



1ST CIRCUIT

CHRISTIE PICHE

Christie Clifford is a Judicial Assistant to District Judge Jon D. Levy in the District of Maine. Christie joined the court family in May 2014 when she and Judge Levy came from the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in Portland, Maine where she had worked for him since 2005. Christie joined the FJAA in 2014 and was fortunate to attend the conference in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015.

Christie has twins that are sophomores in college. Her daughter attends Georgetown University in Washington DC and her son attends the University of Maine at Orono and is in the Civil Engineering Program.

2ND CIRCUIT

SAMANTHA GENCARELLO

Samantha Gencarello has been a Judicial Assistant for the United States District Court of the Southern District of New York for 8 years. She began her career as a Judicial Assistant with Judge Leonard B. Sand. When Judge Sand retired from the bench she was chosen by the Chief Judge at the time, Loretta A. Preska, in 2013, with whom she has worked with since.

Prior to being a Judicial Assistant, Samantha worked for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in the IT Department where she ran many successful training courses for court staff in Microsoft Office products. She has attended train-the-trainer programs in San Antonio and is always eager to learn more and share what she learns with chambers and court staff.

Samantha lives in Staten Island with her husband of six years and her four-year-old daughter. She enjoys cooking, reading, spending time with friends and family and showing her daughter a strong, working woman in society.

3RD CIRCUIT

IRIS N. 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 D. TAPSCOTT

Lena Tapscott is the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Richard M. Gergel, District Judge in Charleston Division, South Carolina. Lena began working with Judge Gergel when he came on the bench in August of 2010. Lena first came to work in the District Courts in July 2007 as a Case Manager (Intake) then as a Criminal Case Manager (Prisoner Docket) to the Honorable Magistrate Judge Robert S. Carr (Retired). Prior to that she worked as a Paralegal at Pro Bono Legal Services (Charleston, SC) and as a Paralegal at Wallace, Morris, & Barwick (Kinston, NC).

Lena received her B.S. in Criminal Justice, and Minors in Human Services Counseling and Political Science from Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA). She later completed the ABA approved Intensive Paralegal Training Program at Meredith College (Raleigh, NC) and received a Paralegal Certificate for the same.

Lena is married to Retired SMSgt Christopher S. Tapscott whom in 2018 retired from 26 years of honorable service in the US Air Force. They have one son, two daughters, one son-in-law, two granddaughters, and one grandson. Lena enjoys Zumba, traveling, gardening, spending time outdoors, spoiling the grands, and supporting her 10-year-old granddaughter, Kyleigh, who plays competitive fast-pitch travel softball---Lena never misses a tournament.

5TH CIRCUIT

VACANT – NEED VOLUNTEER

6TH CIRCUIT

JENNIFER HODGE

Jennifer Hodge is the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable J. Daniel Breen in the Western District of Tennessee, Eastern Division in Jackson. She was selected to be his assistant in 2014, while he was serving as Chief Judge for the District. Judge Breen has since taken Senior Status and she continues to serve as his Judicial Assistant.

Jennifer has been employed with the Federal Court in Jackson, Tennessee since 2005, serving as an intake clerk, jury operations clerk and backup courtroom deputy. She graduated from Union University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Leadership. Prior to her Federal Court experience, she spent approximately 15 years working in law firms, which began as part time employment throughout high school and college. Jennifer is married and has a son, who is a senior in high school. She enjoys gardening, photography, restoring antiques and spending time with family.

Jennifer is currently the FJAA Sixth Circuit Representative. She is on the Annual Conference Committee, the Membership Committee, the Nominations and Elections Committee and the Professional Development Committee. Since becoming a member in 2014, she has attended each of the yearly conferences which includes: Charleston, SC; Minneapolis, MN; San Francisco, CA; and Grand Rapids, MI.

7TH CIRCUIT

CATHY GEIER

Cathy Geier 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

DONNA O'KROY

Donna O'Kroy has been a Judicial Assistant to Judge David S. Doty for the United States District Court of Minnesota for 6 years. She began her career as a Judicial Assistant with Judge Norman C. Roettger for the United States District Court of the Southern District of Florida where she worked for him until his death in 2003. After Judge Roettger's passing she worked with Judge Ursula Ungaro-Benages for the Southern District of Florida until 2004.

Donna and her husband moved to Wisconsin in 2012 from Florida. They both have daughters. One lives in Virginia and the other daughter lives in Washington. They have two grandsons; Talon is 15 and Logan is 18 who live in Virginia.

Donna and Joe love spending time with their family.

Donna loves running, gardening, and beekeeping.

9TH CIRCUIT

SUZANNE L. LOFTON

Suzanne Lofton is the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Judge Derrick Kahala Watson. 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 17 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 is a Freshman attending the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. 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

KAREN BACA

Karen Baca has been the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Harris L Hartz of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in Albuquerque, New Mexico since 2015. Prior to her position with Judge Hartz she was the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable M. Christina Armijo, Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court of New Mexico. Before coming to the Judiciary, she was a paralegal at Sandia National Laboratories working in the legal department with in-house counsel, both in the litigation department as well as assisting the patent area. Her legal career started in 1984, and she has worked at several firms throughout her career.

Karen is a native of New Mexico. She recently celebrated her 30th wedding anniversary with her husband Alfred, a retired engineer from Intel Corporation. They have three children, a boy and two girls, a daughter-in-law, son-in-law, and a grandson expected early July 2019. Karen enjoys, hunting, fishing, swimming and most importantly, being with her family.

11TH CIRCUIT

SANDRA DE VARONA

FEDERAL & DC CIRCUIT

TERRI QUINTOS

