MAKE A DIFFERENCE. JOIN US. DONATE TODAY.
A message from the President...

Dear IAWJ Members,

Please join me in giving a warm welcome to our new Executive Director. Shawna Wilson was selected after an intensive months-long search based on her deep knowledge and experience and her appreciation of our unique membership. Shawna is already immersed in leading our Executive Office alongside our talented professional staff. The Board of Directors and Board of Managerial Trustees are pleased to be working with Shawna to further the goals of IAWJ. Stay tuned for a video interview next month.

IAWJ's mission to promote equal justice and an inclusive judiciary representative of those we serve has never been more obvious and urgent. As we mourn with those hurt by the recent hate-fueled violence in Christchurch, New Zealand and in Colombo and other cities in Sri Lanka, we recognize that a fair and equitable application of law and internationally recognized norms of human rights—not retaliation—is the best response for a just and peaceful world.

With my warm regards,

Hon. Vanessa Ruiz
IAWJ President

A message from our new Executive Director, Shawna Wilson

Dear IAWJ Members,

It is such an honor to write to you as the association's new executive director. I first learned of IAWJ and all of the association's great work many years ago, when IAWJ was involved in hosting a large event regarding women in the judiciary. The event included many panel discussions about the different barriers for women throughout the world to enter and advance within the judiciary. I was lucky enough to attend portions of the event and met many IAWJ members from around the globe. I left that event feeling so inspired and in awe of such remarkable trailblazing women. My admiration for all that you do continues now that I am a member of the IAWJ family. As all of you know so well, the IAWJ headquarters team is stellar. Every day I am impressed with their commitment, drive, and work ethic to provide programming and services to the members. As I am learning more about each of the member associations, I am impressed with all of the activities undertaken by the various associations. As with any organization, the people are what makes it special and this is so true for IAWJ. Each member brings something unique to this organization and your commitment to our mission is unparalleled. Thank you for all of your well-wishes and tremendous support as we embark on this new journey to expand the association's reach and showcase IAWJ's work to advance human rights and empower women.

Finally, I wanted to take a moment to share my support and prayers for all of our members in New Zealand and Sri Lanka. The devastating attacks in both countries further strengthen our resolve to carry out our mission - to combating bias and hate while promoting human rights and equality. I know the entire IAWJ community shares this sentiment and we are keeping both countries in our thoughts as they heal.

Shawna Wilson
Executive Director
The International Association of Women Judges is pleased to announce the appointment of Shawna Wilson as Executive Director.

The United Kingdom Association of Women Judges (UKAWJ) celebrated International Women’s Day in an event with the Commonwealth Secretariat at the Marlborough House.

The Tanzania Women Judges Association shared a report highlighting their activities and programs for the period of January 2017 to January 2019.

The UKAWJ has launched an open lecture series to celebrate 100 years of women in the law.

The Association of Women Judges of Spain launched an educational program called “Educating in Equal Justice” with the Autonomous University of Aguascalientes (UAA) in Mexico.

The Philippine Women Judges Association hosted IAWJ’s Regional Conference for Asia-Pacific along with its 24th Annual Convention-Seminar. The theme was Justice ... in the Hearts of Women and over 485 women judges were present.
**Latest News**

- The **Association of Women Magistrates and Judges of the Judicial Branch of Panama** inaugurated its headquarters.
- **IAWJ Regional Directors** submitted reports of their region’s activities:
  - Africa Regional Director, **Hon. Hannah Okwengu**.
  - North America (US) Regional Director, **Hon. Lisette Shirdan-Harris’** Report of the National Association of Women Judges.
  - Europe, Middle East, and North Africa Regional Directors **Hon. Gloria Poyatos** for Europe and **Hon. Saida Chebili** for Middle East and North Africa.
  - Asia Regional Director **Hon. Tess Arcega**.

**Resource of the month**

- The **International Women's Right Actions Watch (IWRAW) Asia Pacific** hosted a **Regional Judicial Colloquium on Access Access to Justice for Women's Right to Equality in the Family**, from March 20 to 22 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Among the participants were two of our members, Hon. Amy Alabado Avellano (Philippines) and Hon. Naima Haider (Bangladesh). The participants adopted the **Colombo Declaration on the Role of the Judiciary in Ensuring Women's Right to Equality in Marriage and Family Relations**.

**Women Judges in the Spotlight**

- **Hon. Brenda Hale (UK)** presented at an event at the Supreme Court to mark the centenary of women’s entry into the legal profession in the UK.
- **Hon. Linda Murnane (USA)** was honored with the 2019 Mayre Rasmussen Award for the Advancement of Women in International Law by the ABA's Section of International law.
- IAWJ Board of Director’s Secretary, **Hon. Mina Sougrati (Morocco)**, represented us at the **High-Level Debate on International Migration and Development**, held at the UN.
- **Hon. Lori T. Spivak (Canada)** was appointed to the Court of Appeal of Manitoba.
- **Hon. Janet Tello (Peru)**, President of the Peruvian Association of Women Judges, won the 2019 Faces for Equality Award (#RostrosPorLaIgualdad) of the Embassy of Canada.
IAWJ Projects Update

- As part of our joint Program "Recognizing Corruption's Impact on Women in Morocco," the Union of Moroccan Women Judges organized a Sextortion Workshop in Tangier.

Professional and Leadership Opportunities

- Registration is still open for the 2019 Conference of the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association to be held at the Stanley Hotel, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, Pacific Island from September 8th -12th 2019. The theme of the Conference is "Parliamentary Democracy and the Role of the Judiciary". Register [here](#).
Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

- 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 African 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 theme is "Unity, judicial cooperation and solidarity among the women judges in the implementation of sub-regional, regional and international laws." You can find the program of the conference [here](#). Register [here](#).
- 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.
- **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 check out our [Calendar of Events](#) for more information!

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