



October 17, 2024  
Annual Report  
Report of District 4

Honorable Francine L. Applewhite – Acting District Director

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District 4 Board Members:

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District 4 began the 2023-2024 year participating in the Howard University, Black Women in Pre Law Society, First Annual Law School Fair. On November 4, 2023, Judge Toni Clarke and Judge Francine L. Applewhite met with eager young women and young men introducing them to NAWJ. For the majority of the young women and young men this was their first opportunity to meet a judge one on one, particularly female judges of color. Each left with NAWJ swag. Over 100 students attended.

In February 2024, Chief Judge Anna Blackburn-Rigsby was the keynote speaker for the Administrative Office of the United States Courts' African American Heritage Month celebration.

On March 22, 2024, District 4 members attended via Zoom, **"The Art of Self Care" with Judge Carol King**. Judge Carol King shared with us her thoughts and experience on secondary trauma and self-care. We were invited to pause - take a deep breath- and share our thoughts and experiences with each other through the lens of her presentation. Also in March our VA Chapter hosted a virtual happy hour to celebrate International Day of the Woman Judge.

On April 29, 2024, over 200 registrants attended the virtual program, ***Order in the Court & the Home: Judicial Safety Considerations***. Judge Bobbie McCartney in her capacity as District 4 Director worked with NCJFCJ to put together the webinar. Judge McCartney later contributed an article on judicial safety considerations for the Summer 2024 issue of Counterbalance.

VAWJ members met in Norfolk in May during their Circuit Court conference and in August during their District Court conference. Bev Cutler continues to coordinate assistance for our Afghan sister judges in Northern VA. Several of the newly arrived Afghan judges attended a luncheon in Fairfax County. Judge Kamila Noori hosted a luncheon at her home for a group of judges who arrived in 2021. Assistance with college applications, for the children of the judges, assistance with applying for benefit programs, coordinating legal assistance for disability and related claims, and coordinating medical assistance for a sick child, and more have been provided by the Northern VA judges.

Judge Karen Henenberg will be hosting the annual Virginia Women Attorneys Association brunch with VA women judges on October 6, 2024. Many VAWJ members will be in attendance.

On November 13, 2024 at 5:30pm District 4 will bestow the Edna B. Parker award to Judge Julia Weatherly in recognition of her outstanding contributions and tireless efforts (creating, growing, and maintaining The Women Moving Forward Reentry Program) on behalf of District 4. The event will take place at the DC Court of Appeals Historic Courthouse. Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby will welcome us.