



March 14, 2025
Report from District 7
Honorable Miriam A. Perry

Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia

1. Upcoming event: NAWJ 2025 Midyear Meeting (March 20 - Mar 22)

We are excited to meet our members at the NAWJ 2025 Midyear Meeting, which will take place at the Lawyers Club in the University of Michigan School of Law in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We hope to see you there!

2. Upcoming events: Face of Justice opportunities with Wayne State University (March 28, April 11)

There are three opportunities for mentorship available with the Face of Justice program at Wayne State University, geared towards pre-law students. The program is looking for mentors from various areas of the profession to participate and jet-mentor students at the Hall of Justice in Lansing, the 36th District Court, and Wayne State. The opportunities include: 1) Hall of Justice, Lansing MI, March 28 from 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM; 2) 36th District Court and Wayne State University, Detroit MI, April 11 from 9 AM - 2:30; 3) Mentoring session at Wayne State University, Detroit MI, on April 11 at 11:30. The following link will redirect you to the page where you can register as a mentor: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2KVSJVT>. Contact Gregory P. Conyers at gconyers@michbar.org or Michelle at mfriedman@michbar.org with any questions.

3. Upcoming event: Mentorship Opportunity for Detroit Mercy Law's Law School Preview Day

The State Bar of Michigan, in conjunction with the Face of Justice program, is looking for mentors from all areas of law to meet with high school students during Law School Preview Day. This event will take place on April 10 at 1:00 PM at 651 E. Jefferson St, Detroit MI, 48226. Please register here (https://michbar.mmsend.com/link.cfm?r=yEwBtdW4KoFXNS21USLsXg~~&pe=zmggaXpIVFwjoG7THbdO_Gt0HJPUKlp_RHA1WbLaLyhtrrNByzU48wb3rOL5IsNSp76M-UHjndgZxM8wW3PRQ~~&t=Gy_SdcTKb37d9A466ZD9rQ~~) to join as a mentor for this event. Any inquiries should be addressed to Michelle Friedman at mfriedman@michbar.org.

Congratulations To Our Outstanding 2025 NAWJ Members!

Congratulations to Hon. Michelle Rick and Hon. Linda Murnane!

President Hon. Michelle Rick and Hon. Linda Murnane both participated in the NAWJ Women in the Judiciary event, held in-person in New York and online on March 14, 2025, from 10:30 – 12:00 ET. This event explored the roles that women play in the judiciary and incorporated opening remarks by the Federal Bar Association (FBA) President-Elect Hon. Karoline Mehalchick, as well as presentations by federal and state judges in the U.S. and around the world.



Image credit: Federal Bar Association

Congratulations to Hon. Yvonna Abraham!

We are elated to announce that Hon. Yvonna Abraham was recognized at the 20th Annual Dennis W. Archer Public Service Award Gala hosted in November, which recognizes outstanding lawyers, judges, and other public service workers.



Image credit: Erin Marie Miller, HourDetroit

Congratulations to Hon. Mariam Saad Bazzi!

Every year, the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries (DRMM) honors remarkable individuals and organizations in the community whose work exemplifies the pillars of empathy and compassion. Hon. Mariam Saad Bazzi received their Pillar of Justice Award in October and was one of six honorees awarded in the areas of justice, advocacy, media, excellence, and empowerment.



Image credit: Eric Hobson, DRMM

Congratulations to Elizabeth K. Bransdorfer!

A huge congratulations to our esteemed member Elizabeth K. Bransdorfer, who was mentioned in the Grand Rapids Magazine as one of the Top Lawyers of 2024 in their November 2024 post.



Image credit: Mika Meyers

Congratulations to Hon. Megan K. Cavanagh!

We are thrilled to announce that Hon. Megan K. Cavanagh has been selected to be the next chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court! She will succeed Chief Justice Elizabeth Clement when she leaves her seat on the bench at the end of April. We wish her all the best in her new role!



Image credit: Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society

Congratulations to Hon. Wende C. Cross!

We are excited to share that Hon. Wende C. Cross has been selected as the recipient for Cincinnati's National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) 2024 Wright-Overstreet Memorial Award Recipient. This award was established in 1989 to honor the memories of two dedicated civil rights leaders, Rev. Samuel Ross Wright and Mr. Henry Overstreet, Jr.



Image credit: Hamilton County Courts

Congratulations to Hon. Tricia Dare!

We are beyond excited to announce that the Oakland County Circuit Court has its new judge, as the Hon. Tricia R. Dare had her investiture ceremony earlier last month on February 13th. We are sure she will be more than successful in her new role!



Image credit: Oakland County Michigan

Congratulations to Hon. Shauna Dunnings!

We applaud Hon. Shauna Dunnings for her new role as Chief Circuit, Probate Judge, effective the first of January. Congratulations on the splendid achievement!



Image credit: Ingham County

Thank you to Hon. Nicole Goodson!

In February of this year, Hon. Nicole Goodson presided over a mock trial with local high school students, partaking in an active role that has opened the door for many students to get to know the legal system better. Thank you for all the wonderful work that you do, Hon. Nicole Goodson!



Image credit: Hon. Nicole Goodson, LinkedIn

A shoutout to Hon. Julie Gafkay!

We are extremely thankful for Hon. Julie Gafkay's splendid contribution to the League of Women Voters in November of last year, who moderated a one-day book club with aspiring young female leaders from Saginaw United.



Image credit: Saginaw United, Facebook

Congratulations to Amy M. Johnston!

Amy M. Johnston has been named as one of the Top Lawyers of 2025 by Detroit's Premier Business Journal, a list created based on an online peer-review survey sent out to certified lawyers within the metro-Detroit area. Congratulations!



Image credit: Miller Canfield

Thank you to Hon. Maureen Hannon Kinsella!

We are happy to share that Hon. Maureen Hannon Kinsella spoke with high school students during Government Day in March, where she shared her insights about her role as judge in the Oakland County Circuit Court.



Image credit: Hon. Maureen H. Kinsella, LinkedIn

Congratulations to Hon. Denise Langford Morris (Ret.) and Hon. Allie Greenleaf Maldonado!

We are proud to announce that two of our members were invited to present at symposiums. Hon. Denise Langford Morris (Ret.) presented with several other notable speakers at the State Bar of Michigan (SBM) Business Law Section Symposium's Seventh Annual Symposium. Hon. Allie Greenleaf Maldonado moderated during a panel with other presenters at University of Michigan's symposium on the 50th anniversary of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.



Image credit: Hon. Denise Langford Morris (Ret.), LinkedIn (Left); Hon. Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Gov. Whitmer Administration

Congratulations to Hon. Yasmine I. Poles!

Hon. Yasmine I. Poles was selected as a presenter with the 2025 Circuit-Probate Court Bench/Bar Conference, titled "Beyond Boundaries: Effective Lawyering in a Digital World," which was held on March 7th. She spoke on the panel for "New Standards for MIDC".



Image credit: Wayne State University

Congratulations to Hon. Mary Margaret Rowlands!

We deeply congratulate Hon. Mary Margaret Rowlands as she has been selected as Secretary for the NAWJ 2024-2025 term. She accepted the position on the executive leadership team during the NAWJ Annual Conference which was held in mid-October of 2024.



Image credit: Crain's Cleveland Business

Congratulations to Hon. Kimberly A. Thomas!

Hon. Kimberly A. Thomas was welcomed to the Michigan Supreme Court in January during their first conference of 2025. With her extensive experience as a clinical law professor at the University of Michigan Law School and co-founder of the Juvenile Justice Clinic, we are confident that she will do great in her new role.



Image credit: Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society