188062?fref=ts>.

⁹ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 1.

¹⁰Model Code Rule 1.2 cmt. 3.

¹¹Model Code Rule 1.2 cmt. 2.

¹²Your state's code of judicial conduct spells out the extent to which judges may engage in political activities and speak out on issues related to courts and administration of justice.

¹³<https://about.twitter.com/>.

¹⁴<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american-english/Twitterosphere>.

¹⁵The Wall Street Journal Law Blog, *Judge Designated as Official Texas 'Tweeter Laureate*, (June 5, 2015) <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2015/06/05/judge-designated-as-official-texas-tweeter-laureate/>.

¹⁶<https://twitter.com/justicewillett> (last accessed June 22, 2015).

¹⁷Coverage Opinions, *Declarations: The Coverage Opinions Interview with Justice Don Willett of the Supreme Court of Texas*, (May 7, 2014) <http://www.coverageopinions.info/Vol3Issue8/Declarations.html>.

¹⁸The Facebook or Twitter "feed" is the automatically-updated compilation of posts you see whenever open either application.

¹⁹*Supra* note 7.

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WOMEN IN PRISON - IOWA

NAWJ FOCUSES ON WOMEN IN PRISON AT ITS 10TH ANNUAL MEETING WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS



On Thursday, July 9, 2015 in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. members of NAWJ's Women in Prison Committee met to address the largely ignored conditions of incarcerated women which have serious impacts on society and the communities to which the women return. This meeting's goal was to identify concrete measures that would drive stakeholders' focus to ameliorate current conditions, to achieve positive change.

NAWJ President Judge Julie Frantz opened the meeting and thanked longtime committed NAWJ Landmark sponsor CourtCall LLC for their support of this meeting. Congressional Women's Caucus Co-Chair Representative Doris Matsui (California) followed with inspirational welcoming remarks

followed by Caucus Members Representative Donna F. Edwards (Maryland), Representative-Brenda Lawrence (Michigan), Representative Suzanne Bonamici (Oregon-West of Portland), and Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton (Washington, D.C.).

The fifty-three judges and other women jurists from across the country were delighted that six Caucus Members joined them to share their concerns, and lay the foundation for the esteemed panel on the conditions of women in prison that followed. After introductions from NAWJ Women in Prison Co-Chair Federal Administrative Law Judge Brenda Murray, panelists: Sam Simon, Senior Counsel to Hon. Richard Blumenthal, Senate Judiciary Committee; Sonia Kumar, Staff Attorney, ACLU Maryland; Dr. Patti Butterfield, Senior Deputy Assistant Director, Reentry Services Division, Federal Bureau of Prisons; and Professor Brenda V. Smith, Community and Economic Development Law Clinic; Director, Project on Addressing Prison Rape, American University, Washington College of Law. The stellar panel provided valuable perspectives that challenged attendees to consider the importance of preventative measures to the many routes women take to reach prison, the reality of political road blocks both inside and outside the agency, gains to be made at the local, as well as, federal level. NAWJ attendees were happy to learn of new initiatives by the Bureau of Prisons, but expressed their dismay at the gap between the Bureau's slow responses to their concerns many of which were laid out in testimony to the Charles Colson Task Force on Federal Corrections was created by Congress. This nine-person, bipartisan, blue ribbon task force is mandated to examine challenges in the federal corrections system and develop practical, data-driven policy responses.

The Committee has already planned on continued work with leaders of the Bureau of Prisons to improve facilities and procedures affecting women in federal prisons, among them, the overcrowding and other worrisome issues observed in NAWJ's recent visits. In the past, NAWJ has taken positions in support of several federal bills intended to facilitate reasonably-priced telephonic contact between inmates and their families, create holistically-comprised teams to assist infants and toddlers who come before the courts, and enhance the ranks of well-trained pro bono counsel available to families affected by domestic violence.



IOWA

Visiting Mom's Project: Iowa's Women in Prison Programs Honored with National Conference of Women's Bar Associations Public Service Award

The Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys and Polk County Women Attorneys received the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations (NCWBA) Public Service Award for the Visiting Mom's Project. This award is granted annually to honor "great projects of member organizations as a way of thanking the associations involved for their work and as a way of showcasing ideas which might be suitable for adoption by other groups." (Judge Paulsen is pictured left with her two children Lucas Forte and Lauren Press at the prison visiting room.)

WOMEN IN PRISON - NEW YORK



The Visiting Mom's Project started with several female judges learning that the Iowa Women's Correctional Institution in Mitchellville was undergoing various renovations, including improving the visiting room. For many incarcerated women the visiting room was a place where they parent their children. Inmates made clear to visiting judges that their vision for the room was a space that would allow them to interact with their children, including flashcards, educational games and puzzles, books, and learning activities. The residents were adamant that they did not want a television in the visiting room.

Unfortunately, funding was not available to properly equip the room for these important activities. The judges notified IOWA and PCWA about plans at Mitchellville, and the membership responded immediately by forming the Visiting Mom Project steering committee in conjunction with the Ashcraft Library

project with an initial goal to raise \$10,000, by raising \$100 each from 100 donors. In less than two months, over \$15,000.00 was raised from over 100 donors—150% of the original goal. The Project purchased over 350 books from a local bookstore, and a publishing company donated an additional 350 books. In selecting books, the steering committee focused on books that would contain positive messages and show a wide diversity of people, including African-American and Native American protagonists and books written in Spanish or bilingually in English and Spanish. A local children's toy store helped the committee pick out games and toys that would be interactive, provide learning opportunities, and be sturdy and easy to clean. The variety of games and toys that were purchased is staggering—basic card games like Uno, classic games like chess, a train table, cooperative board games, flash cards, sequence games, and games for autistic children provide a sampling of the items selected. The Project also purchased child-sized furniture and rocking chairs, as well as sturdy storage bins and shelves and a duplo table. Rocking chairs were also purchased to allow residents who give birth while at Mitchellville a place to rock their babies. The room was completed and a grand opening ceremony in October 2013 with IOWA and PCWA members on hand. Many of the residents cried when they saw the visiting room. Since its opening, it has been a place of healing and connection for inmates and their children and will continue to be so for years to come.



The award was presented at the NCWBA Summit on July 31, 2015, in Chicago.

Book Club

This year Iowa started a Book Club for women in prison. The Club meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month for an hour. Books are provided at no cost. After considering your suggestions, the Club selected books for the first six months. Twenty volunteers are delighted to read and discuss the books with the women, and between two and five of volunteers attend each session. The Book Club is sponsored by The National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), The Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys (IOWA), Polk County Women Attorneys (PCWA), and friends.

NEW YORK

Beyond The Bars Holiday Projects

The 2014 "Beyond -The Bars" Holiday Projects were coordinated by NYWIPC Chair, Judge Cheryl Gonzales and Justice Laura Jacobson. Donated gift bags for the women (including toiletries) were received at designated sites and assembled at a pizza party hosted by Justice Laura Jacobson last year. On December 18, 2014 staff members from Taconic Correctional Facility picked up gift bags and tote bags from designated courts which included gifts and movie passes for the children and grandchildren of the women and toiletries. Taconic Correctional Facility received date books from NAWJ in January 2015. NAWJ Planners/Datebooks will be provided annually as a result of approval by NAWJ President Julie Frantz. Datebooks were

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WOMEN IN PRISON - NEW YORK

sent directly to Taconic and Maryland Correctional Facilities for Women. Taconic Staff and the Inmate Liaison Committee President acknowledged receipt in a January 23, 2015 thank you letter:

“To National Women Judges Association:

On behalf of the entire population of women at Taconic Correctional Facility we would like to send a warm thank you to everyone who made it possible for ourselves, and our children, to be able to enjoy the holiday season. We thank you for the toys, toiletries, tote bags and planners. Everyone is happy and will be sure to put the items to good use. As you know, it is very hard for people to be away from their loved ones, especially during the holidays. A lot of women in prison feel as if society has forgotten about them because of the injustices they have done; however, the generous donations have provided joy for our children as well as ourselves. It feels good to know that we are not forgotten, and that there are people out there who genuinely care about us. So, we thank you very much for showing a lot of love to us and our families during this holiday season. May God bless all of you.”

Good Works at Taconic

On June 2, 2015, Bard College's Thirteenth Commencement was held at Taconic Correctional Facility for Women. Ten (10) women received either their Associate or Bachelor Degree. One graduate, who was paroled, returned to participate in the graduation at Taconic. There are approximately one hundred (100) women enrolled in the college programs of either Vassar College, Mercy College, Nyack College or Bard College.

On June 5, 2015 a Motivational Workshop, organized by Judge Cheryl J. Gonzalez, NY WIPC Chair, was held at Taconic Correctional Facility for Women. Volunteer presenters Glenn Martin, Vivian Nixon and Cheryl Wilkins provided advice and information regarding successful re-entry into their respective communities. The presenters were formerly incarcerated persons who are college graduates and active in the criminal justice community. Ms. Wilkins is in a PhD program at Columbia University and was known to several of the women present. Ms. Nixon, presenter at the Memphis NAWJ Conference in the “Education Inside & Out” seminar is developing a mentoring program at Taconic. Mr. Martin is a liaison with the NY State Governor's and the US Attorney Offices on Re-entry issues. All of the presenters are involved in re-entry programs for formerly incarcerated persons and will provide requested follow-up materials for the women. Mr. Martin, Ms. Nixon and Ms. Wilkins were well received by an audience of approximately fifty (50) women and one of the women expressed how motivated and inspired she was following the presentation. Judge Gonzalez and Justice Betty J. Williams will follow up with the Taconic Inmate Liaison Committee President's request for bags (blue, black and gray excluded) and printed materials at the next presentation.

NAWJ Visits the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn

Judge Cheryl J. Gonzales, NY NAWJ WIPC Chair, facilitated a March 20, 2015 visit to Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. Judges Brenda Murray, Betty J. Williams Co-Chairs NAWJ WIPC and Robin Garson, Committee member, met with the staff and women, which included the Danbury Women temporarily transferred in December 2013 who are awaiting return to the Danbury facility. The major issue is “When will Danbury be renovated so that the women can leave the detention center and return to Danbury.” Other issues cited and addressed since the visit are: provision of health services, job opportunities, library books for legal research and the creation of a rooftop enclosure to provide access to the outdoors & recreation. Justice Marcy L. Kahn, WIPC member, (unable to join the visit because of a trial) forwarded a copy of the approved report to NY State Assembly Corrections Chair to facilitate further discussion. Following Judge Murray's report and further advocacy on behalf of the incarcerated women, one of the incarcerated women – Sister Megan Rice was released. Hear her story at: <http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow/watch/nun-imprisoned-for-anti-nuclear-protest-freed-448559683885>

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGES (NCBJ) – NAWJ LIAISON COMMITTEE

Members: Hon. Colleen A. Brown, (Chair), Hon. Sarah Curley,
Hon. Diane Finkle, Hon. Rosemary Gambardella, Hon. Laurel Isicoff,
Hon. Dee McGarity, Hon. Kathleen Sanberg, and Hon. Laura Taylor

MISSION STATEMENT

The primary mission of this liaison committee is to share information and expertise between the NAWJ and the NCBJ. We attempt to accomplish this by:

- NAWJ informing NCBJ of its Rule of Law initiatives, issues such as educating the public about the value of appointing rather than electing judges, and protecting the independence of judicial officers around the world;
- NCBJ members continuing to serve as speakers for NAWJ, providing bankruptcy education and materials for state court judges, e.g. through CARE and other public outreach efforts; and
- NAWJ helping NCBJ to disseminate information about bankruptcy judge outreach through NAWJ presentations to their members.

The Committee also coordinates joint events for NCBJ and NAWJ members so each group can learn about and from the other.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2014

The Committee hosted the “Second Annual NCBJ-NAWJ Meet and Greet” on October 9, 2014 at the NCBJ Conference in Chicago. This event was a great success, and included the exchange and discussion of many interesting topics. In attendance were:

U.S. Bankruptcy Judges Colleen Brown, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Vermont (Chair, NCBJ-NAWJ Committee, Co-Chair of NAWJ Federal Judges’ Committee); Judge Louise Adler, District of California; Judge Julia Brand, District of California; Judge Trish Brown, District of Oregon; Judge Gloria Burns, District of New Jersey; Judge Rebecca Connelly, District of Virginia; Judge Jacqueline Cox, District of Illinois; Judge Sarah Curley, District of Arizona (NCBJ-NAWJ Committee);

Judge Rebecca Ellis-Monro, District of Georgia; Judge A Diane Finkle, District of Rhode Island (NCBJ-NAWJ Committee); Judge Rosemary Gambardella, District of New Jersey (NCBJ-NAWJ Committee); Judge Stephanie Humrickhouse, District of North Carolina; Judge

Brenda Martin, District of Arizona; Judge Dee McGarity, District of Wisconsin (NCBJ-NAWJ Committee); Judge Marcia Parsons, District of Tennessee, Judge Marilyn Shea-Stonum, District of Ohio (Retired); Judge Anita Shodeen, District of Indiana; Judge Madeleine Wanslee, District of Arizona; Judge Judy Wizmur, District of New Jersey (Retired). Additional attendees: Judge Ann Breen-Greco, Judge Patrice Ball-Reed (Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois), Judge Evelyn Clay (Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois), and IAWJ Leader Maria Cristina Zucchi, a bankruptcy law professor (Chair, IAWJ of Brazil, Appellate Court of Brazil).

The Committee sent a representative, Chief Judge Laura Stuart Taylor of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California, to the NAWJ Annual Conference in San Diego. Judge Taylor “flew the bankruptcy flag”, and noted that Judge Mary Schroeder, former Circuit Judge of the 9th Circuit, acknowledged the good work that bankruptcy judges are doing to build a bridge between the two organizations.

In January 2015, Judge Sarah Curley’s book, *The Bankruptcy Card and How to Play It*, which was developed with the support of NAWJ, was utilized by the Arizona Bankruptcy Court’s Chief Judge Dan Collins in a presentation to 40 appellate court judges and their law clerks.

We have begun planning for the 2016 Third Annual Meet & Greet. NAWJ’s President-Elect Judge Lisa Walsh, who sits in Miami, Florida (and is married to a former law partner of our very own Judge Laurel Isicoff) will be in attendance.

GOALS FOR 2015

This year, the Committee intends to meet by telephone, quarterly, and do at least three bankruptcy presentations at NAWJ District meetings. Our primary focus will revolve around organizing and hosting the “Third Annual NCBJ-NAWJ Meet and Greet” at the NCBJ Conference. The event will be held on September 28, 2015 at Ceconis at SoHo Beach House in Miami Beach, Florida to further promote our organization and engage more judges to join both organizations.

NAWJ ANNUAL AWARDS



CHIEF JUSTICE SHIRLEY S. ABRAHAMSON
2015 JUSTICE JOAN DEMPSEY KLEIN NAWJ HONOREE
OF THE YEAR

Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson was appointed to the Wisconsin Supreme Court by Gov. Patrick Lucey in 1976. She was then the only woman to serve on the court. She won election to the court in 1979 and re-election in 1989, 1999, and 2009. Since August 1, 1996, she has been chief justice and, in that capacity, serves as the administrative leader of the Wisconsin court system. Before joining the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Abrahamson was in private practice in Madison for 14 years and was a professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School.



KAREN JOHNSON-MCKEWAN, ESQ.
2015 FLORENCE K. MURRAY AWARD

Karen G. Johnson-McKewan, an Intellectual Property partner in Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP's San Francisco office, is a trial lawyer who concentrates her practice on complex intellectual property and commercial litigation for technology and consumer products companies. Ms. Johnson-McKewan has significant experience litigating and trying particularly intricate cases in which the translation of complex technology issues into plain English is invaluable. She served as Orrick's San Francisco Office Leader from 2005 to 2008. Ms. Johnson-McKewan joined the NAWJ Resource Board in 2005.



JUSTICE ANNA BLACKBURNE-RIGSBY
2015 JUSTICE VAINO SPENCER LEADERSHIP AWARD

Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby was sworn in as the 34th President of the National Association of Women Judges at its Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, on October 12, 2013. Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby was nominated by President George W. Bush to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in August 2006. Prior to her appointment to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Judge Blackburne-Rigsby was nominated by President William Jefferson Clinton to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and served from 2000-2006. Judge Blackburne-Rigsby previously served as a Magistrate Judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia from 1995-2000. In addition to her work with NAWJ, she also serves as Chair of the Board of Managerial Trustees for the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ).



CATHY WINTER
2015 MATTIE BELLE DAVIS AWARD

Cathy Winter is the Director of Corporate Development at CourtCall, LLC, located in Los Angeles. CourtCall is responsible for managing an innovative teleconferencing system, introduced in 1996, that facilitates non-evidentiary pretrial proceedings enabling attorneys to make such appearances remotely. Cathy Winter became a member of NAWJ's Resource Board in 2012. Ms. Winter served on the Planning Committee for the 36th Annual Conference in San Diego, is an active member of the Website Committee, and was instrumental in realizing this year meeting with the Congressional Women's Caucus.



JUSTICE ANN WALSH BRADLEY
2015 EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley serves as International Director for NAWJ. She is the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the International Judicial Academy and has served as an international lecturer for the Academy, the American Bar Association's Asia Law Initiative, and the U.S. Department of State. Currently she also serves as the state coordinator of iCivics, a civics education program founded by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Justice Bradley was in private practice until becoming a circuit court judge in Marathon County in 1985. She was elected to the Supreme Court in 1995 and re-elected in 2005 and 2015. She has been an NAWJ member since 2007. She was a high school teacher before entering the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she earned her law degree.

LIFE BEYOND THE BENCH

By Barbara Levenson



NAWJ's Retired Judges Committee wants to help our members transition to "retirement." As a member of the committee, I want to pass along my experience in finding a fulfilling different profession.

Florida mandates retirement at age seventy. I always dreamed of having the time to write fiction. I realized that I had that body of time, but I also knew that nobody sits down and dashes off a novel. A judge, when confronted with a new area of the law, immerses herself in reading, researching, and attending seminars in the new field. I knew the same learning tools would be necessary if I were to embark on this new career. I took some short courses at our Literary Arts Center in Miami. That led me to apply to and gain acceptance in Kenyon College's summer intensive writing program.

While I adjusted my learning curve, I wrote short stories, and began attending seminars and joining organizations for writers. Friends and family who enjoyed my short stories all told me these stories were the beginnings of books. Next I followed the wise advice of one of my writing instructors who said "if you want to write, put your behind in the chair and write."

I love reading mysteries so I wrote what I liked to read for recreation. My first book *Fatal February* sold shortly after it was completed with an option for a second book in the series.

This was partly good luck and partly because I attended Mystery Writers of America conferences. This also occurred because friends and colleagues told me that I would never get published and that I was too old to start a writing career. I love to prove naysayers wrong.

Because of my stubborn streak and my husband's constant encouragement, The Mary Magruder Katz Mystery Series was born. *Justice In June, Outrageous October, and Neurotic November* followed my first book and now I am writing the fifth in the series.

Writing is relaxing to me; a totally stress free time. But along with the joy of writing comes the obligation to publicize and market the books. That means social media, web sites, book signings, travel, and speaking assignments. I never imagined all that I have learned and all the people I've met. As I approach my eightieth birthday, I feel energized and focused.

If your dream is to write, or paint, or design furniture, or grow prize winning orchids, just do what you did as a lawyer or judge. Learn everything you can about your new pursuit, don't listen to the people who say you can't do it, and then just do it!

RETIRED JUDGES COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Chair, Hon. Joan Churchill (Maryland); Hon. Cheryl Cesario (Illinois); Hon. Beverly Cutler (Alaska); Hon. Ellar Duff (Illinois); Hon. Diana S. Eagon (Florida); Hon. Lisa Ann Foster (California); Hon. Andrea Harnett (District of Columbia); Hon. Leila R. Kern (Massachusetts); Hon. Brenda Levinson (Florida); Hon. Carole P. Levy (New York); Hon. Lauren Mathon (Arizona); Hon. Susan Moiseev (Michigan); Hon. Marjorie A. Rasmussen (California).



NAWJ 38th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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