

## NEWS FROM THE 4TH CIRCUIT

Submitted by Lena Tapscott, Charleston, South Carolina



There is no better way to say goodbye to the hot and humid days in Charleston, SC than to enjoy ice cream with friends at work. Peppa Caskey, Divisional Manager for the Charleston Clerk's office and Court Security Officers Debra Lockhart and Britany Plantard, conspired to bring the United States District Court family together with an ice cream social to celebrate the end of Summer on September 24, 2024. (High of 84°, 72% humidity, feels like 92°).

Ice cream was provided by Mrs. Caskey and the yummy toppings were provided by the clerk's office. Ms. Lockhart and Ms. Plantard did an incredible job decorating the event and presenting the sweets. The Clerk's office was joined by many of the Courthouse family to include Honorable Richard Gergel, Judicial Assistants Lena Tapscott and Lisa Richberg, numerous Law Clerks, employees of the US Marshal's Office, US Probation Office, Court Security Officers, and Goodwill.

Ice cream flavors included rocky road, cookies and cream, butter pecan, chocolate truffle, coffee and the staple favorites of vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry. Mix ins included a variety of fruit, sprinkles, fudge, peanut butter, caramel and strawberry toppings, nuts, chocolate chips, peanut butter chips, and crushed Oreos, to name a few. There was also the choice of enjoying the ice cream in a bowl or having it served in a waffle cone, waffle bowl or with root beer to make a cold root beer float.

All enjoyed the opportunity to gather together and it never hurts to have a few extra calories to get the wheels of justice turning faster. Goodbye Summer!

Bring on the cooler weather and pumpkin pie! Submitted by: Crystal Perry, Courtroom Deputy to the Honorable Richard M. Gergel, Charleston, SC.





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### Reflections from Miami Conference.....

After 14 years as a Judicial Assistant with U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia (Norfolk), and my 2<sup>nd</sup> year attending the FJAA conference... my only regret is that I hadn't been able to attend more of them. I am determined to try to attend every conference until I retire. This conference was very informative with much needed information and best of all I got to meet other Judicial Assistants from around the country.

**Pamela Thorbs, Judicial Administrator & Assistant  
To The Honorable Raymond A. Jackson  
United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia**



Exciting time in Miami at our "all-ways informative" conference. Learn something to add to or expand the effectiveness of our Chambers operations every time. As usual the networking with our fellow Judicial Assistants is always phenomenal!!!!

**Lena Tapscott, Judicial Assistant/Paralegal  
To the Honorable Richard Mark Gergel  
United States District Court, District of South Carolina**



I began my career as a Judicial Assistant with Magistrate Judge David Keesler with the Western District of North Carolina in May 2004 and worked in the same capacity thru December 2020 when Judge Keesler opted to have two law clerks instead of one law clerk and one JA. In April of 2021 I accepted a position as a Case Administrator with the Western District of NC then I became a Courtroom Deputy to two Senior Judges in 2022. In April 2023, I accepted another position as Administrative Specialist for our Clerk of Court, Katie Simon. I still have my two Senior Judges. This was my first year back to the FJAA conference since 2020 and it was so good to reconnect with old friends and to meet new ones. I had a great time in Coral Gables and the conference was awesome. I look forward to seeing you all again next year in Denver !!

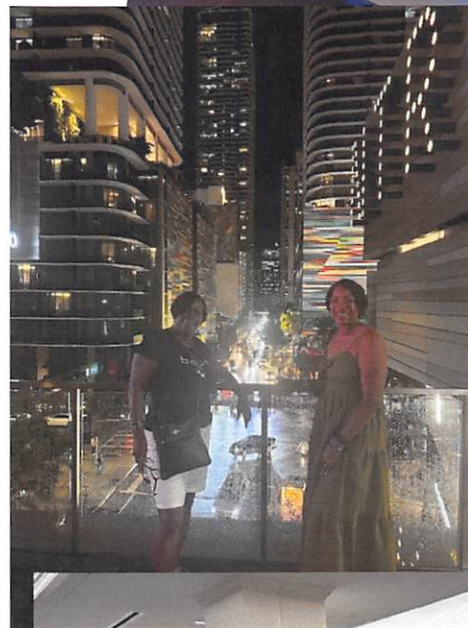
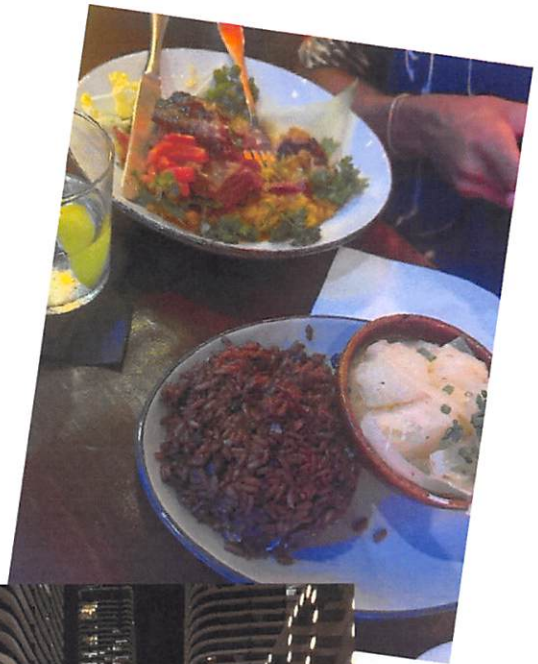
**Karen Burton, Administrative Specialist/Relief Courtroom Deputy, United States District Court,  
Western District Of North Carolina**





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## NEWS FROM THE 5TH CIRCUIT

Submitted by Missy Guillot  
New Orleans



Former FJAA Presidents Flay Sambrone-Metoyer (left) (2005) and Hope McDonald (right) (2007) work besties for more than 25 years escaped New Orleans early before Hurricane Francine hit to attend the conference this year. Flay will be retiring at the end of this year with more than 36 years of service and plans on attending conferences after retirement scheduling permitting.



Many of our 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit JAs arrived in Miami a little early for this year's conference to escape Hurricane Francine ... and a good time was had by all!





## NEWS FROM THE 6TH CIRCUIT

Submitted by Jennifer Hodge, Tennessee

### Judge Anderson appointed as Chair of the District Judges Representatives to the Judicial Conference

At the September meeting of the Judicial Conference of the United States, Judge S. Thomas Anderson was appointed as Chair of the District Judges Representatives to the Judicial Conference.

Judge Anderson is currently serving a three-year term as the district judge representing the Sixth Circuit on the Judicial Conference. The Chief Justice of the United States presides over the Judicial Conference, which convenes twice a year to consider administrative and policy issues affecting the federal court system, and to make recommendations to Congress concerning legislation involving the Judicial Branch.



#### Honorable John T. Fowlkes, Jr. Receives The University of Memphis 2024 Pillars of Excellence Award

On August 24, 2024, The University of Memphis Alumni Association Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law Chapter honored U.S. District Judge John T. Fowlkes, Jr. with the prestigious 2024 Pillars of Excellence Award. This award recognizes attorneys in the Memphis-area legal community who have made significant contributions to the practice of law in their civic and professional lives. Recipients exemplify and exceed this standard. Judge Fowlkes was joined by his wife Michelle, sons, Danari and Andre, Danari's wife Dana, and current and former members of his staff at the black-tie/semi-formal event, where they proudly witnessed him accept this distinguished award. Congratulations to Judge Fowlkes on this well-deserved recognition!



## NEWS FROM THE 6TH CIRCUIT

Submitted by Debby Sawyer, Tennessee

The unprecedented devastation caused by Hurricane Helene touched the families of the Eastern District of Tennessee, Greenville Division court colleagues. LeAnna Wilson, the Clerk for the Eastern District, explained that while none of the Greenville Court staff lost their lives or homes, staff family members lost their lives, homes, and businesses. They also have many probationers who lost homes. She explained that “the need is great right now.” The Knoxville and Chattanooga Division staff have been gathering and delivering supplies to the Greenville Courthouse for distribution directly to the affected families and probationers.

To support their efforts, the Clerk’s Offices for the Middle and Western Districts of Tennessee banded together to collect money and needed supplies.

We received **\$5,585.00** and more boxes of donated supplies! In addition to contributions from TNMD and TNWD, we received support from the Bankruptcy Court, Probation, the Sixth Circuit, GSA, USMS, Secret Service, FPD & CJA Panel Attorneys, USAO, Senator Blackburn’s Office, and the Army Corp of Engineers!



Chris Fitts, with USMS, generously offered to let us use his 20 ft enclosed trailer to help deliver the supplies. Then we successfully transferred everything to a U-Haul waiting on us in Knoxville for delivery on to Greenville!





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Submitted by Daphne Rankin, Memphis, Tennessee



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