



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES COUNTERBALANCE

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(L-R) Quinn Nicole Rapp-Ellis, Judges Kathy J. King, Mary Sommer, Judge Ellen Bree Burns  
(seated in front)

## NEW YORK STATE ENACTS NATION'S MOST PROGRESSIVE ANTI-SHACKLING LAW

by Jaya Vasandani, Co-Director, Women & Justice Project, NAWJ 2007 Equal Access  
to Justice Scholarship Recipient

On December 22, 2015, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law the 2015 Anti-Shackling Bill (A.6430-A/S.983-A). The new law bans the use of shackles on women at all stages of pregnancy and for eight weeks post-partum, building upon a 2009 law that banned the use of restraints on women during childbirth.

Prior to the law's enactment, New York state prisons and jails routinely shackled women throughout their pregnancy and during the post-partum period. Two of the most common situations involving shackling are trips for medical appointments, which can happen weekly as a pregnant woman nears her due date, and trips between prisons, which can take more than 10 hours. Shackling causes pregnant women physical and psychological pain. It heightens the risk of blood clots, limits the mobility needed for a safe pregnancy and delivery, and increases the risk of falling, which can cause serious injury and even death to the fetus. Shackles can also interfere with doctors' ability to care for their patients and delay access to medical services during emergencies. Shackling during postpartum recovery prevents women from healing and bonding with their newborns. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) issued a formal opinion in 2011 stating that shackling during pregnancy can have myriad negative effects on women and their babies, and is "demeaning and rarely necessary."

The new law also aims to address implementation issues arising from the 2009 law. For example, the Correctional Association of NY's Women in Prison Project interviewed and surveyed 27 women who gave birth in state corrections custody after the 2009 law was enacted, and found

☞ Continues on Page 36

## 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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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Greetings,

I am so honored to be vested with the responsibility of this office. It is a daunting task to follow in the footsteps of President Julie Frantz. Julie has made an impact upon our organization which should be recognized. From rewriting the membership directory, to reformulating committees, drafting policies, and shepherding change in our organization in the most collegial and careful manner, she has not only set a benchmark for me, but has done a service for the betterment of NAWJ that we will feel for years to come.

Each President puts her mark on NAWJ and moves it in a particular direction. I have learned so much from each remarkable woman who has served in this office. Our Past-Presidents have taught me patience, perseverance, diplomacy, a careful eye and attention to detail, collegiality, support, how to be dynamic, and incredible grace. Each lesson I have learned from each iconic leader is a gift — a gift to each successive leader and to all of NAWJ. The best gifts that I have received are support and friendship. Not only from our Presidents but from all of our dynamic members. There is a level of collegiality and support that I daresay few of us enjoy completely in our own jurisdictions.

What do I hope to bring to NAWJ's chain of leadership? How will I serve NAWJ in a way that honors her? That honors all of you? Leadership by its definition implies forward motion. My focus is on that forward path toward the future. What will that future bring? My theme for this year is Securing the Future for Women and Girls. I was inspired toward this theme because it sits squarely within our mission statement and within our existing and developing programs, initiatives and education:

How do we secure a diverse future membership of our profession?

How will we ensure diversity on the bench in our future?

How do we hold secure the future reentry of mothers into our society who are now women in prison?

How do we secure the future of girls and women who are being trafficked into slavery?

What is the future fate of the worldwide judiciary and the role of women and the rule of law?

Is there a future without a gender gap for women in our profession?

Can we envision a future where we have Meaningful Access to justice for the people we serve?

What is our future after we retire?

In the future, will our young women on our college campuses be safe?

What is the future for our judicial independence?

Through our programs and projects, including MentorJet, Color of Justice, Women in Prison Project, the Human Trafficking Committee, the Informed Voters Project and many more, our Conferences, our involvement with the global judiciary with IAWJ at the Biennial, our Scholarship and academic advisors, we in NAWJ work tirelessly to address our mission statement and to ensure a future which is more just and more fair than our present. A secure future for the women and girls we devote so much to. And finally, a future for NAWJ, one which is sustainable and stable going forward.

We have a big job ahead of us this year. The comforting factor for me is the incredible board I have beside me, an exceptional group of women who represent the best that this nation has to offer. An organized, devoted, kind, supportive and encouraging Executive Director in Marie Komisar, leading her stellar and talented staff. And I could not be better supported by my Miami family, who are here with us tonight. My mom Hana, My husband and daughter Lila, my friends and colleagues who are here, I cannot tell you how much that support nourishes and sustains me in this awesome responsibility that lies ahead. Thank you for this opportunity for an unparalleled year. I hope you will join me in moving NAWJ forward to a just and sustainable future for all.

Lisa Walsh

Judge, 11th Judicial Circuit, Miami-Dade, Florida



### Greetings,

Managing a nonprofit organization grows more complex and challenging every year. Today's nonprofits must regularly demonstrate progress toward achieving the organization's mission, balancing the books, and complying with a growing number of financial and other regulatory requirements by federal, state and local govern-

ments. Leadership is also responsible for helping to recruit new members and working with a strong board of directors that keep the organization fiscally accountable while contributing expertise and leveraging resources. NAWJ communicates the organization's "story" to a wide variety of audiences and practices enlightened management of staff and volunteers, including policies of diversity, inclusiveness and cultural competency. NAWJ prioritizes exploration and adoption of appropriate new technology and successfully raises needed revenues – all while assuring transparency, effectiveness and accountability to donors and the public. Yet, we are among the vast number of nonprofit organizations which struggle with the lack of sufficient resources or, in some cases, necessary skills or expertise to carry out key management functions critical in order to sustain the organization and pursue its mission.

Outsourcing certain projects and daily tasks serves as one of the new and creative ways NAWJ aims to overcome these challenges that often plague nonprofit organizations. Over the past year, NAWJ has experienced a dramatic shift in how we are staffing the NAWJ office in order to fill the many programmatic and daily managerial needs for the organization. We are finding innovative ways to fill our staffing needs by outsourcing the duties and responsibilities to reliable and reputable organizations.

We have begun to shift the management areas, especially "back office" services, to outside contractors and service providers, some of which have been working with NAWJ for a relatively long-term basis. We are expecting that there will be an improvement in quality, strengthening management effectiveness, and lower costs of business operations in the wide range of essential areas that require state of the art technical expertise. Such key areas today include: Information Technology (IT); Bookkeeping and Financial Management; Marketing and Communications; Fundraising; and Employment and Human Resources. Outsourcing is the logical answer to the challenges facing NAWJ.

For example, The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) is now managing all of NAWJ's membership mailings, tracking, reporting and billing as well as working closely with our accountants, Calibre CPA Group. Our Calibre accountants work directly out of the NAWJ office to ensure that we are diligently on top of paying bills, reconciling bank statements, day to day operations, payroll, reporting for our current grants, filing our tax forms, reporting to the Board each month at monthly board meetings, and assisting with the preparation of NAWJ 990's and creating budgets.

We are pleased to have contracted with a Website designer, Efelle Media, to create a professional looking, branded and easy to navigate NAWJ website.

In addition, we have enlisted Resource Board member attorneys to review all contracts for services entered into by NAWJ. This is a great service as the work provided with this review is being performed pro bono, saving the organization thousands of dollars in legal fees each year.

NAWJ has also outsourced our conference management to IMN, the company who negotiate our hotel and conference services, working in tandem with Mary Kathleen Todd, now also working as an LLC.

Paola Tejada Lalinde also a LLC, and past employee of IAWJ, has joined the team at NAWJ to produce NAWJ's new marketing materials and to ensure that NAWJ's designs and branding are incorporated into plans for the redesign of NAWJ's website and membership materials.

Finally, NAWJ has focused on recruiting interns from local law schools to assist with administrative duties and other NAWJ projects such as the updated NAWJ History Book. Elizabeth Briones is a second year law student at The George Washington University and works out of the NAWJ office here in D.C. Nicole Halmoukos is a third year law student at the University of Miami who assists NAWJ President Hon. Lisa Walsh with her presidential responsibilities in Florida. We are thankful for their service to NAWJ.

Outsourcing key functions offers opportunities for NAWJ to utilize the expertise of specialized providers of these services. Outsourcing also offers the advantage of reducing (although never entirely eliminating) the scarce time, financial resources and management attention devoted to these areas, allowing more management attention to mission-related activities and results. Rather than each nonprofit entity and its manager having to become highly expert at mastering and performing these disparate functions, some or even all can be contracted out and monitored with less overall administrative time. Based on the bottom line numbers, outsourcing has and will in the future save money for NAWJ by cutting staffing and overhead costs.

Thank you for all your continue support of NAWJ. Our membership is our strength and please let me know how we may serve you better. We strive, as always, to be the go-to organization on matters related to women and children and under-served populations.

Feel free to contact us with your suggestions, observations, and critiques.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie Komisar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marie Komisar

## A GEM, NAWJ'S SALT LAKE CITY ANNUAL



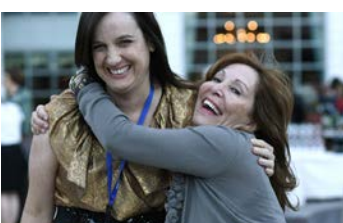
The National Association of Women Judges gathered in Salt Lake City, Utah for **"With Liberty and Justice For All,"** its 2015 Annual Conference. After years of planning under the leadership of Conference Chairs Honorable Michele Christiansen (Utah Court of Appeals) and the Honorable Sharon McCully (Retired, Third District Juvenile Court), and NAWJ President Honorable Julie Frantz (Multnomah County Circuit Court) over 250 judges, attorneys, officials, and other legal professionals attended our dynamic conference which took place from October 7-11 2015 at the Grand America Hotel. The theme of the conference "With Liberty and Justice For All" addressed multiple perspectives by diverse and compelling speakers each of whom provided the participants with invaluable information and insight. Many people dedicated themselves to this communal achievement without which the conference would not have taken place. A few are mentioned here.

**Conference Chairs Judges** Christiansen and McCully received tremendous support from prominent members of the local legal community: **Education Committee:** Hon. Judith Atherton (Retired); Hon. Elizabeth Hruby-Mills, Third District Court; Peggy Hunt, Esq., Dorsey & Whitney LLP; Tom Langhorne, Esq. Utah Administrative Office of the Courts; Hon. Sandra Peuler, Third District Court, Utah; Noella A. Sudbury, Esq., Zimmerman Jones Booher LLC; Hon. Kate Toomey, Utah Court of Appeals; and Juliette Palmer White, Esq., Parsons Behle & Latimer. **Federal Judge/Court Liaison:** Hon. Brooke Wells, U.S. District Court, District of Utah. **Friends Committee:** Sammi Anderson, Esq., Manning Curtis Bradshaw & Bednar; Dianna Cannon, Esq., Cannon Disability Law; Patricia Christensen, Esq., Parr Brown Gee & Loveless; Kate Conyers, Esq., Salt Lake Legal Defenders; Tammy Georgelas, Esq., Parsons Behle and Latimer; Tara Isaacson, Esq., Bugden & Isaacson, LLC; Katherine Judd, Esq., Clyde Snow & Sessions; Julia Kyte, Esq., Stirba, P.C.; Skye Lazaro, Esq., Salt Lake Legal Defenders Office; Hon. Sharon McCully, (Retired), Third District Juvenile Court; Margaret N. McGann, Esq., Parsons Behle & Latimer; Amber Mettler, Esq., Snell & Wilmer; Lauren Shurman, Esq., Stoel Rives LLP; Amy Sorenson, Esq., Snell & Wilmer; and Cara Tangaro, Esq., Tangaro Law Firm. **Hospitality Committee:** Hon. Kara Pettit, Third District Court; Hon. Laura Scott, Third District Court. **International Judges Committee:** Hon. Julie Lund, Third District Juvenile Court. **New Judges/First Time Attendee Committee:** Hon. Janice L. Frost, Second District Juvenile Court. **Security Committee:** Carol Price, Utah Administrative Office of the Courts. **Volunteers Committee:** Judge Kim Hornak, Third District Juvenile Court; Judge Julie Lund, Third District Juvenile Court; Nancy Nelson, Third District Court; and Hon. Marcia Thomas, Third District Justice Court. **Women Lawyers of Utah:** Tanner Lenart, Esq., Christensen & Jensen, P.C.; and Scarlet Smith, Esq., Utah Court of Appeals.

**Friends Committee Co-Chairs** industriously ensured the conference's financial success by obtaining support of donors. **Gold Sponsor:** Robert Kaufman, Esq. **Silver Sponsors:** Dorsey & Whitney LLP, GEICO, LexisNexis, Parr Brown Gee & Loveless, Parsons Behle & Latimer Stirba, P.C., Stoel Rives LLP and Utah State Bar. **Bronze Sponsors:** Anderson & Karrenberg, P.C., Burbidge Mitchell & Gross, ClydeSnow Attorneys at Law, CourtCall LLC, Dart, Adamson & Donovan, Dewsnup, King & Olsen, Durham Jones & Pinegar, Holland & Hart LLP, Jones Waldo Holbrook & McDonough, PC, Magleby & Greenwood P.C., Ray Quinney & Nebeker P.C., Seneca Women, Sentry Financial Corporation, Snell & Wilmer L.L.P., Utah Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, and Zimmerman Jones Booher LLC. **Supporters:** Adams & Davis, Bugden & Isaacson, Celtic Bank, CitiCourt, The Reporting Group, Fetzer Simonsen Booth & Jenkins; Garcia & Love, Strindberg & Scholnick, LLC, Tangaro Law, Traskbritt, P.C., Utah Minority Bar Association, and Winder & Counsel PC.

The conference opened with Presentation of the Flags, and welcomes by Conference Co-Chairs **Honorable Michele M. Christiansen** and the **Honorable Sharon McCully**, remarks followed from **NAWJ President Julie Frantz**, **Utah Governor Gary Richard Herbert**, and **Deputy Court Administrator Ray Wahl**. Keynote Speakers included **Sujata Warriar, Ph.D.**, Training and Technical Assistance Director at the Battered Women's Justice Project; **Erwin Chemerinsky**, Dean of the School of Law at the University of California, Irvine; **Utah Attorney General Sean D. Reyes**; and **Deborah Jiang-Stein**, author of *Prison Baby* and the founder of The unPrison Project. Over the course of five days, attendees availed themselves to 21 education programs, the natural wonder that is the Salt Lake Valley and Wasatch mountain range, on beautiful display from our joyful reception held at The Natural History Museum of Utah. Thank you Nino Reyes for your beautiful flute music. Please visit NAWJ's website for a full listing of conference panels and speakers.

The Gala Banquet was the penultimate highlight of the conference. Hon. Julie Frantz had the pleasure of recognizing a few shining stars within the NAWJ community: **Mattie Belle Davis Award** to Cathy Winter, Director of Corporate Development, CourtCall, LLC; **Florence K. Murray Award** to Karen Johnson-McKewan, Esq., Attorney, Orrick Herrington; **Norma Wikler Excellence in Service Award** to Hon. Ann Walsh Bradley, Wisconsin Supreme Court; **Justice Vaino Spencer Leadership Award** to Hon Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, District of Columbia Court of Appeals; **Justice Joan Dempsey Klein Honoree of the Year** to Hon. Shirley S. Abrahamson, Wisconsin Supreme Court; and **Distinguished Achievement Awards** to NAWJ staff members Marie Komisar and Lavinia Cousin, Executive Director and Program Manager, respectively.



# National Association of Women Judges - USA Hosts the 13th Biennial Conference of the International Association of Women Judges

May 26-29, 2016 • Washington, D.C.

*Women Judges and the Rule of Law:  
Assessing the Past, Anticipating the Future*



## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### OPENING CEREMONY

Welcoming remarks from Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

### EQUALITY'S FRONTIERS

Jurists who have or are serving on their countries' highest courts will reflect, in a conversation with Professor Judith Resnik, on the role of law and their own work in responding to inequality and in considering the future of mandates for fair and equal treatment.

#### PANELISTS:

- Lady Brenda Hale, Supreme Court of the United Kingdom
- Justice Elena I. Highton-Nolasco, Supreme Court of Argentina
- Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro, Supreme Court of the Philippines
- Justice Irene Mambilima, Chief Justice of Zambia
- Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Supreme Court of the United States

#### MODERATOR:

Judith Resnik, Arthur Liman Professor of Law, Yale Law School

### CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN JUDGES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION

Judges from Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia will discuss challenges facing women judges in the MENA region. The IAWJ presently is working with judges in this region,

exploring professional challenges faced by women in the judiciary and legal challenges faced by women and girls seeking access to justice through the courts. The discussion will focus on post-Arab Spring developments in the law – from children's rights to new laws concerning human trafficking and anti-terrorism initiatives.

### MOOT COURT

An international panel of judges will decide an appeal based on the case presented to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in *Atala Riffo and Daughters v. Chile*. In this case, a woman judged from Chile lost custody of her children in the domestic courts of her country because she was living in a same-sex relationship with another woman. Judges from the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa will be asked to decide the case under international law and under the laws of their respective countries.

### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Judges from diverse jurisdictions will discuss ways in which this concept is being utilized in their courts.

### COURTS IN CRISIS

How Courts have responded and can respond when the worst happens.

### WOMEN AND GIRLS IN DETENTION

A panel of judges from diverse jurisdictions will discuss the special problems that women and girls face when they are incarcerated and the things that are being done to ameliorate these conditions.

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# New York State's First Female Chief Judge, Judith S. Kaye, A Pioneering Jurist

In January, 2016 NAWJ lost a longtime friend with passing of the Honorable Judith S. Kaye. An NAWJ member since 1983, Judge Kaye was the first woman to sit on New York State's Court of Appeals, and the state's longest-serving chief judge. She retired on December 31, 2008 by law requiring retirement at age 70. Mandatory retirement forced a premature end to a brilliant judicial career. Judge Kaye authored many groundbreaking decisions on subjects including state accountability to provide basic education for all; advancing gay rights in the form of allowing partners to adopt their each other's children; and turning the tide away from capital punishment by striking down provisions of a death penalty statute. After retirement as chief judge, Judge Kaye became of counsel to Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in New York.



Judge Kaye also will be remembered for reforms and innovations to New York's court system: including the repeal of automatic exemptions from jury service; improvements in court facilities; a separate commercial division devoted to business litigation; and specialized problem-solving courts to better handle domestic violence and nonviolent drug offenders. Judge Kaye endeared herself to many by fighting for increases in judicial compensation as well as for significant expansion in the number of family court judges. NAWJ saluted Judge Kaye's many accomplishments by naming her the Justice Joan Dempsey Klein Honoree of the Year in 2011.

## THE PATH TO JUDICIAL SERVICE

Judith Ann Smith was born on August 4, 1938 in Monticello, Sullivan County, New York. Her parents, Benjamin and Lena Smith, were Polish Jews who immigrated to the United States in the face of religious persecution. Young Judith began her schooling in a one-room schoolhouse in Maplewood, but in 1944 the family moved into the village of Monticello and opened a ladies' clothing store. She worked at the store from the time she was old enough to reach the countertop (about age 12) through college. While attending Monticello High School, Kaye participated on the debate team and was editor of the student newspaper. Judge Kaye graduated in 1954 at the age of 15 after having skipped two grades. She was admitted to Barnard College. Judge Kaye graduated from Barnard in 1958 with the ambition of becoming a foreign correspondent, but begun her first job as a reporter for the Hudson Dispatch, a daily newspaper in Union City, New Jersey, where she was assigned to the society page. Thinking that a law degree would enhance her chances of becoming an international reporter, Kaye entered the New York University School of Law. She took classes at night while working by day as a copy editor at a news service syndicate. Having served as an associate editor of the Law Review, and graduated in 1962 cum laude and a member of the Order of the Coif. She was one of only 10 women in a graduating class of nearly 300.

Kaye's first legal employer was the Manhattan law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell, where she worked as an associate for two years. In 1963, at Sullivan & Cromwell she met Stephen Rackow Kaye, whom she married on February 11, 1964. After leaving Sullivan & Cromwell, Kaye worked for one year in the IBM legal department in Armonk, New York. Then, while carrying, giving birth to and caring for the Kayes' three children, Luisa, Jonathan, and Gordon,

she returned to New York University where she served as a part-time assistant to Russell Niles, Dean of the School of Law. She held that position through three pregnancies, from 1965 to 1969. Kaye joined the law firm of Olwine, Connelly, Chase, O'Donnell & Weyher in 1969. Initially a part-time associate, Kaye was named the first woman partner in the firm in 1975. A commercial litigator, Kaye distinguished herself through her representation of major clients such as the Lionel Corporation, the New York Produce Exchange, Ralston Purina Co., the Singer Company and U.S. Industries in a broad range of complex cases.

The distinguished legal career of commercial litigator Judith S. Kaye took a dramatic turn in 1983. Mario Cuomo, campaigning for the office of Governor, declared his intention to appoint the first woman to the New York Court of Appeals if he were elected. Upon the retirement of Associate Judge Jacob J. Fuchsberg, Governor Mario Cuomo was presented a list of recommendations from the Commission on Judicial Selection that included two women: Betty Weinberg Ellerin, then a Supreme Court Justice and Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City courts, and a 44-year-old private practitioner named Judith Kaye. Eventually, Governor Cuomo chose Judith Kaye

## NEW YORK'S "MOTHER OF JUSTICE"

Currently, a corps of NAWJ members in New York dedicate themselves to improving the lives of women in prison. There is precedent for this commitment. Throughout Judge Kaye's career, she has dedicated herself to the concerns of families and children in and out of the courts. In addition to her efforts to improve the handling of matrimonial cases and to address domestic violence through problem-solving courts, Chief Judge Kaye emphasized efforts to better the lives of children. As Chief Judge, Kaye spearheaded efforts to secure legislation designed to improve the child welfare system and to help assure permanency in the adoption process. Working with state and local family services agencies, she strove to increase the number and speed of adoptions in New York. Perhaps most significantly, Chief Judge Kaye served as Chair of the Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children, the nation's first interdisciplinary children's commission based in the judiciary. Among the Commission's initiatives have been the creation of a statewide system of Children's Centers in the Courts, so that children brought to court by caretakers with no child care alternatives would have the benefit of a safe and educational environment. Under Kaye's leadership, the Commission worked to secure the passage of laws establishing a system of early intervention services for children with developmental disabilities. The Healthy Development Checklist, Babies Can't Wait and Education Projects provide written materials and training to help all those involved in child welfare proceedings enhance the well-being of foster children.

Judge Kaye and her husband, Stephen Rackow Kaye, had three children: Luisa Kaye Hagemeyer, Jonathan Kaye, and Gordon Kaye.

Readers may find a thorough, unedited compilation of Judith Smith Kaye's life path, along with detail of her major work as a jurist, online at the Historical Society of the New York Courts.



## ACCESS TO JUSTICE

### SPOTLIGHT IN THE FIELD: A JUDGE'S STORY

Ensuring equal access to justice has long been an important part of the mission of NAWJ. Whether our work manifests itself in efforts to improve the judiciary's ability to provide justice to victims of human trafficking, a restorative justice for juveniles that promotes shared social responsibility and accountability between offending youth and the communities in which their actions have impact, or improving language access in the courts, NAWJ remains committed to equal access to justice.

Today, a national conversation has developed around law enforcement and criminal justice reform. Hon. LaDoris Hazzard Cordell was the first black woman appointed to the bench in Northern California. Retired from Municipal Court in Santa Clara County, Judge LaDoris Cordell's experience presents an example of how one judge leveraged their experience to make an impact at those spaces where public safety meets criminal justice reform. Although Judge Cordell now heads a commission, chairing a 25-member panel charged with recommending improvements to Santa Clara County's jails, she previously served as independent auditor of a police department under scrutiny for alleged racial profiling (City of San Jose). Below is a profile of how Judge Cordell came to her position, its challenges and her accomplishments.

#### LaDoris Cordell to Step Down as Independent Police Auditor

By Jennifer Wadsworth, San Jose Inside and Metro Newspaper  
(originally published March 18, 2015)



LaDoris Cordell will retire from her post as San Jose's independent police auditor this summer, the city announced Wednesday. During her five-year term the former judge brought unprecedented accountability to the San Jose Police Department.

As the city's third IPA — the office was created in 1993 — Cordell focused on building trust between police and the public through greater transparency.

"In her time as independent police auditor, she has increased outreach to all of San Jose's communities and encouraged thoughtful discussion of policy issues at a time of national debate over public safety," Mayor Sam Liccardo said.

Her last day will be July 3. San Jose has three months to find a successor, allowing time for public input.

Cordell, 65, has used her civilian police oversight to publish detailed yearly reports about officer conduct and hand down recommendations for progressive policies about race and transparency.

"The only way to build trust in any system is transparency," she told San Jose Inside. "The more you are transparent, the more people trust you."

Though her office is limited in authority, police often voluntarily adopted her suggestions. There has always been some tension, though, as the city's police union sometimes doubted her objectivity while working with civil rights groups that have been critical of law enforcement.

"When I came here, the first thing I wanted to do was to make it clear what this office was about," she said. "The message was that we are here to make this a better police department. We are not adversarial. The way that I approached this was to do as much outreach in the police department as I did in the community."

When Cordell stepped into her role as independent auditor, the police department was under scrutiny for alleged racial profiling. She called for a policy to collect data about all detainments where people were let go without a citation or arrest, with a goal of finding out whether or not officers unfairly target minorities, in particular Latinos and African Americans.

# NAWJ 38th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 5-9, 2016  
Seattle, Washington  
Sheraton Seattle Hotel

**CONFERENCE CHAIR**  
Hon. Susan Owens

**CO-CHAIRS:**  
Justice Mary E. Fairhurst  
Chief Justice Barbara Madsen  
Justice Sheryl G. McCloud  
Justice Debra Stephens

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**  
Judge Karen Donohue  
Judge Maggie Ross

**EVENTS COMMITTEE**  
Judge Marilyn Paja

**FRIENDS COMMITTEE:**  
Ellen Dial, Esq.  
Nancy Isserlis, Esq.

**MEMBER REGISTRATION FEES:**  
\$525 First Time Attendees  
\$595 (\$550 until 5/31)

For addition fees, hotel and other information contact Conference Manager Mary-Kathleen Todd at [mtodd@nawj.org](mailto:mtodd@nawj.org).



On Jan. 1, 2014, San Jose police began taking details reports about traffic stops, documenting the person's race, age, why they were stopped and whether they were cuffed, put in a cop car or made to sit on a curb. Now that SJPD has a year's worth of those reports, the city has to find someone to objectively analyze the data.

"We need someone who can analyze this without spinning the data," Cordell said. "Then this needs to be made public."

For years, Cordell has also pushed for San Jose to equip its officers with body cameras, which could have two major effects: 1. Many people believe police check their behavior when cameras are rolling; and 2. Police and the city are better protected from unfounded complaints made by the public. SJPD is in the middle of its third body cam pilot.

When SJPD got into hot water about its close ties to the San Francisco 49ers, which hired off-duty cops for security, Cordell suggested doing away with the secondary employment program entirely. For the time being, Police Chief Larry Esquivel has suspended any side work with the club.

No doubt, Cordell's standing as Northern California's first African American female judge and a respected civil rights leader raised the profile of San Jose's IPA office.

A theater major as an undergrad, Cordell ventured into the legal field with a little uncertainty. But she soon realized that her background in performing arts equipped her well for the courtroom.

"Litigation is law and theater," she said. "As a lawyer you put on a show for your jury and you persuade them. When I became a judge, I became the producer and director. Those skills really did help."

After graduating from Stanford Law School in 1974, she established herself as the first lawyer to open a private practice in East Palo Alto, a largely African American and Mexican community. Meanwhile, as assistant dean of student affairs at her alma mater, Cordell created a minority admissions program that made the law school a national leader in enrolling students of color.

In 1982, Gov. Jerry Brown appointed her to the Municipal Court of Santa Clara County, where she became the first judge in the state to order Breathalyzers installed on cars of convicted drunk drivers. Six years later, she won a seat on the county's Superior Court. After 19 years on the bench, Cordell retired from the bench to serve eight years as vice provost and special counselor to the president of Stanford.

With every job, her goal was to leave it better than when she started.

"You go in thinking, 'This is a precious moment,'" she said. "You do everything you can to make things better. That's been who I am."

Throughout this time, she has served on various boards, won numerous awards and become sought-after for her legal opinion. Last year, with the nation reeling in the wake of Michael Brown's killing in Ferguson, Missouri, she wrote an op-ed for Slate promoting the dissolution of criminal grand juries.

"They're all secret," she told San Jose Inside. "I think it's appalling."

In retirement, Cordell plans to focus on music and art. A classically trained pianist, she will continue to work with the African American Composer Initiative, which she founded six years ago.

Cordell's first priority, however, will be to write a memoir, a personal look at her time on the bench and how it changed her.

"I came into the job at 32 years old absolutely terrified," she said. "I was the first black woman judge, which created so much pressure."

But she relished the role.

"I was ready," she says. "That robe fit."

While many judges specialize in one type of case, she worked with all kinds: civil, criminal, probate, family, juvenile, traffic, small claims and more.

During her last eight years on the bench, she ended each week by writing a letter to her parents back east. She wrote about the people who came into her courtroom, the ones changing their names or bickering over wills or facing serious life-changing charges, the tragedy and occasional comedy. She wrote about the personal impact of holding so much authority over people's lives.

"The hardest one is sentencing," she said. "Having to think about what to do with people who've done awful things, how to protect the public while showing understanding."

When Cordell retired from the bench in 2001, her mom pulled out that box of letters—hundreds of them, brimming with stories she may otherwise have forgotten—and gave them back.

"They're going to be a big help to me," she said. "That's where I'll start."

*This article published with permission of its author and publisher. For commentary and analysis by LaDoris Cordell herself, visit the online magazine Slate at [http://www.slate.com/authors/ladorris\\_cordell.html](http://www.slate.com/authors/ladorris_cordell.html)*



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# THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ANIMAL CRUELTY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

By Honorable Rachel Kretser, Albany City Criminal Court, New York



Over the past several years, a significant body of research has established a clear connection between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence, including domestic partner, elder and child abuse. Research suggests that early intervention in animal cruelty cases could ultimately protect not only pets from abuse or death, but people as well.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, our legal and social service systems—understandably preoccupied with human issues—may not give the gateway crime of animal cruelty the attention it deserves.

Historically, animal cruelty has been something of a back burner issue in the annals of criminal law. Although the Puritans enacted the first state animal cruelty statute in 1641 in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, it wasn't until 1828 that the nation's second statute — in New York — was passed.<sup>2</sup> Over the next century, every other jurisdiction followed suit and there now appears to be widespread, if not universal, acknowledgment that animal abuse is a serious matter. Still, I believe that our laws and our society have so far failed to keep pace and failed to adequately address what we now know beyond

cavil is an indicator crime, as any number of studies show.

We know that animal abusers are five times more likely than others to harm humans.<sup>3</sup> We know that in pet owning households with a history of child abuse there is an 88% incidence of animal cruelty.<sup>4</sup> We know that 71% of pet-owning women who sought shelter in a safe house reported that their partner had killed, injured or threatened to harm their pet.<sup>5</sup> We know that 69% of abused women delayed leaving the home due to fear of leaving the pet behind.<sup>6</sup> We know that half of domestic violence victims who remain in violent households do so out of fear for their pets. We know that perpetrators of domestic violence frequently harm or threaten to harm a pet to demonstrate their power and control, to isolate the victim, to perpetuate an environment of fear and intimidation, to prevent the victim from leaving or coerce her to return, and to punish the victim for leaving or showing any sign of independence.<sup>7</sup> Caseworkers in domestic violence shelters report incidents of emotional blackmail such as: “He killed the ferret just to scare us,” “He beheaded the parakeet because she was singing,” “Because I was getting home late, he put my cat in the microwave,” “I went back because he mailed me the ears of my dog that he had cut off.” Child protective workers tell us how child abusers coerce silence from their victims by threatening to harm their pets.<sup>8</sup> Animal abuse is also linked to crimes outside the home: an Australian study found that 100% of the sexual homicide perpetrators they interviewed — every single one of them — had abused animals.<sup>9</sup> One study found that 70% of animal abusers had criminal records including violent crimes, drugs, or disorderly behavior.<sup>10</sup> At this stage, we know a lot about the link between animal cruelty and violence, but have we as a society sufficiently invoked that evidence to update laws, procedures and protocols for dealing with what, at first blush, may amount to nothing more than a misdemeanor offense? I fear not.

As an Albany City Court judge handling criminal matters, I encounter such cases from time to time (although my colleague, Judge William A. Carter, is the Domestic Violence Court Judge), and have grown increasingly concerned over the connection between animal cruelty and domestic abuse. To this day in New York, animal

<sup>1</sup>Febres, Jeniimarie, et. al., Adulthood Animal Abuse Among Men Arrested for Domestic Violence, 30 Violence Against Women 1059 (2014).

<sup>2</sup>Tucker, Samantha D.E., Note: No Way to Treat Man's Best Friend: The Uncounted Injuries of Animal Cruelty Victims, 19 Animal L. 151, 154 – 155 (2012).

<sup>3</sup>Human Abuse Linked to Cruelty to Animals, available at: <http://www.peta.org/issues/companion-animal-issues/cruel-practices/human-animal-abuse/>.

<sup>4</sup>See generally, National Link Coalition, The Link between Violence to People and Violence to Animals, <http://nationallinkcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/LinkSummaryBooklet16pp.pdf> (2013).

<sup>5</sup>Marybeth Bittel, The Link between Domestic Violence & Animal Abuse, Tails Mag, April/May 2015, available at: <http://www.tailsinc.com/2015/04/the-link-between-domestic-violence-animal-abuse/>.

<sup>6</sup>See, *Supra* note 4 at 6.

<sup>7</sup>See, *Supra* note 5.

<sup>8</sup>Allie Phillips, How the Dynamics between Animal Abuse Affect the Forensic Interview Process, 1 Reasonable Efforts No. 4 (2004), <http://www.ndaa.org/reasonable-efforts/v1no4.html>.

<sup>9</sup>Animal Abuse and Human Abuse: Partners in Crime, available at: <http://www.peta.org/issues/companion-animal-issues/companion-animals-factsheets/animal-abuse-human-abuse-partners-crime/>.

<sup>10</sup>Facts about the Link between Violence to People and Violence to animals, available at: <https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/webfm/574>.

cruelty is in most instances a misdemeanor, normally punishable by no more than a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Judges presiding over these cases can only hope that the offender avails himself or herself of an anger management program that may prevent future violence against animals and human beings. But there is little a judge can do to prevent potential future crimes.

The New York Agricultural and Markets Law provides some protection against animal cruelty. It is a Class A misdemeanor in New York for any person to “overdrive, overload, torture or cruelly beat or unjustifiably injure, maim, mutilate or kill” any animal, regardless of ownership.<sup>11</sup> New York Courts have held that “cruelty to an animal includes every unjustifiable act, omission, or neglect causing pain, suffering, or death....”<sup>12</sup>

The legislature took note of the correlation between animal cruelty and violence towards humans, when it enacted the Aggravated Cruelty statute,<sup>13</sup> which provides harsher penalties for a heightened standard of cruelty.<sup>14</sup> It is a felony, punishable by up to two years in prison “to kill or cause serious physical injury to a companion animal with aggravated cruelty.”<sup>15</sup> Aggravated cruelty is defined in the statute as cruelty that is “intended to cause extreme physical pain” or is “done or carried out in an especially depraved or sadistic manner.”<sup>16</sup> Courts have begun to consider circumstances in which cruelty towards an animal reaches the level “depraved” or “sadistic.”<sup>17</sup> The Appellate Division noted, in response to defendant’s claim that the heightened level of cruelty was not warranted because death was instantaneous, that “the legislative history of the statute indicates that the crime was established in recognition of the correlation between violence against animals and subsequent violence against human beings. Thus, it must be inferred that the Legislature’s concern was with the state of mind of the perpetrator rather than that of the victim.”<sup>18</sup> This decision indicates that the heightened level of cruelty standard may be broadly interpreted and applied.

At a recent Domestic Violence Awareness Month kickoff event sponsored by the Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee, which I am privileged to chair, a diverse group of experts explored the animal cruelty/domestic violence connection and shared their experiences. Nearly 200 judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, caseworkers and law enforcement officers attended the program, gaining invaluable insight on how to secure justice for the two and four legged victims of abuse. The Gender Fairness Committee was pleased to partner with the Governor’s Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, the New York State, Albany County and Women’s Bar Associations, Legal Project, Albany Law School, and other stakeholders, in presenting this valuable seminar. Hopefully it will be a catalyst, encouraging more effective court/community responses.

Obviously, judges cannot make decisions based on concerns over what an offender may do in the future. But from both a legal and societal perspective, there are steps that can and should be taken to at least put the odds in favor of the victims and potential victims.

First, we need increased reporting and cross reporting of incidents of animal cruelty so that authorities in various disciplines — law enforcement, social service, etc. — are aware of a perpetrator’s penchant for animal abuse. If, for example, a caseworker handling domestic violence learns of animal abuse, that abuse should be reported separately and prosecuted separately. Likewise, if a caseworker in the animal welfare community learns of domestic abuse, that incident should be reported immediately as well. Domestic violence thrives on silence.

Second, we need to step up our efforts to ensure the protection of companion animals, so that a victim need not be in a position of compromising their own safety to ensure the safety of a beloved pet. The Mohawk Hudson Humane Society has a “foster” program established in conjunction with local domestic violence shelters.<sup>19</sup> Similar programs have been established in other parts of the state. These programs enable victims to leave their abuser, knowing that their pets will be safe and cared for until they find new housing.

And finally, in appropriate cases, we in the judiciary need to issue orders protecting pets and/or removing pets from abusive owners. Legislation authorizing such orders of protection was passed several years ago.<sup>20</sup>

But the first step is awareness by all of the participants in the social service and criminal justice systems that animal abuse is a gateway crime, and that what may at first appear to be a garden variety nuisance offense could be the tip of a much more insidious and sinister iceberg.

<sup>11</sup>NY CLS Agr & M § 353

<sup>12</sup>See e.g., *People v. O’Rourke*, 369 N.Y.S.2d 335, 340 (N.Y. City Crim. Ct. 1975); *People v. Sitors*, 12 Misc. 3d 928 (N.Y. County Ct. 2006).

<sup>13</sup>*People v. Garcia*, 29 A.D.3d 255, 261 (N.Y. App. Div. 1st Dep’t 2006).

<sup>14</sup>NY CLS Agr & M § 353 a.

<sup>15</sup>NY CLS Agr & M § 350

<sup>16</sup>See, *Supra* note 14.

<sup>17</sup>See e.g., *People v. Augustine*, 89 A.D.3d 1238 (N.Y. App. Div. 3d Dep’t 2011) (where the court held that “five shots to the head of a healthy dog when any one of those shots would have been fatal qualifies as conduct “carried out in an especially depraved or sadistic manner”).

<sup>18</sup>See, *Infra* note 20.

<sup>19</sup>MHHS, Safe Haven Information, available at: <http://www.mohawkhumane.org/safehaven.html>.

<sup>20</sup>N.Y. CPL §530.12(6)(a); NY CPL §530.13 (I)(C).

## DISTRICT NEWS

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**District One (MA, ME, RI, NH, PR)**  
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Boston Housing Court  
Massachusetts

**District Two (NY, CT, VT)**  
Hon. Cheryl J. Gonzales  
Civil Court, Housing Part  
New York

**District Three (NJ, PA, DE, VI)**  
Hon. Kathryn Hens-Greco  
Allegheny County Court of Pleas  
Pennsylvania

**District Four (MD, DC, VA)**  
Hon. Heidi M. Pasichow  
Superior Court of the District of  
Columbia

**District Five (FL, GA, NC, SC)**  
Hon. Diana S. Eagon, Retired  
Hennepin County District Court  
Nokomis, Florida

**District Six (AL, LA, MS, TN)**  
Hon. Bernadette G. D'Souza  
Orleans Civil District Court  
Louisiana

**District Seven (MI, OH, WV)**  
Hon. Katherine L. Hansen  
36th District Court, Michigan

**District Eight (IN, IL, KY)**  
Hon. Jane Spencer Craney  
Morgan Superior Court 3  
Indiana

**District Nine (MO, IA, WI)**  
Hon. Ellen Levy Siwak  
21st Judicial Circuit, Division 11  
Missouri

**District Ten (KS, MN, NE, ND, SD)**  
Hon. Trish Rose  
27th Judicial District, Division 1  
Kansas

**District Eleven (TX, AR, OK)**  
Hon. Rebeca Martinez  
Fourth Court of Appeals, Texas

**District Twelve (AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY)**  
Hon. Terry Fox  
Colorado Court of Appeals

**District Thirteen (WA, OR, AK, HI, ID, MT)**  
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## DISTRICT ONE (MA,ME,NH,PR,RI)

District One hosted a reception honoring the newly appointed and newly elevated women judges on September 30, 2015, at the social law library in the Adams courthouse. The Lieutenant Governor Karyn E. Polito was the keynote speaker. A slide show of NAWJ events (and District One members) was shown throughout the reception and a good time was had by all.

## DISTRICT TWO (CT,NY,VT)

### CONNECTICUT

#### Honoring United States District Court Judge Ellen Bree Burns





**On June 23, 2015**, Hon. E. Jeanette Ogden and Hon. Shirley Troutman report that a NAWJ Membership Luncheon was held at the Erie County Supreme Court Ceremonial Courtroom in the 8th Judicial District. Justice Ogden is the Upstate NYNAWJ District 2 Chair and facilitates a holiday project at Albion Correctional Facility for Women.



(l-r): NYS Supreme Court Justices Shirley Troutman, E. Jeannette Ogden, Deborah A. Chimes, Family Court Judges Lisa Bloch-Rodwin, Deanne M. Tripi, NYS Supreme Court Justice Catherine Nugent Panepinto, Buffalo City Court Judge JaHarr Pridgen.

**On June 24, 2015**, Hon. Shirley Troutman reports that NAWJ, in association with the Women in the Courts – 8th Judicial District Gender & Racial Fairness Committee, held its Lamplighter Award Luncheon to recognize women who, through determination and personal achievement, are examples of “Lady Justice”, lighting the way to equality and justice throughout western New York. Among this year’s honorees were Erie County Family Court Justice Rose Bailey, retired, Erie County Family Court Support Magistrate Judge Lenora B. Foote; Allegany and Wyoming County Family Court Support Magistrate Judge Beth A. Farwell and Hon. Madge T. Taggart, First Woman Judge Elected to both the City Court of Buffalo, NY as well as the Family Court of Erie County, NY.



Row 1 (l-r): NYS Supreme Court Attorney Referee Mary Louise Hayden, Regional Director NYS Div. of Human Rights Tasha E. Moore; Row 2 (l-r): Grace M. Hanlon, Executive Director Bar Association of Erie County Katherine S. Bifaro, NY Support Magistrate Judge Lenora B. Foote; Row 3 (l-r): Retired Erie County Family Court Judge Rosalie S. Bailey, Allegany and Wyoming County Family Court Support Magistrate Judge Beth A. Farwell, Erie County Family Court Attorney Referee Tracey A. Kassman.

**On September 16, 2015**, Judge Cenceria P. Edwards welcomed the guests to the Metropolitan Black Bar Association (MBBA) and Judicial Friends program celebrating of the “50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and 150th Year of Juneteenth” in the ceremonial courtroom of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. The event was moderated by Judge Edwards and Errol Louis of NY1. Panelists, including Hon. Denny Chin, U.S. Court of Appeals 2nd Circuit, Hon. Patricia Gatling, New York State Deputy Secretary for Civil Rights, President Marc Morial of the National Urban League and Hon. Paul Wooten of the New York State Supreme Court. Judges in attendance included former NAWJ President and current President of the Judicial Friends La Tia Martin, NY NAWJ Women in Prison Chair Cheryl J. Gonzales, NAWJ District 2 Director Betty J. Williams, Antonio Brandveen, Deborah Dowling, Yvonne Lewis; Craig Walker, J. Machel Sweeting, Genine Edwards, Robin K. Sheares, Theresa M. Ciccotto, Pamela K. Chen.



(l-r): James R. Ray III, Hon. La Tia Martin, Hon. Deborah Dowling, Hon. Cenceria P. Edwards (in orange), Hon. Yvonne Lewis (standing in front), Hon. Craig Walker, Hon. J. Machel Sweeting, Hon. Genine Edwards and Hon. Antonio Brandveen.



**On September 17, 2015**, NAWJ members and Judicial Friends were invited to attend “The Life and Work of Judge Motley, 1921-2005” at the Daniel Patrick Moynihan US Courthouse Ceremonial Courtroom in New York County. The program featured a special showing of the new film, premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival “The Trials of Constance Baker Motley”, produced by Joel Motley. The film

presentation was followed by a discussion of Judge Motley’s judicial career with panelist Senior US District Judge Anne E. Thompson, US District Judge Laura Taylor Swain, Judge Abraham D. Sofaer (video), Harvard University Professor and Biographer Tomiko Brown-Nagin and Judge Motley’s son Joel Motley. Judges Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson, Cheryl J. Gonzales and Betty J. Williams attended the Continuing Legal Education Program “What Judges and Lawyers Can Learn From Judge Constance Baker Motley’s Life and Work” and the reception that followed the program. NAWJ and Judicial Friends members were invited to attend the US District Court, Southern District of NY Courthouse to celebrate its 25th Anniversary (now 226th) 1789-2014. (Pictured *Hon. Constance Baker Motley (1921-2005)*)

**On September 24, 2015**, Justice Evelyn J. Laporte was honored at the Third Annual Kings County Family Court Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. Justice LaPorte was elected to the New York State Supreme Court in November 2014 and is currently assigned to the trial part in Criminal Term, Kings County. Justice LaPorte received an undergraduate and master’s degree from John Jay College. She earned a J.D. from Antioch School of Law. Justice LaPorte remarked that “Sometimes on your journey to accomplish your dream, you get lost and get a better dream – and that’s exactly what happened to me”, Laporte said. “If any of you are doubting your dream, go after it with a passion, and don’t be afraid to try something different.



Justice Evelyn J. Laporte (left) was presented with a certificate by Supervising Judge Amanda White during the Kings County Family Court Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. Hon. Jacqueline D. Williams is in the background.

“From one conversation, you’ll realize that Justice LaPorte represents all of that”, Hon. Jacqueline D. Williams said. “Her personal story [of] arriving here from Puerto Rico, her efforts in obtaining her education, to her work experience over the years, her practice as an assistant district attorney,

her introduction to the bench as an elected civil court judge to her ultimate rise to the supreme court reflect her determination, her spirit and her commitment to the legal process.” “Without a doubt, from the early days of American history, Latinos have played an important role in shaping our nation”, said Supervising Judge Amanda White. “It is an honor to be able to celebrate such a rich heritage at such an event. We’re proud that our court also reflects this diversity within our ranks in our judges, our court attorneys, our court officers, our clerks. So many of our court staff are advocates.”

### **DISTRICT TWO EVENT HONORING UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE ELLEN BREE BURNS**

**On September 26, 2015**, Hon. Mary Sommer reports: District Two honored the achievements of Judge Ellen Bree Burns who retired in March after 37 years of service as a federal judge for the District of Connecticut. Seventy eight federal and state judicial colleagues and law clerks along with lawyers, family and friends of Judge Burns gathered at The Graduate Club in New Haven, Connecticut to pay tribute to the many “firsts” in her long career that paved the way for female judges in the district. Keynote comments from NAWJ President Julie Frantz, described how then Ellen Burns chose a career in law over her love of acting, graduating from Yale University Law School in 1947. Judge Frantz aptly termed Judge Burns’ judicial achievements a “perfect trifecta”, as the first female state Superior Court judge appointed in 1976, followed by her appointment as Connecticut’s first female District Court judge in 1978 and its first female Chief Federal Judge in 1988. Judge Burns is universally regarded as an exemplary judge, mentor, role model and inspiration for women in the bar, on the bench and in public service. The Honorable Chase T. Rogers, Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, thanked Judge Burns on behalf of the state judiciary noting that she opened doors for them first. Connecticut District Chief Judge Janet Hall moderated an informal recollection of highlights of Judge Burns’ career with Judges Janet Arterton and Fitzsimmons and former clerk Leslie Davenport. It was clear from their comments that Judge Burns personifies the mission and goals of the NAWJ. The NAWJ presented an engraved crystal vase to Judge Burns. In addition, the Friends of Judge Burns made a donation in her honor to the Ellen Bree Burns Scholarship Award For Academic Excellence Fund at Albertus Magnus College. Hon. Cheryl J. Gonzales and Hon. Kathy J. King, NY WIP Chair and NAWJNY Chapter President respectively attended the event. The planning committee included Judges Mary Sommer, Colleen Brown, E. Jeannette Ogden, Betty J. Williams.

### **Honoring United States District Court Judge Ellen Bree Burns**

**On September 26, 2015**, District Two honored the achievements of Judge Ellen Bree Burns who retired in March, 2016 after 37 years of service as a federal judge for the District of Connecticut. Seventy-eight federal and state judicial colleagues, and law clerks along with lawyers, family and friends of Judge Burns, gathered at The Graduate Club in New Haven, Connecticut to pay tribute to the many “firsts” in a long career that paved the way for female judges in the District. Keynote comments from then NAWJ President Judge Julie Frantz, described how then

Ellen Burns chose a career in law over her love of acting, graduating from Yale University Law School in 1947. Judge Frantz aptly termed Judge Burns’ judicial achievements a “perfect trifecta”, as the first female state Superior Court judge appointed in 1776, followed by an appointment as Connecticut’s first female District Court judge in 1978, and then as its first female Chief Judge in 1988. Judge Burns is universally regarded as an exemplary judge, mentor, role model and inspiration for women in the bar, on the bench and in public service. The Honorable Chase T. Rogers, Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, thanked Judge Burns on behalf of the state judiciary noting that she opened doors for them. Connecticut’s United States District Court Chief Judge Janet Hall moderated an informal recollection of highlights of Judge Burns’ career with Judges Janet Arterton and Holly Fitzsimmons, and former clerk Leslie Davenport. It was clear from their comments that Judge Burns personifies the mission and goals of the NAWJ, which presented Judge Burns with an engraved crystal vase. In addition, Friends of Judge Burns made a donation in her honor to the Ellen Bree Burns Scholarship Award For Academic Excellence Fund at Albertus Magnus College. NAWJ New York Chapter, President Justice Kathy J. King presented the District Two Access To Justice Award to Quinn Nicole Rapp-Ellis at the event.



(l-r): Quinn Nicole Rapp-Ellis, Judges Kathy J. King, Mary Sommer, Judge Ellen Bree Burns (seated in front)



**On September 27-30, 2015**, Hon. Colleen A. Brown, Vermont NAWJ District 2 State Chair and Bankruptcy Judge for the US Bankruptcy Court in Vermont attended the 2015 Annual Conference of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) at the Fontainebleau Miami Beach, Florida. Judge Brown as the Chair of the NCBJ National Association of Women Judges Liaison Committee

has been actively working to increase NAWJ membership among federal judges. Also attending were NAWJ President Hon. Julie E. Frantz and incoming President Hon. Lisa Walsh. Report of the conference activities will follow in the next *Counterbalance*.

**Career Closet/Mentoring Program New York Chapter, WNY District**

**On October 6, 2015**, as reported by Hon. Shirley Troutman: a program was held entitled “Transformation from Student to Attorney at Law” at the State University at Buffalo Law School. The program was designed to assist female law students with navigating the transition from law school to practicing attorney, and it featured the launching of a Career Closet containing donated professional clothing. The program provided the law students with an opportunity to network with judges and lawyers. Additionally, included as a part of the program was an panel discussion featuring New York Supreme Court Justices: Shirley Troutman, Donna Siwek, Penny Wolfgang and Erie County Family Court Support Magistrate Lenora Foote Beavers; who shared their views on professional attire and information regarding their career paths.

The idea for the Career Closet was initiated because of a concern that female law students were presenting themselves at interviews and law school competitions in an inappropriate manner given inadequate financial resources and, in some instances, a lack of knowledge regarding appropriate professional attire. The program was a resounding success resulting in students receiving new and gently used clothing that was appropriate for the needs of each beneficiary. The success of the program was due to the work of Supreme Court Justices Shirley Troutman and Tracey Bannister and Lisa Mueller, Esq., Vice Dean for Legal Information Services at the University at Buffalo Law School.



(l-r): Hon. Donna Siwek, Hon. Tracey Bannister, Hon. Penny Wolfgang, Leonra Foote-Beavers Esq., Hon. Shirley Troutman



(l-r): Hon. Shirley Troutman, Hon. Penny Wolfgang, Michael Daumen Esq.



(l-r) Hon. Shirley Troutman speaking to students during reception; Stephanie Barber Esq. speaking with Law Student; Law Students

**On October 23, 2015**, Judges Betty J. Williams and Cheryl J. Gonzales were invited to the filming of a live performance of *Anne & Emmett* by playwright Janet Langhart Cohen at the MIST Theater, Harlem, New York. In her remarks following the performance, Ms. Langhart Cohen acknowledged that the NAWJ District 2 production of *Anne & Emmett*, attended by New York City Police Commissioner William Bratton, served as a catalyst for Commissioner Bratton to include the production in the training modules for the incoming 1100 plus New York City Police Officers. On October 20, 2015, Ms. Langhart Cohen and Police Commissioner Bratton were guests on “Morning Joe”. Commissioner Bratton and Ms. Langhart shared that *Anne & Emmett* was going to be presented to the NY Police Department incoming class of Police Officers on Wednesday, October 21 and Thursday, October 22, 2015. Commissioner Bratton indicated he had attended the presentation in NY (March 5, 2015 NAWJ District 2 *Anne & Emmett* Women History Month) AND WAS INSPIRED TO PRESENT THE PLAY TO THE New Police Officers. Judge Collen Brown advised on October 22, 2015, that the report of the Police Officers *Anne & Emmett* performance “got such great coverage on NPR”, National Public Radio.

**On October 27, 2015**, Honorable Michelle Armstrong was appointed Supervising Judge, New York City Criminal Court, Queens County effective January 1, 2016. Judge Armstrong will follow Justice Deborah Stevens-Modica who will begin a new assignment in the Supreme Court, Criminal Term. Judge Armstrong was appointed as an interim Civil Court Judge in September 2011 and has been serving in Queens Criminal Court. She is a graduate of Hampton University and received her law degree from George Washington University. Judge Armstrong was a Kings County District Attorney for 11 years and held various positions in the District Attorney’s Office during her service including Executive Assistant to the District Attorney.

Judge Armstrong successfully facilitated the National Association of Women Judges Color of Justice program in Queens County in 2014 and 2015.

### Hon. Michelle Armstrong



**On October 29, 2015**, Kings County Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Court celebrated its 10th anniversary in Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Presided over by Hon. Patricia E. Henry and Hon. Esther M. Morgenstern, the two courts hear criminal, family and matrimonial actions when there is domestic violence. Judge Morgenstern said “The one family, one judge model

has been a major success around the state. We have been recognized and are the recipient of a Mentor Court Grant from the U.S. State Department for all of the work that we do here.” More than 100 guests attended the ceremony, which included Hon. Matthew D’Emic, Hon. Deborah Kaplan, Hon. Jeanette Ruiz, District Attorney Ken Thompson, Hon. Judy Harris Kluger.

In her keynote speech, Judge Judy Harris Kluger explained that while the statistics can be daunting, society has come a long way with how it deals with domestic violence, and said that courts like Kings County IDV part are helping to lead the way.

Congratulations to the Hon. Jeanette Ruiz, Administrative Judge of New York City Family Court, who attended the event. Judge Ruiz’s appointment was announced on October 8, 2015, by Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks. Judge Ruiz succeeds Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson, who will remain on the Family Court bench, and has over 20 years of experience in child welfare. She is a former social worker, litigator and city official. Judge Ruiz was initially appointed to the New York City Civil Court in 2007 and subsequently appointed to the New York City Family Court bench in 2008.



(l-r): Hon. Esther M. Morgenstern, Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, Hon. Patricia E. Henry, Hon. Deborah Kaplan and Hon. Jeanette Ruiz were on hand to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Brooklyn’s Integrated Domestic Violence Court.

**On November 2, 2015**, Former Associate Justice of New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Darcel D. Clark was elected Bronx County, District Attorney. She was elected to New York State Supreme Court, Bronx County November 2005 following appointment to Criminal Court City of New York, April 1999. Former Justice Clark



is a graduate of Howard University Law School and Boston College. Prior experience include Chief Assistant District Attorney, Criminal Court Bureau, Supervising Assistant District Attorney, Narcotics Bureau and Assistant District Attorney, Criminal Court Bureau, all in the Bronx District Attorney's Office. She also served as President Elect and Vice President of the NAWJ New York Chapter from 2011-2013 and is a member of the Boston College Board of Trustees and Academic Affairs Committee. Former Justice Clark is featured in January 2016 Essence Magazine.

**Former Associate Justice Darcel D. Clark**



**On November 5, 2015,** The Tribune Society, Inc. of New York State Courts honored Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals, Shelia Abdus-Salaam, Acting Supreme Court Justice, Robin K. Sheares and President of New York State Court Clerks Association, Pamela Browne at The Tribune Society's 47th Anniversary Awards Dinner Dance, Marina Del Rey, in the Bronx. Supreme Court Justice

Deborah Dowling was the Mistress of Ceremony and presented the award to her former law clerk, Hon. Robin Sheares. Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam was unable to attend because of a prior commitment. The Tribune Society's objective is to "improve the administration of justice and ensure equal opportunity for all who work in or whom the New York Unified Court System serves."



(l-r)Tribune Society President Major Ernest Owens presenting the Tribune Society, Inc., Alphonse B. Deal Award to the Hon. Robin K. Sheares, with the Hon. Deborah Dowling, Mistress of Ceremony

**On November 24, 2015,** Hon. Bernice D. Siegal NYNAWJ former Board Member NAWJ New York Chapter reports that the Queens County Women's Bar Association (QCWBA) held its Annual Judiciary Night at the Queens Theater in the Park. Hon. Sheri S. Roman Chair NAWJ AD-HOC Committee, Website Improvement, was the keynote speaker and was joined by the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department Randall T. Eng.

Judge Siegal was the co-chair of this Annual Judiciary Night of the QCWBA where the women judges of the Appellate Division, Second Department were honored. Justice Roman completed the Website Improvement recommendations in 2015.



(l-r) standing: Lourdes Ventura, President QCWBA with Justices Sylvia Q. Hinds-Radix, Jeffrey A. Cohen, Leonard B. Austin, Bernice D. Siegal, Sheri S. Roman, Colleen Duffy, Betsy Barros

(l-r) seated: Justices Ruth Balkin, Jenny Rivera, Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals; Presiding Justice Randall T. Eng, Cheryl E. Chambers, L. Priscilla Hall



Hon. Marguerite Grays, Secretary, NY Chapter and Hon. Bernice D. Siegal, co-chair Judiciary Night, congratulate Justice Phyllis Orlikoff Flug, past director of Region Two, on a long and laudable career on the bench, pictured with Lourdes Ventura, President, Queens County Women's Bar Association and Louise Derevlany, Co-chair Judiciary Night.

**On December 1, 2015,** New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo announced Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore as New York State Court of Appeals "Chief Judge" succeeding Justice Jonathan Lippman who will retire on December 31, 2015. Justice Lippman succeeded NAWJ Resource Board Member, Justice Judith S. Kaye. Governor Cuomo in the statement that accompanied the announcement of Hon. DiFiore's nomination, "she has served as both judge and prosecutor, and has spent her career working to ensure justice and fairness to New York"; and has led crucial reform efforts to make our judicial system more effective and efficient and I am confident that she would continue this leadership on the Courts of Appeals." Justice DiFiore is endorsed and welcomed by prosecutors, defense attorneys and civil practitioner alike for her administrative experience, integrity and temperament.

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Previous judicial experience include Supreme Court Justice and Westchester County Court Judge. As a County Judge, she sat by designation in Family, Surrogate's and Supreme Court matters. Prospective Chief Justice DiFiore holds a law degree from St. John's University and an undergraduate degree from C.W. Post College of Long Island University. CONGRATULATIONS.

### Hon. Janet DiFiore



**On December 2, 2015**, a retirement luncheon for Hon. Yvonne Lewis, Supreme Court Justice was held at the Kings County Surrogates Courtroom. The celebration was attended by over two hundred guest including Justice Lewis' family members. The speakers cited Justice Lewis "ground breaking career, her commitment to diversity and justice, her community service and her continuously mentoring judges, attorneys and students. Justice Lewis retirement is effective December 31, 2015. All wished her farewell, "celebrating her retirement and legacy of our dear colleague, mentor and friend."

**On December 2, 2015**, The Foundation for the Judicial Friends, Inc. honored Hon. Rose Sconiers, Retired Justice, Appellate Division 4th Department, Supreme Court Justice Yvonne Lewis and Hon. Milton Tingling, New York County Clerk at the 34th Annual Rivers, Toney, Watson Dinner Dance at the New York Botanical Gardens, Bronx, New York. The event was attended by over 300 judges, attorneys and members of the legal community. Justice LaTia Martin, President of the Judicial Friends presented the awards and Justice Juanita Bing Newton was the mistress of ceremony. The Judicial Friends annually supports NY NAWJ Women in Prison and Beyond the Bars Holiday Program with gifts and movie passes for the incarcerated Taconic women's children that were donated at this event. Justice Martin, along with NAWJ members Justices Sylvia Hinds-Radix, Ruth Shillingford and Judge Erika Edwards, were installed as President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and Secretary, respectively on October 1, 2015.



(l-r): Hon. Ruth Shillingford, Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam, Hon. LaTia Martin, Hon. Craig Walker, Hon. Erika Edwards, Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix.

**On December 8, 2015**, a reception to welcome the new members of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, which strives to promote racial and ethnic fairness in the courts, was held in the rotunda of State Supreme Court, New York County. Albany Family Court Judge Richard Rivera, who is not pictured, also newly joined the commission, which strives to promote racial and ethnic fairness in the courts. CONGRATULATIONS to NAWJ members, Hon. Barbara Kapnick and Judge Joanne Quinones.



(l-r): Buffalo Family Court Magistrate Lenora Foote and Buffalo City Court Judge Craig Hannah were among the new members recognized by Appellate Division, First Department, Justice Barbara Kapnick and Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman. Also welcomed were Appellate Term, First Department, Justice Richard Lowe III as chairman and Appellate Term, Second Department Chief Clerk Paul Kenny and Brooklyn Criminal Court Judge Joanne Quinones as new members.

**On December 8, 2015**, NAWJ Chapter Annual Holiday Party "Women Judges for an Evening of Collegiality and Cheer" was held at the New York Surrogates Court in New York County. Surrogate Rita Melia welcomed the judges who celebrated another successful year as NAWJ NY Chapter President Justice Kathy J. King listed some of the 2015 programs/projects including: Mentorjet, Judicial Mentoring, Color of Justice, Women's History Month production of Anne & Emmett. Justice King, thanked Surrogate Melia and the judges that contributed to the success of the NAWJ 2015 programs stating "our success is due to you and your commitment to the organization." Membership applications and copies of Counterbalance were displayed and Justice King encouraged judges and attorneys present to either join or renew memberships. She also announced the International Judges Conference and Annual NAWJ Conference as well as the NAWJ NY Annual January 29, 2016, meeting at the NY6 Hilton. Judge Harriet Thompson planned the Holiday Party. Outgoing NAWJ District 2 Director and Co-Chair of Women In Prison Committee Justice Betty J. Williams thanked the judges for contributing to the 2015 Beyond the Bars Holiday program and reminded the judges of NAWJ's continued support of the relocation to Connecticut of the detained women at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn and support of the 2015 Anit-Shackling Bill. Beyond the Bars gifts including movie passes, were donated at the Holiday Party for the children, grandchildren and women at Taconic Correctional Facility for Women.



Hon. Kathy J. King and Hon. Betty J. Williams



(l-r): Hon. Joanne Quinones, Hon. Kathy King, Hon. Margarita Lopez Torres, Hon. Rita Mella, Hon. Marcy Kahn and Hon. Jenny Rivera



(l-r): Hon. Sarah Krauss, Hon. Devin P. Cohen, Hon. Ingrid Joseph, Hon. Betty J. Williams, Hon. Theresa M. Ciccotto and Attorney Ally Ogar



(l-r): Hon. Sherry Heitler and Hon. Kathy J. King

**On December 9, 2015**, Brooklyn Women Bar Association (BWBA) and NAWJ members Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix, Hon. Ruth Shillingford, Hon. Joanne Quinones, Hon. Kathy J. King and Hon. Sarah L. Krauss celebrated the BWBA Women’s Bar Shelter Project at the Brooklyn Bar Association. BWBA has supported the New York NAWJ WIP holiday program since

2001 when retired Judge Sarah L. Krauss facilitated the project at Bayview Correctional Facility for Women. BWBA’s Women’s Bar Shelter Project started in 2008, supports the Safe Home Project. The shelter project provides “women and children who are victims of family violence and abuse... safe haven” and toys and gifts to the children, similar to the NYNAWJ WIP program.



(l-r): Sara J. Gozo, Helene Blank, Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix, Hon. Sarah L. Krauss and Holly Peck; Hon. Ruth E. Shillingford and Brooklyn Brandeis Society President Hon. Miriam Cyrulnik



**On June 1, 2015**, Judge Cheryl J. Gonzales, NAWJ District 2 Director and NY NAWJ Women in Prison Chairperson, was appointed Supervising Judge in New York City Housing Court, New York County. When Justice Betty J. Williams nominated Judge Gonzales for an NAWJ 2015 Award, she stated the following:

Judge Gonzales has either participated in or facilitated the Beyond the Bars (BB) Holiday Program from its inception in December 2000 to present, including the Holiday Gift for the children/grandchildren of incarcerated women from 2009 to present. Judge Gonzales annually co-sponsors the Pizza Party and participates in assembling the BB HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS for the incarcerated women; She has coordinated and facilitated motivational workshops and seminars on Housing, Parole, Financial Literacy, Employment, Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Conviction at NY State Women Correctional facilities; Collaborated with the NY State Family Court and New York County Lawyers Bar Association in in planning and co-sponsoring Continuing Legal Education Class on Human and Sex Trafficking.

Judge Gonzales facilitated and contributed to the clothing, Tote Bag, and book Drive, resulting in upgrading the Taconic Correctional Facility for Women library; recently establishing a Book Wish List on amazon.com for Taconic Library (see Women in Prison report). She has served as a Judge panelist at the NYNAWJ Color of Justice Program, the NY MentorJet Program, NYNAWJ From the Bar to

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the Bench Program, and continuously participate as a judge panelist in educating the Community about the NY State Court System sponsored by churches and community based organizations.

Judge Gonzales participated and contributed to the 2015 NAWJ District 2 Women History Month Program "Anne & Emmett" production and was the 2013 NYNAWJ Award recipient for her contributions to NAWJ Women in Prison Programs. She is a Board Member of The Judicial Friends and the Metropolitan Black Bar Association. Judge Gonzales initiated and scheduled the March 20, 2015, Judges Visit To The Metropolitan Federal Detention Center In Brooklyn, New York, To Follow Up On The Relocation Of Incarcerated Women From Danbury, Connecticut.

**CONGRATULATIONS, Judge Gonzales on your new appointment as Supervising Judge and NAWJ DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR (NY, VT, CT).**



Hon. Cheryl J. Gonzales

### NEW YORK STATE JUDGES APPOINTED, RE-APPOINTED, ELECTED AND RE-ELECTED 2015

Tanya R. Kennedy	Supreme Court, NY County
Arlene Bluth	Supreme Court, NY County
Barbara Kapnick*	Supreme Court, NY County
Genine D. Edwards	Supreme Court, Kings County
Pamela L. Fisher	Supreme Court, Kings County
Debra Silber County	Supreme Court, Kings County
Sallie Manzanette Daniels*	Supreme Court, Bronx County
Diane Renwick*	Supreme Court, Bronx County
Lizbeth Gonzalez	Supreme Court, Bronx County
Ta-Tanisha James	Civil Court, NY County
Lisa Headley	Civil Court, NY County
Carolyn Walker-Diallo	Civil Court, Kings County

Lorna McAllister	Civil Court, Kings County
Dweynie Paul	Civil Court, Kings County
Marsha Michael	Civil Court, Bronx County
Laurentina McKetney-Butler	Civil Court, Queens County
Marian Rose Tinari	Civil Court, Nassau County
Susan Cacace	Civil Court, Westchester County
Helen M. Blackwood	Civil Court, Mount Vernon County
Shelia A. DiTullio	Civil Court, Erie County
Bernadette Black	Housing Court, NY County
Jeanine Kuzniewski	Housing Court, Kings County
Evon Asforis	Housing Court, Bronx County

\*Re-Elected

**Congratulations to the following judges who were appointed to the Appellate Division by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo on February 18, 2016.**

In the **Appellate Division 1st Department**: Honorable Ellen Gesmer; Honorable Marcy Kahn; and Honorable Troy Webber

In the **Appellate Division 2nd Department**: Honorable Francesca Connelly and Honorable Valerie Brathwaite Nelson

In the **Appellate Division 3rd Department**: Honorable Sharon Aarons

In the **Appellate Division 4th Department**: Honorable Shirley Troutman

**Former NAWJ President Judge La Tia W Martin sworn in as President of the Judicial Friends by New York State Court of Appeals Judge Sheila Abdus Salaam**



New York NAWJ Annual Dinner, June 6, 2015



**DISTRICT FOUR (DC,MD,VA)**

Please welcome the following officers as District representatives. Judge Heidi Pasichow - District Director; Judge Tracey Parker Warren – Vice President; Judge Marilynn Goss – Secretary; and Judge Caryn Hines – Treasurer.

**District Leadership Conference and Edna Parker Award Ceremony**

District Four held a Leadership Conference in October 30-31, 2015. The Conference kicked off with a reception Friday evening at which we will recognize new members and newly elevated members. Saturday’s programming started with a Breakfast Plenary featuring the documentary “Behind Closed Doors: Trauma Survivors and the Psychiatric System,” and the subject of the award winning film “Healing Neen.” After surviving a childhood of unspeakable sexual abuse, unrelenting violence, and betrayal by systems that were charged with helping, Ms. Tonier Cain stands before her audiences today, a testimony to the resiliency of the human spirit exemplifying the innate human instinct to survive.

Our Saturday seminars focused on Elder Law, addressing issues many of us face with aging parents, such as navigating Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare and Insurance limitations. The second seminar focused on issues associated with Immigrant Trauma Victims, which often arise in CINA, Custody and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status cases. Program titles included: “Law & Aging: Navigating Medicare, Medicaid & Social Security”, “Impact of Trauma on the Developing Child”, “Law & Aging: Preparing for the Road Ahead”, “Traumatic Adaptations in Criminal Justice”, and “Surviving Trauma and the Criminal Justice System.” The Conference concluded with the Edna Parker Awards Luncheon in which we will award and recognize U.S. 4th Circuit Court Judge Barbara Keenan who is one of the few jurists who has served at all levels of the Virginia Judiciary. Her dedicated service spans over 30 years, including active participation in NAWJ. The award is named after Judge Edna Parker who was a founding member of NAWJ and a member of the U.S. Tax Court, appointed by President Carter, and served as District 4 Director until her sudden death. District 4 presents this award bi-annually to a deserving awardee who has demonstrated leadership, devoted service, commitment to improving or furthering the cause of justice. Judge Keenan is certainly deserving of this award.

**The 2015 Leadership Conference Planning Committee** included Chair, Judge Sherrie L. Krauser (Retired), Judge Claudia Barber, Ashley A. Bosché, Esq., Judge Robin Bright, Chief Judge Constance Frogale, Judge Marilyn Goss, Judge Caryn L. Hines, Judge Marcella Holland (Retired), Judge Karen M. Jensen, Judge Judith A. Kline, Judge Beverly Nash, Michelle R. Parker, Esq., and Judge Heidi M. Pasichow.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



District of Columbia Superior Court Associate Judge Heidi M. Pasichow and Mr. Willie Agosto, Director of the Domestic Violence Unit met with a **delegation of women prosecutors from Pakistan’s four provinces**. In the

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absence of both a criminal and civil code tailored to address allegations of domestic violence in Pakistan, the visitors focused the discussion on how the Superior Court handles the more than 5000 civil protection order petitions and the more than 2900 DV misdemeanor cases filed annually in the District of Columbia Superior Court DV Unit in recent years. Both sides found the information exchange fascinating. The delegation's visit was coordinated by the U.S. Justice Department.

**The Family Court of the District of Columbia Superior Court held its 13th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference** at the end of October. The focus of the conference was how traumatic exposures, especially during childhood, can challenge behaviors in relationships, lead to disengagement in school, facilitate entry into the justice system, and have poor health outcomes. The participants learned about defense mechanisms that impact adaptive behaviors that push victims away from safer influences and environments. The presentations also described how efforts in schools, social service agencies, the courts and allied systems that have become more trauma-informed during contact with children, youth and families can positively impact trauma recovery and achieve successful outcomes.

On November 13, the **Superior Court of the District of Columbia and the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center** will hold a training session for attorneys who are interested in volunteering with the **D.C. Family Court Self-Help Center**. The Self-Help Center is a free walk-in service that provides unrepresented individuals with general legal information on family law matters, including legal options, forms to complete, how to navigate the court process, and referrals to other helpful programs and clinics. The training is a great opportunity for attorneys to learn how to better assist pro se litigants in the Domestic Relations and Paternity and Support Branches of the D.C. Superior Court's Family Court. The session will include an overview of D.C. family law and the operations of the Self-Help Center, frequently asked questions on divorce, custody, and child support cases; and the difference between giving legal information and giving legal advice. Trainees will be asked to commit to volunteering at the Family Court Self-Help Center within six months of completing the training, either in morning or afternoon shifts. The training takes place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first floor of the D.C. Bar Conference Center located at 1101 K Street NW, Washington, DC. For more information contact Pro Bon Center at 202-626-3489 or visit [www.dcbbar.org](http://www.dcbbar.org), keywords: Pro Bono.

### VIRGINIA

The VAWJ Chapter met for its annual meeting in Norfolk, VA and elected new officers. Judge Ellen White is Chair of the Nominating Committee. VAWJ concluded its bi-annual \$1,000 scholarship competition with the awards luncheon on May 2, 2015 at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond, VA. The Virginia Chapter presented a **\$1000 scholarship to Megan Maury Church, a senior at Chancellor High School** in Fredericksburg. Megan was the winner of our essay contest on the topic: "the benefits of full participation of women in the legislative and judicial branches of government."

**The Circuit Court Judges met on May 14, 2015 in Roanoke, Virginia** for breakfast. Chief Justice Lemons was present for an award made by our President Judge

Constance Frogale to Virginia Supreme Court staff member Marsha Basic, who has been so helpful in organizing the VAWJ events at our statewide judges' conferences.

On August 26 the Virginia members met at the Williamsburg Lodge, during **the District Court Judges Conference and elected new officers**, as follows: President: Judge Judith Kline, Vice President: Judge Marilyn Goss, Secretary: Judge Georgia Sutton, Treasurer, Judge Mary Jane Hall.

**The Virginia Women Attorneys Association** donated funds as a co-sponsor for the District Four Leadership Conference in Cambridge, Maryland on October 30-31.

### MARYLAND



The Maryland Chapter continues to be busy with its many projects. In September members participated in a career day with **The Girl Scouts of Greater Maryland**. Professionals from all components of the justice system were present to tell those in attendance about the many contributions to the system. They learned that the process doesn't start with the judge and that there are many components working together to get a case into court for trial. It culminated with a trial of *State v. Goldie Locks*. Great fun was had by all while at the same time learning about the legal system. Maryland continues working with its Storybook Project. Women in detention record reading books to their children. The recordings are then sent to each child so they will continue to hear the sound of their mother's voice while she is away from the home.

### Spouses of the United States Supreme Court Justices Luncheon



SPOUSES OF U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICES, guests: L-R Sue Patterson, President, American Lawyers Alliance, Maureen Scalia, Mary Ann Kennedy, Joann Breyer—and featured speaker Janice Law and Janet Bullinger, luncheon program chair; at Congressional Country Club. Judge Law spoke about founding the three-year old American Women Writers National Museum, and about her sixth book, nonfiction **American Evita: Lurleen Wallace**. The annual event is sponsored by National Capital Lawyers Auxiliary.



NATIONAL CAPITAL LAWYERS AUXILIARY board members and guests pose at annual luncheon honoring spouses of U.S. Supreme Court justices, where Judge Law, in white dress, was featured speaker at the Congressional Country Club. U.S. Army General William Suter (ret.), former Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court, (on left in in last row) was Law's guest at the event which featured a string quartet at the reception prior to the luncheon.

## DISTRICT FIVE (FL,GA,NC,SC)

### FLORIDA

#### Preserving a Fair and Impartial Judiciary: A Conversation with State Supreme Court Justices



On February 3, 2016, Florida Supreme Court Justices Barbara Pariente and Peggy Quince, North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Robin Hudson and Washington Supreme Court Justice Debra Stevens participated in a Symposium at Florida State University College of Law in Tallahassee, Florida entitled “Preserving a Fair and Impartial Judiciary: A Conversation with State Supreme Court Justices.” The justices spoke with a room full of law students, lawyers, and judges exploring the principle that judges must be evaluated on their integrity, competency, and ethics, not politics. The program was presented in conjunction with NAWJ’s Informed Voters Fair Judges Project.

#### Informed Voters Project Panel at FSU College of Law A Great Success!



On February 3, 2016, Florida Supreme Court Justices Barbara Pariente and Peggy Quince, North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Robin Hudson, and Washington Supreme Court Justice Debra Stephens, participated in a symposium at Florida State University (FSU) College of Law in Tallahassee, Florida. Justices Hudson and Stephens met with students earlier in the day to discuss working in the courts, and they joined Justice Pariente and Justice Quince for a panel discussion moderated by FSU Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Janeia Ingram entitled “Preserving a Fair and Impartial Judiciary: A Conversation with State Supreme Court Justices.” The panel was presented in partnership with FSU School of Law and NAWJ’s Informed Voters Fair Judges Project (IVP), with support from the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, Tallahassee Women Lawyers, and American Board of Trial Advocates.

The principle that judges must be evaluated on their integrity, competence, and ethics, and not politics, is a pillar of our judicial system, and education on this principle is the keystone of IVP. The esteemed panel of state supreme court justices addressed a full room of law students, attorneys, and judges on this topic. Each explained the system of judicial selection in their jurisdiction – ranging from partisan election of judges at all levels to non-partisan appointment and merit-retention – and demonstrated the negative influence of special interests when judges appear on the ballot, regardless of the selection system. Each Justice showed vitriolic ads, political cartoons, and social media posts targeting them for what might be deemed “unpopular” decisions by special interests, and then educated the audience about how those attacks, funded by “dark money”, illustrate a fundamental misunderstanding of our system. It is the duty of judges and lawyers in all jurisdictions to educate voters and promote public understanding of the role of judges to dispense justice without fear or favor. This panel presentation hopes to encourage more judges and lawyers to outreach into their communities and make IVP presentations. Learn more at <http://ivp.nawj.org>.

Co-Chairs of the Judicial Independence Committee Justice Barbara Pariente and Justice Robin Hudson (Supreme Court of North Carolina), IVP Chair attorney Linda Leali, Florida Law Related Education Association Executive Director Annette Boyd Pitts, and FSU Assistant Dean Ingram are recognized for their efforts in organizing this successful IVP event!

## DISTRICT NEWS

### Color of Justice Program



On February 19, 2016, NAWJ State Chair, Myriam Lehr, along with Associate Administrative Judge Linda Singer Stein presented Color of Justice to the students from the Law Academy of the Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School. The Presidents of the Cuban American Bar Association, Anna Marie Hernandez, and the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Bar Association, Loreal Arscott, were featured as program speakers. Each presented personal stories describing their backgrounds and paths to a successful career in the law, highlighting the stories of African American and Hispanic women who paved the way for young attorneys. The engaged students asked many questions reflecting an inspiration to study law.

### GEORGIA

Professor Rebecca Davis is NAWJ's state chair for Georgia. A Color of Justice program is planned for Savannah in March. Justice Carol Hunstein and Judge Sara Doyle are busy with the planning of NAWJ's 2017 Annual Conference which will take place in Atlanta.

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### Congressional Redistricting and the Courts

Justice Antonin's Scalia's unexpected death has thrown a certain amount of uncertainty into pending redistricting matters. The day before he died a three-judge panel of federal judges declared North Carolina's congressional districts 1 and 12 unconstitutional, as racial gerrymanders. The North Carolina Supreme Court had previously ruled the new districts (state and congressional) were constitutional.

Many observers expected the United States Supreme Court to take both cases and hopefully resolve the conflict. Now there is uncertainty as to the outcome.

Also, this year marked the first time North Carolina's Supreme Court election proceeded in a non-partisan vote, due to a legislative change in 2015. A three-judge panel of state court judges announced last week that it was going to find that election change unconstitutional under the state constitution. The order has not yet been entered. Only one justice is up in 2016, and that is Justice Robert Edmunds.

The state Court of Appeals elections in 2016 are still contested, with partisan labels again after being non-partisan for more than a decade. Judges Linda Stephens, Valerie Zachary, Robert Hunter, Jr., and Richard Dietz are up for re-election and all have opponents. The intersection of politics and the judiciary in North Carolina is very evident.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

#### Judicial Symposium on Economics and Law of Public Pension Reform

A judicial Symposium on Economics and Law of Public Pension Reform will take place in Charleston on March 20 to 22. It will discuss looming financial and structural crisis facing state pension systems throughout the country. The program will outline underlying structure of pension systems, address differences public and private, and discuss unfunded liabilities and potential bankruptcy issues. Please contact Judge Eagon, [judgeeagon@hotmail.com](mailto:judgeeagon@hotmail.com), if you would like to serve as chair for South Carolina. Also, share with her any information you wish to be included in the e-newsletter next month.

## DISTRICT SIX (AL,LA,MS,TN)

### NEW ORLEANS

#### Color of Justice at Dillard University



On November 3, members of District Six met with students at Dillard University for a Color of Justice Program. Judges in attendance included Hon. Joy Cossich Lobrano of the LA 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, Secretary of the NAWJ, Hon. Bernadette D'Souza of the Orleans Parish Civil District Court, Director of District 6, Hon. Sondra Jenkins of the LA 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, Hon. Regina Woods of the Orleans Parish Civil District Court, Hon. Desiree



Charbonnet of the New Orleans Municipal Court, Hon. Candice Bates-Anderson of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, and Angela White-Bazile, Executive Council in the Office of Chief Justice Bernette Johnson.



The judges met with pre-law students from Louisiana, California, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, Alabama, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for lunch and conversation. After the students introduced themselves, the judges provided their insight about serving in the judiciary and the many pathways to it. Towards the conclusion of the program, the students had the opportunity to ask questions, and all left the event feeling inspired.



Judge Joy Lobrano and Judge Bernadette D'Souza with NAWJ law student intern, Clerc Cooper of Tulane Law School at the NAWJ Color of Justice Program.

### Distinguished Jurist Award from the Pro Bono Project

#### Pro Bono Project honors Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge

Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge Robin M. Giarrusso, right, has been honored by the Pro Bono Project as its 2015 Distinguished Jurist. The Pro Bono Project provides free legal services to those in need. Giarrusso accepted the honor from Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Terri F. Love, left, during the Pro Bono Project's annual volunteer appreciation event.



Photo provided by Orleans Parish Civil District Court

Judge Robin Giarrusso, NAWJ member and colleague on District Director Judge D'Souza's bench received the Distinguished Jurist Award from the Pro Bono Project based in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Pro Bono Project exists to ensure that all underserved citizens of six local Louisiana parishes can find lawyers willing to donate time and civil legal experience to help them resolve civil legal problems. The snapshot above was printed in the local newspaper.

### IOWA

The Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) announced that NAWJ member **Emily Chafa has been promoted to UI Appeals Bureau Manager**, Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau, overseeing 15 administrative law judges, along with their support staff. She is past president of the Polk County Bar Association, an active board member of the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys and a member of the Iowa State Bar Association Board of Governors and serves as CLE Chair for the IAALJ (Iowa Association of Administrative Law Judges).

### MISSOURI

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri **Magistrate Judge Nannette Baker was appointed Chair of the ABA's National Conference of Federal Trial Judges** at last year's annual meeting of the American Bar Association in August, 2015. The focus was on increasing the gender and racial/ethnic diversity of the federal bench and she hopes to partner with NAWJ in those efforts.

Missouri NAWJ members paired with the **Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life at the University of Missouri St. Louis** to put on a "Girl's Summit" in November, 2015. The program for middle-school girls was co-designed by former NAWJ President Brenda Loftin.

Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District **Judge Angela Turner Quigless received the "Unsung Heroine Award"** in recognition of her community service from the Top Ladies of Distinction.

The Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court appointed retired **Judge Susan Block to the Missouri Supreme Court Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness, Juvenile Workgroup**. Judge Block is also featured as Vital Voice's Choice Lawyer for St. Louis in its our VOICE Your Choice Issue this month. **VITAL VOICE is Missouri's premier lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) life+style and entertainment source.**

Missouri Judges Ellen Levy Siwak and Deborah Daniels currently sit on **the Project Oversight Committee on genetically Engineered and Synthetically Constructed Organisms as Evidence in Civil, Criminal and Special Court Cases.**

## DISTRICT TEN (KS,MN,ND,SD)

### KANSAS

On August 20, 2015 **Justice Carol Beier** was awarded the prestigious Betty M. Dresses Distinguished Alumni Award by the University of Kansas Women in Medicine and Science Organization. The award acknowledges men and women who represent the best of the alumni from the University of Kansas and whose efforts reflect a lifelong achievement of supporting a legacy of influential women. We are so proud of Justice Beier.



Justice Carol Beier

**Gwynne Birzer**, of the Hite, Fanning & Honeyman L.L.P. of Wichita, KS, was named the United States Magistrate Judge in Wichita, Kansas for the United States District Court for the District of Kansas. She replaces the Honorable Judge Karen M. Humphreys who stepped down in July, 2015.

**Hon. Teresa Watson was awarded the Honorable E. Newton Vickers Professionalism Award by the Topeka Bar Association.** This award recognizes a member of the Topeka Bar Association who, by his or her conduct, honesty, integrity, and courtesy, best exemplifies, represents and encourages other lawyers to follow the highest standards for the legal profession, including those contained in the Topeka Bar Association Creed of Professional Courtesy.

**Honorable Christel Marquard**, retired judge who served on the Kansas Court of Appeals, was awarded the **Warren W. Shaw Distinguished Service Award**. This award recognizes a lawyer or for their exemplary service to the legal profession or the Topeka Bar Association.

On February 6, 2015, **Judge Karen Arnold-Burger**, of the Kansas Court of Appeals, was awarded the **Burnham “Hod” Greeley Award by the American Bar Association** for her work to increase public awareness of the need for a fair and impartial judiciary.

In July 2015 **Judge Sally Pokorny** was awarded the Jenny Kellogg Mitchell Achievement Award by the Kansas Women Attorney Association.

Former Kansas Supreme Court Chief **Justice Kay McFarland** died at the age of 80 on August 18, 2015. Justice McFarland was the Supreme Court’s first female member and the only female chief justice. In 1970, she became the first woman elected to a judgeship (probate and juvenile court) in Shawnee County, and became the first woman Shawnee County District Court Judge in 1972. Justice McFarland was sworn in to the Kansas Supreme Court in 1977. She retired in 2009, after having served as Chief Justice for 14 years.

**Kansas Informed Voters – Fair Judges Project Committee** presented to the Association of Women Entrepreneurs business meeting on Tuesday April 28, 2015, and on March 21, 2015, at the Business and Professional Women’s State Conference. The audience included the current President of the Silver Haired Legislature, Jane Gingles, from Clay Center. The committee also spoke about the Informed Voters-Fair Judges Project at the Kansas League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) State Convention; the Southwest Kansas Bar Association; the US Chamber’s presentation to the women initiative group of GoTopeka; to the minority and women business development council; at Washburn University School of Law Students/Women’s Legal Forum; and to numerous Rotary, Optimist, Business Professions, and Bar Associations throughout Kansas. The committee trained every state and appellate judge in Kansas; the Kansas Young Lawyers Section; and the Johnson County Bar Association on the project. Similar training programs are in the works for Shawnee and Sedgwick counties, and the municipal judges. Teams of trained judges and lawyers will present programs on the Informed Voters-Fair Judges Project through their counties. The **Kansas Informed Voters Project Committee, chaired by Judge Cheryl Rios, received the Phillip Lewis Medal of Distinction from the Kansas Bar Association and the “Liberty Bell Award” from the Topeka Bar Association.**

**MINNESOTA**

Minnesota successfully saw more women joining the bench last year. Three new judges were elected to the Hennepin County district court (largest district). The newest members of the bench include **Judges Beverly Benson, Amy Dawson and Bridget Sullivan**. Three additional women were appointed to the trial court bench by Governor Mark Dayton including Judges **Nicole Starr and Sara**

**Grewing** in the Fourth Judicial District, St. Paul, MN; Judge **Carmaine Sturino**, who is chambered in Caledonia, MN, and Judge **Pam King**, chambered in Rochester, MN.

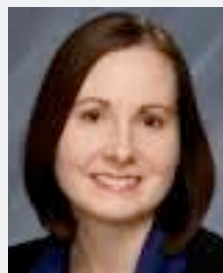


The more recent news concerns the Minnesota Supreme Court. Governor Dayton has elevated appellate **Judge Natalie Hudson** (pictured) to the Supreme Court of our state. Judge Hudson’s career encompasses a wide variety of avenues including Southern Minnesota Legal Services, private practice, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs at Hamline University School of Law and St. Paul City Attorney. She has been a member of the state intermediate appellate court since 1994. Judge Hudson will replace retiring Justice Alan Page as the third women on the state’s highest court.

NAWJ member and former **Supreme Court Justice Mimi Wright** was nominated to the federal bench, and approved by the US Senate.

On the social side of things, the Minnesota Judges will join the Hennepin County bar for a judge/lawyer reception in October, 2015. Minnesota women judges also joined the Minnesota Women Lawyer organization for the 21st Annual Rosalie Wahl Leadership Lecture to be held this fall. **Caro Robles-Roman**, President and CEO of Legal Momentum, a national organization that advances the rights of women and girls, was the keynote speaker.

**NORTH DAKOTA**



The North Dakota Legislature created four new district judgeships to handle the increased caseload. Two women, Judges Kristin Sjue and Rhonda Ehliis, were appointed to the bench by Governor Jack Dalrymple to fill two of the positions. **Judge Kristen Sjue** (pictured) is a 2006 graduate, with distinction, of the University of North Dakota School of Law. She clerked for the Honorable Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle from 2006-2007, and for U.S. District Judge Ralph Erickson from 2007-2009. She practiced commercial and natural resources law with the Crowley Fleck law firm in Williston, ND, from 2009-2013. In 2013, she became an Assistant State’s Attorney for Williams County.



Prior to her appointment to the bench, **Judge Rhonda Ehliis** (pictured) served as an assistant Stark County state’s attorney for nine years. She earned a law degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1993, where she worked at the Legal Aid Clinic and a student director in 1992 and 1993. She also has experience as a staff attorney for the Bismarck Regional Child Support Enforcement and in private practice at the Hardy, Maus and Nordsvan law firm in Dickinson, N.D.

# DISTRICT NEWS

## DISTRICT ELEVEN (AR,OK,TX)

### TEXAS

#### NAWJ'S 2018 40th Annual Conference

The 2018 Annual Conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas. Planning has begun! District Director Justice Rebecca Martinez will Chair the conference and it has already been determined that The Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Antonio would serve as the host hotel. Any NAWJ member is welcome to join the Planning Committee or one of the various sub-committees. The 2018 Annual Conference will offer unique opportunities for networking and socializing among the most distinguished members of the legal community.

#### NAWJ Dallas Reception



Thank you to our many sponsors, including ABOTA - Dallas Chapter and the Dallas Women Lawyers Association, and the many attendees who joined us at the NAWJ Reception held in conjunction with the 2015 Annual Judicial Education Conference hosted by the Texas Center for the Judiciary (TCJ). In keeping with TCJ's conference theme "Justice in a Virtual World", Guest Speaker Sarah Saldana, Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs (ICE)

offered remarks and absorbing discussion around ICE's Cyber Crimes Center (C3) which, as she shared, has recently been expanded and is recognized among the preeminent computer forensics laboratories in the world. Our gratitude to Director Saldana for her service and leadership.



Color of Justice Program at St. Mary's School of Law, San Antonio



Justice Martinez presents a Color of Justice program at St. Mary's School of Law in San Antonio, Texas, featuring U.S. Magistrate Judge Diana Song-Quiroga, who graciously traveled from Laredo to San Antonio to join the program panel. Also participating were new NAWJ members Justice Luz Elena Chapa and Judge Gloria Saldana, and Hon. David Canales.

#### INTRODUCING YOUR NEW NAWJ TEXAS STATE CHAIRS

Thank you to these incredibly committed judges for their service to NAWJ. Please welcome them to their new posts. The NAWJ State Chairs assist the District Director in gathering information about NAWJ members in their various regions (awards, retirements, new appointments, programs presented by our members, etc.). Our chairs make the personal connections needed in their courts and region, introduce new judges to NAWJ and its important mission and programs, encourage membership and participation

in projects and programs like “Color of Justice”, “Mentor Jet”, “Informed Voter Project”, Book Clubs for incarcerated women, among others. For those interested in getting involved or to share news in your area, please contact me or any of our chairs:

**South Texas Chair, Judge Rebecca “Beckie” Palomo**



The Honorable Rebecca “Beckie” Palomo, 341st District Judge (Laredo) is South Texas Chair. She is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and St. Mary’s School of Law. Prior to presiding over a court of general jurisdiction, Judge Palomo served as a prosecutor for the District Attorney’s office for eight years, and then as Director of the Community Supervision and Corrections Department. She joined NAWJ in 2013 and quickly installed for the first time a Color of Justice Program in Laredo, Texas. She serves as co-chair of the 2018 Annual Conference in San Antonio. To get involved, email her at [rpalomo@webbcountytexas.gov](mailto:rpalomo@webbcountytexas.gov). Most recently, Chief Justice Nathan Hecht appointed Judge Palomo to serve on the Judicial Advisory Council (JAC), beginning a six-year term. She joins Hon. Mary Anne Bramblett, Ret., who was concurrently appointed as Chair of the Council. The JAC also includes Hon. Rose Guerra Reyna, Vice Chair, and Hon. Sharon Keller, member.



Judge Palomo with her all-female court staff (pictured above), the Hon. Elma Salinas Ender, and Justice Martinez preparing for Laredo’s first Color of Justice Program. Judge Palomo is joined by almost every federal, state, county and municipal woman judge in Laredo, along with a large number of female members of the Webb County Bar Association.

**Central Texas Chair, Judge Orlinda Naranjo**



The Honorable Orlinda Naranjo, 419th Civil District Court, is Central Texas Chair. Judge Naranjo is a graduate of Highlands University in Las Vegas, received her law degree from University of New Mexico School of Law, and is a distinguished member of numerous legal organizations. She serves on the Texas Judicial Council and the Task

Force for Indigent Defense, and is a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. She is currently a board member of State Commission on Judicial Conduct. Judge Naranjo is past NAWJ District Director, member of various committees and was instrumental in installing the Color of Justice Program in Central Texas and Oklahoma. This year, she celebrated nine years of COJ in Austin, helping to the Law School’s Justice Center for Public Interest and the Travis County Women Lawyer’s Association. Judge Naranjo was instrumental in organizing a NAWJ Reception at the Capital to celebrate the proclamation sponsored by Senator West. Each year, NAWJ will celebrate April 13 as Texas Female Judges Day! I’m delighted to have the continued support of my former District Director, Judge Naranjo, who first inspired me to join NAWJ and participate in the community programs she holds dear and which have continued to flourish because of her leadership and service. Contact her at [orlinda.naranjo@traviscountytexas.gov](mailto:orlinda.naranjo@traviscountytexas.gov)



Pictured top: Judge Naranjo with Simone Otenaike ‘15, recipient of NAWJ’s scholarship awarded at a Color of Justice program. Pictured bottom: NAWJ Past President Hon. Bea Ann Smith, Hon. Orlinda Naranjo, and Hon. Beckie Palomo joining an early morning group walk tour in San Diego.

# DISTRICT NEWS

## West Texas Chair, Judge Sue Kurita



The Honorable Sue Kurita, El Paso County Court at Law Judge No. 6, is your West Texas Chair. A graduate of University of Texas at El Paso, with a masters degree from Webster University and a law degree from Texas Tech University, Judge Kurita has presided over County Court at Law No. 6 since its inception in 1998, following nine years as a Municipal Court judge and four years as

Presiding Judge. A jurist for over 26 years, Judge Kurita has been recognized for her distinguished service to the Bar and her community. She has served as Vice President of NAWJ, along with serving on the Board of Directors and as Chair for the New Judges Program. She was appointed to serve on the State Grievance Oversight Committee by the Texas Supreme Court, as well as Vice Chair of the State Commission for Judicial Conduct. Among many bar activities, she currently serves on the State Bar Rules Committee. She has been an adjunct professor for Park University and Excelsior College since 1994, and is featured in JoAnne Gordon's book, "100 Happy Women at Work." Judge Kurita offers her extensive experience as a jurist, author, speaker, proud grandmother and mother of a second year law student and future member of NAWJ. I am honored to have her friendship and mentorship as our West Texas State Chair.

## Dallas Women Lawyers Association



President Nicole Knox, Justice Martinez, Angela Zambrano, President-Elect, and Hon. Beckie Palomo



NAWJ Members Justice Nora Longoria, Thirteenth Court of Appeals, and Judge Nanette Hasette, 28th District Court (Corpus Christi) enjoy a moment with Director Sarah Saldaña.



New Members Hon. Kaycee Jones (Livingston), Hon. Roy Ferguson, Justice Mike Wilson (Eastland), and Hon. Sarah Tunnel Clark (Crocket)



Hon. Toni Arteaga (San Antonio), new NAWJ Member, with Sue Kurita, Rebeca Martinez and Beckie Palomo.



NAWJ Members Hon. Lora Livingston (Austin) and Hon. D'Metria Benson (Dallas).



Chief Justice Carolyn Wright, Fifth Court of Appeals (Dallas), long-time NAWJ member

## DISTRICT TWELVE ELEVEN (AZ,CO,NM,UT,WY)

### Alaska Holds its 10th Annual Success Inside and Out Program at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center



Read KTUU reporter Samantha Angaiak's account below, and see what NAWJ Past President Justice Dana Fabe has to say about the program.

#### Life after incarceration: How a group of women prepare for release

On Saturday, 100 women prisoners at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center learned some of the tools they will need to be successful and productive when they get out of prison. The 'Success Inside and Out' program began in 2006, guiding inmates on how to find housing, transportation and jobs once they leave prison.

Founder Justice Dana Fabe said the goal of the program is to help inmates learn basic life skills that will help keep them from committing new crimes once they're released. "As judges when we sentence offenders or when we affirm convictions of offenders as appellate judges, we hope once those offenders have served their time they're never going to be back in the system again", Fabe said.

Dozens of professionals and leaders from the community made time to share what they know with prisoners who were within a year of being released. Erin Jones who has been at Hiland Mountain since May and incarcerated for the past 17 months said she's anticipating being released at the end of November. "I'm nervous 'cause I don't really have a set plan yet of what I will be doing", Jones said. Jones said her time at the facility helped steer her away from a dark path of drugs. "I've always partied throughout high school and smoked weed and drank and I found out I had kidney failure," Jones said. "I got prescribed opiates and it kind of spiraled out of control from there."

On Saturday, Jones met with Kenai Superior Court Judge Anna Moran, the judge who sentenced Jones to prison 17 months ago. "When I sentenced her she was very angry with me and did not agree with my decision", Moran said. "I told her maybe if you make it through successfully, look for me in October at Success Inside and Out so we can celebrate."

Jones was one of 100 inmates selected to participate in the program. Prisoners are selected for the program based on their progress and participation in classes prior to the application period.

"I was angry, I was sad, it was a really hard day, but now looking back on it I understand kind of her reasoning behind it", Jones said. Moran said she almost didn't recognize Jones when she saw her. "I looked for her right away and I found her and she found me and I said 'So all is good? She said yes. And I'm forgiven? And she said yes' so this has been a wonderful day for me", Moran said.

Jones said she's now focused on learning the tools she needs to succeed from the inside and out.

Justice Fabe will retire in June of 2016, but said she plans to continue working on the program.

"I hope to be involved in this, it's one thing that is one of the most rewarding things I've done as a judge," Fabe said.

Officials say 734 inmates have participated in the program till date.

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

### ALASKA

#### Color of Justice 2016



On February 25-26, 2016, the Alaska Court System, University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Justice Center, and Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI) hosted the Color of Justice program. Color of Justice is a law-related education program founded by the National Association of Women Judges that is designed to promote diversity in the legal profession and judiciary by encouraging diverse youth to consider careers as lawyers and judges. Over 70 high school students from villages across the state and from Anchorage area high schools attended two days of workshops and other activities presented by law professors from Gonzaga University School of Law, Seattle University School of Law, University of Alaska Anchorage, and University of Washington School of Law. The program was also supported by the Alaska Bar Association, Alaska Federation of Natives, Alaska Native Justice Center, Anchorage School District, Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Law School Admission Council, Northwest Indian Bar Association, and Rotary Club of East Anchorage.

New to Color of Justice this year, was a Rural Student Initiative made possible by contributions from all 12 ANCSA Regional Corporations, the Alaska Native Justice Center, and by program support from the UAA Justice Center, the Multicultural Center, the Alaska Native Student Center, Alaska Native Studies Program, UAA Department of Anthropology, Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP), the UAA Pre-Law Society, and the First Alaskans Institute. Rural Student Initiative attendees traveled from Akutan, Atkasuk, Chignik Lake, Dillingham, Dutch Harbor, Egegik, Fairbanks, Galena, Hooper Bay, Houston, Huslia, Kaktovik, King Cove, Kongiganek,

## DISTRICT NEWS

Kotzebue, Koyuk, Larsen Bay, Nenana, Nikiski, Saint Paul Island, Soldotna, and Valdez. Participating Anchorage area students came from Bartlett, Dimond, Eagle River, East, SAVE, Service, and West high schools.

Color of Justice sessions included “*MentorJet: A Speed Mentoring Experience*”, where students got the chance to meet with 14 diverse lawyers, judges, and justices, including Supreme Court Justice Dana Fabe. They also participated in “*Constitutional Cranium*,” a quiz show on Alaska constitutional knowledge hosted by Judge Pamela Washington and UAA Justice Center Prof. Jason Brandeis, and a Mock Trial coordinated by UAA Justice Center Prof. Ryan Fortson with 16 volunteer mock trial coaches from across the state.



Mentor Prof. Mathiew Le meets with Color of Justice 2016 student participants.



Mentors for the Color of Justice 2016 MentorJet Program L-R: Magistrate Judge Kari McCrea, Judge Sen Tan (Ret.), Judge Herman Walker, Nicole Borromeo, Prof. Christian Halliburton, Judge Pamela Washington, Justice Dana Fabe, and Prof. Stephanie Nichols with one of the Color of Justice student participants.



Mentor Peter Boskofsky meet with Color of Justice 2016 students

For the rural high school students attending the program this year, the Rural Student Initiative coordinated donated food, transportation, and friendly volunteers and students who welcomed Initiative students and showed them the UAA campus and spoke to them about educational and cultural issues. Volunteer host families in Anchorage housed the students, fed them, and transported them to and from the program events. Some Initiative students required chopper and bush plane hops to get from island to mainland to hub village to Ted Stevens International Airport. Some had never seen a traffic light, or been in a movie theatre. They not only converged in Anchorage to learn about the legal profession and all that it has to offer them and their nation, state, community and ethnic group, but they did so alongside students from Anchorage who brought their own perspectives, but from an urban environment. The convergence was historic.

Increasing diversity on the bench is important to fostering public trust and confidence in our justice system, according to Justice Fabe. Color of Justice serves this goal, she says, “*by affirming for our young women and youth of color that the judiciary is a career path that is open to them.*” Questions? Contact Mara Rabinowitz at 907-264-0879 or Margaret Newman at 907-264-0864.

### New Video

The Cook Inlet Region Inc., an Alaska Native Corporation, produced a terrific video which has been placed on YouTube. The video is designed to help promote Color of Justice and motivate rural Alaska students to come to Anchorage to participate in the program this year. It’s viewable here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G546py7rmYg>

### WASHINGTON

#### **NAWJ Joins the Washington State and Washington State Supreme Court’s Gender & Justice Commission’s Women Offenders Conference.**

NAWJ members participated in the Washington State and Washington State Supreme Court’s Gender & Justice Commission, part of the 2015 Women Offenders Conference “*Success Inside Out.*” NAWJ District Director Judge Marilyn Paja (Kitsap County District Court), a member of the Offenders’ Planning Committee, presented Mission Creek Corrections for Women’s Superintendent Eleanor Vernell with a copy of Deborah Jiang-Stein’s book *Prison Baby*. Ms. Stein spoke at NAWJ’s Annual Conference in Salt Lake City last month, and Judge Paja obtained an inscription from her for the book that was directed personally to Superintendent Vernell. A second copy of the book was offered as a submission to the Offender Library.

#### **Seattle 2016 Annual Conference Kick-off**





On January 21, 2016, – Seattle 2016 Annual Conference Kick-off, Seattle, WA. Hosted by the Perkins Coie Law Firm in downtown Seattle, a generous supporter of the Conference. Friends Co-Chair Ms. Ellen Dial was instrumental in organizing the event, attended by about 75 lawyers and judges, including NAWJ President-Elect Hon. Lisa Walsh, and Washington State Supreme Court Justices Barbara Madsen, Sheryl Gordon McCloud, Mary Fairhurst, Debra Stephens, and Conference Chair Susan Owens – all NAWJ members, as well as Justice Mary Yu.



The NAWJ Equal Justice Scholarship of \$500 was awarded to Justice Yu's extern Ms. Angela Jones (pictures at podium right of Justice Barbara Madsen). Following the ceremony several different firms were actively lobbying Ms. Jones to apply for an associate position.

**Spokane 2016 Annual Conference Kick-off**



**January 22, 2016, – Seattle 2016 Annual Conference Kick-off, Spokane, WA. Hosted by the firm of Winston & Cashatt, a generous support of the Conference.** Friends Co-Chair (and former Winston & Cashatt partner) Nancy Isserlis organized the event together with a very lively group of enthusiastic Spokane Washington Women Lawyers. Joining NAWJ President elect Lisa Walsh and three Washington State Supreme Court Justices (Sheryl Gordon McCloud, Barbara Madsen and Conference Chair Susan Owens) were about 65 lawyers and judges.



Another scholarship was awarded to a Gonzaga University School of Law 3-L student Stephanie Faust (above right) by the Washington State Association for President-Elect Justice Robin Haynes. The WSAJ has partnered in the scholarship effort with NAWJ for several years and is working with the State Gender & Justice Commission on issues of diversity in the profession.

**Portland 2016 Annual Conference Kick-off**

Plans are forming to hold an annual conference kick-off in Portland Oregon this spring. It is hoped that another law student scholarship can be included in the celebration, in honor of NAWJ Past President Julie Frantz.

## DISTRICT FOURTEEN (CA,NV)

**Color of Justice and Mentor Jet Programs Soar Triumphantly in San Diego Once Again!**



Crawford High School Students Receiving their NAWJ Certificates of Completion at the end of the program from Hon. Tamila E. Ipema, the program chair

The Honorable Tamila E. Ipema chaired sixth Color of Justice and Mentor Jet Programs in San Diego Superior Court on November 4, 2015. The National Association of Women Judges' Color of Justice Program was presented in collaboration with the San Diego Superior Court, Iranian-American Bar Association and the Pan-Asian Bar Association of San Diego. The participation of more than 45 highly accomplished Judicial Officers and Attorneys as mentors made this program a huge success.

Judge Tamila E. Ipema welcomed mentors and the students (grades 9 to 12) from Crawford High School Law Academy to the program. She gave a brief history of the NAWJ, described her own background, and laid the objectives of the program and the schedule to follow.

The program was held at the Hall of Justice in San Diego. An engaged group of 35 students and their teacher, Mr. Raymond Beattie of Crawford High School, participated in this interactive program.

The program is designed to encourage high school students to consider pursuing careers in the law and to inspire and excite them about the study of law.

Experienced judges and lawyers of diverse backgrounds came together to share their experiences and challenges including reasons why they chose their careers, and to answer questions on a one to one basis in the Color of Justice and Mentor Jet program.

Honorable Randa Trapp, San Diego County Superior Court Judge, brilliantly moderated a panel discussion "Justice System as a Career: Preparing the Way; Attorneys and Judges Making a Difference. The panel members included Honorable Irma Gonzalez (ret.) of the United States District Court, Ms. Summer Stephan, Chief Deputy District Attorney for San Diego County, Ms. Lizzette Herrera, Asst. Director of Public Service and Diversity at University of San Diego School of Law, and Ms. Safora Nowrouzi, third year law student at California Western School of Law.



Ms. Julie Myers, Senior Administrative Analyst for the San Diego Superior Court moderated the Mentor Jet portion of the program. At the conclusion of the program, the students were awarded NAWJ Color of Justice Award Certificates, NAWJ bag and other items and shared their views about the program.

The feedback from the students, teachers, and mentors was extremely positive. There was an amazing positive energy in the air, and both students and mentors enjoyed the opportunity to get a chance to talk one to one with each other. The students stated that the program inspired them and gave them hope that it is possible for them to also achieve greatness in life if they work hard and not give up.



Many thanks goes to the Color of Justice Program Chair, Hon. Tamila E. Ipema, Ms. Julie Myers, Ms. Amoreena Urbeck, Ms. Deanna Blanchard, Deputy Sheriff Scot Parriott, Justice Corps Students, and everyone else who worked so hard behind the scenes to make this program a great success.

**Freedom Through Words, a Book Club for Incarcerated Women**

Around the middle of each month at the Las Colinas Women’s Detention Facility in San Diego at least two NAWJ members join with women inmates to discuss a new book. Freedom Through Words has grown extremely popular in Los Colinas as inmates come to appreciate our members’ show of dedication and care for their thoughts and feelings, the life models their presence evokes, and the improvement in self-esteem generated by being seen in expressing their thoughts in an organized way.

**Rose Bird Award**

On April 8, 2016: NAWJ Human Trafficking Committee Chair Judge Elizabeth Lee will receive the Rose Bird Award. Judge Santos will present acknowledgements from NAWJ to her at the event. Judge Becton is on the program as well.

**Color of Justice and Mentor Jet**

In April, Judge Patricia Garcia will chair Color of Justice and Mentor Jet programs for children ages 13 to 18 in at the South Bay Superior Court in Chula Vista, CA. The young people will be challenged to consider careers in the legal field and to begin thinking about becoming attorneys and judges. Judge Garcia will gather mentors from challenging backgrounds to challenge youth “that everything is possible in life if they are willing to work hard, believe in themselves, set high goals, and not give up.”

**In November**, Judge Tamila Ipema will chair her fifth annual Color of Justice and MentorJet program for youth in the Hall of Justice at San Diego Superior Court.

**Bar to Bench with the Judicial Appointment Secretary**

On May 20, 2016, NAWJ will host a Bench to Bar at the Phillip Burton Federal Building and Courthouse in San Francisco. The forum will take place on the lower area. Speakers will include Josh Groban, CA, Judicial Appointment Secretary under Governor Jerry Brown, along with approximately five additional panelists. NAWJ President-Elect Judge Diana Becton and I are on the planning committee. The event is being co-hosted by the Californian Women Lawyers, and local bar associations.

**IAWJ 13th Biennial in Washington, DC**

District Director Judge Anita Santos and at least three other Contra Costa County judges – Hon. Diana Becton, Hon. Danielle Douglas and Hon. Christopher Bowen will be attending the NAWJ hosted conference in May in D.C. All three are NAWJ members, and the last two will be first time attendees. She is working on more.

**Success Inside & Out**

In June, Judge Ipema will chair Success Inside & Out in Las Colinas Women’s Detention Facility in San Diego, CA. This program serves incarcerated women within three to six months of being released. The program’s goal is to reduce recidivism by educating women on services, resources and opportunities available to them that can both mitigate common obstacles and prepare them to find success for the rest of their lives. Educational workshops hope to address topics such as housing, transportation, education, substance abuse counseling, parental training, exercise and nutrition, stress management, self-esteem, job search and interview skills, communication skills, budgeting, and dressing for success on a limited budget.

**NAWJ RECIPIENT OF ABA JUDICIAL DIVISION’S LAWYERS CONFERENCE 2016 BURNHAM “HOD” GREELEY AWARD**



The Lawyers Conference has honored the National Association of Women Judges as the 2016 recipient of the Burnham “Hod” Greeley Award. The Burnham “Hod” Greeley Award is given each year to a person or organization that has made a significant positive impact on public understanding of the role of the judiciary in a democratic society and its importance to the rule of law. The Honorable Cara Lee Neville nominated NAWJ, in addition to Judge Diana Eagon, NAWJ District 5 Director, and Judge Renee Worke, all NAWJ members, for this award in the fall. Judge Neville, now retired, was NAWJ’s president in 1991-92, and is currently chair of the American Bar Foundation’s Fellows. The Burnham “Hod” Greeley Award was established to recognize individuals and organizations dedicated to

promoting increased public awareness of the need for a fair and impartial judiciary. The Award is named in honor of the late Hawaii attorney Burnham “Hod” Greeley. He was a dedicated leader within the American Bar Association and was committed to promoting public trust and confidence in our justice system. Last year’s recipient was NAWJ member Judge Karen Arnold Burger, Kansas City Court of Appeals. The 10th annual presentation of the Burnham “Hod” Greeley Award took place during the Judicial Division’s Welcome Breakfast at the 2016 ABA Midyear Meeting in San Diego, CA.

While NAWJ has been nominated for its many programs and initiatives, the Informed Voters Project, created in 2013, made a particular positive impact upon the public’s understanding of the rule of the judiciary. In view of the enormous impact of the IVP, I invited Justice Joan Irion to join me in accepting the award. Judge Irion spoke to a large audience of judges and lawyers about the importance of educating the public about the role of the judiciary and the importance that the judiciary remain free of political influence. Mr. Greeley’s daughter, attorney Kimberly Ann Greeley, placed gorgeous leis from Hawai’i on Justice Irion and me. NAWJ should be so proud of the impact it has had upon the bench and bar, an impact which is recognized throughout the ABA and around the country.

## LANDMARK SPONSORS

The National Association of Women Judges greatly appreciates the generosity of law firms, organizations and individuals whose multi-year sponsorships allows us to expand the reach of our programs.

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Thank you to all of those who have contributed since April, 2014:

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## WOMEN IN PRISON - NEW YORK

☞ Continued from Page 1

that 23 of those 27 women were shackled in violation of the law. The 2015 law requires state and local correctional facilities to train correctional personnel, make public reports on use of restraints and inform pregnant women about their rights – provisions critical to ensuring the law will be implemented appropriately.

There is widespread opposition to shackling women during childbirth, and a number of federal courts have ruled that it violates the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. Among those who condemn the practice are dozens of women's and human rights groups across the country, and the nation's leading experts on women's health, including: ACOG; the American College of Nurse Midwives; the National Perinatal Association; the American Medical Women's Association; the American Public Health Association; the American Medical Association (AMA); and the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses. The National Commission on Correctional Health Care and the American Correctional Association, two of the primary national organizations providing prison accreditation services, also oppose the practice.

As of December 2015, 22 states and the District of Columbia have laws restricting the use of shackles on women during childbirth. At the national level, the Second Chance Act of 2007 requires federal justice agencies to report shackling practices to Congress and to document valid security concerns before using restraints on women during pregnancy, childbirth and recovery. Shortly after the Act was passed, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency adopted policies restricting the practice.

Security can be effectively maintained by correction staff when pregnant women are off prison grounds without shackling. In its statement on the bill, the New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA) explained, "While it is our duty to monitor all inmates at all times, there are better uses of limited resources than to continue a practice that applies to several dozen pregnant inmates in our prisons who do not pose an immediate threat to the safety and security of our officers and our facilities."

Shackling pregnant women is a dangerous and degrading practice that causes suffering, endangers the health and safety of women and their babies, and violates basic standards of human rights and decency. By enacting the most progressive anti-shackling bill in the country, NY took an important step in the right direction. This critical effort was the result of the coordinated advocacy of over 40 women's rights, human rights and reproductive justice groups, and courageous women who were willing to speak out about the horror of shackling they experienced first-hand. These groups include the Women and Justice Project, the Correctional Association of NY, the NY Civil Liberties Union, the National Organization for Women NYS, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Planned Parenthood Advocates of NYS and NYC, Family Planning Advocates of NYS, NARAL Pro-Choice America and the American Association of University Women NYS.

For additional information contact Jaya Vasandani [jaya@womenandjusticeproject.org](mailto:jaya@womenandjusticeproject.org).

**NAWJ President Lisa Walsh sent a letter supporting the passage of the legislation to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo on behalf of NAWJ.**

### NY NAWJ WOMEN IN PRISON COMMITTEE FOCUS 2015-2016

**On July 9, 2015**, NAWJ Women In Prison Committee submitted the following Issues Impacting Incarcerated Women at the 10th Annual Meeting of the Congressional Caucus for Women's issues and National Leaders of the Judiciary.

#### 1. Provision of Quality Health Care

**a) Reproductive Health Care:** Access, GYN care, privacy rights, shackling during medical appointments for women in solitary confinement and provision of feminine hygiene and toilet paper supplies.

<http://www.correctionalassociation.org/resource/reproductive-injustice>

**b) Access to Mental Health Clinicians** - for more info, contact Sarah Kerr ([skerr@legal-aid.org](mailto:skerr@legal-aid.org)) at the Legal aid Society

#### 2. Sexual Abuse/ Implementation of Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

For more info, contact Dori Lewis ([dlewis@Legal-aid.org](mailto:dlewis@Legal-aid.org)).

#### 3. Shackling of Pregnant Women

- Incarcerated pregnant women are routinely shackled throughout their pregnancies, including their last trimester during trips outside of prison. Shackling of pregnant women may endanger the health and safety of the women and their

babies. Opposition to shackling among leading national experts on women's health, has been raised by the American Public Health Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Public Health Association. **In 2009, New York State passed a law that bans the use of restraints on women during childbirth. In 2015, the New York State Legislature passed a bill (A.6430-A/S.983-A),** that would strengthen the enforcement of the 2009 law and expand protections to women during all stages of pregnancy and for eight weeks post-partum. Governor Andrew W. Cuomo signed "The Legislation to Prohibit Shackling of Pregnant Inmates" during transportation on December 22, 2015. <http://www.correction.org/resource/ending-the-barbaric-practice-of-shackling-incarcerated-pregnant-women>

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4. **Domestic Violence and Sentencing** – Reportedly, 75% of women in NY's prisons suffered severe physical violence by an intimate partner during adulthood. The NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision found that in 2005, 67% of incarcerated women who murdered someone close to them were abused by the victim of their crime. The mandatory sentencing provisions preclude judges from considering either an alternative-to-incarceration program or individualized sentences. **In NY, there is pending legislation (A.4409/S.2036) that would create judicial discretion in sentencing in cases where abuse was a significant contributing factor to the offense.** The bill would also allow currently incarcerated survivors who pose no threat to public safety, to apply for re-sentencing, for more info, visit: <http://dvsja.org/>

Other Issues Specific to All Incarcerated Persons (Including Women)

5. **Education** – Access to Post-Secondary Education and Other Programs that Support Successful Reentry

**a) Restoration of the PELL Grant (National)** – On July 31, 2015, the US Attorney General and Secretary of Education announced that the Obama Administration was creating a pilot program that will allow a limited number of inmates to secure federal Pell grants to take college courses behind bars. Created by executive authority, the pilot program will last three to five years and open to inmates eligible for release. In 1994 President Bill Clinton signed legislation that precluded incarcerated students from accessing PELL grants. **Rep. Donna Edwards (D. Md.) introduced the Restoring Education and Learning Act (REAL Act) that would reverse the statute.** <http://www.eiocoalition.org/files/EIO Pell-Grant-2013-Fact-Sheet V4.pdf>.

**b) Restoration of Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)** – NY Governor George Pataki provided in 1994 that incarcerated students would be precluded from accessing TAP, resulting in a reduction in the numbers of in-prison college programs. <http://www.eiocoalition.org/files/EIO ta=-GRANT 2013-Fact-Sheet V4.pdf>. For more information, executive summary providing findings from a study that concluded "overall positive impact on communities and prisons provided incarcerated students were granted access"; <http://turnonhetapny.org/docs/tiertapExecSummaryfinal.pdf>

**c) Ban the Box in Higher Education** – Goal is to remove the criminal history screening process from college admission in NY State public and private universities, thereby, serving as a national model. **The Fair Access to Education Act, in committee in the NY state legislature,** would ban public and private universities from asking the question during the admission process. However, the question would be allowed after admission for the sole purpose of housing and/or programming. For more information, visit <http://www.eiocoalition.org/files/EIO College-Admissions 2013-Fact-Sheet V5.pdf> and an executive summary at <http://communityalternatives.org/pdf/publications/Boxed Out ExecSum.pdf>

6. **Intersection of Child Welfare and Parental Incarceration** – Child welfare laws may result in incarcerated parents with children in foster care losing parental rights. For example, New York's Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) law, almost always requires foster care agencies to file termination of parental rights papers if a child has been in care for 15 of the last 22 months. The median sentence for women in New York's prisons is 36 months, far exceeding ASFA's timeline. More time is required in these cases for incarcerated parents to navigate the criminal justice system and the social welfare agencies requirements, provisions and policies. **In 2010, NY State passed the ASFA Expanded Discretion Law.** This bill amended ASFA and allows foster care agencies to refrain from filing for termination if a parent is either in prison or a residential drug treatment program or if a parent's prior incarceration or program participation is a significant factor in why the child has been in foster care for 15 of the last 22 months, visit: <http://www.correctionalassociation.org/news-a-fair-chance-for-families-separated-by-prison>

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**7. Solitary Confinement (SC)** – In NY State, there is pending legislation called the Humane Alternatives to Long Term **Solitary Confinement Act (HALT)** (A.4401/S.2659). HALT would (1) create alternative Residential Rehabilitation Units (2) restrict the criteria resulting in either isolation or separation for conduct that may be related to a mental health issue (3) end SC beyond 15 days (as called for by the UN Special Rapporteur), (4) ban placing defined vulnerable groups in SC for any extended period, (5) train staff to work with vulnerable persons and (6) refine the process resulting in SC to include legal representation, transparency, and accountability, visit: <http://nycaic.org/>

**8. Raise the Age** – New York prosecutes all 16 and 17 year old persons in the justice system as adults and houses 16 and 17 year-olds in adult jails and prisons. Youth incarcerated as adults face collateral consequences. Evidence from other states show that raising the age has proven to increase public safety, visit: [raisetheage.ny.gov](http://raisetheage.ny.gov)

**9. People Aging in Prison** – Release Aging People From Prison (RAPP) - for more info on aging women in prison, contact Mujahid Farid ([mjfarid49@gmail.com](mailto:mjfarid49@gmail.com)).

#### 10. Restoration of Voting Rights

The issues listed herein were identified as a result of NAWJ, NY Chapter, Women In Prison Committee's collaboration with the Correctional Association of New York, the Bard College Prison Initiative, the Education From the Inside Out Coalition and JUST Leadership USA, all service providers to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated persons. For more detailed information, please contact:

1. Soffiyah Elijah, Executive Director, The Correctional Association of New York (CANY), [selijah@correctionalassociation.org](mailto:selijah@correctionalassociation.org);

2. Tamar Kraft-Stolar, Director, CANY Women in Prison Project, [tkstolar@correctionalassociationa.org](mailto:tkstolar@correctionalassociationa.org);

3. Jaya Vasandani, Associate Director, CANY Women in Prison Project, [jvasandani@correctionalassociation.org](mailto:jvasandani@correctionalassociation.org);

4. Mel Gagarin, Senior Associate of Public Affairs, Education from the Inside Out Coalition (College & Community Fellowship, JustLeadershipUSA and the Center for Community Alternatives) [mgagarin@collegeandcommunity.org](mailto:mgagarin@collegeandcommunity.org);

5. Max Kenner, Director, The Bard College Prison Initiative, [kenner@bard.edu](mailto:kenner@bard.edu);

6. Glenn Martin, Director, JustLeadershipUSA (formerly Fortune Society Policy Director), [glenn@justleadershipusa.org](mailto:glenn@justleadershipusa.org);

7. Vivian Nixon, Executive Director, College and Community Fellowship, [vnixon@collegeandcommunity.org](mailto:vnixon@collegeandcommunity.org)

**IN NOVEMBER 2015, NEW YORK'S WOMEN IN PRISON COMMITTEE** list the following 5 Priorities to Address the Needs of Incarcerated Women in consultation with clinicians, and stakeholders who provide re-entry services to formerly incarcerated and incarcerated persons in Federal Prisons.

**1. Re-Entry** – individualized re-entry and personal Needs Assessment at admission-objective to develop a service plan, focused GENDER BASED programming that provides services while incarcerated specific to the education level/skill set and support/community based services immediately after release-HOUSING, Medicaid, identification, financial literacy;

**2. Physical Health & Mental Health Services** – to include Trauma Informed Practices and Staff Training -Self-Awareness training for women provided by trained clinicians; consistent medical care and follow up; adherence to anti shackling-directives;

**3. Family Reunification** – Facility location-family focused to maximize continuing relationships with children & family members (user friendly visiting areas, custody counseling, parenting skills training);

**4. Education/ Job Skill Training** to provide family sustaining employment-not precluded by a criminal conviction; and

**5. Safety and Security** – Provide an environment which protects both staff and women.

**On September 5, 2015**, Family Court Judge Ann O'Shea submitted the final draft of **"You Don't Stop Being A Parent When You Are Incarcerated."** The pamphlet when completed, will provides information in user friendly language for incarcerated parents under the following subheadings:

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.

**Chairs:**  
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1. **You Have a Right to:** i.e. Attend and Participate in Court Proceedings; arrange for a relative or friend to care for your child while you are incarcerated; be represented by an attorney in any court case involving the care of your child; attend and participate in court proceedings;
2. **You Have the Responsibility to:** i.e. make regular contact with your child and/or the foster agency; plan for your child's future; complete your family services plan;
3. **What Is a Family Service Plan?;**
4. **What Is "Permanency Planning"?**;
5. **What Is "Termination of Parental Rights"?**

The pamphlet will be published once reviewed by Family Court Administrators and stakeholders. The final draft of "**You Don't Stop Being A Parent When You Are Incarcerated**" was completed following the June 2015 committee meeting with Judges O'Shea, Emily Olshansky, Susan S. Danoff, Betty J. Williams and reviewed by Judge Cheryl J. Gonzales and Judge Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson.

### WEBSITE ESTABLISHED - WISH LIST OF BOOKS FOR TACONIC CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FOR WOMEN

**Link to the list on Amazon** <https://amzn.com/w/37KIF4UV65G87>

Hon. Cheryl J. Gonzales, NY NAWJ Women in Prison Chair established this 2015 Book Project in consultation with the Taconic staff to upgrade Taconic's library.

For Taconic Book Wish List, link to the list on Amazon <https://amzn.com/w/37KIF4UV65G87>. Books ordered should be shipped to the attention of Deputy Superintendent Eileen Gonzalez-Russell whose name will appear in Amazon's shipping options. Justice Carol Robinson Edmead was the first judge to order five (5) books for the 2015 Book Drive at Taconic. Thank you, Justice Edmead.

NY NAWJ Women in Prison Committee began upgrading women prison libraries in 2006. In 2011 NAWJ established the first Amazon Book Drive at the 2011 Annual Conference in Newark, New Jersey and The Book Drive continues yearly at NAWJ's annual conference. At the 2015 Salt Lake City Conferences, judges could order books to be shipped to the Library Director at the Utah Department of Corrections in Draper, Utah.

### BEYOND THE BAR HOLIDAY PROJECT

Justice Laura J. Jacobson hosted the 2015 Pizza Party for the volunteers who assembled four hundred (400) gifts bags for the incarcerated women at Taconic Correctional Facility. The gift bags included toiletries, socks, washcloths, emery boards, pens, combs and candy canes. Gifts and movie passes for the children and grandchildren of the Taconic women were donated at borough wide, New York, Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx courthouses. Tote bags were also donated as requested for the women's belongings when released from the facility. NAWJ District 2 Upstate NY State Chair, Hon. E. Jeanette Ogden, Hon. Shirley Troutman and Hon. Ann C. Crowell are coordinating the Beyond the Bars Project at Albion Correctional Facility for Women in Albion, New York. Gifts for the children/grandchildren and toiletries will be donated to the Albion incarcerated women scheduled to be delivered on December 22, 2015. A follow-up project regarding health and hygiene at Albion will be facilitated by Justices Ogden and Troutman and include Judges Debra L. Given and Margaret Walsh as committee members. Four hundred (400) date books will be sent directly to Taconic Correctional Facility and one thousand two hundred (1200) to Albion Correctional Facility. The Albion date books will be mailed directly to the facility following a NAWJ member/volunteers meeting to remove the world map, unacceptable to the prison officials.

The Taconic staff, date to be determined, will transport the women's gift bags and tote bags as well as the gifts/movie passes for the women's children and grandchildren from the NY Courthouses. The NYWIP Committee Members thank all the NY State Judges, Brooklyn Women's Bar Association and the Judicial Friends for supporting the Beyond the Bar Project.

Beyond the Bars WIP Committee members facilitating the 2015 project included: Judges Laura Jacobson, Sylvia Hinds-Radix, Wavny Toussiant, Yvonne Lewis, Joanne Quinones, Robin Sheares, Cenceria Edwards, Ruth Shillingford, Verna Saunders, Barbara Panepinto, Doris Gonzalez, Laura Douglas, Lisa A. Sokoloff, and Judge Cheryl J. Gonzales, New York State Women in Prison Chair and District 2 Director 2016.



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