

IN BRIEF

Federal Judicial FJAA Assistants Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Gwendolyn Hunter, President

I urge each of you to commit, renew your commitment, and encourage others to join us in our commitment to FJAA this year. Happy New Year to All!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 2010-11 President. I look forward to working with each of you. As I assume my duties as President, I reflect back on the last decade...

After working in the U.S. District Court Clerk's Office for 12 years, I was selected by Magistrate Judge Lance Africk to serve as his secretary in November 2000. At the time, Bill Clinton was President of the United States and the outcome of the 2000 presidential election was yet to be decided. We soon learned that George W. Bush, the son of a former President, would become our next President and serve for the following eight years. Elected in November 2008 to succeed President Bush and currently serving as our 44th President is President Barack H. Obama. He was inaugurated in January 2009. After becoming secretary to Judge Africk, I immediately joined FJSA. In the spring of 2001, I attended an Administrative and Operational Training Workshop for the Fifth Circuit Judicial Secretaries/Judicial Assistants in Jackson, MS. The Workshop was sponsored by the AO and was a precursor to what we know today as Jump-Start.

In October 2001, I attended my first FJSA conference in Chicago, Illinois. It was about a month after the events of September 11, 2001 and, needless to say, air travel was quite an ordeal. Since then, I have attended conferences in Las Vegas, NV, Charleston, SC, San Antonio, TX, Salt Lake City, UT,

(Continued on page 2)

President's Message, continued

Albuquerque, NM, Washington, D.C., Portland, ME, and Boise, ID. Due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, I was unable to attend the conference held in Jacksonville, FL. Attending these conferences has allowed me to meet fellow Association members face-to-face, many for the first time. The conferences have also provided me with educational opportunities, the opportunity to share information, and the opportunity to participate in drawings for numerous cash awards and door prizes.

On April 17, 2002, Judge Africk was appointed United States District Judge by President Bush and, with the stroke of a pen, I became secretary to an Article III Judge. Judge Africk has always encouraged me to be an active member of the Association. Without his encouragement and approval, I would be unable to serve as your President. When I first chaired the Nominations and Elections Committee in 2003, I was very careful to work on the election ballots during my free time. When Judge Africk discovered what I was doing, he and the law clerks volunteered to assist me in completing the Association ballots for mailing. With their help, a task that likely would have taken me hours was completed in minutes. Now, with the advances of modern technology, almost all ballots, as well as our "In Brief" newsletters, are distributed electronically. That is a sign of the changing times. Notwithstanding these many changes, FJAA has remained steadfast. During this unstable economy, as many of us watched our TSP accounts take a nosedive and only now begin to recover and as the mortgage interest rates skyrocketed and now dip at an all time low, our Association dues remains an affordable \$30.00 per year with the first year dues waived

for first-time new members. Over the past 10 years, our dues have only increased \$5.00 for non-retired members. FJAA has also remained consistent in providing benefits to its members. For example, the Association has increased the amount of scholarship awards to \$1,500.00 each year. Although it may not appear to be a large amount, there have been years when all of the scholarship money was not spent. For the past few years, the Association has awarded \$100.00 to one lucky member each year through a random drawing during our membership drive. Also, our Association remained actively involved, for several years, in the lobbying effort to allow credit for sick-leave under the FERS retirement system. That bill was finally approved and signed by President Obama in 2009. Lastly, the Association underwent a name change from Federal Judges Secretaries Association to Federal Judicial Assistants Association in 2009, a change that was proposed to allow our Association's name to more accurately reflect its membership. While things have changed over the years one thing has remained the same: FJAA's continual commitment to you.

On October 9, 2010, as I stood in my signature leopard-print shoes, I took the solemn oath to serve the Association—our Association—as President. I remain committed to that oath, to you, and to the Association. I am honored to serve as your President for the 2010-2011 term. I urge each of you to commit, renew your commitment, and encourage others to join us in our commitment to FJAA this year.

Happy New Year to All!

Gwen

FJAA GOALS

- To promote the general welfare of its members;
- To encourage the highest ethical standards of conduct among its members;
- To promote continuing education and professional development of its members;
- To further the exchange of ideas and practical information relating to judicial support; and
- To foster among its members a feeling of camaraderie and mutual confidence.

www.fjaa.net

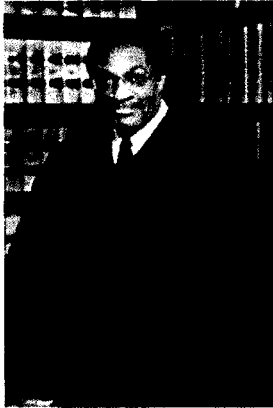
Please take time to view our FJAA website. There is a members-only section which contains the last four newsletters, a list of current members, and the Treasurer's Report. The members-only section can be accessed with your member PIN number — type in the word "member" as the username. Changes, corrections, and additions will be made quarterly as the newsletter is posted.

If you have anything you would like to have posted on our website, please send it to

gwen_hunter@laed.uscourts.gov

**JUDGE SOLOMON OLIVER, JR. BECOMES CHIEF JUDGE
OF THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO JUNE 1, 2010**

By Bettye J. Rhinehart



Judge Solomon Oliver, Jr. was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio on May 9, 1994.

Judge Oliver graduated from the College of Wooster with honors in 1969, majoring in philosophy and political science. He received a Juris Doctorate degree from New York University in 1972, and a Master's degree in Political Science from Case Western Reserve University in 1974. Prior to his appointment to the Court, he was Associate Dean and Professor of Law at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law of Cleveland State University. Previously he had been an Assistant U. S. Attorney in Cleveland, where he served as Chief of the Civil Division and Chief of Appellate Litigation.

On June 1, 2010, Judge Oliver ascended to the position of Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. His formal swearing-in ceremony took place on June 25 at the Carl B. Stokes U.S. Courthouse. Judge Oliver is the eleventh Chief Judge to serve in the District and the second African-American to hold this position. Retired U.S. District Judge George W. White was the first. Judge Oliver was sworn in as Chief Judge by U.S. District Judge David Dowd. Prior to the taking of the oath by Judge Oliver, Ms. Lorraine Phelps, of the Olivet Institutional Baptist Church gave a beautiful a capella rendition of "America the Beautiful." Congratulatory remarks were made by the Judge's brother, Paul Oliver, an attorney who lives in Atlanta; United States Magistrate Judge Kenneth McHargh, who has known the Judge since their days as students at the College of Wooster; and Chaka Patterson, one of the Judge's former law clerks, who is Vice President and Treasurer at Exelon Corporation in Chicago. The Judge has had twenty-two law clerks, a large number of whom have been minorities.

He stated that he was honored to serve as Chief Judge of the District. He noted his belief that his colleagues were, "committed to their judicial oath to do equal right to the poor and the rich" and that they were "also committed, in the words of Alexander Hamilton, to being guardians of the Constitution." He also paid tribute to the employees of the court, noting that the court had many stellar employees. He told them they will be pushed to meet the highest standards, but that they should take pride in the fact that what they do is so important to our system of justice. He stated: "As Chief Judge, I am confident that we will continue to thrive as a District with our first priority always being to be both a place where justice appears to be done and is being done."

Chief Judge Oliver's Judicial Assistant Bettye Rhinehart and Courtroom Deputy Maria Dallas have been with the Judge since his appointment in 1994. Judge Oliver's present law clerks are Margaux Day, graduate of Case Western Reserve University College of Law, Ashley Washington, graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and Jessica Jones, graduate of Columbia Law School.

Professional Development and Continuing Education Committee FJAA Scholarship Program

By: Sheryl Gilchrist, PP, PLS



In 2010, three scholarships were awarded. Pamela Angelette was awarded a \$500 scholarship to cover the tuition for an Excel Training-One on One course. Tina DeMonaco received \$311.85 for tuition and books for a tort law class and Janet Curry was awarded \$688.15 towards her law school tuition.

For 2011, \$1500 has been budgeted for the scholarship program. Please remember that when you make application, you need to provide the exact amount that you are requesting and documentation to support the request. The deadlines for applying for a scholarship are May 31 and August 31. If applications are sent by mail, they must bear these dates as the postmarked date. Applications are accepted through email to the chair of the committee.

I would encourage all members to take advantage of this wonderful program to enhance your skills and personal growth. The more diversified a person is, the better chance of keeping our jobs in the uncertain future for judicial assistants. This does not cost a member a thing, other than the time it takes to fill out the application.

The FJAA Scholarship Program is administered by the Professional Development & Continuing Education Committee (PDCEC) to enable and assist members in good standing to pursue their educational goals and professional development by taking courses and attending seminars and workshops to provide additional knowledge and skills to enhance job performance.

Unless otherwise approved by the Executive Committee, the minimum amount allocated for the Scholarship Program per calendar year shall be \$500.00. Any monies not awarded in a calendar year will not be carried over to the next year.

The amount awarded per individual scholarship may vary as determined by the PDCEC,

depending upon the available funds at the time of the application process. A member may apply for funding for more than one course/program, however, priority will be given to members who have not previously received a scholarship.

The course or training program for which the scholarship is used does not have to be applied toward a degree, but must be work or career-related so that the courts as well as the individual recipient benefit.

Upon completion of the course, seminar or workshop, the scholarship recipient shall write a brief article for the FJAA Newsletter ("In Brief") and provide proof of successful completion of the program to the PDCEC.

If the scholarship recipient does not successfully complete the program for which funds were provided, the recipient will be required to return the funds to the Scholarship Program.

The deadline for receipt of applications shall be May 31st (must be postmarked by May 31st) or August 31st (must be postmarked by August 31st); no extensions will be granted.

The approval of applications and a decision as to the awards shall be made by PDCEC no later than July 15th or September 30th respectively.

The applicants will be notified by phone or e-mail by July 15th or September 30th respectively.

Should one of the members of the PDCEC be an applicant, the President or someone appointed by the President, shall substitute for the PDCEC member in reviewing the applications.

Eligible individuals shall submit completed application forms to the PDCEC by May 31st or August 31st respectively.

Applications postmarked after May 31st or August 31st will not be considered.

FJAA Scholarship Applications — For other questions or inquiries, please contact:

Sheryl A. Gilchrist, PP, PLS Chair, Professional Development & Continuing Education Committee
United States District Court

444 Southeast Quincy Street, Suite 475 Topeka, Kansas 66683

785-338-5485

sheryl_gilchrist@ksd.uscourts.gov

Scholarship Report

By Tina DeMonaco JA to U.S. District Judge Paul G. Rosenblatt Phoenix, AZ

I am currently working towards a paralegal certificate which consisted of some topics related to contract law certificate. My class was held online. I received my certificate in the first issue that we had. We also had to participate in a weekly

This was my first experience with an online class. At first, I did not know what to expect, but by week two, I realized there are definite pros to not having to attend a class 'in person.' To name a few pros: there are no lectures, no rushing from work to get to class, no hassle in finding a parking spot, and no getting home late from class.

The objectives of this class were to become familiar with the various legal entities regarding their function, creation, expansion, and termination, as well as their respective legal implications. In addition, we examined several contracts and their regulation by the Uniform Commercial Code.

We had weekly reading assignments from the textbook, as well as reading an assigned case and/or an article. We also had weekly writing assignments

online discussion board. Once we read the assigned reading, we had to post our analysis/rationale to the exercises via the weekly online discussion board. After the students' answers were posted, we had to pick a particular student's post and give feedback on their analysis/rationale.

Our last assignment for the class was to apply the principles we learned to two set of facts and then create two contracts.

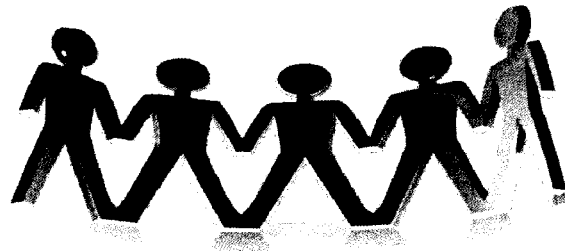
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FJAA Board for awarding me a scholarship. Also, I would like to thank the members of the FJAA who, by paying their dues, contribute to the scholarship fund.

FJAA MEMBERS NEEDED

If you have not sent in your renewal membership, or if you haven't joined FJAA, it's never too late — contact your circuit representative listed in this newsletter—guarantee your copy of the Newsletter in your electronic mailbox and an opportunity to participate in the annual educational conference.



Anyone who joins or renews their membership by March 31st will be included in a drawing for \$100 to be given away by FJAA!



FEDERAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION 2010 ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

BOISE, IDAHO



FEDERAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION 2010 ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

BOISE, IDAHO

By Dianne Hillman, Judicial Assistant to Chief Judge David C. Norton

The pre-conference celebration opened Thursday night with a buffet on the beautiful terrace of The Grove Hotel. With a view of Boise, the "City of Trees," everyone enjoyed visiting and dining as the sun set. Next we were entertained by the enthusiastic Basque Dancers as they were accompanied by the accordion, tambourine and flute playing their native songs. The Boise Oinkari (meaning one who does with his feet) Dancers, dressed in Basque costumes, danced in formations, snapped their fingers, played their music and even picked partners from the audience to dance with them. The JAs enjoyed clapping and shouting, as much as dancing, with the group. After the entertainment, our evening concluded with delectable desserts.



Our 2010 conference began on Friday morning with a warm welcome from President Cindi Hubbard. Right away she informed us of the correct pronunciation of Boise. It has a definite long e with emphasis on the "e." She remarked that with the beautiful mountains and parks, we were assured of having a wonderful time in the capitol city.

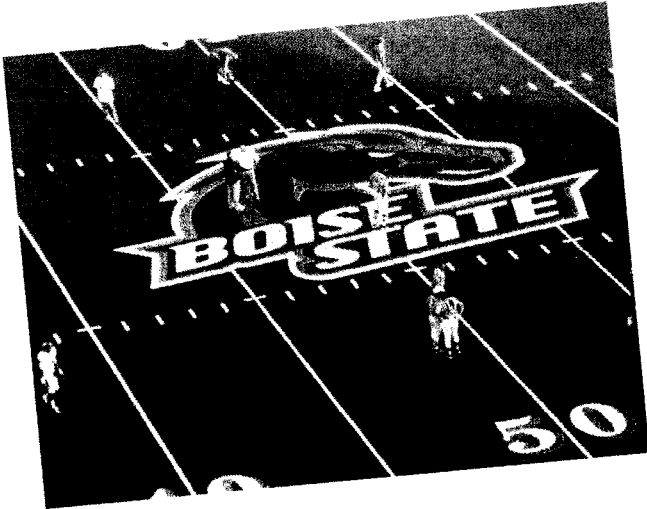
The Honorable B. Lynn Winmill, Chief United States District Judge for the District of Idaho, shared Idaho's history. A fifth generation Idahoan, he encouraged us to see the mountain scenery and of course to "leave your money in Idaho."

He is proud of the federal courts and believes it is an incredible institution. Judge Winmill emphasized the critical role that judicial assistants play in chambers, recognizing Susie Headlee, his former JA, who did an outstanding job.

A delightful speaker, Trudy Hanson Fouser, a partner in Gjording & Fouser, recognized the service judicial assistants perform for the judiciary. After reading the job description for a judicial assistant, she asked, "Who would apply for this job?" Laughter erupted. The duties are numerous, varied, and demanding. She considers the judicial assistant the "hub" of chambers, who rarely receives the recognition that is due. Judicial assistants not only follow directions, but also provide direction in chambers.

She then entertained us with unusual and funny facts about Idaho. At the time, the Broncos of Boise State University ranked fourth in the nation and is the only team with a blue Astro Turf playing field. Rumor has it, a few JAs were spotted with blue fingernails. That's what touching the turf will do! We learned huckleberry is the state fruit as she passed out huckleberry taffy to us, mimicking Oprah giving prizes to her audience. Although the taffy was not an expensive item like Oprah's give-aways, we all enjoyed the "chew."

Cindi then introduced Dave Metcalf, Career Law Clerk for Chief Judge B. Lynn Winmill, who spoke on "Ethics for Chambers Staff." Having worked with his judge and a judicial assistant for thirty years, Mr. Metcalf has attained much insight on the job a JA performs. He used an analogy of the solar system with the judge being the sun. The JA is the force in the system and he noted we should be proud of



Boise State Blue Astro Turf and a few "fans."



During a morning stroll after the conference several ladies went to "touch the turf" and in the hope that the Bronco luck might rub off! Teri Roberts, Gail Morgan, Stephanie Lawley, JoAnn Mingo, and Gale Shinozaki were among those who walked onto the field to check it out for themselves.

our position as we set the tone and serve as the conscience of the chambers.

Mr. Metcalf stressed the five points for the higher standard that is held for judicial employees:

1. Observe high standards of conduct in all relationships.
2. Disqualify yourself of impropriety.
3. Avoid conflicts of interest.
4. Do not solicit funds.
5. Refrain from inappropriate political activity, partisan as well as nonpartisan.

The complete Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees can be found on the J-Net under Ethics in the Resources column, then under Judicial Employees.

Debra Newman had the honor and pleasure of introducing her judge, the Honorable Valerie P. Cooke, United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Nevada, as the speaker for our final morning session. Judge Cooke serves as the Chair of the Ninth Circuit Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. Close to her heart, she discussed the relevance of ADR in the federal court. She calls it an "appropriate" alternative to a jury trial.

ADR has its place in the judiciary to be used in settlement conferences with magistrate judges, mediation for bankruptcy judges, and evaluations

with a neutral person. A benefit of ADR is that it requires parties to come in prepared to list the following: facts; elements of a claim; the value of the case; and the defenses. If the judiciary does not provide this service, the private sector will. A private settlement lawyer or judge is not regulated and is taking work away from the courts.

Judge Cooke also explained collaborative justice. An innovative court would be designed to address the process of prisoner re-entry into society. Justice in this form would provide a way for prisoners to succeed and a way to resolve conflict. Judge Cooke's final inspiring words were that we need to be healers of human conflict and the federal courts need to provide justice with speedy cost-effective resolutions.

After lunch, The Honorable Ronald E. Bush, United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Idaho, continued on the subject of "Prisoner Mediation and the Inter-Connectivity of the Court's ADR Program." Laughter rang out as Judge Bush punned that there must be a collision in the courts during this conference because no one is there directing court — **you** are here!

Prisoner cases are different from other litigation because a) the volume of the caseload is larger, b) substantive law as opposed to constitutional law, c) pro se litigants are not trained in the law, d) plaintiffs are incarcerated, and e) an initial review is required. The similarities are a) the cases follow

the federal rules, b) a desire for cost and time management exists, and c) ADR is an option. Mediation is well suited for pro se cases. The prisoner is involved, treated with respect, and offered innovative ideas. With this process, Judge Bush emphasized “a little effort at the front end saves a lot of effort in the end.”

Susie Headlee had the privilege of introducing The Honorable B. Lynn Winmill, her former judge, who spoke again in the afternoon. His topic: “Case Management and Information Technology in Chambers.” Judge Winmill’s passion for the federal courts is for judges to be measured on success and not on failure. At present, the Civil Justice Reform Act measures the failure of motions and cases. He believes in the establishment of goals and an automated system of reporting. An automated system would reduce three-year-old cases, reduce immediate disposition time, guarantee ruling on substantive motions in 30 days and guarantee ruling on non-substantive motions in seven days. Tools in our CM/ECF system such as a case flag filter, weekly motions report and civil case reports for cases pending for eighteen months are valuable keys we can use. With team effort and customized reports, pending cases can be handled before they become three years old.

Judge Winmill believes the key to managing cases is technology. Judges Information Technology collaborates training with the AO, FJC, and the Courts. Individual training in chambers can bring members of the Court together to learn as a team. A world of information is available on the J-Net under Training.

He also encouraged us to consider cross-training in Word since 95% of the United States uses Word, not WordPerfect. West Solutions will be releasing training on Word in a few years.

“New Media in the Courtroom: How Blogs, Twitter and Social Media Are Changing Legal Reporting” was the topic of the final session on Friday. The Honorable Susan Y. Illston, United States District Judge for the Northern District of California discussed media in the courtroom, in the jury box, and in chambers. Emphasis was placed on knowing the correct procedures to follow with the media during trials and the possibility of posting the rules for everyone, including the jurors.

In chambers, make sure no social networking is done on court email. When dealing with the media network remember, “never commit anything to writing you would not be satisfied seeing on the front page of the New York Times.”

Our Friday night destination was Coolwater Creek Ranch in Treasure Valley. What a surprise to see wagons waiting to take us to the western town of Coolwater on the shores of Mirror Lake.



As we rolled along the trail, we viewed the amazing Bogus Basin Mountain Range in the distance. After a tour of the town and a stroll around the scenic property, we were served a barbeque dinner with all the trimmings. As if we weren’t completely stuffed by the dinner, we enjoyed huckleberry cobbler and ice cream for dessert.

Entertainment included a disc jockey who played country tunes, a western skit entitled “Wild West Shootout,” and stories told by the owner, Bob LaVelle. A group learned line dancing and enjoyed dancing to the music of the DJ. Some chose to cozy up to the bonfires to visit or to just relax. At the close of the

evening, we climbed on the wagons for our return trip down the winding ranch road to our buses and our trip back to the twenty-first century. All of us reflected on the fantastic time we had "headin' out west."

On Saturday our first presentation was by George Reynolds, Supervising Attorney Advisor at the Administrative Office, who explained changes for the "Financial Disclosure Report for 2010." Following are the changes to look for in 2010:

1. Filing packet will be sent via email to the judges.
2. The forms will be set up to download to the computer if completed by a JA or an accountant. Accounting fees are paid up to \$1000 upon receipt by the Accounting Department in the Clerk's Office.
3. Software contains helps, PDF instructions, and hints.
4. "Audit Function" is provided to take care of small errors

The 2010 report is due May 15, 2011 by e-filing. Reminders from Mr. Reynolds included a) ask for an extension by email or the judge will pay \$200 for a late filing fee; b) August 13 is due date for ninety (90) day extension; c) Judge faces \$50,000 fine if disclosure is not filed; and d) make sure the judge signs all forms, including amendments.

Mr. Reynolds emphasized his staff's commitment to help JAs in any way to make completing the forms easier. You may reach him by email or by calling 202-502-1850. Complete information on the Financial Disclosure Report can be found on the J-net.

Next, John L. Leonard, the Training Branch Chief at the San Antonio, Texas, Training Center, introduced us to "Systems Deployment Support Division Training Branch," that is implementing new connections for the judicial branch. The web site for training is <http://aotx.ao.dcn/training> which can also be accessed via J-Net. Lotus Connections is a social networking program being introduced and you can find more information under Lotus on the training web site. Connections can prove useful for projects, committees, organizations, and court staff.

Saturday afternoon Ann Vanderslice, a specialist in federal retirement planning and benefits training, shared a wealth of information on retirement, IRAs, and TSP accounts. She emphasized that when it comes to money, we either earn and save it, marry it, inherit it, or win it. Her advice to us was, "Winning the lottery is not a retirement plan, but with the federal government you have won the lottery."

Following is a summary of the information she shared with us

1. Important documents that should be in safe keeping are your SF50 in Official Personnel File (OPF), birth certificate, DD 214 (military), annual social security statement, marriage certificate or divorce papers and beneficiary forms.
2. Best days to retire and the magic numbers (information in brochure).
3. Three components to calculating your federal annuity are your years of service, your pay for the last three (3) and your age.
4. Survivor Benefits.
5. Managing annual and sick leave.
6. Thrift Savings Plan and Roth IRA.
7. Federal Employee Health Benefits.

Elizabeth A. "Libby" Smith, Clerk of Court for the United States District and Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Idaho, concluded the afternoon on the topic, "Control Your Chaos — Project Management in Chambers." Calling herself a "management junkie," she detailed project management skills, such as planning, organizing, directing and controlling an organization for future goals with a definite start and end date.

The triple constraints for a project are cost, quality, and schedule. Possible chamber projects in which a judicial assistant needs management and project skills are investiture ceremonies, relocating chambers to a new courthouse, managing a high-profile case, or quite possibly, organizing a nationwide conference like FJAA. With a detailed plan, the advantages are seen when chaos goes to collaboration, when everyone is equally accountable, when issues are tracked, and when time schedules and opportunities are met. In the end, one can celebrate the accomplishments. Organization and planning bring the personal benefits to you of growth, skill sets, and the value of working with others. The court benefits when information and managing of the work in the Court are performed in order and not chaos.

Our elegant gala for our closing banquet was held at the hotel. Sitting with old friends and new friends, the judicial assistants were served a delicious meal of steak and salmon. Happy faces were seen when numerous raffle prizes were presented to the lucky winners. Cindi Hubbard thanked many JAs for their service during her tenure as president and presented them with gifts. All 2010-2011 officers were introduced and then sworn in. Seattle was named as the location for next year's conference and everyone was encouraged to attend.

The Sunday morning FJAA General Business Meeting was led by Gwendolyn Hunter, our new President. Everyone agreed that another outstanding conference for judicial assistants had just been experienced and was well attended.

Special thanks and congratulations go to all the FJAA officers and the FJAA Conference Committee who planned our conference. Their planning included selecting the site city, reserving the hotel, selecting the food, providing the entertainment, and securing the speakers. We also truly appreciate Hope Taormina and her committee for their efforts in providing the raffle and door prizes. And, a special debt of gratitude to our two Idaho Co-Chairs, Susie Headlee and Toni Smith, who worked so hard on this program that both educated and entertained us. All of your efforts paid off! A truly remarkable time was had by all JAs in Boise.

If you are not yet a member of FJAA, you are encouraged to join. As a member, you will learn valuable information, will get to know your peers, will receive the FJAA newsletter, and add value to our organization. Please make your plans to join us in Seattle next year for a most rewarding experience.



Editor's note: Thanks to conference photo contributors, Gwendolyn Hunter, Susie Headlee, Debra Newman, and Stephanie Lawley.

FJAA Seattle Conference 2011 October 6 - 9, 2011



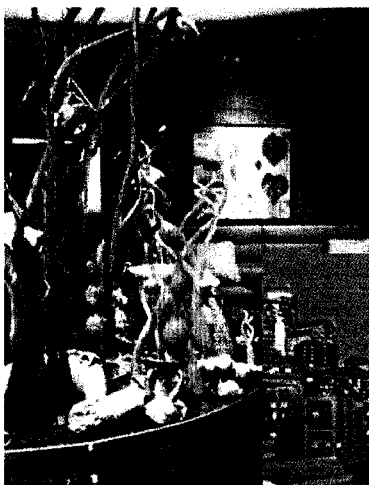
Hotel reservations are now being accepted for the FJAA Educational Conference.

Reservations for the Seattle Marriott Waterfront can be secured by calling the hotel directly and reference group FJAA, or electronically — [click here](#), or cut and paste the link below to be directed to the property's home page with the negotiated rate code already entered in the appropriate field.

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/seawf?groupCode=fjafjaa&app=resvlink&fromDate=10/4/11&toDate=10/10/11>

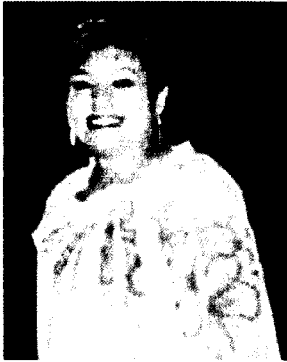
Telephone: 1-206-443-5000

Toll Free: 1-800-455-8254



BHQBTHS MDV R

First Circuit



Mari Rosa Jorge

The Honorable O. Rogeriee Thompson's investiture ceremony as U.S. Circuit Judge for the First Circuit took place on September 27, 2010, in Cranston, Rhode Island. Judge Thompson was nominated by President Obama in 2009 and confirmed to the court on March 17, 2010. Judge Thompson was born and raised in Anderson, South Carolina. She received an A.B. in 1973 from Brown University, and a J.D. in 1976 from Boston University School of Law. She also holds honorary degrees

from the University of Rhode Island and Bryant College. Prior to taking her seat on the First Circuit, Judge Thompson was a judge for the Superior Court of Rhode Island. We extend a warm welcome to Judge Thompson and her staff.

District of New Hampshire: The federal court in New Hampshire has a new judge: Hon. Landya McCafferty. Sworn in on Friday, June 25, by longtime mentor, Circuit Judge Norman Stahl, Judge McCafferty took her seat as the new Magistrate Judge, replacing Hon. James Muirhead, who retired. At the ceremony, Judge McCafferty was praised as a superb legal mind with a broad range of knowledge of constitutional law, and as someone who is not afraid to make tough decisions. Gail Adams, former secretary to Senior Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, prior to that to the now-deceased Judge Hugh Bownes, and, more recently, CM/ECF Administrator,

is now Judge McCafferty's Judicial Assistant. Welcome back to chambers, Gail!

District of Massachusetts: A tribute to the life of District Judge Reginald Lindsay was held at the John Joseph Moakley Courthouse last September. Judge Lindsay sat on the District of Massachusetts from 1993 until he took a leave of absence from the bench in April 2008 while recovering from illness. He died in Boston on March 12, 2009. He was appointed to the federal bench by President Bill Clinton in 1993, and was the second black person to sit as a federal judge in Massachusetts. The tribute to Judge Lindsay included the unveiling of a portrait. "He was more than just a boss," said Marie Losco, his secretary for more than 30 years, first at the now-defunct Boston law firm of Hill & Barlow, and then at the courthouse. "He was a confidante, a friend, and someone I loved very much." May he rest in peace.

THIRD Circuit



Roseanna Lambiase

Once again, we had a terrific conference this year. The training was very informative and interesting. The Committee deserves a standing ovation for all their hard work. Boise was a wise choice for the 2010 conference. It is a beautiful and hospitable city with a fascinating history. The tour of the Capitol building was well worth it and I revisited it when I read the informative book they gave us at the conclusion of the tour. I was surprised and amazed to learn that the building, as well as many other state buildings, is heated by geothermal water. The early settlers were the first to take advantage of the underground hot water pools and many of those early buildings and houses are still standing and geothermally heated.

The conference itself always offers a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with our friends and colleagues. It was especially poignant for me this year because I had an opportunity to personally thank those members whose prayers and generosity carried my family through a serious crisis. Last June, my son Chris was para-gliding in the Arizona desert when he ran into a down draft which collapsed his sail causing him to be critically injured in the fall. Chris is the Chief Pharmacist at the Fort Huachuca Army Base and since he is a civilian employee of the Army, I

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was able to donate my available annual leave to him. When I told my dear friend Glenda Signal in New Orleans of our situation, without hesitation, she offered to donate leave time as well. In addition, she passed the word around and others also donated leave hours. The amazing thing is that because of the generosity of our sister FJAA members and New Jersey co-workers, Chris did not miss a single paycheck up until he went back to work the beginning of November. Yes, Chris is back to work! He must use a crutch (temporarily I believe) and relies on his wheelchair from time to time, but his doctors are amazed at his recovery. The power of prayer and faith in the Lord is very significant, and not having to worry about finances - well, that is an unbeatable combination for healing.

So, I want to publically thank all those members and co-workers who contributed annual leave and for their prayers. And I want to reiterate that the FJAA is more than an association - it is a family and I am glad and proud to be part of it.

Fourth Circuit Suzanne Thorne Barber



Happy New Year all — I will be happy to receive your circuit news for the next issue of In Brief.

Fifth Circuit Lisa P. Martin



We had an abundance of news in the last issue, but a shortage in this one. JAs — send me your news! I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

JAs from ED LA Court and Court of Appeals following their Christmas luncheon at Gordon Bier sch .



From left to right: Susan Barrios, Jenny Rudolph, Hope Taormina, Marilyn Mosley, Marie Firmin, Donna Wisecarver, Traci Munster, Robin Frieze, Flay Sambrone-Metoyer, Pamela Angelette, Glenda Signal, Marion Barbir, Hope McDonald, Gwendolyn Hunter, Denise Barbarin.

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SIXTH Circuit



Beverly D. Gerken

from Susan Pinkowski, ED-MI

PORT HURON FEDERAL BUILDING & U.S. COURTHOUSE

The Port Huron Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse won the International TOBY Award from the Building Owners and Managers Association for the 100,000 square foot and under category. The Office

Building of the Year (TOBY) Award is the most prestigious and comprehensive program of its kind in the commercial real estate industry, created to recognize quality in office buildings and award excellence in building management. All facets of a building's operations are thoroughly evaluated during the judging process, including energy efficiency, risk management, safety, emergency preparedness and security standards.

DANCESWITH DIRT

In September it was time for the Dances with Dirt. For the past five years, as September rolls around, the Partial Marshal's trail running team

gears up for another run through the muck in Hell, Michigan. It's amazing how fun running up and down hills, bush whacking through fields, jumping in and out of rivers, and trudging through the swamps can be. Dances with Dirt is a 5 person 62 mile relay trail race through Hell, Michigan, that those people looking for punishment do every year to prove they are still alive. The team ran for ten and half hours and finished 228 out of 374 teams. These races are very popular and have limitations on the number of entries and often sell out. For example, Dances with Dirt opens registration in February and sells out in 4 hours. If you've ever been curious about this, or other trail runs, go to danceswithdirt.com.

The Memphis JAs/secretaries had their annual birthday luncheon/Christmas party on December 14, 2010.

The Sixth Circuit welcomes Sara S. Goodman, 6th Circuit (Nashville, TN), Administrative Manager to Hon. Jane B. Stranch and Yvette Fuller-Gerhard, 6th Circuit (Medina, OH), Secretary to Chief Circuit Judge Hon. Alice M. Batchelder.

Hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Holiday Season.



SIXTH CIRCUIT ATTENDEES

A HEARTY thank you to the Boise Conference Committee for organizing a great educational conference. There was a great turnout of attendees from the Sixth Circuit and everyone had a wonderful time.

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Seventh Circuit



Melissa Hardin

Hello all, I am meeting so many other JAs and making contacts was very happy to be the invaluable. Next year's conference in Seattle should be just as informative and lots of fun.

representative. I thought In court news, the Seventh Circuit has had I'd start my first column several district judges appointed: INND had Judge by telling you a little Jon DeGuilio confirmed May 11th; INSD had Judge about myself. I've been a Tanya Walton Pratt confirmed on June 15th and judicial assistant for 12 Judge Jane Magnus-Stinson confirmed June 7th. years (4 years at the state Deborah Patton (ILND) reports two new judges have trial court level, and 8 started: District Judge Sharon Coleman and Judge years at WIWD). The Gary Feinerman. Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman, Honorable William Conley who was previously an Illinois Appellate Court

who was appointed in March of 2010, is the fourth Judge, was confirmed by the Senate on July 12th and judge I have assisted. In our courthouse, I am the Judge Gary Feinerman, who came from the law firm chairperson of the annual picnic committee, a founding member of our lunch-hour book club, and I am a member of the Sunshine Club. I love to read, especially mysteries set wherever my next vacation is (i.e., if anyone is going to Egypt, I would highly recommend reading Elizabeth Peters' Amelia Peabody series). I also love to travel. In the past five years I've have traveled to Egypt, Jordan, England and Paris (twice), Italy, Australia and New Zealand.

For work, I've been able to travel to San Antonio, Washington DC (twice) and I attended our recent FJAA Conference in Boise, which was a fabulous time!!! Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to put it on, I'm definitely hooked on attending them. Besides the interesting speakers, just

At the WIWD, our new chambers furniture is set to be installed the weekend of Dec. 4th. We expect it to be a bit hectic with disposing of the old furniture at the same time the new is installed. It's been a long process since discussions started last May. We still have painting and new wall coverings to be done sometime next spring, then the court beautification committee will move on to another area. That's the news from the Seventh Circuit.

What some folks have said about New Year's Day.

"For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice"—T.S. Eliot

"New Year's Day - Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual."—Mark Twain

"Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man."—Benjamin Franklin

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."—Edith Lovejoy Pierce

"A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other."—Anonymous

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Rebecca Baertsch

wonderful educational offers.

conferences the Association

Welcome to Magistrate Judge Leo I. Brisbois (D. Minn.) who was recently sworn in as the first American Indian to serve as a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Minnesota and only the second American Indian to ever hold the position in the United States. Magistrate Judge Brisbois is a member of the White Earth Bank of Ojibwe Indians and is chambered at the Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building in Duluth, Minnesota. I am pleased to share with you that Magistrate Judge Brisbois retained retired Magistrate Judge Raymond L. Erickson's Judicial Assistant, Vicki Miller, to serve as his Judicial Assistant.

On November 5, 2010, Chief Judge Catherine D. Perry (E.D. Mo.) announced that the district

I hope everyone judges of the United States District Court have had a wonderful holiday season and that the new year is off to a great start. I want to encourage everyone to make it a new year's resolution to join the FJAA. I know that I personally have benefitted from my membership and the

selected Judge Nannette A. Baker to fill a vacancy for United States Magistrate Judge. Nannette A. Baker currently serves as a judge on the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District of Missouri. She has held that position since her appointment in 2004, and served as Chief Judge of that court from 2008-2009. Before her current position, Judge Baker was a circuit judge of the 22nd Judicial Circuit in St. Louis from 1999 to 2004. Earlier in her career, Judge Baker worked in private law practice with the St. Louis firms of Lashly & Baer and later Schlichter, Bogard & Denton. Congratulations Magistrate Judge Baker!

Our sincerest condolences to Senior District Judge Garnett Thomas Eisele (E.D. Ark.) on the recent passing of his wife.

Eighth Circuit Executive Millie Adams recently announced that she is planning to hold a Workshop for Eighth Circuit Judicial Assistants in Washington, D.C., May 24-27, 2011. This will be a fantastic opportunity for training for the Eighth Circuit JAs where we can tap into the wealth of speakers from the U.S. Courts Administrative Office and Federal Judicial Center. If anyone has any topic suggestions for the Workshop, please contact me as soon as possible and I will pass them on to the planning Committee.

Ninth Circuit

The FJAA Annual Conference was held in Boise, Idaho on October 7-10, 2010 at the fabulous Grove Hotel. Those who attended were lucky to spend a fun and entertaining evening at the Coolwater Creek Ranch. The BBQ was delicious and those who joined in the line dancing and stoking the firepits around the lake had a fabulous time relaxing and enjoying the crisp, fall evening. Near the Grove Hotel is the Boise State University, home of the Boise State Broncos football stadium with the famous blue smurf-turf. During a morning stroll after the conference several ladies went to "touch the turf" and hope the Bronco luck rubbed off! Teri Roberts; Gail Morgan, Stephanie Lawley, JoAnn Mingo, and Gale Shinozaki walked onto the field to check it out for themselves. You can see their photo on the conference report pages.

FJAA Conference 2011 in Seattle: The Ninth Circuit is excited to once again host next year's Annual FJAA Conference in October and we hope to see you all in Seattle! The planning committee is hard at work on an exciting agenda as well as events for after hours. Thanks for all your work in advance of our arrival next October!

Community Service by Chambers Staff: Chambers staff from the District of Alaska Anchorage court participate in a monthly community service outreach by serving breakfast at the local homeless



Stephanie Lawley

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(Continued from page 16)

shelter. Members of judges' chambers may sign up to serve one Friday per month and all who have partici-

pated agree that the opportunity to serve those less fortunate is very rewarding for all. On some frigid Alaska mornings over 300 people who have stayed at the shelter overnight are served a hot breakfast. In this photograph are: Stephanie Lawley, Judge Timothy M. Burgess; Gail Morgan, Judge John W. Sedwick; and Jan Short, Chief Judge Ralph R. Beistline.



Senior District Judge Samuel P. King, 1916-2010: Senior District Judge Samuel P. King of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii died Tuesday, December 7, 2010. "Judge King was the heart and soul of Hawaii. He was a friend and a mentor to all who loved Hawaii. Judge King's rollicking sense of humor -- his deep capacity not to take himself seriously while taking Hawaii seri-

ously-- set a standard that few, if any, could match. His idea of what was good for Hawaii was an extension of his deep understanding of pono, of doing what's right." Born in China on April 13, 1916, when his father was a Navy gunboat captain stationed there, King lost his left eye as a child, but never let that hold him back, graduating from Punahou School and receiving undergraduate and law degrees from Yale University. He then received a waiver to serve in the Navy as a Japanese translator during World War II. Judge King was 94.

TENTH CIRCUIT



Ann Neff

I'm sure all who will take senior status in January and Judge Ted attended the Conference in Stewart will become the new Chief Judge for the Boise had a wonderful time. District of Utah. We will continue to be in good Thanks to Cindi, Susie, hands with his leadership. Toni, and the committee for providing us with an agenda Happy holidays to all. I am proud to be affiliated with the federal judicial assistants. of informative and educational topics. Good job everyone!

From Utah, I received the following message from Chris Ford (CUSDJ Campbell): We And from New Mexico, one of our long-time members, Lee Jones, is retiring at the end of January. She has worked for Senior Judge John Edwards Conway for the past 24 years as his administrative assistant and courtroom deputy. Prior to coming to the Court, she was Judge Conway's secretary in Alamogordo, NM, where her husband was serving in the United States Air Force.

have been very busy these first few weeks of November. Our court has been thrust onto the national stage with the Elizabeth Smart kidnaping trial. As you can imagine there are many media organizations who camp at the courthouse nearly 24 hours a day. Needless to say, we, the employees at the court, are very mindful of this attention and I want to say how proud I am of all our employees who conduct themselves in such a professional and helpful manner. There have been many, many, many inquiries about this case and our court personnel continue to be courteous and pleasant to all the people who are interested in the day-to-day proceedings.

Lee is looking forward to being at home in Albuquerque with her husband of 45 years, Bob, who has been retired from his pilot job at Southwest Airlines for seven years. They are avid golfers and will most likely do some traveling with their new Lhasa Apso, Shadow.

Lee will miss the FJAA as she has been a member since the late 1980's and has attended many of the conferences in so many interesting cities across the United States. She extends her best wishes to all of you as she retires to "really smell those roses!"

Hope your holidays were the best ever!

On a side note: My Judge (Tena Campbell)

BHQBT HS MDV R

D.C. Circuit
Federal Circuit



Sharon Deare

A hearty welcome is extended to Henrietta Jessie of the Federal Circuit (WDC) as the new Judicial Assistant (JA) to the Hon. Timothy B. Dyk, and to Trish Taylor of the Federal Circuit (WDC). Trish is the JA to the newly appointed Chief Judge Randall R. Rader. On June 1st, 2010, Chief Judge Rader succeeded Chief Judge Paul R. Michel. Chief Judge Michel retired on May 31st, 2010 after more than 22 years of judicial service. We have a bit more exciting news from the home front with the joyous marriage of Mary Pollard-Jamison of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims Office of Special Masters. Mary is the JA to Special Master Laura Millman and Special Master Richard Abell. The wedding took place in August. We wish everyone mentioned the very best on their new journeys.

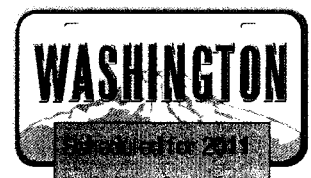
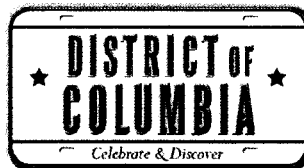
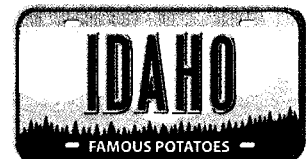
From all of us at the D.C. Circuit and Federal Circuit, we hope each and everyone of you had a joyful and stress free holiday season!

Good wishes from the all Circuit representatives to everyone for a great New Year. Send your news to your representative listed on the following page for the next issue of *IN BRIEF*.



How many of these have you attended?

Some of the states that have sponsored the FJAA Annual Educational Conference





CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES

Please stay in touch with your circuit representative with newsworthy items for the next issue of the newsletter. Last day for submission March 15, 2011

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Go to www.fjaa.net for a complete list of officers, circuit representatives, committee memberships, and other great information.

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10TH CIRCUIT ANN NEFF

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Stay in touch with your Circuit Representatives

Congratulations to
new retiree
Lee Jones, 10th Circuit

And new jas
Dilhani A. Siriwardane, Fourth Circuit
Maria Elena de Anda, Fifth Circuit
Sara S. Goodman, 6th Circuit
Yvette Fuller-Gerhard, 6th Circuit
Henrietta Jessie, Federal Circuit
Trish Taylor, Federal Circuit

Have you been with the government for 30 years?

Please share your story with us.

FJAA wants to applaud and feature members who have been with the government 30 years or more. If you would like to be recognized in **In Brief**, please contact your circuit representative and send in a short article about the changes you have experienced during your government tenure. Please include a photograph with your submission.

A free one-year membership for the year 2011 is available to all new JAs that are/were hired between September 1, 2010—September 1, 2011. This free one-year membership is available only to first-time FJAA members.

IN BRIEF

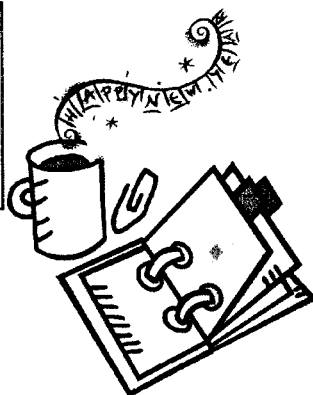
BACK PAGE EDITOR'S CORNER

Federal Judicial **FJAA** Assistants Association

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 Retired Administrative Assistant to
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December 31, 2010

Dear Readers:
 "Something Old, Something New,
 Something Borrowed. . . ." is not just for Brides



Something Old: Happy Old Year! Yup, just as Gwen in her article, offers reflections on the past, at the beginning of each new year, that is exactly what I do. I find that it is a perfect time to look back and see what the previous year has been for my family. Sometimes it is a year that we would rather not recall but even if that were

true, there are always some great happenings in our lives interspersed with the not so great.

As I have reached "maturity," the New Year's Eve parties are now replaced by my sitting at home with a cup of Joe in celebration of the previous year. I sit and sip and reflect on the ups and the downs of the year and to be reminded of all the things that have passed — and hopefully not passed me by in my memories — I go through my date book. There is much there to bring a smile just for the looking and remembering. The simplest of entries in the datebook such as lunch with a friend evokes fond memories and a smile. New Year's Eve is also the time when I record the anniversaries and birthdays in my new date book — so that I am also reminded of all my good friends and relatives and I can see what I have to look forward to — more wonderful memories and smiles.

This New Year's Eve gives me yet another opportunity to stand on that border of both the old and the new — and to celebrate both. For me, the old year's most memory worthy events were the celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary and our youngest daughter's homecoming after living a great distance from us for many years.

Something New: As the New begins tomorrow—the something new is our first-ever cruise as my husband and I board a ship to pass through the Panama Canal.

Something Borrowed: Throughout the year, time is a good thing to borrow. Borrow time from a friend or relative. Ask them to loan you some time to share a meal, or go to a movie or concert. It is that kind of "borrowed time" that makes sense to me. A great way to build memories and gather smiles.

Time is what you make of it.

Martha



- January 15, 2011
- April 15, 2011
- July 15, 2011
- October 1, 2011



IN BRIEF

You are invited to write articles for our Newsletter. Help keep our membership informed not only in reporting in and about the Circuits but also submitting informational and educational articles. Stories of interesting travels, special triumphs, and fundraising achievements are also welcome.

Keep your issues of In Brief coming to your electronic mailboxes. If you have not sent in your renewal membership, mail your check to your circuit representative today. Your membership must be current in order to continue receiving the FJAA Newsletter. A listing of circuit representatives is also within this newsletter. Go on line at www.fjaa.net for more information.

The purpose of the Federal Judicial Assistants Association (FJAA) is to promote the general welfare of its members: to encourage the highest ethical standards of conduct; to promote continuing education and professional development; to further the exchange of ideas and practical information related to judicial support; and to foster a feeling of camaraderie and mutual confidence among its members. In Brief is a non-copyrighted, in-house publication of the FJAA. Circulation includes members and potential members of the FJAA. Opinions recited herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the FJAA. Comments regarding In Brief may be sent to the Editor: editor.inbrief@gmail.com