IAWJ Insider News

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May/June 2019
Dear IAWJ Members,

In this Newsletter we celebrate the 85th birthday of our founder, Arline Pacht, on June 22. Here is a short video with Arline.

In this two-month issue of our Newsletter we have a lot to report: two regions had their meetings: Europe, North Africa and the Middle East in Madrid on April 24-27, hosted by the Asociación de Mujeres Juezas de España (AMJE); the Africa Region held its meeting in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, June 3-7, hosted by the Association des Femmes Magistrats de Côte d'Ivoire (AFEMCI). I was privileged to attend both regional meetings, learned from the substantive presentations and renewed friendships with members. As always there was good conversation, much interaction, music and singing in Madrid and in Abidjan, music and dancing!

The Canadian Chapter of IAWJ (IAWJCC) had its annual meeting in Halifax, April 29 - May 2 and celebrated its 25th Anniversary with recognitions of its past presidents. The Asociación de Magistradas Judiciales de la República de Paraguay (AMJRP) organized a historic first meeting in Asunción that brought together women leaders from different sectors of society in the country to highlight the importance of women's full participation in a democratic society, with the slogan "Without Women, there is no Democracy." In short, IAWJ members and associations continue to come together to lead, promote an inclusive judiciary and teach and learn about equal justice. More information about these and other activities is below.

With my warm wishes,

Hon. Vanessa Ruiz
IAWJ President
In May 2019, I had several opportunities to showcase all of the IAWJ's great work. First, I traveled to Vienna for one day to attend the U.N. Crime Commission at the invitation of the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). OSCE, in conjunction with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Norwegian Government, sponsored a side event to highlight a recent study OSCE conducted on gender and justice. This OSCE side event had about 50 participants and provided a platform to highlight IAWJ's work and share our materials. Second, I was in London to attend the International Legal Assistance Consortium's (ILAC) general annual meeting as well as the advisory council meeting. IAWJ is a member of this consortium, which is funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and we are a member of its advisory council. ILAC is comprised of more than 50 legal organizations and experts. Its mission is to assess the needs of the justice sector in conflict-affected and fragile countries, and help strengthen the independence and resilience of justice sector institutions. The annual general meeting was a good opportunity to meet with representatives from a number of different rule of law organizations and showcase IAWJ's current programs. Furthermore, I was able to talk about future program collaborations with these organizations and hopefully this will lead to more programming opportunities. I was fortunate to have Hon. Anisa Dhanji, from the United Kingdom's Association of Women Judges, attend the ILAC meetings with me. In addition, Joan Winship, one of IAWJ's former Executive Directors who many of you know, is a lifetime member of ILAC. Joan continues to be a great supporter of the IAWJ and was complimentary about the IAWJ's work during the meeting.
• The **Association of Women Judges of Spain** hosted the **2019 IAWJ Europe, Middle East, and North Africa Regional Conference** in Madrid with the theme "Justice with a Gender Perspective."

![Conference in Madrid](image1.jpg)

• The **Association of Women Magistrates of the Ivory Coast** hosted IAWJ’s **2019 Africa Regional Conference** in Abidjan with the theme "Mutual Assistance, Judicial Cooperation and Solidarity Among Women Judges in the Implementation of Sub-Regional, Regional, and International Laws."

![Conference in Abidjan](image2.jpg)
The Canadian Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges celebrated their 25th Anniversary at a Conference and Dinner held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, April 29 - May 2, 2019.

IAWJ Senior Advisor, Nancy Hendry, wrote a blog post for our website to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination Sexual Violence in Conflict addressing the ways in which conflict and post-conflict situations increase the vulnerability of women and children to sextortion.

The United Kingdom Association of Women Judges hosted an event on sexual harassment at work titled "Sexual harassment at work, unacceptable, unlawful but unremitting - reflections on its nature and persistence and on the changing legal landscape."

The Association of Women Judges of Paraguay co-hosted the first Meeting of Female Leaders of Paraguay.
IAWJ was represented by 14 members at the Second Pan-American Judges Summit on Social Rights and Franciscan Doctrine hosted by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences at the Vatican. The IAWJ members attending were: from the US, President, Hon. Tamila Ipema, Hon. Lisa Walsh, IAWJ Board Member, Hon. Lisette Shirdan-Harris, Hon. Joy Lobrano, Col. Linda Murnane, Hon. Marian Gaston, IAWJ Board of Managerial Trustees (BMT) member, Hon. Judith Chirlin; from Canada, IAWJ BMT member, Hon. Tamarin Dunnet; from Peru, President, Hon. Janet Tello, Hon. Elvira Alvarez Olazabal; and from Argentina, President, Hon. Susana Medina, Hon. Fabiana Schafrik, Hon. Mariana Pucciarello, and Hon. Graciela Eleonora Slavin.

The Association of Women Judges of Paraguay conducted a free workshop titled "Comprehensive Protection of Women against all Forms of Violence - Femicide".
Latest News

- The **National Association of Women Judges - USA** hosted the **Global Judicial Leadership Conference** in New York.
- The **Women Judges Association of Malawi** was among the participants of a gender-based violence stakeholders meeting hosted by the Women Legal Resource Center in Blantyre.
- The IAWJ headquarters have been moved to a new office space located at **2000 M Street NW, Suite 750C, Washington, DC, 20036, USA**.
- IAWJ President, **Hon. Vanessa Ruiz (USA)** moderated a panel titled "**Command Responsibility or Command Exemption? What the Bemba Case Tells Us About Sexual Assault as a War Crime**" at the American Bar Association’s Section of International Law’s 2019 Annual Conference. IAWJ members, **Judge Janet Nosworthy (Jamaica)** and **Col. Linda Strite Murnane (USA)** were among the panelists.

The **Association of Women Judges of Spain** created a video of their program "**Educating in Equal Justice**."
- The **Association of Women Judges of Paraguay** made a statement in support of women judges running for Supreme Court appointments.
The Tunisian Association of Women Judges hosted a workshop for judges from Yemen, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia to promote democratic sustainability by bringing together judicial representatives to discuss the laws that govern the judiciary.

The Union of Moroccan Women Judges conducted a second Sextortion Workshop as part of our program in Morocco.
Latest News

- IAWJ Past President and President of the Association of Women Judges of Argentina, Hon. Susana Medina, wrote a message to commemorate last year’s Biennial Conference in Buenos Aires.
- The Tunisian Association of Women Judges met with United States Ambassador to Tunisia, Donald Blome to discuss women’s participation in the country’s judiciary.
- Canada is considering a bill to make sexual assault case training mandatory for federal judges.
- Women judges in Guatemala account for 40% of all judges.

Resource of the month

- The Law Society’s Women in Leadership in Law Project from the United Kingdom launched a report on the need for gender equality in the legal profession titled “Influencing for impact: The need for gender equality in the legal profession: Women in Leadership in Law report - Findings from the women's roundtables.”

Women Judges in the Spotlight

- Hon. Gillian D. Butler (Canada), Vice President of the Canadian Chapter of the IAWJ, has been appointed to the Court of Appeal of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- IAWJ BMT member, former U.S. Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte has been appointed to W&M Board of Visitors.
- Hon. Francisca Zapata (Chile), President of the Association of Women Magistrates of Chile, participated in the Family Commission of the Chamber of Deputies.
- IAWJ member, Hon. Yasmin Esquivel Mossa (Mexico) has been appointed Justice of Mexico’s National Supreme Court. Justice Esquivel is filling the vacancy created by the retirement of IAWJ Vice President Justice Margarita Luna Ramos (Mexico) upon the completion of her term on the Court.

To read all Women Judges in the Spotlight News click here.
• In preparation for the Regional Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Combating Trafficking in Persons to be held this July 30 and 31 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, the IAWJ and the Association of Women Judges of the Dominican Republic met with Judicial Leaders in the Dominican Republic.

Professional and Leadership Opportunities

• As you know, we are part of UNODC’s Global Judicial Integrity Network. Among other things, the network aims to raise awareness among judges and judiciaries about gender-related judicial integrity issues, such as sextortion, sexual harassment, gender stereotyping, discrimination, etc. In December 2018, an expert group meeting on gender-related issues in the judiciary, attended by several IAWJ members, was organized to discuss the draft of a dedicated issue paper on existing practices, cases, and experiences in training and accountability, as well as expert consultations. The issue paper was drafted by UNODC’s expert consultant and IAWJ Senior Advisor, Nancy Hendry.

UNODC is collecting additional input and comments on the issue paper and they invite you to: a) review the draft; b) provide additional cases and resources; and/or c) make other recommendations on the issue paper and how to develop national and regional standards on gender-related judicial integrity issues, by July 31, 2019. The issue paper is available on the website of the Global Judicial Integrity Network. To access this content, please register or log in. You can submit comments through their website through the online query system or by replying to: unodc-judicialintegrity@un.org. The final text will be presented at the next High-Level Meeting of the Global Judicial Integrity Network on 18 and 19 November in Doha, Qatar.
Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

- IAWJ's **Regional Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Combating Trafficking in Persons** will take place in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on July 30 and 31. The conference is being financed by the US Government and organized in collaboration with the Association of Women Judges of the Dominican Republic (AJURD), the Dominican Republic's (DR) Constitutional Court (TC), the DR's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX), the DR's Superior Electoral Court (TSE). IAWJ affiliated associations in Latin America and the Caribbean, the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (JTIP), and the United States Embassy in the DR.*

- The **National Association of Women Judges' 41st Annual Meeting** will take place in Los Angeles, California, US, from October 15 - 19, 2019.

- The **United Kingdom Association of Women Judges** will host its **Annual Meeting** on November 8 in Birmingham with the theme "Migration, slavery, and the law."

- **UNODC's High-Level Meeting of the Global Judicial Integrity Network**, Doha, Qatar, November 18 and 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.

*Registration to this conference is by invitation only.

**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**!
For more information go to our website www.iawj.org or follow us on social media!

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