

FJAA OFFICERS

2021 - 2022

Judith Stoyko— President

c/o Hon. Charles R. Breyer
Philip Burton United States Courthouse
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Room 17-5356
San Francisco, CA 94102-3434
Phone: 415-522-3660

Tracy Young—President-Elect

c/o Hon. Linda V. Parker
Theodore Levin Courthouse
231 W. Lafayette Blvd., Room 204
Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: 313-234-5525

Bernita Henley — Vice-President

c/o Hon. Charmiane G. Claxton
US District Court
Odell Horton Federal Bldg.
167 N. Main Street Room 341
Memphis, TN 38103
Phone: 901-495-1312

Debby Sawyer—Secretary

c/o Hon. Aleta Arthur Trauger
Estes Kefauver Federal Bldg. & U.S. Courthouse
801 Broadway Suite 825
Nashville, TN 37203
Phone: 615-736-5498

Yvette Garcia—Treasurer

c/o Hon. Jacqueline M. Rateau
Evo A. Deconcini U.S. Courthouse
405 W. Congress Street, Suite 6650
Tucson, AZ 85701-5063
Phone: 520-205-4640

Jenny Rudolph — Past President

c/o Hon. Jane Triche Milazzo
Hale Boggs Federal Building
United States Courthouse
500 Poydras Street, Room C-206
New Orleans, LA 70130
504-589-7580

Melissa Hardin—Parliamentarian

c/o Hon. William M. Conley
Robert W. Kastenmeier U.S. Courthouse
120 N. Henry Street Room 560
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 608-261-5718

IN BRIEF

FEDERAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION

Letter from the President

Judith Stoyko

Dear FJAA Members:



Happy new year! I rang in 2022 aboard the Majestic Princess, cruising the Mexican Riviera. My husband and I had not been on a cruise – or a real vacation of any kind –since May 2019. It felt so good to travel again! The ship was at just 50 percent capacity. Masks were required aboard ship, as well as in the Mexican ports, except while eating or drinking. No one seemed to mind; I think everyone was thrilled to be away from home, enjoying some fun in the sun – we swam, snorkeled, and went whale watching. And the best news is, we tested negative for COVID following the cruise! So, with safety protocols in place, it is possible to travel and gather!

Back home, the Northern District of California still is not working in person full time. I go into chambers two days a week and telework the other days. Our clerk of court just recently lifted the moratorium on in-person jury trials, so I'm hopeful that normalcy is not too far away.

The FJAA is looking for a new Fifth Circuit representative. If you are in that circuit (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi), please let me know if you are interested in being the circuit rep. If you have any questions about the duties, please contact me or Bernita Henley. Being a circuit rep is a great way to get involved and learn more about how the association operates. ***Don't be shy!*** Even if you just recently joined the FJAA, if you have the desire to serve, we will welcome you to the team with open arms!

Remember to mark your calendars for the 2022 FJAA Conference, scheduled for September 15-17 in Tucson. I'm optimistic that this year we will be able to travel safely to Arizona and gather in person for the first time since 2019!

Judy Stoyko, FJAA President

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

GREETINGS FROM THE ARIZONA 2022 EDUCATION CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



WE HAVE TRULY MISSED YOU!

AS WE PIVOT FORWARD IN 2022,
WE WANT TO WELCOME
EVERYONE TO THIS YEAR'S
EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP TODAY TO ATTEND.

THIS WILL BE AN EDUCATION
CONFERENCE TO REMEMBER!!!!

HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE IN
BEAUTIFUL TUCSON!!!

Zoom meetings have begun!!

Meet the committee (above): Yvonne Herran, Julia Rudnick, Tracy Young (Chair), Armida Herrera, Yvette Garcia (Co-Chair), Karen Straub, Vee Maisel, Elida Carranza and Gaby Ma.



*We are excited to host the 2022 FJAA Education Conference.
MAY YOU ALL BE WELL. STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!*



MESSAGE FROM THE ARIZONA FJAA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN ARIZONA!

COME ONE, COME ALL ...

SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, September 15, thru Saturday, September 17, 2022

PLAN TO ATTEND THE 2022 FJAA

EDUCATION CONFERENCE

It will be an exceptional conference in a beautiful setting located in Tucson, Arizona. Tucson is in Southern Arizona along the banks of the Santa Cruz River, surrounded by four mountain ranges: the Santa Catalinas Mountains to the north, the Rincon Mountains to the east, the Santa Rita Mountains to the south, and the Tortolitas to the northwest.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2022 FJAA Education Conference will open in Spring 2022.

Check the website for updates: www.fjaa.net



Click the link below for a video of Tucson:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzKMOxtJxNOuCROmloVbBLA>

NOTE: You must be a member of the FJAA to attend

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!! <http://www.fjaa.net/sites/default/files/2022%20FJAA%20Membership%20Application%20for%202022.pdf>



Early Bird
SPECIAL!



Let's PIVOT FORWARD in
2022.
Join or renew today and
be entered into a drawing
for \$100

FJAA Membership Drive

January 1 thru March 31

Annual Dues are \$40 . Payments can be made by PayPal or Mail. Contact your Circuit Representative for more information. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Bernita Henley, Vice-President and Membership Chair

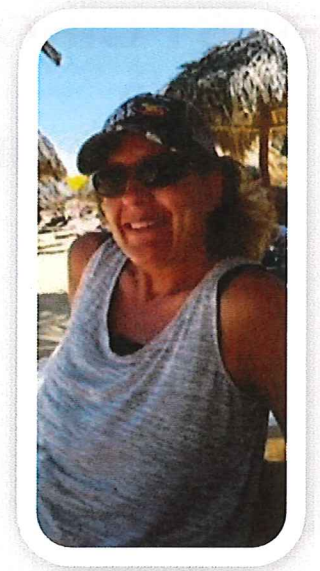
FEDERAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION



FIRST CIRCUIT— CHRISTIE PICHE

DARCIE McELWEE APPOINTED NEW U.S. ATTORNEY

On October 8, 2021, Chief Judge Jon D. Levy had the privilege of swearing-in Darcie McElwee as the District of Maine’s new United States Attorney. McElwee has served in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Maine since 2002 and has been coordinator of Project Safe Neighborhoods since 2005. Between 2005 and 2008, she was an adjunct professor of advanced trial advocacy at the University of Maine School of Law. McElwee, a native of Caribou, received a bachelor’s degree from Bowdoin College in 1995 and her law degree from the UMaine law school in 1998.



FIRST CIRCUIT— CHRISTIE PICHE, CONTINUED...

NOMINATION OF U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE



On October 20, 2021, the Judges of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine announced that Karen Frink Wolf, Esq. has been selected to serve as U.S. Magistrate Judge. Attorney Wolf is a partner at the Verrill law firm in Portland, Maine, and a member of the firm's Executive Board.

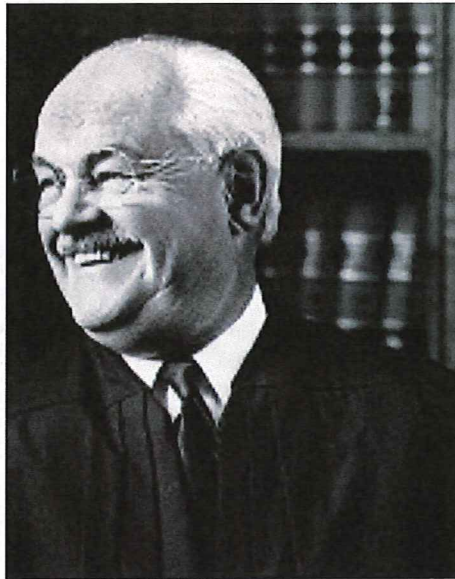
Attorney Wolf is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire and Syracuse University College of Law. Before her legal career, she was a legislative intern for U.S. Senator Warren B. Rudman. She is admitted to the practice of law in the Districts of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and the First Circuit Court of Appeals. She is a member of the Maine State Bar Association, New Hampshire Bar Association, and the Maine Association of Mediators.

Subject to the completion of background investigation reports by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Internal Revenue Service, the Court will issue an order appointing Attorney Wolf as the next Magistrate Judge for the District of Maine. She will succeed U.S. Magistrate Judge John H. Rich, III, who will retire on April 1, 2022, following fourteen years of distinguished service.

Transitions:

- Melody Dalphonse, promoted to District Court Deputy-in-Charge in Portland
 - Kevin Eames, hired as District Court Project Manager
 - Jenifer Bennett, promoted to Shared Services Budget Analyst
 - Brenda Boucher, hired as District Court Jury Specialist
 - Nicholas Petroulis, hired as District Court Systems Support Specialist
- Amy Spencer, transitioned to District Court Financial Analyst.

PASSING OF SENIOR U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE GENE CARTER



Senior U.S. District Judge Gene Carter passed away on November 17, 2021 at the age of 86 years old. President Ronald Reagan appointed Judge Carter to this Court in 1983. He was the District's 12th federal district judge. Judge Carter served as the District Court's Chief Judge from 1989 – 1996. Judge Carter was an associate justice on the Maine Supreme Judicial Court from 1980 – 1983. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves JAG Corps from 1962 – 1968 and practiced law at the Bangor firm of Rudman, Winchell, Carter, and Buckley. He graduated from the University of Maine and New York University School of Law.

Judge Carter was a true "Mainer," having grown up in Milbridge, Maine. Many of us who had the privilege to work with Judge Carter discovered a man with a caring heart that often was overshadowed by his commanding courtroom presence. His straightforward and pragmatic management of cases gave this District the nickname "The Rocket Docket." He was a special person who lit up a room and approached everything with a direct, New Englander practicality. He was a great storyteller, often telling stories of his days as a milkman. He loved this state and this Court.

FIRST CIRCUIT— CHRISTIE PICHE, CONTINUED...

HOLIDAY SOCK FUN!

On Monday, December 13, 2021, everyone who arrived at their courthouse desk and wanted to participate, received two holiday stockings with instructions that said:

“INSTRUCTIONS: Find your match! Please take the empty stocking (the one with the goodies is yours to keep) and find the person who has your match. The goal is to find your match, have fun with your co-workers, and have a pair of socks to wear for the holidays!”



Our small holiday voluntary committee bought and put together over 55 pairs of non-matching stockings and filled one stocking with candy for the receiver to keep and the empty stocking – you had to find the person in either the Bangor or Portland courthouse that had your match. Even with our Covid protocols of social distancing and masks being worn It was a lot of fun!

SECOND CIRCUIT—SAMANTHA GENCARELLO

Sketch art from the Southern District of New York

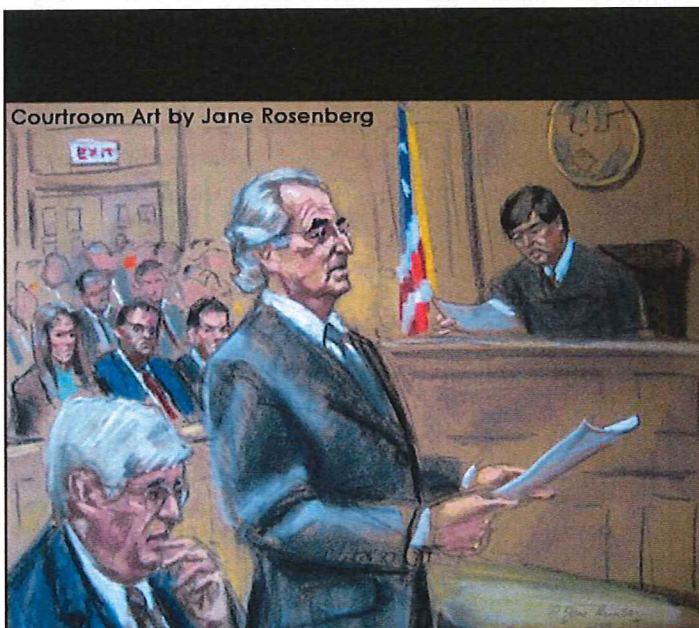


Courtroom Art by Christine Cornell

United States v. Martha Stewart

Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum

The popular television personality Martha Stewart sold 3,928 shares of stock in the biotech company, ImClone Systems, just before the stock plummeted as a result of the FDA's rejection of the company's application for approval of its highly touted cancer-fighting drug. Stewart was charged with conspiracy, making false statements, obstruction of agency proceedings and securities fraud. She was found guilty. Reportedly, over 1,500 letters from supporters were sent to the Court. Judge Cedarbaum sentenced her to five months in prison and two years of supervised release. Stewart is seen seated in the foreground, while her attorney, Robert Morvillo, looks on hands to head.



Courtroom Art by Jane Rosenberg

United States v. Bernard Madoff

Judge Denny Chin

Bernard Madoff was the founder and chairman of the Wall Street firm, Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC. In 2008, he was arrested and accused of running a multi-billion dollar Ponzi scheme. He pled guilty to eleven counts of securities fraud, investment advisor fraud, wire and mail fraud, money laundering, making false statements, perjury, filing false documents with the SEC, and theft from employee benefit funds. Judge Chin sentenced Madoff, who was 71, to 150 years in prison. On the sentencing, the Wall Street Journal reported: "Mr. Madoff, dressed in a charcoal gray suit and wearing rimless glasses, appeared without a single member of his family in attendance. He kept his back to the victims as they spoke. But for a brief moment during his remarks, he turned around to face them and said: 'I'm sorry. I know that doesn't help you.'" Madoff is seen standing addressing Judge Chin.

THIRD CIRCUIT— IRIS LIRIANO

FridayFlash News

In our October Newsletter, I wrote an article about the Hon. Patty Shwartz receiving the William J. Brennan Award. Shortly thereafter, our librarian, Nicole Peaks, reached out to me requesting a copy of my FJAA article for inclusion in her FridayFlash article. Every Friday, Nicole writes and circulates an article titled, FridayFlash to the Circuit, publishing weekly news and research tips. I must admit I was not comfortable sharing what I wrote as I am not a gifted writer. However, I agreed to her request asking her to tweak the article. On October 8th, FridayFlash was circulated to the Circuit and when Judge Shwartz saw the article about her recognition she was quite surprised and touched. She emailed me a lovely thank you note. I told her that it was a joint effort by Nicole and I, although Nicole gave me all of the credit. Sometimes we are asked to go outside of our comfort zone because of our insecurities but when opportunities arise, I recommend you take a chance.



Hispanic Heritage Program

The District Court of New Jersey held their annual Hispanic Heritage Program virtually on October 7th and had 130 participants. This year's theme was Esperanza: A celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope. Esperanza means Hope which in the Spanish culture translates to esperar (to wait). Hon. John Michael Vasquez, U.S. District Court Judge, gave the Opening Address with a message that spoke on the diversity of our Court. Judge Vasquez also introduced our keynote speaker.

The keynote speaker was Emma Otheguy. She is a children's author who's written six children's books about Latin identity and Latin American history. Emma also visits schools upon request and teaches writing courses. Emma is Cuban American, was raised in a bilingual family where Spanish is her first language, and her father's family lives in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Every summer, Emma would visit Puerto Rico.

Emma recounted a story about her childhood tradition. Growing up, Emma's parents loved telling stories. One story in particular was about Jose Marti, a Cuban native who's written poetry, newspaper articles and children's books. Emma's first children's picture book is about the life of Jose Marti during the colonization, independence and slavery in Cuba in the second half of the 19th century. Jose was a teen advocate for abolition in Cuba, a poet and natural hero. Emma chose to write her first book about Jose Mari because she grew up listening to his stories. At the conclusion of her remarks, the program was turned over to Keith Guthrie, Deputy Clerk, who conducted a Q&A with Emma and students from St. Joseph's Pro-Cathedral school in Camden, NJ. Students participated and attended the program via Zoom and were encouraged to ask Emma questions.

The next portion of the program continued by asking and encouraging participants to turn on their video to learn a dance called, *Merengue*. This type of music was played by workers in the Caribbean who used musical instruments called la *Tambora* (drum) and la *Guira* (percussion instrument). Merengue is a dance that is popular in the Dominican culture as well as Puerto Rico and Cuba. During the program, two instructors performed step by step dance moves. Part of the screen contained images of the steps for you to follow along. This was a fun and interactive part of the program.

At the conclusion of the program, several instruments were played while *Salsa* music played in the background. The program, while held virtually, was educational and phenomenal.

THIRD CIRCUIT—IRIS LIRIANO, CONTINUED

On October 12th, Meet and Greet Pizza Party (New Law Clerks)

On October 12th, a Meet and Greet Pizza Party was scheduled for the new law clerks to mingle and get acquainted. The Third Circuit holds their court sittings in Philadelphia, PA but five Circuit Judges sit in Newark, NJ. There are currently five Circuit Judges whose Chambers sit in Newark, NJ. They are Hon. Michael A. Chagares, Hon. Joseph A. Greenway, Hon. Patty Shwartz, Hon. Paul Matey and Hon. Julio Fuentes.

Hon. Paul Matey came up with the great idea of this Meet and Greet as this gives everyone an opportunity to get to know each other. Everyone gathered at Judge Shwartz's former Magistrate courtroom at 11:00 a.m. Each Judge introduced herself/himself and talked about how they worked their way up to a Judgeship. After convening for an 1 ½ hour we headed outside to eat lunch behind the Martin Luther King Courthouse. Although, there is an area of round tables with chairs, everyone was standing while enjoying a pizza slice. After we ate, each Judge spoke to each group of law clerks and rotated to the next group. It was nice to see the Judges meet with the group of clerks while asking questions such as what school they attended, where they lived and the like. We were quite lucky with the weather as it was a sunny yet pleasant day.

Hoping you all enjoyed your Holidays whether you vacationed or stayed home. Wishing you all a Happy 2022 in good health, happiness and prosperity.

Iris

In Other News . . .

U.S. Magistrate Judge Pamela Carlos was sworn in Nov. 12 and succeeds Magistrate Judge Henry S. Perkin in Allentown



Pamela A. Carlos will be a United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania announces that Pamela A. Carlos will be sworn in as a United States Magistrate Judge on November 12, 2021. She succeeds Magistrate Judge Henry S. Perkin and will sit in Allentown. Prior to her appointment as a Magistrate Judge, Judge Carlos worked as an Assistant District Attorney for the Office of the District Attorney of Philadelphia where she finished her career in the Major Trial Division. In 1993, she joined the law firm of Bennett, Bricklin and Saltzburg, LLC. In 1997, Judge Carlos was elected a member at Bennett, Bricklin, the second female equity member since the firm's inception in 1946. Upon her membership, she was appointed head of the firm's Special

Investigative Unit practice group. With the increase of litigation following enactment of the Pennsylvania Bad Faith statute in 1990, Judge Carlos developed expertise in the areas of bad faith and insurance coverage litigation in both the state and federal courts. In 2004, she was appointed Chair of Bennett, Bricklin's Bad Faith and Insurance Coverage practice group, a position she held until her retirement in 2021. Judge Carlos has regularly lectured on insurance-related topics for a number of organizations including the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and the Defense Research Institute. In addition to her involvement in bad faith and insurance coverage litigation, Judge Carlos also continued to litigate complex casualty claims with a focus on sexual molestation litigation. In 2009, Judge Carlos became the first woman elected to serve on Bennett, Bricklin's Executive Committee, which oversees management of all firm operations and departments. She also served as the Chair of the firm's Diversity Committee. During her leadership tenure, the firm experienced continuous growth in the area of diverse employment, gaining recognition in PaLaw's Annual Report on the State of the Profession, with respect to its percentage of minority and female attorneys. Judge Carlos is a 1986 graduate of Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She obtained her Juris Doctor from Temple University's Beasley School of Law in 1989, where she was also a member of the school's Moot Court Team.

FOURTH CIRCUIT— LENA D. TAPSCOTT

The Fourth Circuit's "About Us"

In an effort to get to know our members, some of the questions presented were:

What are your hobbies and/or what do you like to do for fun outside of work?

I enjoy Zumba, walking, and whatever sport my eldest granddaughter is involved in - normally travel softball and volleyball. I started as her recreation ball Coach for soccer, basketball, and t-ball when she was 2. She transitioned to travel softball when she was 8 and was great at it, she absolutely loved it and she stopped playing her other sports. From age 8 to age 12 she practiced, played, traveled and competed for basically 11 months out of the year. Now that she is 13 and plays in the 14 under group she plays roughly 8 months out of the year so that the athletes have the opportunity to also play for their respective schools. With this "break" came the opportunity for her to add travel volleyball to her plate. So from January thru April we get to enjoy the indoor courts of volleyball (though we would prefer to be outside with this pesky thingy still floating around in the air)



Submitted by Lena Tapscott

Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Richard M. Gergel; Charleston, SC