



International Association
of Women Judges

IAWJ News - January

Latest News

- The **Tanzania Women Judges Association** held its 9th Biennial Conference in January in Zanzibar. The theme of the conference was: “**Gender Based Violence & Industrialization: Laws and Policies.**”
- IAWJ was represented at the **Pontifical Academy of Sciences’ Summit of African Women Judges & Prosecutors on Human Trafficking and Organized Crime.** IAWJ Board Members, **Hon. Susana Medina, Hon. Saida Chebili, Hon. Ngozi Emehelu, Hon. Binta Nyako, and Hon. Hannah Okwengu** were there with **over twenty IAWJ members.** You can read a [summary of the official statement from the judges on our News Blog.](#)
- **Six of our members** and IAWJ senior advisor, Nancy Hendry participated in **UNODC’s Expert Group Meeting on Gender-Related Judicial Integrity Issues** in Seoul. The meeting reviewed an Issue paper researched and drafted by Nancy Hendry on sexual harassment and sextortion in the judiciary. [Read a summary of the meeting on our News Blog.](#)



- The **B20, C20 and W20**, three of the **G20’s** engagement groups, **committed to fighting sextortion** in a joint statement released after their 2018 Summit in Buenos Aires.
- The **Tunisian Association of Women Judges** conducted a training activity for almost 50 judges from all regions in the country on “**mediation techniques in conflict management.**”



Resource of the month

- **Prof. Caroline Bettinger-Lopez**, member of IAWJ’s Board of Managerial Trustees, wrote an [OpEd](#) analyzing the International Labor Organization’s proposed “**Convention and Recommendations Concerning the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work**”. You can find a summary of her article on our website.
- The International Development Law Organization, released its report: “**Women Delivering Justice: Contributions, Barriers, Pathways.**” **IAWJ members and staff contributed to the report.**

Women Judges In The Spotlight

- IAWJ President **Hon. Vanessa Ruiz** has written an OpEd for UNODC titled: “**The Role of Women Judges and a Gender Perspective in Ensuring Judicial Independence and Integrity.**” Read a summary of her article on our website.
- **Hon. Uwani Abba Aji** has been [appointed to the Supreme Court of Nigeria.](#)
- **Hon. Kholoud Al-Faqih** [stars in a documentary of her Journey as the first woman Judge on a Shari ‘a court in Palestine.](#)
- **Hon. Helen Winkelmann** has been appointed [Chief Justice of New Zealand.](#)
- Former IAWJ President, **Chief Justice Brenda Hale**, addressed the [need for diversity in the UK’s judiciary](#) in an interview for The Guardian.
- **Hon. Wavny Toussaint** was interviewed for Caribbean Life News about her role and her achievements as a US Justice. [She encouraged young people interested in pursuing law careers to follow their dreams because “nothing is impossible.”](#)

IAWJ Projects Update

- In November 2018, we launched a **Counter-Trafficking in Persons Working Group in the Latin America and Caribbean region.** This program is designed to **increase capacity of justice sector actors to combat trafficking in persons.** The regional working group includes judges and other justice officials from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Argentina, Chile, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The regional working group has two primary objectives:
 - To disseminate a questionnaire to judicial actors throughout the Latin America and Caribbean Region.
 - **To plan and carry-out a 3-day regional conference on Trafficking in Persons in 2019 in the Dominican Republic.**

Upcoming Meetings & Conferences

- **IAWJ 2019 Asia Pacific Regional Conference:** “Justice...in the Hearts of Women”, hosted by the Philippine Women Judges Association (PWJA), will take place in Alona Beach, Panglao Island, Bohol, Philippines from February 27 to March 1, 2019. You can register for it [here.](#)
- The IAWJ will host a delegation for the **63rd annual meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women** from March 11 – 15, 2019, in New York, USA.
- **IAWJ’s Board of Directors meeting** will take place March 16-17 in New York, USA.
- **IAWJ 2019 Europe, Middle East, and North Africa Regional Conference** will be hosted by the Association of Women Judges of Spain on April 25 and 26 in Madrid, Spain. The theme of this conference will be: “Justice with a Gender Perspective.”
- The **Annual Meeting of the Canadian Chapter of the IAWJ** will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from April 30 to May 2, 2019.
- **IAWJ 2019 Africa Regional Conference** will be hosted by the Ivory Coast Section of the International Association of Women Judges from June 3 – 7 2019 in Abidjan.
- The **National Association of Women Judges’ 41st Annual Meeting** will take place in Los Angeles, California, US, from October 15 – 19, 2019.
- **IAWJ 2019 Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Conference** will be hosted by the Association of Women Judges of the Dominican Republic (AJURD), from November 23 – 25, 2019 in Punta Cana.
- **IAWJ’s 15th Biennial Conference:** “Celebrating Diversity” will be hosted by the New Zealand Association of Women Judges (NZAWJ) in Auckland, Aotearoa, New Zealand from May 7 – 10, 2020.

Don’t forget to go to our [Calendar of Events](#) for more information!

Professional and Leadership Opportunities

- **Inter-American Commissions on Human Rights (2019):** Members serve four-year terms and can be reelected for one more term. States parties to the American Convention have the right to propose three candidates. Commissioners are elected during the OAS General Assembly by Member States.
- **Committee on the Protection of the rights of all Migrant Workers and members of their Families (2019):** Members are elected for a four year term by States parties and serve in their personal capacity and may be re-elected if re-nominated.
- **Committee on Enforced Disappearances (2019):** Members are elected for a four-year term by States parties and may be re-elected once.
- **Inter-American Court of Human Rights (2020):** Each judge serves a six-year term with the possibility of one re-election. States parties to the American Convention have the right to propose three candidates. Judges are elected during the OAS General Assembly by Member States. You can hear Cecilia Medina, former president of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights, discuss her professional and personal experiences as a female jurist in this [podcast](#) (only in Spanish).
- **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (2020):** Each member serves a nine-year term and every three years a third of the Court is elected. They have a possibility to be reelected. Member States have the right to propose two candidates. Elections shall be held at a meeting of the States Parties convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Please send us information about events, projects, resources, opportunities, and latest accomplishments to office@iawj.org!