



## PRESIDENT

### **CATHY GRAY**

Cathy Gray has been a Judicial Assistant for the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee spanning 12 years. Cathy began her court career with Judge Jon P. McCalla in 2005. When Chief Judge McCalla took Senior Status in 2013, Cathy was chosen by incoming District Court Judge, Sheryl H. Lipman to be her first judicial assistant in August of 2014.

Prior to being a federal employee, Cathy served in the Memphis area for many years, first as a legal assistant to a partner of a large Memphis law firm practicing in the areas of estate planning and commercial real estate for approximately 18 years. Cathy then accepted a position with a large regional law firm as their Network Administrator and served in this position for eight years.

Cathy is not new to FJAA as she previously served on the FJAA Board as Secretary from 2011-2012 and as Vice President from 2012-2014. Cathy has lectured on different topics at FJAA annual meetings and enjoys sharing tips and tricks to help her fellow JA's succeed.

Cathy has been married to husband, Danny, for 35 years and they have two children, Sarah, age 33, married Jacob White in 2012 and they now reside in Fayetteville, AR. Sarah and Jacob are expecting their first child and Cathy and Danny's first grandchild in July 2018. Son, Cameron, age 24, graduated in December 2017 from The University of Memphis where he majored in Graphic Design. Cathy and Danny are not quite "empty nesters" because they still have their fur babies – three Boston Terriers: Gabby, Harry, and Jack, all nine years old and all three veterans of the Court. Cathy enjoys traveling with her family, gardening, and cooking, as well as spending time with

## PRESIDENT-ELECT

### DEBBY SAWYER

#### **Professional Experience:**

Employed as a Judicial Assistant to USDC Judge Aleta A. Trauger – Middle District of Tennessee-  
Nashville

Civil Case Manager/Courtroom Deputy for Chief Judge James C. Dever III – Eastern District of NC – Raleigh  
(2010-2014)

Litigation Paralegal for 22 + years

#### **Education:**

Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Leadership & Management - Regent University, Virginia Beach,  
Virginia

Paralegal Certificate - Jackson State Community College, Jackson, Tennessee

#### **Current Association Activities:**

##### ***FJAA - Federal Judicial Assistants Association:***

Sixth Circuit Representative – 2016 to Present

PDC Committee – Scholarship Chair – 2016 to Present

Member 2016

##### ***NALA – The Paralegal Association:***

Region III Director (Board of Directors) 2015-Present

Affiliate Associations Director (Board of Directors) 2013 - 2015 Region II Director (Board of  
Directors) 2009-2013

Affiliated Associations Secretary 2007-2009 Affiliated Associations Award  
Recipient 2007

Obtained Certified Paralegal Certification (CP) in 2004

Obtained Advanced Paralegal Certification in Trial Practice (ACP) in 2010 Member 2003-Present

## PRESIDENT-ELECT

### JUDITH STOYKO

In August 2012, Judy was hired as judicial assistant to Senior District Judge Charles Breyer in the Northern District of California (San Francisco). In addition to her JA duties, she is the Executive Director of the Northern District Court Historical Society.

Judy's entire 40-year career has been spent in the legal field in positions including litigation secretary, probate paralegal, and office manager. She has a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Phoenix and a certificate in human resources management from the University of California Berkeley. She stepped in to fill the vacancy in the FJAA treasurer position in October 2014, holding that position for four years. She also chaired the 2017 conference held in San Francisco.

Judy and her husband Rich (both California natives) love animals and have a German shepherd and two cats. They enjoy traveling and, in the five years since their marriage, have cruised the Caribbean and Mexico several times, flown north of the Arctic Circle in Alaska to see the Northern Lights, and visited the Galapagos Islands and Machu Picchu.

## VICE-PRESIDENT

### TRACY YOUNG

Tracy Young is the Judicial Assistant to Judge Linda V. Parker in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Tracy joined the court family in April 2014 when Judge Parker was appointed to the Federal Court. Tracy has worked with Judge Parker in the Michigan State Court since 2010. Tracy joined the FJAA as soon as she began her journey at the court with strong encouragement and support from the Judicial Assistants in the Eastern District.

Tracy currently serves on the FJAA Publication/Newsletter Committee as one of the editors. Tracy says that serving on the committee has been wonderful, rewarding and a great way to connect with other members of the FJAA organization.

A native Detroit, she has been married for 32 years and has two amazing adult children. Tracy enjoys planning and hosting family events and baking. She is the secretary of a non-profit organization for mentoring teen girls. She is an active member of her church serving on the Greeters Ministry.

## SECRETARY

### BERNITA HENLEY

Bernita Henley has been a Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Charmiane G. Claxton, Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Tennessee – Western Division since June 2009.

Prior to employment with the Federal Judiciary, Bernita's legal career began in 1994 as a Legal Secretary for a sole practitioner. In 1996, she accepted a Legal Secretary position with the City of Memphis' City Attorney's Office where she served in this position for 5 years until she was promoted in 2001 to the Paralegal position. Another opportunity for growth presented itself in 2002 when she was offered a Paralegal position with the newly established in house legal department for Memphis Area Transit Authority. In 2005, Bernita landed a position with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare as a Workers' Compensation Paralegal for the Workers' Compensation Department wherein she stayed until being appointed to her current position.

Bernita received her B.P.S. in Paralegal Studies *Magna cum Laude* from the University of Memphis in 1999 and an A.A.S. in Legal Assistant Technology *Magna cum Laude* from State Technology Institute of Memphis (now Southwest Tennessee Community College) in 1993. She was a member of Greater Memphis Paralegal Alliance (GMPA), Inc. from 2002 to 2007. She was also a member of Mid-South Workers' Compensation Association (MSWCA) and served as Secretary for the 2007 and 2008 terms.

Bernita has two adult daughters and 4 grandchildren (2 girls and 2 boys) which she affectionately refers to as her "4-Piece Spicy". She is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and when she is not handling SGRho's business, Bernita enjoys dancing, singing, traveling, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.

## TREASURER

### YVETTE GARCIA

Yvette has served as Judicial Assistant to Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Rateau in the District of Arizona since 2005. Prior to her employment with the U.S. District Court, she worked as a legal assistant at Chandler and Udall, LLP. In addition to serving in the U.S. Air Force under the Secretary of the Air Force, Acquisitions at the Pentagon, Yvette earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Management and an MBA in Global Management both from the University of Phoenix.

Outside of professional interests, she travels widely, reads, dances, runs half-marathons, and plays on a women's amateur soccer team.

An important aspect of her life is family - - her wife (who owns her own document preparation and fiduciary business) and their three beautiful daughters.