

SEVENTH CIRCUIT

Cathy Geier

Peoria, IL

U.S. District
Courthouse
Peoria, IL



Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, Peoria, IL

Submitted by Cathy Geier

According to the GSA website, The Peoria Federal Building was dedicated in September of 1938, built in what they call the Art Moderne style. Some of the many features are the terrazzo floors, marble clad walls and decoratively painted ceilings. The building also hosts a limestone and granite exterior.



The building was the focus of an article written by Chris Farris for the *Peoria Magazine* in August of 2020. Mr. Farris wrote “the Federal Building stands out today, as it did at the time of its completion, for the architectural style in which it was built. Articles and accounts from the 1930s describe it as “contemporary” or “modern” . . .” The Federal Building replaced a building known as the Government Building, which had been built in 1885.

Farris goes on to state: “The building’s interior, totaling nearly 37,000 square feet, was fitted with facings of rose marble covering the walls of the first-floor lobbies and corridors—at a price tag of \$30,000 in 1938 dollars. The most striking features of the exterior are the four sculptural relief panels along the Main Street side of the building. Sculpted by artist Freeman L. Schoolcraft, they represent the postal service, agriculture, industry and Peoria’s Native American heritage. The total cost of the Federal Building in 1938 was nearly \$1.2 million—the equivalent of \$22 million today—which included the cost to purchase additional parcels of land to create a larger footprint than the previous Government Building.”



SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Continued . . .

Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, Peoria, IL, Continued

The building served mainly post office until 1981, while housing other government offices. Today, the U.S. Courts are the primary tenant of the facility. The Peoria Federal Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Even though I have worked for two different district judges, I have been lucky enough to have spent my entire career in the same office, on the second floor of this building. Our chambers and courtroom are in the historic part of the building, and our courtroom is considered the ceremonial courtroom.

Upon its completion, our courtroom was described as “among the most modern and expensive in the United States” partly because it was completely air-conditioned. Inside, the courtroom is constructed of acoustic stone, bleached walnut panels and massive bronze grills under the windows. The foyer and halls outside the courtroom are marble.

The courtroom had to be rearranged to accommodate social distancing as a result of Covid-19, and we have yet to put it back as it was before. Since we had to remove and relocate numerous benches, and move counsel table to the back of the courtroom, it was no small undertaking, so we may leave it this way a while longer.

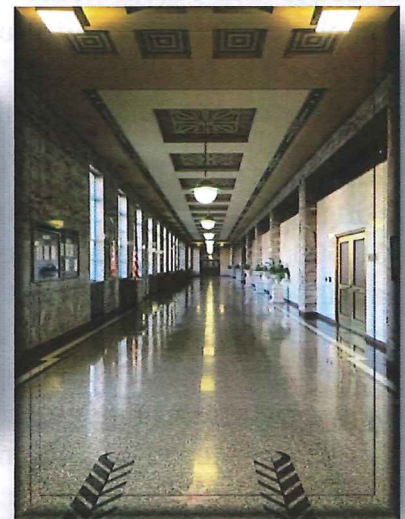
While there are many beautiful and modern courthouses across the country, the Peoria Federal Building has been my home for almost 21 years!



Ceiling in the alcove on the first floor



Courtroom A
Second Floor



Main Foyer
First Floor

SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Continued . . .

News from the Central District of Illinois . . .

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE TOM SCHANZLE-HASKINS RETIRES



On March 23, 2022, United States Magistrate Judge Tom Schanzle-Haskins retired after serving the federal bench for 8 years. Judge Schanzle-Haskins served as Magistrate Judge in the Springfield Division since 2014, working closely with Judges Sue Myerscough and Richard Mills.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Schanzle-Haskins was a partner with Brown, Hay & Stephens in Springfield, where his practice focused on state and federal civil litigation as well as federal criminal matters.

Prior to entering private practice, Judge Schanzle-Haskins was an assistant U.S. Attorney and had previously served as an assistant corporate counsel for the city of Springfield.

He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and received his law degree as a member of the charter class.



Pictured left to right: Melissa Corso, CRD, Lesa Blagburn, Judicial Assistant, U.S. Magistrate Judge Tom Schanzle-Haskins, Art Cornell, Law Clerk

On March 31, 2022, the Springfield Division of the Central District also said good-bye to Lesa Blagburn and Arthur Cornell.

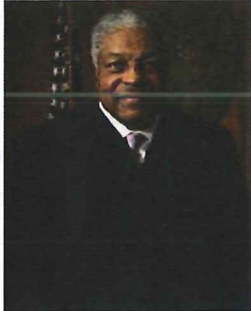
Lesa, a former member of the FJAA, is a graduate of Greenville College and has been with the court since 1997. She served as Paralegal to Magistrate Judge Byron Cudmore from 1997 through February of 2014, continuing as Paralegal to Magistrate Judge Schanzle-Haskins from 2014 until the present. On behalf of the Central District we want to thank Lesa for her 24+ years of service to the court. Lesa will be spending her retirement in South Carolina. She and her husband (and two Cocker-Spaniels, Jasper and Molly) have purchased a new home just outside Landrum, SC in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Art is a graduate of Northwestern University and received his law degree from Washington University. Art began working with the Central District in December 1998 as career law clerk to United States District Judge Jeanne E. Scott. Through his years in the Springfield Division, Art served as law clerk to four judges and worked with the other judges on specific matters. Art also served on the District's Rules Committee and as the Seventh Circuit Representative to the Library Study Steering Group for the Impact Study of Court Libraries and Library Services 2009-2010. Art plans on spending his retirement volunteering at church, traveling, gardening, and staying in bed late whenever he can.

SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Continued . . .

More News from the Central District of Illinois . . .

Court Milestones



Congratulations to U. S. District Judge Joe Billy McDade who will celebrate 30 years on the bench on December 13, 2021. Judge McDade was appointed by President George H.W. Bush on December 13, 1991. He served as Central District's first African-American Chief Judge from 1998 to 2004. Judge McDade received his Bachelor of Science in Economics with Honors, in 1959 and his Master of Science in Psychology in 1960, both from Bradley University. While at Bradley, he was part of the All-NIT basketball team in 1957 and 1959 as a member of the Bradley University NIT Championship team. He earned his JD from the University of Michigan Law School in 1963. Prior to joining the Federal Bench, Judge McDade worked for the U.S. Department of Justice in Chicago from 1963 to 1965. He was an executive trainee at the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Peoria, and served as executive director of the Greater Peoria Legal Aid Society from 1965 to 1968. He was in private practice from 1968 to 1982, at which time he was appointed an Associate Circuit Judge for the Tenth Judicial Circuit of the State of Illinois. He was elected Circuit Judge from 1988 until 1991. His appointment as Associate Circuit Judge, and his subsequent election as Circuit Judge, made him the first African-American outside of Chicago to be so honored.

Judge McDade's JA, Jill Adkins if an FJAA member

Retirement News—



On December 31, 2021, United States District Judge Harold Baker retired after serving the federal bench for over 43 years. Judge Baker was originally nominated by President Jimmy Carter as a U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Illinois. Later that year, the Eastern and Southern Districts were rearranged into the Southern and Central Districts of Illinois and Judge Baker was reassigned to the Central District of Illinois on March 31, 1979, serving as Chief Judge from 1984 to 1991.

Judge Baker served on the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court from May 18, 1995 to May 17, 2005, having been appointed by Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

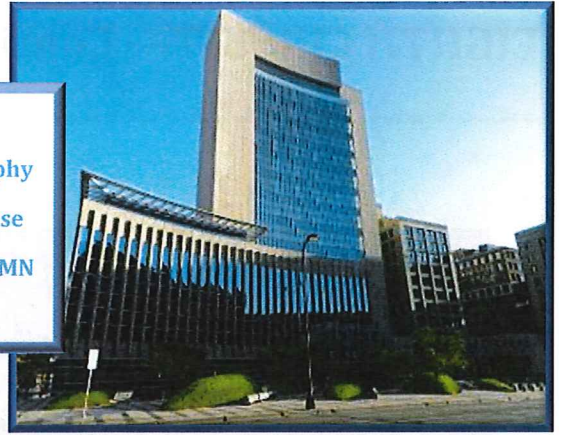
For many years, Judge Baker handled the entire pro se civil docket for the Central District of Illinois.

EIGHTH CIRCUIT

Donna O’Kroy

Minneapolis, MN

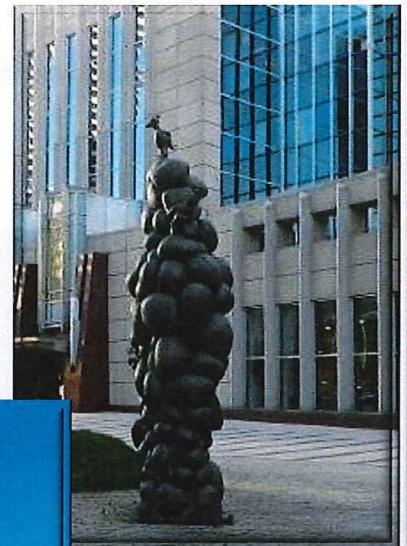
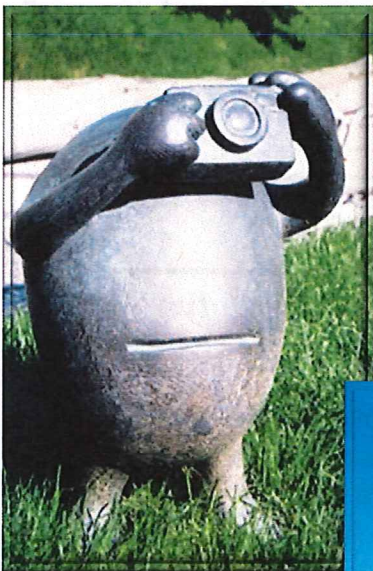
Diana E. Murphy
U.S. Courthouse
Minneapolis, MN



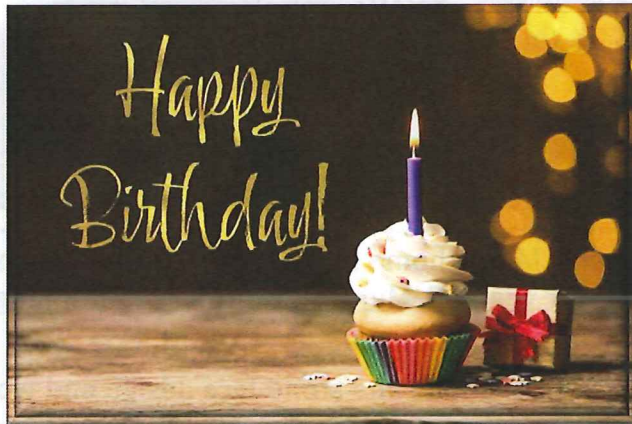
Completed in 1997, the U.S. Courthouse in Minneapolis, MN, is home to both the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts. In 2019 the building was named for Diana E. Murphy, a former federal judge who served with the U.S. District and Appeals courts.

Standing 15 stories, the courthouse features a modern steel-frame and stone-face design and won GSA Design Excellence Awards for both architecture and landscaping. The 50,000-square-foot plaza, designed by Martha Schwartz, features grass mounds planted with Jack Pines, suggesting the glacial drumlins common to Minnesota during the Ice Age.

The courthouse's Art in Architecture piece, *Rockman* by Tom Otterness, is a series of rock-like sculptures representing animals and humans immersed in labor and recreational activities scattered across the courthouse's lawn. The centerpiece is a 15-foot-tall "rock" mound made of several characters. *Info taken from the Murphy USCH GSA.gov page.*



EIGHTH CIRCUIT— Continued . . .



Kristin Leininger April 14
Jackie Phipps May 30
Melissa Kruger June 12
Kristine Wegner July 2
Trisha Stahlman July 17

Membership Alert!!
Thank you to Kristin Leininger for renewing your membership!



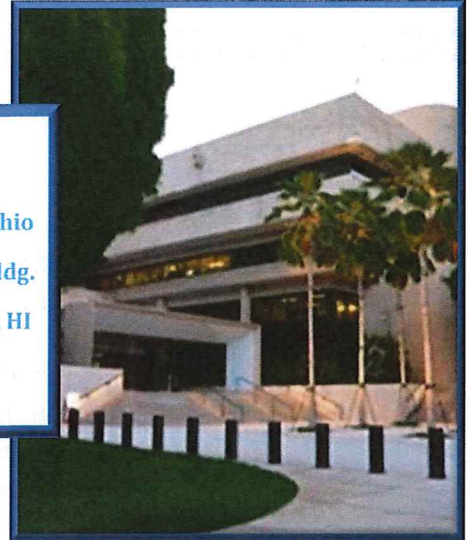
Award to Judge Doty
Judge David Doty was honored with the American Inns of Court Professionalism Award in the Eighth Circuit. It was a wonderful evening and Judge Doty is so incredibly deserving of this national recognition.

NINTH CIRCUIT

Suzanne Lofton

Honolulu, HI

Prince Kuhio
Federal Bldg.
Honolulu, HI



PRINCE JONAH KUHIO KALANIANAOLE FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. COURTHOUSE

HONOLULU, HI



The Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaole Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse was originally dedicated in 1977. In attendance for the original dedication was then First Lady, Rosalynn Carter.

Named in honor of one of Hawaii's first representatives to Congress, the building underwent renovations in 2014 using funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The completed modernized and transformed the existing building into a high-performance green building. The "greening" of the building, at the time of completion, was expected to reduce energy consumption by approximately 30 percent, reduce water consumption by 20 percent, qualifying the building for a LEED® Gold designation under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system.

The building houses the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii; U.S. Customs and Border Protection; U.S. Coast Guard; U.S. Attorney's Office; Social Security Administration; U.S. Marshals Service; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The building also includes a cafeteria, snack shop, childcare center, fitness center, and a health unit.

Prince Kuhio Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse was the recipient of the 2013 Hawaii Green Business Program Award.



NINTH CIRCUIT— Continued . . .



Judge Sharon Gleason assumed the position of Chief Judge of the United States District Judge for Alaska on January 1, 2022. She is the first woman to serve as a district judge in the District of Alaska since the district's establishment in 1959. She has been a district judge in Alaska since January 2012. She was nominated to the district court by President Obama in April 2011, and confirmed by the United States Senate in November 2011.

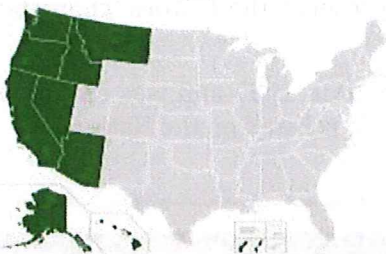
Article and Photo submitted by Celesta Richardson, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Sharon L. Gleason

United States District Court – District of Alaska

NINTH CIRCUIT— Continued . . .

NINTH CIRCUIT *Submitted by Judy Stoyko*

**United States Court of Appeals
For the Ninth Circuit**



Location James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse
San Francisco, California

**Appeals
from**

District of Alaska
District of Arizona
Central District of California
Eastern District of California
Northern District of California
Southern District of California
District of Hawaii
District of Idaho
District of Montana
District of Nevada
District of Oregon
Eastern District of Washington
Western District of Washington
District of Guam
District of the N. Mariana Islands

Established March 3, 1891

Judges 29

Circuit Justice Elena Kagan

Chief Judge Mary H. Murguia

Headquartered in San Francisco, California, the Ninth Circuit is by far the largest of the 13 courts of appeals, covering a total of 9 states and 2 territories, and with 29 active judgeships. The court's regular meeting places are Seattle, Washington; Portland, Oregon; and Pasadena and San Francisco, California.

As of 2020, the population served by the Ninth Circuit court of Appeals was 66,848,869, which is 20.17% of the national population. It serves nearly twice the number of people as the next-largest judicial circuit and carries five times the case backlog of the average circuit

Many commentators have argued that the Ninth Circuit faces several adverse consequences of its enormity, such as unwieldy size and procedural inefficiencies. In March 2007, Associate Justices Anthony Kennedy and Clarence Thomas testified before a House Appropriations subcommittee that the consensus among the justices of the Supreme Court of the United States was that the Ninth Circuit was too large and cumbersome and should be split. Congressional officials, legislative commissions, and interest groups have submitted proposals over the years to divide the Ninth Circuit, but no decision has been made.

Although the judges travel around the circuit, the court arranges its hearings so that cases from the northern region of the circuit are heard in Seattle or Portland, cases from southern California and Arizona are heard in Pasadena, and cases from northern California, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific territories are heard in San Francisco. Additionally, the court holds yearly sittings in Anchorage and Honolulu.

NINTH CIRCUIT— Continued . . .

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

Submitted by Judy Stoyko

The James R. Browning United States Courthouse in San Francisco is the headquarters for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Built as the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse at the turn of the twentieth century, it was intended to represent the affluence and increasing importance of the United States as it became a world power.

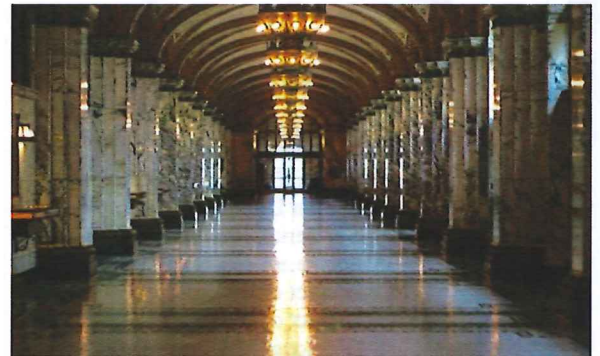
The building was designed in the 1890s to house the federal courts and post office. Construction cost \$2.5 million, and it opened in 1905. The building was deemed a fine and early example of Beaux-Arts Classical or American Renaissance architecture and has been praised for the quality and splendor of its craftsmanship. Master craftsmen from Italy were brought in to complete the interiors. Clad in white granite, the new structure was opulent, even for comparable buildings of the time.

The structure successfully survived the 1906 San Francisco earthquake with relatively minor damage; however, in 1989 the courthouse and post office suffered serious damage during the Loma Prieta earthquake that made continued occupancy dangerous. Congress authorized \$91 million for the seismic retrofitting and historic rehabilitation of the entire facility. The structure was fitted with a friction pendulum base isolation system — architectural shock absorbers — to resist damage during earthquakes. All utility system upgrades were carried out in such a manner to preserve the historic character of the interior and exterior finishes.

The building reopened as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 1997 and was renamed during the centennial celebrations in 2005 to honor Judge James R. Browning. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as U.S. Post Office and Courthouse.



Exterior 1905



Main Hallway



Facade



Courtroom