

**National Judicial Network (NJN) Steering Committee
 (April 25, 2022)**



Judge Abigail Aragon - *Judge, 4th Judicial District Court, Las Vegas, New Mexico; appointed 2006, Chief Judge 2012*

Judge Aragon was elected to the 4th Judicial District Court in 2006. She became the first woman to serve on the court and hold its chief position. She presides over a diversified docket and hears both civil and criminal cases. Her law degree is from the University of New Mexico. Before working for the 4th Judicial District Court, she was an assistant district attorney and worked in private practice. Judge Aragon is active in various civic and professional organizations.



Judge Susan M. Breall - *Superior Court Judge, San Francisco Superior Court, San Francisco, California; appointed 2001*

Judge Breall is a judge in the Superior Court of San Francisco. As part of her juvenile delinquency assignment, she became the founder of the first Girls Court in San Francisco. Moreover, she is a member of the California Alliance to Combat Trafficking and Slavery Task Force. She is a speaker at the International Human Trafficking Summit, a national expert faculty on human trafficking for the National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Rights 4 Girls, and the U.S. Department of Justice. In addition to her anti-trafficking work, she is the former Chief of the Criminal Division of the San Francisco District Attorney's Office for all crimes of violence against women, children, elderly and intimate partners.



Judge (Ret.) Rosemary Collins – *Judge (Retired), 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Winnebago County, Rockford, Illinois; appointed 1989*

Judge Collins was the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Violence Coordinated Courts Division, the Presiding Judge of the Family Law Division, and carried a full time felony trial calendar as a Circuit Court Judge. She became the first woman judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit in 1989. Judge Collins is the chairperson of the 17th Judicial Circuit's Family Violence Coordinating Council, and serves as President of the Board of Directors for Children's Safe Harbor. In 1998, she spearheaded the opening of the Domestic Violence Assistance Center in the courthouse, which advocates for victims of domestic violence throughout the order of protection process.



Judge Lori Dumas - *First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Family Court Juvenile Division*

As a judge who has served on the bench for over 16 years, the Honorable Lori A. Dumas is an impactful voice in the City of Philadelphia. She served as a Common Pleas Court Judge in the Philadelphia Family Court – Juvenile Division for the majority of her tenure where she fought for fair and equal justice for Philadelphia’s most vulnerable children and families. She also presided in the Criminal Division and is currently assigned to the Civil Trial Division. Judge Dumas is a consummate advocate for children, always aiming to render decisions that serve the “best interests of the child.” Most recently, she has been a leader in guiding the City of Philadelphia in its creation of the First Judicial District’s Juvenile Human Trafficking Court to provide services to youth that have been victims of human trafficking. Prior to her nomination to the bench in 2002 by former Governor Mark Schweiker and confirmation by former Governor Edward Rendell, Judge Dumas owned her own firm for nearly 10 years.



Judge Katherine Essrig - *Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, County of Hillsborough*

Judge Katherine Essrig has resided as a Circuit Judge since 1997. Prior, she served as a County Court Judge for five years. She is an active member of judicial organizations including, the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges, Florida Association of Women Lawyers and Family Law Section, Hillsborough County. Judge Essrig was admitted to practice in 1981.



Judge Ramona Gonzalez – *Former President of National Council of Juvenile and Family Courts Judges (2019), Circuit Judge of La Crosse County, Wisconsin*

Judge Gonzalez is the presiding judge in La Crosse County, Wisconsin; she was first elected as a circuit judge in 1995. She is an expert on family law issues, specializing in particular on national and international matters relating to child abduction and domestic violence. Judge Gonzalez has extensive experience with the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. She is a member of the Board of Trustees and a national trainer on domestic violence issues for the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), a member of the NCJFCJ Family Violence and Domestic Relations Department Advisory Committee, and a member of the Advisory Committee of the Interpretation Technical Assistance and Resource Center at the Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence.



Joey Orduna Hastings – *Chief Executive Officer, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges*

Joey Orduna Hastings returns to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) as chief executive officer, having started her career at the Council in 2001 as a model court liaison and manager, positions she held during her tenure. Orduna Hastings most recently held the position of assistant county manager of administration and finance for Washoe County, where she oversaw Technology Services, Human Resources, the Comptroller’s Office and the Registrar of Voters Office. Orduna Hastings has a wide-ranging experience at the Second Judicial District Court, where she was the district court administrator and clerk of court, which included oversight of all court operations, programs, policy development and fiscal responsibilities. She was integral in communicating with city, county and state officials about various issues facing our region. Orduna Hastings also served as the legislative coordinator for Governor Brian Sandoval in 2011. She worked with the

Governor’s staff to communicate and coordinate legislative matters and research. Orduna Hastings is a graduate of Gonzaga University School of Law and the University of Nevada, Reno. Orduna Hastings is a native Nevadan, born and raised in Las Vegas, and now resides in Reno, Nevada.



Judge Melissa Hemstreet - *Superior Court of Washington, Kitsap County*

Judge Hemstreet graduated from Willamette University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree from Willamette University College of Law. Judge Hemstreet was admitted to the Washington State Bar Association in 1998. As an attorney, she was in private practice working primarily in the areas of felony criminal defense and family law. Judge Hemstreet was also active in the Kitsap County and Washington State Legal Community. She served as a Trustee, Vice President, and President of the Kitsap County Bar Association. She served on the Kitsap County Family Law Practice and Procedure board. During her career, she was a member of the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association, the Washington Defender Association, and Washington Women Lawyers. Judge Hemstreet was appointed to the Kitsap County Superior Court bench by Governor Inslee in July of 2015. Since taking the

bench, she worked with members of the local legal community to start the Kitsap County Human Trafficking Taskforce and became a co-chair of this taskforce. She is also a member of the Commercially Exploited Children Statewide Coordinating Committee in Washington state. Recently joining the steering committee for the National Judicial Network: Forum on Human Trafficking and Immigration in State Courts.

Judge Hemstreet was also privileged to start the first Girls Court in Washington state in the spring of 2019 in collaboration with Kitsap County Juvenile Court and the Center for Children & Youth Justice. This was the state’s first gender responsive court designed to assist youth who identify as young women get services and support, they need in order to reach their full potential. During her time on the bench, Judge Hemstreet has developed a passion for therapeutic courts. She currently presides over the Kitsap County Adult Drug Court and the Kitsap County Veteran’s Court, in addition to Girls Court.



Abigail Hill, Staff Attorney -- *Maryland Judiciary, Juvenile and Family Services, Foster Care Court Improvement Project*

Abby Hill is an experienced attorney at the Maryland Judiciary Administrative Office of the Courts, Department of Juvenile and Family Services. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and earned her Juris Doctor degree from the American University Washington College of Law. Prior to coming to the Judiciary, Abby clerked for the Hon. Christopher B. Kehoe of the Court of Special Appeals and practiced general civil litigation, with an emphasis on family law. She has also served as court-appointed counsel for children in custody proceedings. Abby works on a variety

of matters related to child welfare, juvenile justice, and human trafficking. As part of her work on human trafficking matters, she staffs the Judiciary’s Workgroup on Human Trafficking and is the Judiciary’s liaison to the Maryland Human Trafficking Initiative.



Judge Viktoria Kristiansson - *First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas*

Viktoria Kristiansson is a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the First Judicial District in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Prior to her service on the Bench, Judge Kristiansson was an Attorney Advisor at AEquitas: The Prosecutors’ Resource on Violence Against Women. There, she trained prosecutors, police, judges, corrections officers, and other professionals across the country on the implementation of trauma-informed best practices in cases related to violence against women and children. She regularly presented on and provided case consultation related to trial strategy, legal analysis and policy, and ethical issues.



Judge Lora J. Livingston - *Local Administrative Judge (Chief Judge), 261st District Court, Travis County, Austin, Texas*

Judge Livingston became the first African-American woman to serve on a district court in Travis County, Texas in 1999. Since 2011, she has served as the Local Administrative Judge (Chief Judge) for the Travis County Courts. As the Local Administrative Judge (Chief Judge), Judge Livingston is responsible for implementing and executing the local rules of administration and supervising the expeditious movement of court caseloads for all of Travis County. Judge Livingston has been active in local, state and national bar association activities and has served on the boards of the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation, Texas Access to

Justice Commission, the National Center on Women and Family Law, the National Association of IOLTA Programs, the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas, and the Board of the Texas Center for the Judiciary.



Judge (Ret.) Barbara Mack – *Superior Court of Washington, King County; Former Chair, King County Task Force on Commercially Sexually Exploited Children*

Barbara Mack is a King County Superior Court Judge in Seattle, Washington. She has presided over a wide variety of criminal and civil cases and served four years as a judge in Juvenile Court. Judge Mack convened and chairs the King County Task Force on Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). The mission of the Task Force is to ensure the safety and support of CSEC and to prevent further exploitation. The Task Force trains those who may come in contact with exploited children to recognize and identify them and ensures that each such child has access to an advocate. Task Force partners provide and coordinate services specific to each child through multidisciplinary teams where appropriate, and provide continuous training to and communication among community partners. The Task Force, with its partners, also collects and evaluates data and outcomes in order to establish best practices. Judge Mack has participated as faculty for the NCJFCJ National Judicial Institutes on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking, serves on the NCJFCJ Legislative Committee, and is the NCJFCJ representative to the Global Advisory Committee, which advises the U.S. Attorney General on information sharing issues. She is a member of the Washington Superior Court judges Association Family and Juvenile Law Committee, the Court Improvement Program Steering Committee, and the Ethics Committee.



Judge (Ret.) Susan Fowler Maven – *New Jersey Superior Court – Family Division, Atlantic City, New Jersey; appointed 2001.*

The Hon. Susan F. Maven was appointed to the New Jersey Superior Court on December 18, 2001. She presided over cases in the Family and Criminal Division, served on the Appellate Court, and now presides over juvenile delinquency and other family court matters. Judge Maven directed the development and implementation of New Jersey's first Juvenile Human Trafficking Diversion Program. She is a member of the New Jersey Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement, President of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, and a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, International and Diversity Committees. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University School of Law.



Leslye E. Orloff – *Director of the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP) and Adjunct Professor at American University Washington College of Law*

Ms. Orloff is an Adjunct Professor and Director of the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP) at American University Washington College of Law. Ms. Orloff's 34-year career includes working collaboratively with experts across the country to develop and implement immigration relief, public benefits access and family law protections for immigrant women, children and survivors. She was involved in drafting the Protection for Immigrant Victims of Violence Against Women of the Violence Against Women Acts of 1994, 2000, 2005, and 2013, the Trafficking Victims Protection Acts of 2000 and 2008, legal services access for battered immigrants in 1997 and 2005 and welfare access for battered immigrants in 1996. She is a co-founder and co-chair of the National Network to End Violence Against immigrant Women (1992-2011).



Rose Patterson – Chief of Education and Improvement, Office of the State Courts Administrator, Tallahassee, Florida

Ms. Patterson is the Chief of Education and Improvement for the Office of the State Courts Administrator in Tallahassee, FL. Ms. Patterson was Chief of Court Improvement for the Florida Supreme Court from 2000 to 2016. She was the Circuit Director of the Seventh Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program from 1997 to 2000. She was the Director of the Act Corporation BEACH House from 1994 to 1997.



Judge Victor Reyes – Judge in Residence, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)

Judge Victor Reyes served as a District Judge from January 1999, through December 31, 2014, in the 10th Judicial District located in Pueblo, Colorado. He has presided over, Criminal, Civil, County Court Appeals, Probate, Domestic, Restraining Order, Juvenile and Dependency and Neglect matters. Judge Reyes was also appointed to serve as the judicial liaison on the Colorado Domestic Violence Offender Management Board and the Colorado Supreme Court Criminal Rules Committee. Before becoming a judge, he served as a Deputy State Public Defender for the State of Colorado for 15 years where he also provided training. Judge Reyes is currently the Judge in Residence for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Since 2000, Judge Reyes has facilitated international and nationwide trainings to a variety of groups and organizations on issues related to mindfulness, every aspect related to domestic violence, the effects of vicarious trauma on judicial officers,

judicial leadership, and federal firearms legislation. He provided the training on domestic violence for Colorado Judges and has testified before both houses of the Colorado Legislature on DV related legislation. He has served as faculty for the National Judicial College, National Council of Family and Juvenile Court Judges and the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence. Additionally, Judge Reyes conducts peer review of grants for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women and has reviewed domestic violence legislation for countries complying with United Nation Charters. Judge Reyes is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He is a graduate of Emory University in Atlanta Georgia and Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C.



Judge (Ret.) John J. Romero, Jr. – Second Judicial District Court, Children's Court Division, Albuquerque, New Mexico

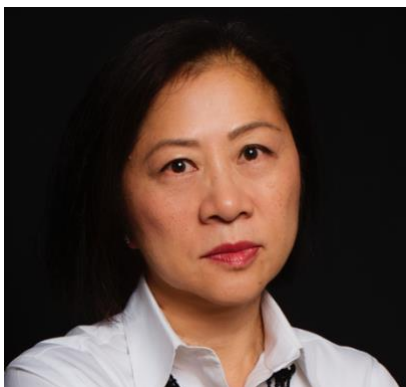
Judge Romero served in the Second Judicial District Court in the Children's Court Division. Judge Romero is involved in his community's family violence prevention efforts and presides over the *Program for the Empowerment of Girls*, a multi-agency juvenile probation program for girls with a history of violence and trauma. Judge Romero is Co-Chair Emeritus of New Mexico's Children's Court Improvement Commission and is involved with the Tribal-State Judicial Consortium. He was the first judge in the country to be recognized as a Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children. He serves on the Board of Directors of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and was the Board President for 2018-2019.



Magistrate Mary Grace Rook - *Superior Court of the District of Columbia, “Here Opportunities Prepare you for Excellence” Court (HOPE Court)*

Judge Rook was appointed by Chief Judge Rufus G. King, III and installed as Magistrate Judge in 2006. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from the Catholic University of America and her Masters in Social Work from the University of Connecticut, where she specialized in clinical practice. She received her law degree from Catholic University’s Columbus School of Law. In 1999, Judge Rook took on the role of special education attorney in the civil division for the Public Defender Service (PDS), where she assisted the juvenile trial attorneys whose clients had outstanding special education needs.

Following her work as a special education attorney, Judge Rook served as Coordinator of the Juvenile Services Program for PDS. In this capacity, she was responsible for training and supervising PDS staff attorneys and law clerks that worked with youth at the Oak Hill Youth Center and the Youth Services Center. While at PDS, Judge Rook was part of the Superior Court’s truancy workgroup that developed the middle school truancy diversion program. In 2006, Judge Rook was initially assigned to a neglect/abuse calendar at Superior Court. In 2013, she transitioned to the Juvenile Behavior Diversion Program, a juvenile mental health treatment court, where she presided for five years. Beginning in 2017, Judge Rook helped to develop HOPE Court, Superior Court’s response to the commercial sexual exploitation of youth (CSEC). In 2018 HOPE Court was officially launched as a treatment court designed to address the needs of youth who have been, or are at risk of being, victims of CSEC. Youth involved in both the child welfare and delinquency systems can be referred to the Court. The goal of HOPE Court is to provide appropriate and necessary services and supports for youth in order in order to allow them to permanently exit the Court system.



Judge Toko Serita - *Criminal Court of the City of New York, Queens County, Queens Human Trafficking Intervention Court*

Toko Serita started her judicial career in 2005 and is currently a New York State Acting Supreme Court Justice who sits in Queens Supreme and Criminal Court in New York City. Judge Serita is recognized as a leading judicial expert on human trafficking, and she currently presides over three problem-solving courts, a misdemeanor drug treatment court, a mental health recovery court, and the Queens Human Trafficking Intervention Court (QHTIC), which is nationally and internationally recognized for its groundbreaking work with trafficking survivors and sex workers. One of the first courts of its kind in the country, the QHTIC also served as the model for this nation’s first statewide initiative which established eight new similar courts throughout New York State. Judge Serita continues to work on statewide judicial policy and implementation around trafficking issues and is the Chair of the New York State Judicial Committee on Human Trafficking. Prior to becoming a judge, Justice Serita was the Executive Assistant to two Administrative Judges of the Supreme Court, Queens County - the late Hon. Steven W. Fisher, and the Hon. Leslie G. Leach. She was as an appellate attorney for the Criminal Appeals Bureau, Legal Aid Society, from 1989-1999, and a co-founder and past president of the Asian American Judges Association of New York (AAJANY). She is a graduate of Vassar College and City University of New York School of Law, and currently sits on the board of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC).



Judge Mary F. Weir – *16th Judicial Circuit Court, Jackson County, Kansas City, Missouri*

Judge Weir was appointed as an Associate Circuit in 2013. Prior to her appointment, she began working in 2001 as a contract attorney with Hope House, Inc., and provided legal representation to victims of domestic violence and their children. She also represented juveniles and their parents in cases heard before the Jackson County Family Court through her work as "of counsel" with the Raith Law Firm. Judge Weir served as an Assistant Missouri Public Defender from 1998 until 2001. She was also a law clerk to the Honorable Christine Sill-Rogers of Division 31 from 1995 until 1998.

She has taught at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School as an Adjunct Professor since 2004.

Commissioner Loretta M. Young - *Family Court, New Castle County, Delaware*



Commissioner Young graduated from the University of Delaware with Bachelors in Psychology and earned her Doctorate in Law from Widener. She has worked on all sides of the bench and is a former criminal prosecutor as well as defense attorney. She joined the Family Court as a Master and was appointed by Gov. Carper to her present position as a Commissioner. She presides over the juvenile mental health court in both New Castle and Kent County, juvenile criminal matters, criminal and civil domestic violence hearings, and conducts guardianship hearings in Kent and Sussex counties.

She is the Former chair of the Women and the Law Section of Delaware State Bar Association Human Trafficking Project; Former Co-Chair Delaware Human Trafficking Council; Former Chair Delaware Trafficking Council Juvenile Anti-Trafficking Subcommittee; Current Family Court Representative on Delaware Inter-Agency Coordinating Council; teaches Human Trafficking at Wilmington University and sits on Wilmington University's Ad Hoc Human Trafficking Advisory Board.

Additional NJN Project staff:



Genesis Marte – *Grant Implementation Coordinator, National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project (NIWAP)*

Ms. Marte is the Grant Implementation Coordinator for the National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project. She is a recent graduate of American University with a degree in Law and Society. She has been a dedicated member of the NIWAP team for four years, as an undergraduate intern and now as Grant Implementation Coordinator. In her role she ensures the organization and delivery of NIWAP’s individual grant goals. She is an active volunteer in the DC and Maryland area, as a tutor for Life Pieces to Masterpieces an afterschool program in Ward 9. She hopes to focus her career on the welfare of women and children within the United States and Caribbean. Ms. Marte is former Clerical Assistant at Mayer Brown in Washington, D.C.



Daniela Rocha – *Staff Assistant, National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project (NIWAP)*

Daniela Rocha is a recent graduate from American University’s School of International Service with a BA in International Studies and Spanish Studies. She has been with the NIWAP Team for two years, originally joining as an Undergraduate Intern in the Spring of 2019 and now as a Staff Assistant. Along with providing administrative support, her main responsibility is to facilitate all operations for The National Judicial Network including managing registration, outreach, and Slack, among other tasks. She is passionate about women’s health issues within the latinx community and hopes to continue advocating for domestic violence/sexual assault survivors and the immigrant community throughout her post-graduate career.



Lynelle Hartway, JD – *Program Manager, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)*

Lynelle Hartway, JD, is a program manager for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges’ (NCJFCJ) Family Violence and Domestic Relations Program (FVDR) and works on the NCJFCJ’s, the custody evaluator, Animal Legal Defense Fund, DV AWARE, and other program grants. Prior to joining the FVDR, Lynelle represented tribes and tribal interests. She served as in-house General Counsel for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California for nine years, representing the Tribe in diverse matters including child protection and welfare as well as working on grant development and implementation in areas such as court improvement. Lynelle has over seventeen years of experience working with tribes and tribal communities in Nevada, California, Arizona, and Wisconsin.