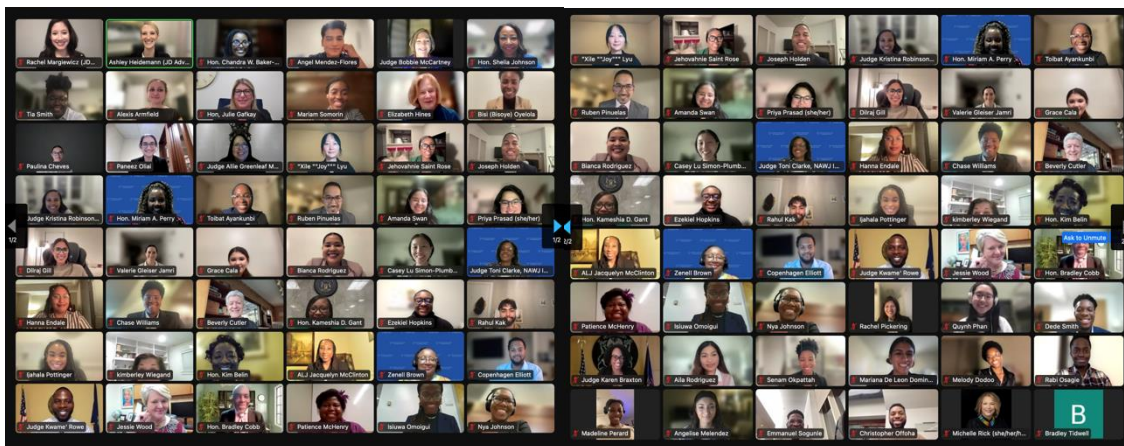




October 17, 2024
Annual Report
Report from District 7
Honorable Miriam A. Perry

1. NAWJ MentorJet Program in Collaboration With JD Advising: October 26, 2023, Via Zoom

The MentorJet program was held on October 26, 2023, and served as a valuable networking opportunity for law students who might not otherwise have opportunities to engage with judges. With the participation of approximately 30 judges, the virtual ‘speed mentoring’ event successfully connected law students from across the nation. A special thank-you is owed to Region 1 Administrator Zenell Brown for her instrumental role in making this event possible!



2. Holiday High Tea at Madam Restaurant: December 17, 2023

Members of the NAWJ gathered at Madam Restaurant to engage in casual yet enriching conversations. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and try out a delightful selection of afternoon tea!



3. ABJM Northside Ministerial Alliance Judges Panel: February 18, 2024

Moderated by Hon. Lisa Martin, who has been elected as President of the Association of Black Judges (ABJM) of Michigan for the 2024 – 2025 bar year, the Northside Ministerial Alliance Panel featured several members of the NAWJ who answered questions about the judiciary. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Kalamazoo for hosting this event and making it possible!



4. Planting the Seed at Detroit Mercy Law School: April 18, 2024

Law students, lawyers, and judges spent the evening at Detroit Mercy Law School connecting with the national Executive Board Members of the ABA's State Trial Judges, discussing various matters and exchanging valuable insights. A special shoutout to Hon. Denise L. Morris for coordinating and overseeing the event from start to finish! Hon. Denise L. Morris was selected to be Chair of the ABA's 2024 – 2025 National Conference of State Trial Judges (NCSTJ) Executive Committee, an outstanding and well-deserved achievement! Furthermore, she was nominated for and inducted into the Michigan Women Forward's Hall of Fame Class of 2023 by Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc (JAMS); we are grateful for her continued impact in the legal community!



Congratulations To Our Outstanding 2024 NAWJ Members!

Congratulations to Hon. Linda S. Murnane!

Hon. Linda S. Murnane was awarded with the Justice Vaino Spencer Leadership Award at the NAWJ Conference held in Indianapolis in 2023, receiving outstanding recognition for her leadership in promoting NAWJ's vision, core values, mission, and for her dedicated service. She also recently commenced her term on the ABA's Board of Governors, marking yet another impressive milestone in her exemplary career!



Recognition of Hon. Sima G. Patel

Hon. Sima G. Patel, along with other prominent judges, participated in the final round of MSU College of Law's 2023 internal moot court competition. The three-day conference was supported by the efforts of nearly 100 volunteers and ended with numerous sessions of students showcasing their legal skills.



Congratulations to Hon. Kameshia D. Gant!

Hon. Kameshia D. Gant was awarded with numerous recognitions since October of 2023, including the Michael K. Lee Memorial Award at the Oakland County Bar Association (OCBA) Taste of Diversity Event, Women's Bar Association (WBA) Oakland's Joan Young Judicial Excellence Award, the Harold Hood Award from ABJM, and the Committee of the Year Award from the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association. Additionally, she was selected as the recipient of the Shirley Chisholm Justice Award at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc.'s 2024 Justice and Equality Awards Event. She was also nominated and selected as the 2024 recipient of the Leadership Award at Oakland Meditation Center's Social and Awards Presentation. We congratulate her on these well-deserved awards and thank her for her wonderful contributions to the legal community!



Congratulations to Hon. Deborah L. McNabb!

We are thrilled to share that Hon. Deborah L. McNabb has commenced her term as Chief Judge of the 17th Circuit Court on January 1, 2024, after being appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court. We wish her the best of luck and success in her new role!



Recognition of Hon. Rosemarie E. Aquilina, Hon. Cori E. Barkman, Hon. Shauna Dunnings, Hon. Shannon Schlegel, and Hon. Elizabeth Welch

We proudly present the news that five of our NAWJ members participated in MSU Meet the Judges in January of 2024, hosted by the Ingham County Bar Association (ICBA). MSU Law students enjoyed a memorable evening of discussing career paths and exploring different areas of law with attorneys, legal professionals, and judges.



Congratulations to Hon. Miriam A. Perry!

It is with great honor that we share the news of Hon. Miriam A. Perry's appointment as Chief Judge Pro Tempore, with her term having commenced on January 1, 2024. Hon. Miriam A. Perry has also been named a Member-at-Large for the ABA National Conference of Specialized Court Judges (NCSCJ) Committee. She has also been named as a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. We are confident that her exceptional leadership will continue to shine in the years ahead!



Congratulations to Hon. Tenisha R. Yancey!

We congratulate Hon. Tenisha R. Yancey on her election as President-Elect of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan (ABJM). We look forward to her exemplary leadership!



Congratulations to Hon. Allie G. Maldonado!

Hon. Allie G. Maldonado was featured in a Q&A blog post with the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) community, we thank her for her valuable insights!



Congratulations to Hon. Michelle M. Rick!

We are proud to announce that Hon. Michelle M. Rick represented NAWJ at the ABA midyear conference in Louisville during January 31st to February 5th of 2024. Additionally, we are excited to share that she was featured in a blog post published by Detroit Mercy Law, which celebrated her alongside many distinguished women who have profoundly shaped their community. She is also slated to be President of NAWJ for the 2024 – 2025 term, we congratulate her on the splendid achievement!



Congratulations to Region 1 Administrator Zenell Brown!

Firstly, we celebrate Region 1 Administrator Zenell Brown's commitment to leadership for the Detroit Bar Association as the Immediate Past President (2024-2025), and as one of Michigan State Bar Foundation's 2024 Fellows. We also thank her for her years of service on the Board of Directors for Michigan Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); her wonderful insights and wisdom have made a lasting impact on many children's hearts!



Congratulations to Hon. Sara Spencer-Noggle!

Hon. Sara Spencer-Noggle has been reappointed to the Mental Health Diversion Council on April 2, 2024 – her continued dedication to carry out the Council's mission is greatly appreciated!



Congratulations to Hon. Chandra W. Baker-Robinson!

Hon. Chandra W. Baker-Robinson was featured in a post published by Detroit Legal News celebrating her selection as a Board member of the Wayne County Jail Outreach Ministry (WCJOM). We are confident that her experiences and valuable insights will serve as excellent guidance for the ministry!



Congratulations to Hon. Mariam Saad Bazzi!

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Hon. Mariam Saad Bazzi has been named as one of Michigan State Bar Foundation's (MSBF) fellows and received the 2024 Mary S. Coleman Leadership Award, in recognition of her tremendous leadership and role as an inspiring figure to many.



Recognition of Hon. Wanda M. Stokes

Hon. Wanda M. Stokes was featured on a post by the Chronicle News on June 2, 2024, her awe-inspiring message commemorating and reflecting upon Juneteenth. We deeply appreciate her dedication and call to reflect upon the critical principles of justice!



Congratulations to Attorney Elizabeth K. Bransdorfer!

NAWJ Member Elizabeth K. Bransdorfer received many prestigious recognitions this year, being listed in Band 1 (Family/Matrimonial Law) from Chambers High Net Worth Guide 2024, named as “Grand Rapids 2024 Collaborative Law: Family Law Lawyer of the Year”, and included in Crain’s Notable Women in the Law for 2024.



Best wishes to Hon. Sara J. Smolenski!

The Honorable Sara J. Smolenski of Kent County 63rd District Court retired on July 15, after a distinguished career of 34 years on the bench, including serving as Chief Judge between the years of 1996 and 2023. We wish her a rewarding and fulfilling retirement!

