

**FJAA**

**OFFICERS**

**2016 - 2017**

**IN BRIEF**

**FEDERAL JUDICIAL  
ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION**

Volume 15,  
Issue 2

April 2017



## Letter from the President

**Melissa Hardin**

Dear FJAA Members and all Judicial Assistants:

As I write this, I look out the window and see snow falling, but hopefully, by the time everyone is reading this, spring will be here. There's something about the longer days and warmer weather that seems to energize everyone!

I would like to encourage you to get involved with our FJAA. We need volunteers for the nominations and elections committee. This committee reaches out to our current officers and circuit rep's to see if they would like to continue to serve, as well as helps to recruit others to run for office. You can go to our website at [www.fjaa.net](http://www.fjaa.net) to find a list of all our standing committees. If you see something you'd like to help with, please email either myself or our Vice President, Suzanne Gammon. Wherever your interests lie, please consider lending your talents to the Association.

This year's conference committee is hard at work planning the 2017 FJAA conference, which will be held in San Francisco September 7-10. Mark your calendars and look for registration materials coming soon!

The March "Early Bird" membership drawing winner is announced in this edition of In Brief. For those who have already renewed your dues, THANK YOU! Besides our "early bird" drawing -- new this year is a \$100 drawing if you recruit a new member. This drawing will be held at the conference in San Francisco, and while you need not be present to win, I hope to see you there! For more information, look for the announcement in this edition.

One of the perks of being President is being an ex officio member of the Chambers Staff Advisory Group. Besides listening in to their monthly conference calls, I am invited to join the group in Washington D.C. for their annual in-person meeting March 30-31. With luck, the cherry trees will be blooming while we are there. Whether the trees are blooming or not, a definite highlight will be a tour of the Supreme Court and an opportunity to sit down with Justice Breyer. Another highlight is spending time with the rest of CSAG, especially the several members I already know from FJAA.

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201 Magnolia Street Spartanburg, SC Phone 864-591-

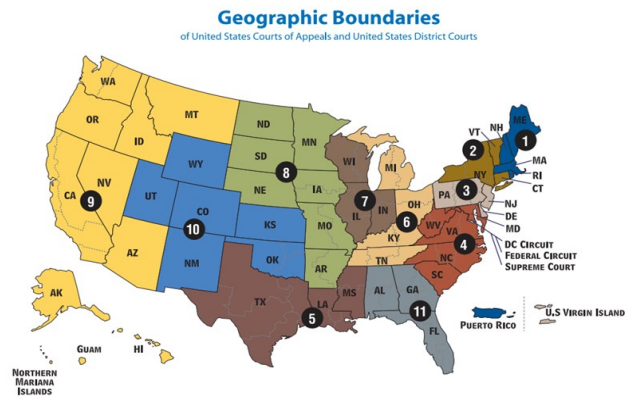
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# CIRCUIT NEWS

*Volunteers needed  
for the  
NOMINATIONS/ ELECTION  
COMMITTEE*

*For more details*

*Contact: Melissa Hardin, President*



## **FJAA SCHOLARSHIP - DON'T MISS OUT!!!! DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS 5/30/2017!**

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. **A scholarship up to \$750.00 will be awarded in June 2017.**

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 and the individual recipient benefit.

This is a great benefit offered only to FJAA members. Please take advantage of this wonderful program to enhance your skills and personal growth.

The application, along with additional scholarship information, can be found on the website at [fjaa.net](http://fjaa.net) and must be submitted by May 30, 2017.

For other questions or inquiries, please contact:

Debby Sawyer, ACP

Scholarship Chair

USDC - TNMD

801 Broadway, Room 825

Nashville, TN 37203

615-986-1365

[debby\\_sawyer@tnmd.uscourts.gov](mailto:debby_sawyer@tnmd.uscourts.gov)

# SAVE THE DATES!

Registration Form and Hotel Details Coming Soon!



## FJAA ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

September 7-9, 2017 — San Francisco, California

*Start planning now!*

*This is a great opportunity to visit San Francisco  
and meet your FJAA colleagues!*

### **A few agenda items to pique your interest:**

A session at the Phillip Burton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse.

Charlee, the U.S. Marshals Service Explosives-Detection K-9 and her handler, Tim Shobar.

Honorary FJAA Member Lou Gil, Training Specialist, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, San Antonio, Texas.

Senior District Judge Charles R. Breyer on the U.S. Sentencing Commission and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

Magistrate Judges Joseph Spero (Chief) and Laurel Beeler on the Conviction Alternative Program and Re-Entry Court in San Francisco.

### **Friday Night Optional Event:**

*Beach Blanket Babylon*, the wild and wacky, uniquely San Francisco musical review.

(Attendees must be at least 21 years of age and have a photo ID. Attendance is limited to 75 at our special group rate. Visit [www.beachblanketbabylon.com](http://www.beachblanketbabylon.com) for more information on the show.)

### **Please Note:**

Hotel rooms in the FJAA block may be booked only after payment of conference registration fee.

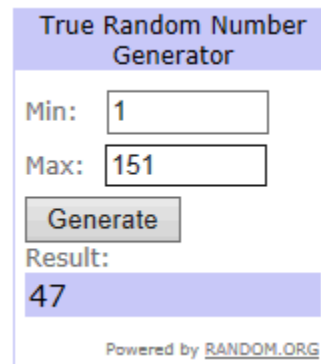
Hotel reservations made without payment of registration fee will be cancelled.

One night's lodging will be charged for cancellations within 72 hours of arrival date.

(Our contract with the hotel is for the 2017 government per diem in San Francisco of \$267; usual rates are \$389-\$889.)

Conference registration deadline is July 31, 2017. A penalty of 50% of the registration fee will be assessed for cancellations made between August 1 and August 31. No refunds after August 31.

**CONGRATULATIONS GO OUT TO JEANETTE GONZALEZ, THE \$100  
WINNER IN THE 2017 FJAA EARLY BIRD MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**



Thank you! I'm excited to be a member and the winner this year.

I am honored to be the judicial assistant to the U.S. District Judge George C. Hanks, Jr. , Southern District of Texas, Galveston Division. I've been employed with the US Court for more than ten years. As a new member of the FJAA, I'm looking forward to meeting and interacting with my fellow judicial assistants.

Best regards,



Jeanette Gonzalez  
Judicial Assistant to  
Judge George C. Hanks, Jr.  
United States District Court  
Southern District of Texas, Galveston Division  
409-766-3737

## *Farewell Note To All*

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As I get ready to retire on June 30, 2017, I reflect on my terrific years with the court and the great people I have worked with over the years. I began working with the courts in December 1984 during the farm crisis as a deputy clerk and courtroom deputy for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Iowa.

I remember how busy we were with court hearings and creditor meetings. One Saturday I remember coming in and setting 100 cases for hearing. On September 5, 1985, while getting ready for court, our beloved Judge William Thinnes passed away. Being in the middle of the farm crisis and having such a heavy docket, offers to help our court came in from all over the country. We were so appreciative. I can still remember a few of the judges who helped out: Judge Robert Martin from Wisconsin, Judge Robert Kressel from Minnesota, and Judge Mark McFeeley from New Mexico to name a few. In all, we had 13 judges from around the country helping with our docket. On January 30, 1986, Judge Michael Melloy was appointed to the court, filling the vacancy due to Judge Thinnes's death. We were still in the farm crisis so Judge Melloy started with a heavy caseload.

A couple years after Judge Melloy started with the court his JA retired and he asked me to be his JA. Now, I was courtroom deputy and JA. The docket and chambers were so busy that soon thereafter another deputy clerk took over the courtroom duties and I was solely Judge Melloy's JA. In 1989, we also had to move out of the old U.S. Courthouse to what is now the 425 Building, for space reasons.

In August 1992, Judge Melloy was elevated to the district court and we moved back into the courthouse. I remember our law clerk, Thad Collins, and I moved our office back into the courthouse with my husband's pickup. He is now Judge Collins, Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Iowa, and his chambers is down the hall from my chambers.

In the district court Judge Melloy and I started during the meth epidemic. He had the first three strikes case in the United States and also a trial which involved a postal employee murdering another postal employee. I can still remember the murder trial and the graphic pictures. We were now preparing for trials and sentencing.

Our office had an open door policy with attorneys and employees from other agencies coming in and out. It was a revolving door. I loved the fast pace of the district court. I loved getting to know the attorneys and employees from the various agencies and I still have friendships with many of them.

After ten years in the district court, in February 2002, Judge Melloy was elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. There was no room in the old U.S. Courthouse so we rented private space in downtown Cedar Rapids, IA. Another move. We worked with our Eighth Circuit architect, Dick Gilyard, to build out the new space and moved into that space a short time later.

The Court of Appeals was quite different from the previous courts. Our Circuit Executive Office and Clerk's Office are located in St. Louis, MO, and we traveled to St. Louis, St. Paul, Kansas City or Omaha, one week each month for court. I enjoyed traveling for court week because I was able to connect with other Court of Appeals JAs from all the states within the Eight Circuit and the other court employees who are my dear friends. October 2012 brought another move, this time into our current location, the new U.S. Courthouse. I was so glad to call this my final move.

Most of you may not know that I was one of the founding members of the Association for Bankruptcy Judges' Secretaries, now ABJA. A few of my Eighth Circuit colleagues and I met in Atlanta, GA, for one week and worked hard to create the association which we are so proud of and that still exists today.

I also chaired two workshops for the Eighth Circuit JAs, one in Washington, DC, and one in Minneapolis, MN. You know how it is – you can't say no to Millie!! I had a wonderful time planning the workshops, working with Millie's office (who all of you know are great), and getting to know Justice Alito's JA, who helped us plan our Washington, DC workshop.

Hard to believe February 2017, was my 15<sup>th</sup> year on the Court of Appeals. Over the years, I have made great friends who I will cherish forever. I have mixed emotions as I get closer to retirement. I have loved my time with the judiciary working for the various courts and I will miss this job dearly, but I feel it's time to enjoy my family. My husband has been retired for 13 years and he wants me to retire now, too. (I just hope we can survive being together 24/7!!)

I feel fortunate to have worked in three courts over the years. I will miss you all and the dear friendships we have built. I will walk out of the courthouse for the last time on June 30, 2017. It has been quite a trip these 32-plus years, and I am blessed to have worked with such great people over the years, from the custodians to the CSO's.

Anita Wolrab, Judicial Assistant to Senior Judge Michael J. Melloy, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, will be retiring on June 30<sup>th</sup>, with over 32 years of service. She is a member of the Legal Support Professionals of Iowa and the Federal Judicial Assistants' Association.

She has been an assistant at the Court of Appeals since February 2002. Prior to that Anita was a Judicial Assistant with the U.S. Government from 1984 to 2002. She was also a Clerk in the Unemployment Division for the State of Iowa from 1982 to 1984. We wish Anita all the best in her retirement!

***Congratulations and Enjoy your retirement !***

***We will miss you***

# FIRST CIRCUIT—Christie

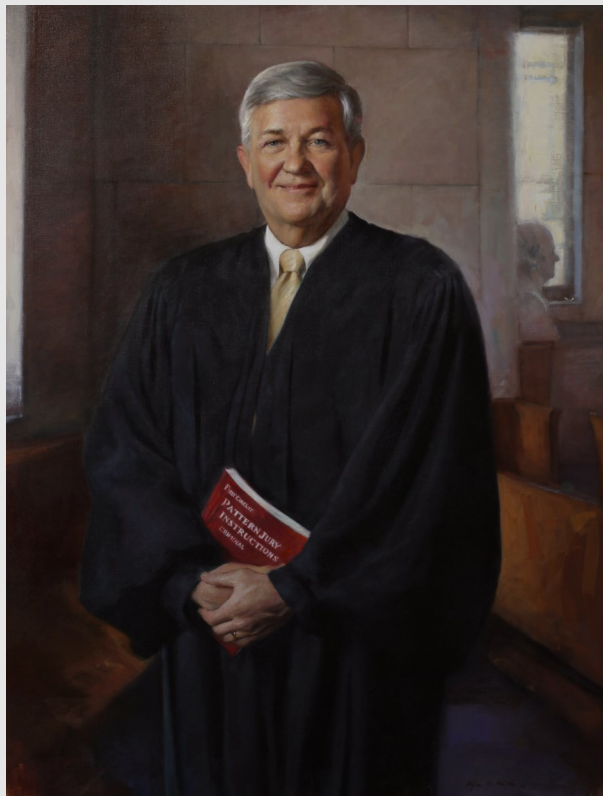
## Judge D. Brock Hornby Portrait Ceremony

On August 12, 2016, the District of Maine Bench and Bar presented the portrait of Judge D. Brock Hornby to the District Court at a portrait reception held at the United States Custom House in Portland, Maine.

Judge Hornby obtained his B.A. at the University of Western Ontario and his J.D. from Harvard University, where he was an officer of the Harvard Law Review. He clerked for Judge John Minor Wisdom of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, and taught at the University of Virginia Law School, where he was then the youngest professor to be awarded tenure. He became a naturalized United States Citizen in Abingdon, Virginia.

Judge Hornby was appointed as the District of Maine's first full-time magistrate judge in 1982. In 1988, he became an Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, and then in 1990, President George H.W. Bush nominated him to be a United States District Judge for the District of Maine. He served as chief judge from 1996 to 2003, and took senior status in 2010.

The portrait was painted by award winning artist Kyle R. Keith, a fine arts professor with a wide-ranging career in portraiture, landscape and figurative painting. His skills in portraiture have gained him notable commissions for the United States Court of International Trade, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, as well as portrait commissions for the Tuck School of Dartmouth College, High Point University and the Players Club in New York City.



# SECOND CIRCUIT—Janet Hansen



## Court of Appeals:

On March 3, 2017, Barbara Whelton, Judicial Assistant to Peter W. Hall, retired. Barb had quite an illustrious career spanning more than 45 years. From July 1970 to July 1975, Barb worked in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Providence, RI. During that time, she also worked with the U.S. Marshals Service assisting during the inception of the Witness Protection Program. From October 1975 to April 1976, she worked at the Air Force Audit Agency at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls, Montana, a temporary assignment. From April 1976 to April 1980, she served as a Contact Representative for the U.S. Secret Service, in Great Falls, Montana. In April 1980, she accepted a temporary assignment with the U.S. Attorney in Rutland, VT, and then served from December 1980 to July 2004 as Secretary to the U. S. Attorney in Rutland. In July 2004, Barb accepted a position as Judicial Assistant to Judge Peter W. Hall of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. The rest, as they say, is history. During her tenure, she traveled from her home in Vermont to New York City for every sitting. On her last visit to NYC, she was feted at a luncheon in her honor by her fellow J.A.'s. We will certainly miss Barb, but we know she will enjoy a much deserved healthy, happy retirement.

Happy trails, Barb!



(Picture of Barbara Whelton on left and Rosemary Rizzico on right, courtesy of Ann Pisacano.)

We send a hearty welcome to Barb's replacement, Rosemary Rizzico. Rosemary, who previously served as Judicial Assistant to Judge Warren Eginton in the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut, began working for Judge Peter W. Hall on Monday, March 6, 2017. Welcome, Rosemary! We all look forward to working with you at the Court of Appeals.



## SECOND CIRCUIT Continued

On January 23, 2017, Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann announced the unveiling of the website *Justice for All: Courts and the Community*, a civic education initiative of the federal courts of the Second Circuit. The mission of the site is to increase public understanding of the role of the courts, and to bring courts closer to the community. The website provides a broad array of information and teaching materials developed by judges, attorneys, legal experts and educators. It is a wonderful website. Visit <http://justiceforall.ca2.uscourts.gov> to learn more.

In our last newsletter I reported that a special event, one of many commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Second Circuit, was to be held on December 14, 2016. I personally attend the event, *Reflections on Thurgood Marshall: His Jurisprudential Influence on His Law Clerks and the Legal Profession*, and it was terrific. After a welcoming address from Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann, a panel of former law clerks of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall warmly relayed personal stories about the larger-than-life Justice. The panel included current Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan. Many other former law clerks were also in the audience, as were family members of the late-Justice. Following the event, there was a wonderful reception in the main lobby where many pictures of Justice Marshall throughout his career adorned the walls. This was all very fitting considering our Courthouse, The Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse, is named after him. If you are interested in viewing the event, C-Span broadcast the program on February 12, 2017.

On March 10, 2017, a program on one of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals most prominent jurist, Henry Friendly, will take place at 5 p.m. in the 17<sup>th</sup> floor Courtroom at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse. The program is entitled “Henry J. Friendly: A Giant on the Bench: Clerks and Colleagues Reflect on His Legacy” and is part of the Second Circuit’s year-long commemoration of its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Judge Friendly served on the Second Circuit bench from 1959 to 1986, including as Chief Judge from 1971 to 1973. U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts will be part of the discussion as he served as Judge Friendly’s law clerk in 1979-80. Chief Justice Roberts will be joined by other former law clerks: Chief Judge Merrick Garland and Judge A. Raymond Randolph, both of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia; Southern District of New York Bankruptcy Judge Martin Glenn; Professor Ruth Wedgwood of Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies; and Frederick David, Esq. of Davis, Debevoise & Plimpton. Second Circuit Judge Pierre N. Leval will moderate the discussion and will be joined by his colleague, Judge Jon O. Newman. A reception will be held in the main lobby of the Courthouse following the program.

### District of CT:

On December 20, 2016, a lovely farewell breakfast was held at the Richard C. Lee U.S. Courthouse in New Haven, CT, for Ms. Carole Martin, Branch Librarian, who retired on December 30, 2016. Carole served as Branch Librarian at the Courthouse for over 15 years. In her capacity as Branch Librarian, she also served the needs of Court of Appeals Judges, as well as those within the District. Carole was a delightful person to work with and she will most certainly be missed by all. We wish her every happiness in her retirement!

Well, that’s all the news to report for now. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy Spring!

Janet F. Hansen

Judicial Assistant to Judge Jose A. Cabranes

## THIRD CIRCUIT—Iris Liriano



### Court of Appeals

On December 15, 2016, the Hon. Joseph A. Greenaway, Jr. and Hon. Patty Shwartz hosted an annual Holiday Party at the Frank R. Lautenberg Post Office & Courthouse. Invitations were sent to former and current interns, court staff, lawyers, former alumni, judges, friends, and family. While socializing, we enjoyed fruit, cheese, sandwich, shrimp and sushi platters as well as Indian food. It was quite a party! But this wasn't the only celebration that took place this day. The Board of Judges and the Historical Society for the United States District Court also held a Judge's luncheon. During this event, the Donald A. Robinson Meritorious Service Award which was established in 2009 is bestowed upon someone who has given extraordinary contributions to the Bench and Bar of the Court. This year's recipient of such a prestigious award was Hon. Patty Shwartz. Judge Shwartz was totally surprised, honored and certainly deserving of such an award. In addition to receiving the award, her name will be added to a plaque listing the names of the former recipients which is displayed at our Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Courthouse. We hope to see her name listed there soon. Congratulations Judge Shwartz!

On February 3, 2017, our Court received news that the Hon. D. Michael Fisher was named Inaugural Distinguished Jurist in Residence for the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Judge Fisher, a Court of Appeals Judge who currently sits in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, began his new position on February 1, 2017. During the fall term, Judge Fisher will teach two courses and during the spring term, he will meet with students and take part in other events. In addition, Judge Fisher serves as an adjunct professor and as a Trustee.

We wish Judge Fisher the very best!



Court of Appeals Chief Judge Smith,  
Cir. Judge Shwartz and District Court Judge Simandle



Judge Michael Fisher

## **THIRD CIRCUIT—Iris Liriano**

### The Virgin Islands

In 2005, the Hon. Curtis V. Gomez, U.S. District Judge, created “Kids and the Court Program,” which gives students an opportunity to sit at a mock trial and see first-hand how our justice system works. As part of the program, students get to meet the Judge, lawyers, court reporter and the marshals all while asking questions.” Fifth grade students from Yvonne E. Milliner-Bowsky Elementary School took part in this program in December. The students were quite alarmed when they saw the defendant charge at a witness. This commotion caused the students to scream which led the Judge to have the defendant handcuffed and escorted from the courtroom. The jury was removed as well and was instructed to consider the evidence before them and not the defendant’s behavior. We praise Judge Gomez for commencing such a great program!

Have a Happy Spring!

Iris



# FOURTH CIRCUIT —- Barbara



## District of Maryland

For the past year, the US District Court for the District of Maryland in conjunction with the US Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland has hosted two sessions of “The Computer Network Academy.” The Academy was held in both the Baltimore and Greenbelt courthouses and the classes joined by videoconference. The sessions were designed to benefit Judges, Chambers staff, Clerk’s Office personnel, as well as Information Technology staff members and were led by Donna Carey, IT Trainer (USDC, D. Md.) and Peter Smolianski, Director of Information Technology (USBC, D. Md.).

Session One was ten weeks in length with classes meeting once a week. Topics included basic hardware, network construction and function, programs, applications, as well as an introduction to terminology unique to the information technology field. The history and importance of international standards and protocols were discussed and provided a basis for understanding the complexity of the cyber world. In addition to lectures and slides, a hands-on lab was offered that allowed participants to use a Cisco packet tracing program to build a virtual network. It was an excellent introduction for those of us not in IT and gave us a better understanding of what is happening behind the screens.

Session Two of the Academy focused on cybersecurity and was eight weeks in length. This session allowed participants to explore various types of threats and vulnerabilities in today’s cyber world. Building on the information provided in Session One, worldwide networks, closed networks and specialized networks were discussed, including the difference between domain types. A special session was dedicated to the Congressional Report regarding the OPM Security Breach. The day’s program summarized what was known about the attack and included discussion of how to mitigate related cybersecurity risks in the future.

The program has been well received and it is hoped that the “Academy” will continue to offer more sessions in the future.

## FIFTH CIRCUIT—Penny Stautberg



Circuit Judge W. Eugene Davis assumed senior status on December 31, 2016. One of his long-time judicial assistants, Debroah Mahony, left court service also. However, Kim Pope came on duty earlier this year and I hope she will become a member.

Christine Anderson-Lopez, JA to Chief Judge Orlando L. Garcia for the Western District of Texas in San Antonio, retired. We want to welcome Mary Jane Rodriguez who is his new JA and has already become a member.

Welcome, Mary Jane.

# SIXTH CIRCUIT— Debby Sawyer



New Members  
Join Us !!

Current Members  
Remember  
To Renew  
Your  
Membership!

[www.fjaa.net](http://www.fjaa.net)



## FJAA Membership Contest

There is power in numbers, so the saying goes. As an incentive to increase the Federal Judicial Assistants Association membership numbers, we are offering a chance to win cash.

- **How?** Simply recruit a first-time FJAA member\*
- **When?** Between now and August 31
- **Where?** Winner will be drawn at the annual educational conference in San Francisco (need not be present to win)
- **How Much?** \$100

\*Ask your recruit to list you as a reference on the membership application. Your name will be entered into the drawing once for each new member.

Renewal  
 New Member  
 • Recruiter (if applicable): Jane Doe, MIED

For more information contact your Circuit Representative  
Submitted by your Membership Committee



# SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Whitney Gingrich



The Central District of Illinois, Peoria Division:

On Saturday, January 21, a luncheon was held at Connected in Peoria to commemorate Senior Judge Joe Billy McDade's 25th Anniversary on the federal bench. Many past law clerks returned to gather with the Judge's family, friends and colleagues currently serving with the judge to help celebrate this milestone. The Judge also received a letter from George H.W. Bush (who appointed Judge McDade) congratulating him on 25 years on the federal bench.

-Submitted by Jill Adkins, Judicial Assistant to Judge McDade  
and new member of the FJAA



## ***Wisconsin***

The big news from WIWD is that Senior District Judge Barbara Crabb has been on medical leave since the beginning of December after suffering a slight stroke. Luckily, there were no serious side effects and she continues to improve. We hope to have the judge back in chambers around May.

In other news, our courthouse has a department-wide cook-off each year. Chambers, clerk's office, bankruptcy, probation, marshal's, CSO's and the IT dept goes head to head to see who is the best cook, with two chances to win a coveted prize -- judge's and people's choice. This year's theme is "This Is A Stick Up" featuring food on a stick (must be an appetizer or main entree). We had the chambers mini-cook off to get our entry, which was won by JA Melissa Hardin with her chicken cheesecake recipe. The courthouse-wide cook-off is March 21st.



## **Judge Diane E. Murphy Took Senior Status**

Judge Diana E. Murphy took Senior Status on November 29, 2016 and plans to continue her service as a senior judge. She earned her B.A., magna cum laude, from the University of Minnesota, then studied history on a Fulbright scholarship at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany and completed course work for a doctorate at the University of Minnesota. She received her J.D., magna cum laude, from the University of Minnesota where she was Order of the Coif and editor of the Minnesota law review. She practiced law at Lindquist & Vennum. In 1976 she was appointed to the Hennepin County Municipal Court and in 1978 was appointed to the Hennepin County District Court, where she served until 1980. She was appointed as the first woman to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals by President Clinton in 1994. She served on the Judicial Council in the Eighth Circuit as both a chief district judge and circuit judge, including chair of the Fairness Implementation *Committee and organized the Gender Fairness Task Force.*

## **Chief Lavenski Smith's Appointed as New Chief Judge**

Judge Lavenski Smith, now of Little Rock, is to become chief judge on March 11. He succeeds Judge William Jay Riley, whose seven-year term as chief judge is expiring. Judge Smith was appointed in 2001 by then-President George W. Bush and was confirmed by the United States Senate on July 15, 2002. Clerk of Court Michael Gans said the position is routinely passed on to the next most-senior judge on the court who is 65 or younger. Judge Smith received both his B.A., in 1981, and his J.D., in 1987, from the University of Arkansas. Prior to joining the federal bench, he worked in both private practice and public service. He was appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee as an Associate Justice on the Arkansas Supreme Court and was a Commissioner on the Arkansas Public Service Commission. He was an assistant professor at John Brown University and served as an Executive Director of the Rutherford Institute.



## **Northern District of Iowa:**

### **New Magistrate Judge:**

Kelly K.E. Mahoney began serving as a Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Iowa on January 3, 2017, and is chambered in Sioux City, Iowa. She filled a vacancy created by the transfer of Magistrate Judge C.J. Williams to Cedar Rapids, where he took the place of Chief Magistrate Judge Jon S. Scoles, who retired in December.

Judge Mahoney received her B.A. with honors from Kansas State University and the J.D. from Washburn University School of Law. She served as an Assistant District Attorney for the 18th Judicial District in Wichita, Kansas, from 2002 to 2003 and as Special U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of Iowa from 2004 to 2006, and for the last eight years she served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa.

### **New Judicial Assistant:**

Sali Van Weelden has joined the federal family as Judicial Assistant to Magistrate Judge Charles J. Williams in Cedar Rapids. She was a criminal legal assistant, and then the criminal paralegal specialist, for the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Iowa for 14 years before becoming Judge Williams' judicial assistant in December 2016. Sali and Judge Williams were both employed at the U.S. Attorney's Office at the same time and she was his legal assistant for most of her 14 years there. When Judge Williams told Sali he was moving back to Cedar Rapids to replace the retiring Magistrate Judge, she was very excited to get the opportunity to work with him again.

Sali enjoys physical fitness, cooking and baking, and spending time with her family and friends. She is passionate about animals and is a member of her local humane society and a guardian member with the ASPCA. Welcome Sali!!



## **Retirement of Judge Jon S. Scoles**

U.S. Magistrate Judge Jon S. Scoles of the Northern District of Iowa retired December 31, 2016. He was sworn in on March 20, 2007. He received his undergraduate degree in math with a teaching certification from the University of Northern Iowa in 1973. After three years of teaching math and coaching, he entered law school, graduating with honors from the University of Iowa College Of Law in 1979.

Judge Scoles began his legal career in Mason City, Iowa, as a law clerk in the 2A Judicial District of Iowa. In 1980, he became a partner in the firm of DeVries, Scoles and Price, and in 1986, he was appointed as an Iowa District Court Judge. He served on that bench for 20 years, including as Assistant Chief Judge from 1992 to 2005 and as Chief Judge from 2005 until his appointment to the federal bench.



### **District of Minnesota**

#### **New Magistrate Judge David T. Schultz**

Magistrate Judge David T. Schultz was selected to replace Magistrate Judge Janie S. Mayeron, who retired on February 6, 2017. He took his oath of office on February 7, and is chambered in the Minneapolis Courthouse. A formal investiture will be held at a later date.

Magistrate Judge Schultz graduated from Stanford Law School in 1985 and received his bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Carleton College. He was a partner at Maslon LLP for 11 years, with a focus on high stakes litigation. He has tried cases in state and federal courts throughout the country. Before joining Maslon, Magistrate Judge Schultz was a partner at Nilan Johnson Lewis, PA and an Assistant Attorney General under Attorney General Hubert H. ("Skip") Humphrey. He is board certified as a Civil Trial Advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and as a Civil Trial Specialist by the Minnesota State Bar Association. He has taught trial advocacy at the National Institute for Trial Advocacy as well as legal writing at the University of Minnesota Law School and William Mitchell College of Law. We are all pleased that Katie Haagenon, Courtroom Deputy to Magistrate Judge Mayeron, will stay on as Courtroom Deputy to Magistrate Judge Schultz.

## District of Missouri

### New Judicial Assistant: E.D. Mo.

Roxane Ellis joins the federal family as Judicial Assistant to Magistrate Judge Patricia L. Cohen and is chambered in St. Louis.

Welcome Roxane!!

## District of Nebraska:

### New Magistrate Judges:

In May, United States Magistrate Judge Susan M. Bazis was appointed. She began serving on January 1, 2017, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Magistrate Judge Thomas D. Thalken. She received her undergraduate from the University of Nebraska-Omaha and her J.D. from Creighton University School of Law. She began in private practice, then was an Assistant Public Defender for the Douglas County Public Defender's office from 1994 to 1996, then went back to private practice until 2007, when she was appointed as a judge for Douglas County's 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. She was presiding judge there since 2010.

Michael D. Nelson will join the courts as a United States Magistrate Judge this year. He is an Omaha trial lawyer, practicing primarily in the area of federal criminal defense. He serves as an adjunct professor at the UN-O School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. He is recognized by Nebraska's federal judges as highly qualified to receive court appointments to represent defendants charged with felony offenses. His peers have honored him with the Criminal Justice Act Jury Acquittal Award and Dedication to Justice Award. Michael Nelson will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Magistrate Judge F.A. Gossett, III, on June 30, 2017.

### New Judicial Assistant:

Rene Wilson joins the federal family as Judicial Assistant to Magistrate Judge Susan M. Bazis and is chambered in Omaha, Nebraska. She has been in the legal field for 18 years.

Rene is from Omaha and has been married for 25 years, with two kids in college. She enjoys gardening and outdoor activities. We welcome Rene to the FJAA as a new member.

Welcome Rene!!

### Retirement of Judge Thomas D. Thalken

Judge Thomas D. Thalken of the District of Nebraska retired on December 31, 2016. He was appointed to the Court on January 4, 1993, succeeding Judge Richard G. Kopf as U.S. Magistrate Judge. He graduated with a B.A. from Creighton University in 1964 and a J.D. from Creighton University Law School in 1966.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1970, assigned to posts as Military Attorney, Foreign Claims Commissioner, and Military Judge with the 10th Judicial Circuit in the U.S. Army Judiciary. In 1970, he was named Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Nebraska. After 11 years in this position, he served as First Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Nebraska from 1981 until his appointment to the federal bench in 1993. He has been active in the Omaha and Nebraska State Bar Associations and has taught criminal law and trial practice at Creighton Law School.

## *IN MEMORIAM*

### **In Memoriam: Judge Myron H. Bright**

On December 12, 2016, U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Myron H. Bright passed away. He was 97 and served 48 years as a federal judge. He was the longest-serving working judge on the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, hearing cases as recently as September 2016. He served as a U.S. Army Air Corps Captain during World War II. Afterward he attended the University of Minnesota Law School, graduating in 1947. Upon graduation from law school, he moved to Fargo and joined the law firm of Wattam, Vogel and Vogel, where he practiced for 21 years. In 1968, Judge Bright was nominated by Lyndon B. Johnson to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals to a seat vacated by Judge Charles J. Vogel. He took senior status in 1985 and continued to serve 31 more years.

### **In Memoriam: Judge Miles W. Lord**

U.S. District Judge Miles W. Lord of the District of Minnesota died on December 10, at the age of 97. He was one of the founders of Minnesota's Democratic-Farmer- Labor party. During his service as a federal judge, he presided over a number of landmark cases. He was born in 1919 and grew up in northern Minnesota in Crosby, on the Cuyuna Iron Range. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, graduated from University of Minnesota Law School in 1948, and worked in private practice 1948 to 1961. He was Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota from 1951 to 1952 and Minnesota Attorney General from 1955 to 1960. From 1961 until his appointment to the federal bench, he was the U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota. He was appointed as a U.S. District Judge for the District of Minnesota in 1966 and served as Chief Judge from 1981 to 1985, when he assumed senior status. A few months later, in September 1985, he retired as a federal judge and returned to private practice.

### **In Memoriam: Judge Myles J. DeVine**

Former U.S. Magistrate Judge Myles J. DeVine of the District of South Dakota died on November 26, 2016 at the age of 73. He received his undergraduate degree in 1965 and his master's degree in 1966 from the University of South Dakota. He received his law degree in 1969 from the University of South Dakota School of Law.

He began his legal career as a law clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Axel J. Beck. In 1970 he opened a private practice in Britton. Later that year, he was elected as the Marshall County State's Attorney, a position he held for 25 years.

In 1996, he was appointed to serve as a Circuit Judge for South Dakota's Fifth Circuit. In 2001 he was appointed to serve as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of South Dakota in Aberdeen. He retired from the bench in early 2008. Later in 2008, he was elected as County Commissioner for Marshall County and served in that position until his death.

# NINTH CIRCUIT—Julie Lemm



Public Information Office  
**United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit**

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## NEWS RELEASE

November 7, 2016

Contact: David Madden (415) 355-8930

### **Ninth Circuit Executive Cathy Catterson to Retire**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced today the impending retirement of Cathy A. Catterson, Circuit and Court of Appeals Executive for the Ninth Circuit. Ms. Catterson plans to officially step down on February 28, 2017.

Ms. Catterson has more than 40 years of distinguished service to the Judicial Branch and is considered one of the deans of federal court management. Working alongside the last seven chief judges of the Ninth Circuit, she has played a significant role in the administration of justice, helping to conceive and implement many of the innovative policies and initiatives undertaken by the federal courts of the West.

“Cathy has been the center of gravity for our court for almost four decades, and there is not a judge on this court she has not lifted up in a time of need. Her extraordinary management skills and innovation have kept us not only afloat, but excelling, even in times of stress,” Chief Judge Thomas said. “She has our most profound thanks and appreciation for a lifetime of service and friendship to us all.”

Ms. Catterson, 64, served as Clerk of Court for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals from 1985 to 2007, when she was selected to fill the newly created position of Circuit and Court of Appeals Executive. In assuming that post, she gained additional duties as the administrative officer for the Office of the Circuit Executive, which provides staff support to the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, the governing body for federal courts in the western states.

Ms. Catterson currently directly manages or has oversight responsibility for nearly 300 employees working in Ninth Circuit courthouses in San Francisco and Pasadena, California, Portland, Oregon, and Seattle Washington. As the circuit executive, she also participates in judicial governance at the national level, including meetings held in conjunction with the biannual gatherings of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

continued on next page...

## NINTH CIRCUIT—Julie Lemm continued...

During Ms. Catterson's tenure as Clerk of Court, the caseload of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals more than doubled, rising from 5,411 new filings in 1985 to 12,685 new filings in 2007. She had central role in managing the explosive growth, which necessitated additional staff, the introduction of computers to communicate and automate document processing, and the institution of new and innovative case management strategies.

Ms. Catterson managed the introduction of cameras into Ninth Circuit courtrooms. What began in 1991 as a small pilot program allowing the media to video record a few cases a year has evolved into today's highly-advanced, court-operated system that provides live video streaming of all oral arguments over the Internet. She also coordinated staff management of the many high-profile cases to have been heard by the court.

Ms. Catterson's biggest managerial test came in 1989 when heavy damage from the Loma Prieta Earthquake forced the court to evacuate its San Francisco headquarters. Using temporary venues, the court never missed a session during the initial disruption and later relocated to a downtown office complex, where court business was conducted until the courthouse reopened in 1997.

Ms. Catterson joined the staff of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1979 as a senior case expediter. Prior to coming to the court, she had worked in Washington, D.C., as a law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Edward J. Devitt of Minnesota, and as a staff assistant to U.S. Senator Jacob K. Javits of New York. It was her work with Judge Devitt, then chair of a U.S. Judicial Conference committee developing admission standards for attorneys seeking to practice in federal courts, that led Ms. Catterson to seek employment with the Ninth Circuit.

"It has been an honor and privilege to work with so many incredibly talented and hard working judges, particularly all of my chiefs. And I was fortunate to have had an equally amazing and dedicated staff," Ms. Catterson said. "It is going to be tough to leave the building. But it's the right decision and as right a time as it can be."

A native of Queens, New York, Ms. Catterson received her undergraduate degree in 1974 from Catholic University of America, and her J.D. in 1978 from George Mason University Law School. She is admitted to practice before the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the Fourth and Ninth Circuits, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, and the Supreme Court of Virginia.

The Ninth Circuit encompasses Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It includes the court of appeals and the federal trial and bankruptcy courts in 15 judicial districts within the circuit.

# TENTH CIRCUIT—Lynda Brown

## GREETINGS FROM THE TENTH CIRCUIT!

Hi from New Mexico!! Thank you to all the Judicial Assistants who sent in news articles. I hope everyone will be able to attend the FJAA conference in San Francisco in September.



## COLORADO NEWS:

Deanne Bader has had the pleasure of working for Judge Raymond P. Moore for almost 17 years. Deanne spent the first 13 years as a Legal Secretary and then Financial Administrator for the Office of the Federal Public Defender where Judge Moore was an Assistant Federal Public Defender, and then the Federal Public Defender. Deanne has spent the last almost four years as Judge Moore's Judicial Assistant. A day rarely goes by without Judge Moore's staff laughing at something he says, or does.

(Submitted by Deanne Bader, Judicial Assistant to Honorable Raymond P. Moore.)

Picture on the left: Deanne Bader and Judge Raymond

## KANSAS NEWS:

Judge Nancy L. Moritz and Susan Goodwin are in their new chambers in Topeka, Kansas. They are standing at Susan's desk with the conference room and Topeka skyline behind them. Susan and Judge Moritz are happy to be finally settled!

(Submitted by Susan Goodwin, Judicial Assistant to Honorable Nancy L. Moritz.)

Picture on the right: Judge Moritz and Susan Goodwin



# TENTH CIRCUIT—Lynda Brown continued...

## NEW MEXICO NEWS:

On Valentine's day, February 14, 2017, Justice Alito and Mrs. Alito visited Albuquerque. Their visit started on Sunday, February 12. The visit was delayed on Sunday because of some sudden windy, wintry weather, but they made it into Albuquerque safely. Justice Alito and Mrs. Alito were kind enough to spend some time in chambers to visit with us. It will be a special memory for the clerks, Judge Hartz, and me. Following the visit to chambers, Judge Hartz took Justice Alito and Mrs. Alito on a tour of Albuquerque. The tour included the Hispanic Cultural Center and Indian Cultural Center. The Alitos were also able to taste some New Mexico cuisine both from the Pueblo Harvest Café in the Indian Cultural Center and Padilla's Mexican Kitchen.

The "fireside chat" on February 14th was held at the old Federal Courthouse on Gold Avenue in downtown Albuquerque. Judge Hartz posed questions to Justice Alito and Mrs. Alito as well as questions from the Inn of Court, the Federalist Society, and the Federal Bar Association. Many of the Judges from the United States District Court were present. Attached is a picture of Justice Alito, Mrs. Alito, Judge Hartz, law clerks, Samuel Chang, Brett Waldron, Hopi Costello, Jenya Parkman, and myself.

(Submitted by Karen Baca, Judicial Assistant to Honorable Harris L. Hartz.)



(Left to right: Samuel Chang, Karen Baca, Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr., Mrs. Martha Ann Alito, Judge Hartz, Brett Waldron, Hopi Costello, and Jenya Parkman.)



# ELEVENTH CIRCUIT—Gail Shafer



*Hello from the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit!  
By: Gail Shafer*

First, I'd like to welcome our newest member: **Cheryl Birkitt**, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Susan H. Black, U. S. Court of Appeals, Jacksonville, FL, and thank those who have renewed their membership:

**Dianne Quinn**, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Judge Jose E. Martinez,  
U. S. District Court, Miami, FL

**Marcy Gatell**, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Robert A. Mark,  
Bankruptcy Judge, U. S. Bankruptcy Court, Miami, FL

**Marilyn Holland**, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable William H. Stafford, Jr.,  
Senior District Judge, U. S. District Court, Tallahassee, FL

**Leonor Campanella**, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Patrick A. White,  
Magistrate Judge, U. S. District Court, Miami, FL

**Beth Banister**, Judicial Administrator to the Honorable Charles R. Wilson,  
U. S. Court of Appeals, Tampa, FL

I hope our numbers continue to rise! So let's all do our part in recruiting new members! FJAA is the most wonderful association of ladies and gents and the sky's the limit as to what you can learn from your colleagues as we meet each year at conference. Of course, the program always includes such interesting topics and useful information. Here are a few pictures from last year's conference in Minneapolis. Our Friday night event was a baseball game between the Minnesota Twins and Cleveland Indians. Becky Overstreet and I had such a great time!



# ELEVENTH CIRCUIT—Gail Shafer continued...

## St. Patrick's Day in Savannah, Georgia

By Becky Overstreet, Southern District of Georgia  
Judicial Assistant to Honorable William T. Moore, Jr.

Friday, March 17, 2017, Savannah will once again celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The annual celebration brings thousands of like-minded Irish (by heritage or Irish "just for the day") to the historic downtown district to help locals turn the city green.

St. Patrick's Day festivities begin in February with the Savannah Irish Festival. The celebration is now in its third decade of providing a weekend long celebration of Irish Heritage. Through the generous private donations of individuals and local companies and the work of an all-volunteer committee, the festival has brought to the stage many top Irish musical acts, showcased the history and literature of Ireland, and delighted in the performances of the hundreds of young Irish dancers who have taken the stage.

Continuing on with the Investiture of the Grand Marshal on the very first Sunday of every March, the Committee is in full preparation mode for the parade. In the days that follow, The Greening of the Fountain in historic Forsyth Park symbolizes how the entire City "turns green" in support of the upcoming parade. Later on, the Tara Fees in Emmet Park is a day focused on family and children. The Celtic Cross Mass, parade and ceremony is usually celebrated on the Sunday before the parade every year. This signifies how Savannah feels Saint Patrick's Day was originally celebrated 192 years ago.

Finally, the Saint Patrick's Day Parade wraps up the events as a celebration of our faith and heritage every March 17th. This main event brings everything together – family, friends and fun. The St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah is the second largest in the U.S., right behind New York. The parade celebrates with many different Irish Heritage organizations, numerous Irish families, the men and women serving in uniform, and our many sponsors and supporters.



## News from the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit, U. S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Florida

By Marcy Gatell

Our courtroom deputy (Elaine Howlan) is planning on retiring this year after 41 years of service. She has been Judge Mark's courtroom deputy since he came on the bench in November of 1990. I became his judicial assistant at the same time. I was hired six months before the judge came on the bench as a temporary judicial assistant for visiting judges that were filling in until he officially started. The judge, the courtroom deputy and I have worked together as a team at our Court for 27 years and counting. Judge Mark was wondering if we were the longest lasting team within the other circuits. We thought it would be interesting if we could poll the other circuits and find out if in fact we are the longest lasting team.



*That's all from the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit this time... Happiness to All!*



The Federal Judicial Assistants Association ("FJAA") was formed in 2002, as a result of a merger between the Federal Judges Secretaries Association (which was formed in 1972) and the Federal Magistrate Judges Secretaries Association (which was formed in 1995). In 2009, the Federal Judges Secretaries Association officially changed its name to the Federal Judicial Assistants Association.

The Federal Judicial Assistants Association has held annual conferences since 1973, in Washington, D.C., Denver, Las Vegas, Seattle, St. Louis, Memphis, and San Francisco, as well as many other wonderful locations. The Federal Magistrate Judges Secretaries Association ("FMJSA") held its first meeting in 1995 in San Francisco as a joint conference with The Federal Judges Secretaries Association. Subsequent joint meetings in Philadelphia (1998), Reno (1999) and Boston (2000) led to the formation of an Ad Hoc Merger Committee for the two organizations. In 2001 the new by-laws were written and the merger of both organizations was proposed to the membership and approved by formal vote. The two organizations became one effective October 12, 2002.

The goals of FJAA are:

1. •To promote the general welfare of its members,
2. •To encourage the highest ethical standards of conduct among its members,
3. •To promote continuing education and professional development of its members,
4. •To further the exchange of ideas and practical information relating to judicial support, and
5. •To foster among its members a feeling of camaraderie and mutual confidence.

## FROM MY DESK TO YOURS—TIPS FOR THE OFFICE

Let your Circuit Representative know if you would like to share tips with you fellow FJAA members. We will be more than happy to include in the our next newsletter! Thank you all for your participation!



## **The Chambers Staff Advisory Group (CSAG)**

The Chambers Staff Advisory Group (CSAG) – formerly called the Judges Secretaries Advisory Group (JSAG) – was formed in January 1993. The committee's mission is "To provide advice, assistance, and recommendations to the Administrative Office regarding matters affecting administrative duties in chambers, and to give chambers staff appointed by judges the opportunity to meet, exchange information, and develop areas of mutual interest." Each circuit has a representative, who serves a two-year term. The group holds a monthly conference call and meets once a year in Washington, DC. Please feel free to reach out to your representative with questions or suggestions.

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### Ex Officio Members

Melissa Hardin, FJAA President  
Debbie Reese, ABA President



## **JUDICIAL BRANCH CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Judicial Assistant**

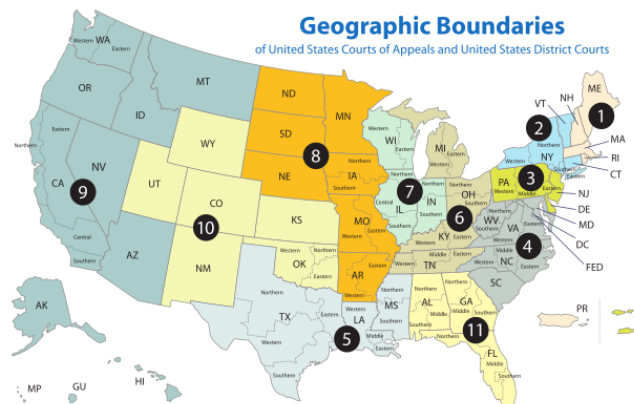
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Open until filled—preference given to applications  
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Send us open job opportunities in your circuit and we will share them with  
the other Judicial Assistants in our organization.  
Email job opportunities to: [Christina\\_cavazos@miwd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Christina_cavazos@miwd.uscourts.gov)





## CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES

*Please stay in touch with your circuit representative with newsworthy items for the next issue of the newsletter.*

### **1<sup>ST</sup> CIRCUIT CHRISTIE CLIFFORD**

c/o Hon. Jon Levy  
U.S. District Court  
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Portland, ME 04101 Ph: 207-245-3200

### **2<sup>ND</sup> CIRCUIT & court of international trade**

#### **JANET F. HANSEN**

c/o Hon. Jose A. Cabranes  
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New Haven, CT 06510 Ph: 203-867-8782

### **3<sup>RD</sup> CIRCUIT IRIS LIRIANO**

c/o Hon. Patty Shwartz  
United States Post Office and Courthouse  
Two Federal Square, Room 477  
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### **4<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT BARBARA BARRY**

c/o Hon. Charles B. Day  
United States District Court  
United States Courthouse  
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### **5<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT PENNY STAUTBERG**

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Bob Casey U.S. Courthouse, Room 12621  
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### **6<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT DEBBY SAWYER**

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801 Broadway Room 825  
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### **7<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT WHITNEY GINGRICH**

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### **8<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT KAREN LABRIOLA**

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### **9<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT JULIE LEMM**

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### **11<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT GAIL SHAFER**

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### **FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS**

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*A free one-year membership for the year 2016-2017 is available to all new JAs that are/were hired between September 1, 2016—September 1, 2017. This free one-year membership is available only to first-time FJAA members.*

### **EDITORIAL TEAM**

*Gabriela Ma (Gaby) AZ District / Christina Cavazos MI Western Dist Court / Tracy Young MI Eastern Dist Court*

*c/o Hon. James A. Soto*

*c/o Hon. Paul Lewis Maloney*

*c/o Hon. Linda V. Parker*