



1ST CIRCUIT

CHRISTIE PICHE

Christie Piche is a Judicial Assistant to Chief Judge Jon D. Levy in the District of Maine. Christie joined the Federal Court in May 2014 when Judge Levy was nominated to be an Article III Judge. Christie started working with Judge Levy at the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in Portland in July 2005. Prior to that Christie worked with the Hon. Donald G. Alexander (now retired) at the Maine Supreme Court starting in 1998.

Christie has adult twins – a daughter and a son – and is a step-mother and step-grandmother to her husband's 3 adult daughters and 9 grandchildren.

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.

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

6TH CIRCUIT

AMY DUENES TORRES

Amy Dueñes Torres is Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Bernice B. Donald on the United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit. Prior to joining the Court of Appeals in August 2016, Amy worked in Bankruptcy at the law firms of Robert S. Coleman, PA; Wilson & Associates, PLLC; and Rainwater, Holt & Sexton, PA, all in Little Rock, AR. Amy received her B.S. in Sociology from Hendrix College in 2007 and her Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law in 2010, where she served as a representative to the Student Bar Association.

Originally from Kennett, MO, Amy moved to Memphis, TN in 2016 to work for Judge Donald.

Amy is married to her husband, Jose, of 2.5 years and they have a one year old son, Jose – lovingly known as Baby Jose.

7TH CIRCUIT

CATHY GRIER

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

8TH CIRCUIT

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 16 and Logan is 19 who live in Virginia. Donna and Joe love spending time with their family.

Donna loves yoga, 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

ASHLEY KITTRELL

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

Ashley is a native of New Mexico, although she has lived throughout the southwestern states. She enjoys traveling, hiking, snowboarding, and shopping!

11TH CIRCUIT

SANDRA DE VARONA

I am a Judicial Assistant to Chief District Judge J. Randal Hall in the Southern District of Georgia. I joined the court family in May, 2008, when Judge Hall & I came over from private practice, and have worked for him a total of sixteen years. I have been a member of FJAA since beginning work with the court and have attended all of the conferences since 2008.

I was born and raised in Augusta, Georgia. My husband, Bob, is retired Air Force, so traveling and moving around has always been something I enjoyed. We returned to Augusta when he retired in 1989. We have 3 grown children and 2 granddaughters. I enjoy baseball (even when the Atlanta Braves are at the bottom), college basketball (Duke), reading and crafts. But most of all I love being "Mimi" to Reese and Rylee.

FEDERAL & DC CIRCUIT

ELIZABETH DOUGLAS

Elizabeth Douglas is a Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Armando O. Bonilla. Elizabeth began her service to the Federal Judiciary in 2018 as a Case Administrator for the District and Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Columbia. In May 2020, she accepted a position as an Electronic Court Records Operator (ECRO) with the United States Court of Federal Claims.

Before her service to the Court, Elizabeth served as a Criminal Analyst for the State of Washington's Office of the Insurance Commissioner's Criminal Investigations Unit, Elizabeth has an undergraduate degree from the University of Washington in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Go Huskies!) and a Master's degree from Seattle University in Criminal Justice (MACJ).

Elizabeth is a Pacific Northwesterner and Air Force brat and wife who currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia with her husband and two Pembroke Corgis. Elizabeth enjoys good coffee and spending time with her husband either running or soaking up the sun on a sandy beach. Her current goal is to either earn a Master's degree in Paralegal Studies or transition her MACJ into a MACJ/JD.