

CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES



1st Circuit—Christie Piche—Christie is the Judicial Assistant to Chief District Judge Lance E. Walker in Portland, Maine. Prior to working with CJ Walker, Christie worked for Chief Judge Jon D. Levy who retired in May 2024. Judge Levy and Christie both started in the federal court in May 2014. Christie became the FJAA Circuit Representative for the First Circuit in 2014. Christie also worked with Justice Levy as his JA in the Maine Supreme Judicial Court for nine (9) years and the JA to Justice Donald G. Alexander for seven (7) years. Christie is an identical twin and has fraternal adult twins — a boy and a girl. Christie married her husband Jean in 2019 and together they are traveling and enjoying life as much as they can.



2nd Circuit—Michele Czarnecki—Michele joined the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit in December of 2019 and is the Judicial Assistant to the Hon. William J. Nardini. After college, Michele took her first job as a Paralegal, working in the private sector for 32 years. She earned her BA in Political Science & Sociology from Merrimack College and an Associates in an ABA Paralegal Studies Program at the University of Bridgeport. In 2018 Michele was hired by the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Haven Connecticut. There she supported Assistant United States Attorneys working in the areas of major crimes and cyber security. As a lifelong resident of Connecticut, Michele is always happy to tell people that her hometown is not far from the infamous City of New Haven, Connecticut, where the best pizza exists (Frank Pepe Pizzeria, Sally's Apizza and Modern Apizza). Michele has two children and loves spending time with her family. She loves shopping, the beach and anything tropical, and outdoor adventures.



3rd Circuit—Iris Liriano—Iris Liriano has been a judicial secretary to the Hon. Patty Shwartz since April, 2003. Prior to joining the U.S. District Court, she worked at the United States Attorney's Office as a Legal Secretary for approximately 9 years. During her tenure there, Iris worked as a Legal Secretary for 2 years, as a Deputy Chief Secretary for less than a year and promoted to a Supervisory Legal Secretary for 6 years. Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Iris worked for the Drug Enforcement Administration for approximately 4 years as a clerk-typist and later promoted to a Group Secretary. Iris and her husband, Cristian, have two children, Noel and Brian. She enjoys reading, traveling, dancing and boating.



4th Circuit—Lena Tapscott—Lena has been Judicial Assistant to the U.S. District Judge Richard M. Gergel, since he came on the bench in August of 2010. Lena began her career with the District Courts in July 2007 as a Case Manager and then as a Criminal Case Manager to the U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert S. Carr (Retired). Prior to that she worked as a paralegal. Lena received her B.S. in Criminal Justice, and Minors in Human Services Counseling and Political Science from Old Dominion University. She later completed the ABA approved Intensive Paralegal Training Program at Meredith College and received a Paralegal Certificate for the same. Lena is married to Retired SMSgt Christopher S. Tapscott. They have one son, two daughters, one son-in-law, three granddaughters, and one grandson. Lena enjoys Zumba, traveling, gardening, spending time outdoors, and spoiling the grands.



5th Circuit—Pamela Angelette—Judicial Assistant to District Judge Jay C. Zainey for the Eastern District of Louisiana, came to the Courts with Judge Zainey from his law office on February 19, 2002. She has been an active member of the FJAA for the past 20 years. She has served on the FJAA Conference Committee and is currently on the Audit Committee. Pamela served on the FJAA Board as Treasurer. She also serves as a board member on the Judicial and Justice Federal Credit Union.



6th Circuit—Dawn Serna Gensch—Dawn has been Judicial Assistant to Senior US District Judge James G. Carr in the Northern District of Ohio, since March of 2021. Dawn started her federal career with the US Bankruptcy Court, in the Northern District of Ohio as an ECRO/Case Administrator in May 2004. In June 2012, she moved to the US District Court, as judicial assistant to the Honorable Jeffrey J Helmick for approximately 7 years. Dawn resides in Northwest Ohio. She has 1 daughter, 22 years old, Asia-Lin, who is a senior at Miami University of Ohio. She enjoys traveling and everything outdoors – the beach, gardening, hiking, biking, kayaking, golf, yoga, etc., etc.! She and her daughter love to attend music festivals, local farmers markets and art fairs as much as we can.

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7th Circuit—Cathy Geier— Cathy is Judicial Assistant to U.S. District Judge James E. Shadid in the Central District of Illinois, Peoria Division. Cathy joined the Judiciary in 2001 as JA to U.S. District Judge Michael M. Mihm. She worked for Judge Mihm until 2011 when he took senior status. Cathy began working as a legal secretary in 1980, working full-time until 1989 when she took a few years off to raise her daughter, returning to work in the legal field when she started kindergarten. Cathy spends her time with her partner Doug and between them they have two sons, Jarrod and Jacob, one daughter, Roxanne, and 5 grandchildren. In her spare time she enjoys quilting, crocheting, and reading.



8th Circuit—Karen Moldenhauer— Karen Moldenhauer has been a Judicial Assistant to the Honorable John R. Tunheim for almost 4 years. She started working for Judge Tunheim while he was Chief Judge for the District of Minnesota in January of 2020, just 2 months shy of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Prior to joining the U.S. District Court of Minnesota, she worked as an Executive Assistant at the University of Minnesota and as both an Office Manager and Executive Assistant in the software engineering industry for 10 years. Karen and her husband Josh live in Shoreview, Minnesota with their 6-year-old son, Oliver, and 3 cats - Littles, Greyson, and Paws. Karen loves history, art, reading, being in nature, animals, and shopping.



9th Circuit—Suzanne Lofton— Suzanne Lofton is the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Judge Derrick Kahala Watson at the United States District Court of Hawaii. Suzanne joined the court family in May 2013. Prior to joining the U.S. District Court of Hawaii, she worked at the United States Attorney's Office as Judge Watson's legal assistant since 2007. Before joining the federal sector, Suzanne was a legal secretary for 18 years at the law firm of Burke, McPheeters Bordner & Estes concentrating on medical malpractice defense. Suzanne and husband Randy are the proud parents of son Keenan who graduated from the University of Notre Dame in May of 2022. Suzanne enjoys spending time with her family, loves the beach, is active in her church, and has been dancing the hula since age 5.



10th Circuit—Ashley Kittrell— Ashley Kittrell has been the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable William P. Johnson, Chief United States District Judge in Albuquerque, New Mexico since November 2020. Prior to her position with Judge Johnson, she was a Case Administrator for the Albuquerque Magistrate Judge Case Administration Team. Previous to federal court, Ashley provided support to Judge Cosgrove-Aguilar as a Judicial Specialist at the State of New Mexico's Metropolitan Court while completing her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice at Eastern New Mexico University. Ashley has a varied background that includes serving with the Military Police for the Army National Guard, aiding veterans in their educational pursuits through ENMU's Veterans Upward Bound Program, as well as a variety of other administrative and training support positions. Ashley is a native of New Mexico, although she has lived throughout the southwestern states. She enjoys traveling, hiking, snowboarding, and shopping!



11th Circuit—Sandra De Varona— Sandra has been Judicial Administrator to Senior U.S. District Judge Donald Graham since 2021. Prior to working for Judge Graham, Sandra was Judicial Administrator to Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Barbara Lagoa. She had previously worked for Judge Michael Chavies of the Eleventh Circuit of the State of Florida. Sandra received her paralegal degree from FIU's Legal Studies Program. In her spare time, she participates in various physical fitness activities, including spinning, boxing, cross fit and personal training. She has an adult daughter, Samantha, and loves to spend time with family and close friends.



Federal and DC Circuits—Elizabeth Douglas— Elizabeth Douglas is a Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Armando O. Bonilla. Elizabeth began her service to the Federal Judiciary in 2018 as a Case Administrator for the District and Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Columbia. In May 2020, she accepted a position as an Electronic Court Records Operator (ECRO) with the United States Court of Federal Claims. Elizabeth has an undergraduate degree from the University of Washington in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Go Huskies!) and a Master's degree from Seattle University in Criminal Justice (MACJ). Elizabeth is a Pacific Northwesterner and Air Force brat and wife who currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia with her husband and two Pembroke Corgis. Elizabeth enjoys good coffee and spending time with her husband either running or soaking up the sun on a sandy beach. Currently Elizabeth is working on her Paralegal Certificate from Boston University Metropolitan College Center for Professional Education.