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

This month I was honored to lead IAWJ’s 40-member delegation to the 63d Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York City. We greatly appreciate all who travelled to attend the sessions and participated in IAWJ’s panel presentation. Your words and actions show why IAWJ makes a difference in securing equal justice and making justice accessible. We were privileged to have a private meeting with the President of the UN General Assembly, Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, thanks to NY Judge Carmen Velasquez. At CSW, President-elect Justice Susan Glazebrook (NZ) presented IAWJ’s statement on the priority theme by making the connection to the role of courts and judges in empowering women and girls to gain access to public services. We saw that role in action when we observed proceedings in criminal court in Queens, NY, including the specialized human trafficking court presided by NY Judge Toko Serita. And, as always, we enjoyed each other’s company and shared information during informal conversations and outings. Special thanks are owed to IAWJ’s staff (Lisa Davis, Anne Goldstein, Laura Campiglia and Samila Dutra) for their professional efforts in planning the week’s activities and keeping us organized.

IAWJ also participated, in partnership with UN Women, in the launch of a new strategy to eliminate laws that discriminate against women and girls in 100 countries by the year 2030.

The IAWJ Board of Directors held its two-day annual meeting on March 16-17. Among a number of issues discussed, the Board selected Marrakesh as the site for the 2022 Biennial Conference. Thank you to the Union of Moroccan Women Judges for its excellent proposal and to its President, Judge Mina Sougrati, who is also a member of IAWJ’s Executive Council.

Congratulations to the Philippines Association of Women Judges for hosting a successful conference for the Asia-Pacific region on February 27-March 1, the first of this year’s regional meetings. There will be a full report in the next Newsletter. The next regional meeting, for Europe, Middle East and North Africa, will be held next month in Madrid, Spain on April 24-26, hosted by the Association of Women Judges of Spain.

Finally, as we say farewell to Executive Director Lisa Davis, on behalf of the Board of Directors and our members, I thank Lisa for her work on our behalf during her 3 1/2 year tenure with IAWJ. We are especially grateful for her flexibility and willingness to help during this transition period. Lisa, we wish you well in your future endeavors!

With my warm regards,

Hon. Vanessa Ruiz
IAWJ President
Dear IAWJ Members,

Thank you for making me a part of this great sisterhood of judges. I am inspired by what you do every day as judges and the mark you have made on your courts—from creating specialized courts and services, leading gender commissions in the judiciary, providing judicial education on new subjects, and advancing the principle of judging with a gender perspective. The most exciting part for me has been participating in the regional meetings and biennial conferences and hearing how you issued judgments or dissenting opinions with courage and intellect that make a difference in people’s lives. When women judges lead, great things happen.

No doubt all of you have met some form of resistance as a female judge along your career, and I know that the IAWJ friendships and our professional network provides you the strength to persevere, the camaraderie, the laughter and the dancing to brush aside those experiences.

I hope that you feel I have contributed to the IAWJ over the last three years and nine months as Executive Director. I will miss the valuable leadership by Board members who guided me and worked with me to sustain a strong association. I will miss being surrounded by my colleagues on the professional staff who are so passionate and committed to our mission. Most of all, I will miss the friendships you have given me in every part of the world.

My last day at the IAWJ will be August 9th. I wish you a wonderful future ahead as the IAWJ and in your careers!

Lisa Davis
LinkedIn
• The Tunisian Women Judges Association (TAWJ) conducted a mediation training with judges, lawyers, and social mediators to promote the use of mediation to resolve conflicts more humanely.

• The Association of Women Judges from the Mexican Chapter of the IAWJ, shared their report on 2018-2019 activities.

• The TAWJ commemorated International Women’s Day and promoted trust in the judiciary by organizing an art exhibit with women judge’s art.
• Our Chapter in Benin met with the Minister of Justice of Benin to discuss their mission and work.

• The National Association of Women Judges-USA took students to court to learn about the judiciary for their Informed Voters Project.

• Women still hold fewer leadership positions than men do in Namibia. In the judiciary, only five women serve as judges out of 24, and 46 magistrates out of 94. The country has 121 regional councilors, only 18 are women.

• The Canadian Chapter of the IAWJ (CCIAWJ) hosted its annual event called “An Evening with Women Judges” at the Robson Hall Law School in Manitoba.

• The IAWJ commemorated International Women’s Day.
Resource of the month

- Collaborating with UN Women, we have just participated in the launch of its *Equality in Law for Women and Girls: A Multistakeholder Strategy for Accelerated Action.* You can read the strategy [here](#).

Women Judges in the Spotlight

- Our President, Hon. Vanessa Ruiz (USA) and President-elect, Hon. Susan Glazebrook (New Zealand) represented the IAWJ in panels in three separate opportunities during CSW 63.

- **Hon. Vanessa Ruiz (USA)** represented the IAWJ at the UN Conference on Contemporary Challenges on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers from a Global Perspective.
- **Hon. Maguy Florestal (Haiti)** was recommended by the Senate to be appointed by the Court of Cassation.
- **Hon. Mary Margaret Rowlands (USA)** participation in the CSW 63 delegation of the IAWJ was featured in two news outlets: Akron Legal News and Akron Beacon Journal.
- **Hon. Gloria Poyatos (Spain)** was interviewed by El Intermedio (la Sexta) about patriarchal justice and sexual violence. Read a summary of her interview on our News Blog.
- **Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy (USA)** will deliver the 2019 Commencement Address for Penn State Law.
IAWJ Projects Update

- The IAWJ hosted a new delegation of women judges for the 63rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) from March 12-20. This year, the theme was "social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The 40-people delegation was comprised of 34 members from 17 different countries: Argentina, Australia, Benin, Canada, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Paraguay, Philippines, Spain, Tanzania, Tunisia, and the US. This year, our judges had a packed agenda of CSW related events. They attended CSW official events, side events, parallel events, meetings with UN officials, and a court tour. Members of our delegation also represented the IAWJ in several panels and speeches. More information about our participation in the CSW 63 here.

- We also organized a parallel event titled "Courts and access to public services: Global perspectives from women judges." You can watch the entire event on our Facebook Page.

Professional and Leadership Opportunities

- The United Nations is seeking judges for its internal system of administration of justice that addresses employment-related disputes.
- Call for Papers for the Europe, Middle East and North Africa Regional Conference.
Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

- **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". You can see the final 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 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!