MAKE A DIFFERENCE. JOIN US. DONATE TODAY.
Dear IAWJ Members,

As we begin this new year with renewed energy and purpose to achieve IAWJ’s objectives, we pause to remember and celebrate the life of Judge Patricia McGowan Wald, who died earlier this month. Judge Wald was a true pioneer in the law and a highly respected jurist in the United States and among judges serving on international tribunals. After taking time from her career to raise five children, in 1979 she was the first woman appointed to the influential US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and the first woman to serve as Chief Judge. She authored many opinions that revealed not only her mastery of the law but also her bone-deep commitment to making the law responsive to real-world concerns and the courts accessible to those most in need of the law’s protection. Judge Wald then served at The Hague on the International Court for the Former Yugoslavia, where her landmark rulings established that the massacre of thousands of men and boys in Srebrenica constituted genocide and the rape of women at a detention camp were war crimes.

Judge Wald gave of herself where she could make a substantive contribution, whether in the field of national security and privacy, or with NAWJ on the conditions of women in prison. Her commitment was unstinting and no-nonsense. The magnitude of her lifelong impact was recognized when she received the highest civilian distinction in the US, the American Medal of Freedom, conferred by President Barack Obama in 2013.


Ours is for a sister judge, friend, mentor, and courageous and empathetic human being. We honored Judge Wald in 2016 with the Human Rights Award at IAWJ’s 25th anniversary conference in Washington DC. Her husband, Robert Wald, a prominent attorney, served on IAWJ’s Board of Managerial Trustees for many years.

For some of us, this loss is deeply personal. For me, Judge Wald was a dear friend, sage advisor and a fun movie and dinner companion.
A message from the President...

Judge Pat Wald's memory represents the best of the values IAWJ judges hold dear: intellect, integrity, skill and above all a forward-looking humanity.

There will be a Remembrance of the extraordinary life of Judge Patricia Wald on Saturday February 2 at 2:00 pm at the Cosmos Club, 2121 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC.

The Wald family has generously identified IAWJ as an organization she supported, for those who wish to make a donation in her honor. Sending notes of Condolence: We will share with the family any notes sent to IAWJ or you may send them directly in care of:

Frederica Wald
975 Park Avenue, #4C
New York, NY 10028

With my warm regards,
Hon. Vanessa Ruiz
IAWJ President
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 and watch all the presentations and discussions here.
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."
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.

Resource of the month

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 here.

Hon. Uwani Abba Aji has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

Hon. Khoudalou 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.
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.
  - Nomination and election processes.
  - Current court composition.

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- **Committee on Enforced Disappearances (2019):** Members are elected for a four-year term by States parties and may be re-elected once.
  - Nomination and election processes.
  - Current court composition.

- **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.
  - Nomination and election processes.
  - Current court composition.

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.
  - Nomination and election processes.
  - Current court composition.
Upcoming Meetings and 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.
- 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** to discuss IAWJ Business 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 (AMJE) on April 25 and 26 in Madrid, Spain. You can see the draft agenda [here](#).
- 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 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](mailto:office@iawj.org)!
For more information go to our website www.iawj.org or follow us on social media!

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International Association of Women Judges
Tel: +1.202.223.4455 • email: office@iawj.org