

OFFICERS
2017 - 2018

IN BRIEF
FEDERAL JUDICIAL
ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION

Volume 16,
Issue 2
April 2018

Letter from the
President

Lynn L. Magee

Dear FJAA Members:

I recently attended a seminar that was intended to challenge my thinking (often *rigid* thinking I would come to realize). When you have a moment, please watch, on YouTube, a segment entitled *“The Backwards Brain Bicycle – Smarter Every Day 133.”*



They look the same, but are they?

Experiment Overview:

Destin Sandlin, an engineer, started with a few challenges:

- How long do you think it would take you to unlearn how to ride a bicycle?
- Is it true that you never forget how to ride a bicycle?
- How do these biases work?

Destin, with the help of some friends who are welders, tweak a basic bicycle so that when the handlebar turns to the right the wheel goes left, and when turned to the left, the wheel goes right. The bottom line of the experiment, according to Destin, is that knowledge doesn't equal understanding. Sometimes we need to un-do understanding—rewire it if you will—in order to expand and make rich our possibilities and outcomes. It took Destin, a 30-something year old, EIGHT MONTHS to learn how to ride this backward bike, while it took his six-year old son about TWO WEEKS.

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Letter from the President Continued

Lynn L. Magee

T.S. Eliot said: *“Nothing pleases people more than to go on thinking what they have always thought, and at the same time imagine that they are thinking something new and daring: it combines the advantage of security and the delight of adventure.”*

While our positions (Judicial Assistant, Courtroom Deputy, Law Clerk) and duties keep evolving, or just plain changing, so must our adaptability. The way you do things isn't always the *only* way to do them. We must remain open to change, and balance change with knowing when to hold fast. $6+3 = 9$, but so does $5+4$.

During the course of the seminar I got busted-a lot. While I don't expect this article to bring world-change, I do anticipate that those who want to be challenged will be inspired to take a look at the seven minute clip cited above and consider the possibilities of improvement/ expansion in the way they approach solutions. Just challenging one thought a day could lead to deeper understanding and empathy toward others.

Here's what I believe: Together we are effecting change, building relationships, and maintaining harmony in our personal and professional lives. Let's keep it positive, and keep it real. Nominations for FJAA Circuit Representatives and Board of Directors are right around the corner. (Look for a special notice shortly.) I encourage you to get involved deeper with the FJAA, and I look forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids, MI later this summer.

Lynn



Early Bird Membership Winner!!

Congratulatory message -

It was such a wonderful blessing to arrive at work and receive an email that my name was selected as the winner of the 2018 FJAA Early Bird Membership Drive Drawing! I can truly say that God's favor is an ever-present fixture in my life and he is adding no sorrow with it. I am so grateful. Thank you, Suzanne!

Millie Graves

CIRCUIT NEWS

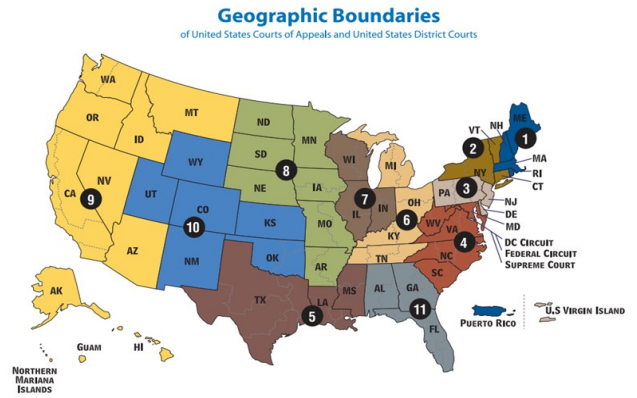
REMINDER FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

**YOUR
VOTE
COUNTS**



.....Membership dues must be paid by May 1 in order to vote in this year's election.

PASS IT ON!



Legislative Corner

Your FJAA Legislative Committee would like to bring to everyone's attention the following information. According to NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association), President Trump's FY2019 budget has several proposals that if enacted, means money coming out of our pockets, including:

- A pay freeze for calendar year 2019; uncertain if it will also mean the time will not count towards your next step increase.
- A proposal to eliminate COLAs for all current AND future FERS retirees and another proposal is to reduce COLAs for all CSRS retirees; meaning that as prices go up over time, your retirement money will stay the same and your standard of living will decrease.
- A proposal to combine sick leave and annual leave into one pool; has the potential to decrease your annuity as currently unused sick leave counts towards creditable service.
- A proposal to increase FERS employees mandatory contribution to their annuities 1% per year for the next 6 years without any corresponding benefit increase (currently there is a mandatory 1% contribution, this would up it to a 7% contribution).
- A proposal to reduce the rate of return in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP).

If you oppose any (or all) of these proposals, please email and/or phone your representative and senators. Without our voices being heard, the federal community will continue to come under attack.

But not all the news is gloomy, some good news is that the TSP Modernization Act of 2017 will provide participants with more flexible options for withdrawal when it's finally your time to retire! The changes will be fully implemented within the next 2 years, watch the TSP website for more information.

www.narfe.org

www.tsp.gov



2018

Annual Education Conference

AUGUST 23-25, 2018



GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Join us as we follow a criminal case, 1:08-cr-68, United States of America v. Saba, et al, from indictment through appeal from various players, including the Grand Jury Coordinators, the United States Attorney, and the District Judge!

Other topics will include Retirement, the JNET, and Microsoft Office Word and Excel!

REGISTER HERE!

Welcome Reception

Cygnus27 Private Cocktail Hour

August 23, 2018
5:00-8:00 pm

Cygnus27
Amway Grand Plaza
28th Floor

Set 28 stories up in the heart of Downtown Grand Rapids, Cygnus27 delivers a sophisticated food and cocktail menu with expansive panoramic views of the Grand River and surrounding cityscape.

Friday Optional Event

New Holland Beer Pairing Stations

August 24, 2018
6:00 pm

New Holland Brewing
417 Bridge Street

Join us for a beer and food pairing experience at one of Grand Rapids' premier breweries! Food stations will be set up around the room, each thoughtfully paired with a New Holland beer from the most current menu.



2018 Annual Education Conference

August 23-25, 2018



Grand Rapids, Michigan

Name (as it appears on name badge) _____		Title _____	
Judge _____	Court _____	Circuit _____	
Work Telephone _____		E-Mail Address _____	
You must be a member of the FJAA to register.*		Is this your first Conference? _____	

REGISTRATION FEE**	\$330.00 (MEMBER)	\$ _____
	\$230.00 (RETIREE)	
PURCHASE ORDER NO.: _____		
GUEST NAME (IF APPLICABLE) _____		
GUEST BREAKFAST (2 DAYS)	\$30.00/DAY	\$ _____
GUEST OPENING RECEPTION	\$40.00	\$ _____
GUEST CLOSING BANQUET	\$65.00	\$ _____
NEW HOLLAND BREWERY BEER PAIRING STATIONS <i>FRIDAY NIGHT OPTIONAL EVENT</i>	\$60.00/PERSON	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED		\$ _____

MEMBER CLOSING BANQUET MEAL CHOICE

GUEST CLOSING BANQUET MEAL CHOICE

Mail completed registration form and check payable to "FJAA 2018 Conference" to:

Yvonne Carpenter, Judicial Assistant
 Chambers of Hon. Robert J. Jonker, Chief Judge
 685 Federal Building
 110 Michigan Street, NW
 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Telephone: (616) 456-2551 E-Mail: yvonne_carpenter@miwd.uscourts.gov

**If you are not a member of the FJAA, please submit your membership application and \$40 membership fee to your Circuit Representative or pay via PayPal online [here](#).*

****Registration deadline is July 23, 2018. There will be a 50% penalty for registrations cancelled between July 23 and August 6, 2018. No refunds after August 6, 2018. Registration Fee includes all conference materials, educational events, hotel breakfasts, light snacks, opening reception and closing banquet.**

2018

Annual Education Conference

AUGUST 23-25, 2018



GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

AGENDA

THURSDAY

2:00-5:00 PM	REGISTRATION	PANTLIND BALLROOM
2:00-5:45 PM	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	ROBINSON ROOM
5:00-8:00 PM	WELCOME RECEPTION <i>*HORS D'OEUVRES AND CASH BAR</i>	CYGNUS27

FRIDAY

6:00-6:45 AM	WELLNESS WALKING GROUP	MEET IN AMWAY LOBBY
7:30-8:30 AM	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	PANTLIND BALLROOM
7:30-8:30 AM	REGISTRATION	PANTLIND BALLROOM
8:30 AM	WALK TO GERALD R. FORD FEDERAL BUILDING <i>*PLEASE BRING YOUR FEDERAL ID</i>	110 MICHIGAN STREET, NW
8:50-9:00 AM	WELCOME REMARKS <i>*LYNN MAGEE, FJAA PRESIDENT</i>	JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
9:00-9:15 AM	WELCOME REMARKS <i>*HON. ROBERT J. JONKER, CHIEF JUDGE</i>	JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA V. SABA, ET AL. 1:08-CR-68

9:15-10:00 AM	DIANE HOPKINS AND MELISSA SPRIGGS, <i>JURY</i>	JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
10:00-11:00 AM	JACKIE STASIAK, <i>MICHIGAN STATE POLICE</i>	JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
11:00-11:15 AM	<i>BREAK</i>	
11:15-12:15 PM	RUSS KAVALHUNA, <i>FORMER AUSA</i>	TBD
12:15-1:30 PM	<i>LUNCH</i>	
1:30-2:30 PM	HON. PHILLIP J. GREEN, <i>U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE</i>	COURTROOM 699
2:30-3:30 PM	HON. JANET T. NEFF, <i>U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE</i>	COURTROOM 485

2018

Annual Education Conference

AUGUST 23-25, 2018



GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

3:30-3:45 PM	<i>BREAK</i>	
3:45-4:45 PM	<i>TBD, SIXTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS</i>	<i>TBD</i>
4:45-5:00 PM	<i>WRAP-UP AND INFORMATION</i>	<i>TBD</i>
6:00 PM	<i>NEW HOLLAND BREWING BEER PAIRING STATIONS</i> <i>*OPTIONAL EVENT, ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIRED</i>	<i>NEW HOLLAND BREWING</i> <i>417 BRIDGE STREET NW</i>

SATURDAY

6:00-6:45 AM	<i>WELLNESS GROUP WALK</i>	<i>MEET IN AMWAY LOBBY</i>
7:30-8:30 AM	<i>CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST</i>	<i>PANTLIND BALLROOM</i>
8:30-9:30 AM	<i>FJAA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING</i>	<i>PANTLIND BALLROOM</i>
9:30-10:30 AM	<i>RETIREMENT</i> <i>*HENRY BROITMAN</i>	<i>PANTLIND BALLROOM</i>
10:30-10:45 AM	<i>BREAK</i>	
10:45-11:45 AM	<i>RETIREMENT</i> <i>*HENRY BROITMAN</i>	<i>PANTLIND BALLROOM</i>
11:45-1:00 PM	<i>LUNCH</i>	
1:00-2:00 PM	<i>JNET</i> <i>*DAVE GUSTAFSON</i>	<i>PANTLIND BALLROOM</i>
2:00-2:30 PM	<i>MICROSOFT OFFICE WORD</i> <i>*LOIS MCLEOD</i>	<i>PANTLIND BALLROOM</i>
2:30-2:45	<i>BREAK</i>	
2:45-3:15 PM	<i>MICROSOFT OFFICE EXCEL</i> <i>*LOIS MCLEOD</i>	<i>PANTLIND BALLROOM</i>
3:15-3:45	<i>OSCAR</i> <i>*LAURA SIMON</i>	<i>PANTLIND BALLROOM</i>
3:30-4:30 PM	<i>TRANSITIONING FROM LOTUS NOTES TO OUTLOOK</i> <i>*JOHN LEONARD</i>	<i>PANTLIND BALLROOM</i>
4:30-4:45 PM	<i>WRAP-UP AND INFORMATION</i>	<i>PANTLIND BALLROOM</i>
6:00-9:00 PM	<i>CLOSING BANQUET</i>	<i>IMPERIAL BALLROOM</i>

FIRST CIRCUIT— Christie Clifford



FJAA Newsletter Submission – Maine

The U.S. District Court of Maine employees have been participating in a voluntary Walking/Step Club since November 2017.

The first round ran from November 6 to December 21 and the first group of “steppers” kept track of their steps and reported them to our volunteer tracker or they were able to post them on a chart in our kitchens for everyone to see their progress (if they wanted to) in both Bangor and Portland.

We had 15 participants in our first round. Cash prizes were given for the top three “steppers.” Our top three steppers finished with (1) 835,177 steps, (2) 765,856 steps, and 714,041 steps.

WHO’S READY FOR ROUND 2?!

We mixed it up for Round 2 which ran from Monday, January 8 to Wed, Jan 31 and we had 10 participants. The goal was for each stepper to have 10,000 steps a day. Whoever reached 10,000 steps for the most days would win the entire money prize. In the event of a tie, the person with the most consecutive days, took the prize.

We had four “steppers” that tied with 24 consecutive days of 10,000 steps. They decided to split the prize money.

STEP TO YOUR OWN BEAT IN FEBRUARY!



The third round went from February 1, 2018, to Wednesday, February 28, 2018 with the goal again to reach at least 10,000 steps per day! We had 8 participants and two people tied with 28 consecutive days of 10,000 steps and they too decided to split the prize money.

FIRST CIRCUIT Cont.— Christie Clifford

GET LUCKY IN MARCH

We've changed things up for March. This challenge started March 5 and will finish March 30. We have 11 participants.

The primary goal is to reach at least 10,000 steps per day. For each day you reach 10,000 steps you earn 5 points. Each week a challenge will be added. For example: The challenge for week one will be drink 32 ounces of water each day. Each day you drink 32 ounces of water you earn 5 points. A new challenge will be announced for week two. The challenge for week one will still be in place. So, you can earn 5 points for reaching 10,000 steps – 5 points for drinking 32 ounces of water – and 5 points for whatever week two's challenge is. Whoever earns the most points this month wins the entire



In the event of a tie, the person with the most consecutive days at 10,000 steps will take the prize!

WE ARE ABOUT TO CROSS THE FINISH LINE!



Our small volunteer group is hoping to do a presentation at our employee offsite program at the end of this month and encourage our co-workers to join the next round. We are hopeful with spring approaching quickly people will get outside and get active.

SECOND CIRCUIT—Janet Hansen



NEWS FROM AROUND THE SECOND CIRCUIT:

We hope you are surviving the final days of winter—I know everyone in the Northeast is very much looking forward to Spring!

It has been relatively quiet in the Second Circuit the past few months. However, as I was typing the following two items, the “firsts” jumped out at me. This was certainly not planned at all but seems appropriate in the current climate of “Girl Power!” Please note the “firsts” in both articles. These women were trail blazers indeed!

Eastern District of New York:

We mourn the passing of Senior District Judge Sandra Townes, who passed away on February 8, 2018, at the age of 73 after courageous battles with cancer. Judge Townes was born in Spartanburg, SC, received her B.A. from Johnson C. Smith University in 1966, and her J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law in 1976. She had an extraordinary 41-year career in public service, which began as an Assistant District Attorney in the Onondaga County District Attorney’s Office, New York (1977-1983). Judge Townes went on to become Senior Assistant District Attorney in that office from 1983-1986, and then served as the Chief Assistant District Attorney there from 1986-1987. From 1987 until 1995, she was an Adjunct Professor at Syracuse University College of Law, and then served as a Judge with the City Court of Syracuse, NY from 1988-1999. Also during that period (1992 until 2001), she served as an Adjunct Professor at Onondaga Community College. In 2000, she was appointed a Justice with the Fifth Judicial District of the New York Supreme Court. In 2001, she was appointed an Associate Justice, for the Appellate Division, 2nd Judicial Department, of the New York State Supreme Court—a position she held until 2004.

On August 1, 2003, Judge Townes was nominated by President George W. Bush to become a Judge for the Eastern District of New York. **She was the first African-American woman to serve on that Court!** She received her commission on August 2, 2004 and served until her death.

We send our condolences to Judge Townes’ family and to her Court family. We are grateful for her truly remarkable career!

SECOND CIRCUIT Cont.—Janet Hansen

District of Connecticut:

Magistrate Judge Joan G. Margolis, who sits in New Haven, CT, will be retiring on April 30, 2018, after 33 years of dedicated service to the District Court of Connecticut. Judge Margolis was appointed on February 4, 1985, and **was the first woman appointed United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Connecticut!** Judge Margolis is a native of New Haven, having graduated from Richard C. Lee High School in 1971. She also graduated, *summa cum laude*, from Brandeis University in 1975, and from the University of Connecticut, *cum laude*, in 1978. Prior to Judge Margolis' selection as magistrate, she served as **one of the first Law Clerks** for the Honorable Ellen Bree Burns, who was the **first female United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut**. After her clerkship, Judge Margolis was an associate at Wiggin and Dana in New Haven, CT.

An Afternoon Tea will be held in Judge Margolis' honor at the Richard C. Lee United States Courthouse, New Haven, CT, on Friday, April 20, 2018. We thank Magistrate Margolis for her many years of service and wish her the very best in her future endeavors!

That's about all for now. We wish everyone a very Happy, Healthy Spring! Enjoy!

Janet F. Hansen
Judicial Assistant to Judge José A. Cabranes



THIRD CIRCUIT—Iris Liriano

On February 22, 2018, various agencies and the District Court joined to host our annual Black History Program. This year's speaker was Dr. Randal D. Pinkett.

Born in Philadelphia, and raised in New Jersey, he is an entrepreneur, scholar, speaker and author, who is also CEO of BCT Partners, which is headquartered in Newark, New Jersey. Dr. Pinkett holds five academic degrees including a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Rutgers University; Master of Science in Electrical Engineering; and an M.B.A. and Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has written several books: *Campus CEO: The Student Entrepreneur's Guide to Launching a multimillion-Dollar Business*, *No-Money Down CEO: How to Start your Dream Business with Little or No Cash*, and *Black Faces in White Places*. At the Black History Program, books purchased were autographed by Dr. Pinkett.

For those who watched the popular television show "The Apprentice" back in 2004, Dr. Pinkett was the fourth winner and first African American contestant to win. However, his speech was not about his fame and successes. Rather, Dr. Pinkett talked about topics affecting America today. For instance, he touched on the mass shootings that have taken place over the last few months. He compared the shootings and racism that took place in the 50's, 60's and 70's to the events that have occurred in recent years which has affected our nation. He has questioned the following, "Where do we go from here?" His speech was very compelling and thought provoking.

In addition to the eloquent speech by Dr. Pinkett, the Newark Boys Chorus School performed. As always, the boys' performance was exceptional. During one of the songs, the audience stood up to clap and sing along. After the conclusion of the program, attendees were treated to some delicious soul food.



Pictured from Left to Right: Newark Boys Chorus; U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Stacey L. Meisel and Dr. Randal D. Pinkett; and Dr. Pinkett and court librarian, Nicole Peaks.

THIRD CIRCUIT Cont.—Iris Liriano



On December 20, 2017 Chief Judge D. Brooks Smith of the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit swore in a new Circuit Judge, Hon. Stephanos Bibas. Born in Queens, New York, Judge Bibas graduated from Columbia University in 1989 (B.A.), University of Oxford in 1991 (B.A.) and from Yale Law School in 1994 (J.D.). Before joining the Court, Judge Bibas was a Professor of Law and Criminology at University of Pennsylvania Law School from 2006 through 2017. He has held various teaching positions with several schools between his former position and his clerkship. Judge Bibas clerked for the Hon. Anthony M. Kennedy, Supreme Court of the United States from 1997-1998, was in

private practice in Washington, DC from 1995-1997 and clerked for the Hon. Patrick E. Higginbotham, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. We welcome and wish Judge Bibas all the best in his new role.

National Women’s History Month

March was National Women’s History Month which celebrates women’s contributions to history, culture and society.

My friend, Karen Mitchell-Sandoval, who is a blogger, asked if she could write an article about our friendship, as I am someone who inspired her as well as Vanessa Williams. Karen and I met when I joined the Drug Enforcement Administration back in 1991. Although she left to Hong Kong almost 20 years ago, we have not lost touch and have continued to maintain our friendship. When Karen and I met, we instantly cliqued. What inspired me about her was her dedication and determination to succeed despite the many hurdles and obstacles she encountered. Karen was a single parent raising two young daughters in Newark, NJ. Karen applied for a position at DEA in Hong Kong and was selected for the position. She left in 1997 and while living there, she met a wonderful man, got married and gave birth to two more daughters. Her two eldest daughters are now college graduates, working professionally and married. Her two youngest daughters are going to be attending Northeastern University in September 2018. In addition, Karen went back to school and pursued her degree all the while raising her daughters. Karen is a remarkable woman with compassion, dedication, loyalty and of course inspiration. She is also personable, kind, warm, generous, has a heart of gold with a never ending smile that touches your heart. Today, I ask you to sit and reflect and think of who inspires you and let her know. You will be sure to brighten her day!

Iris

FOURTH CIRCUIT — Johnna Oehlsen



It's hard to believe that spring is upon us. Here in the 4th Circuit it has been a fairly mild winter. Don't get me wrong we have had a few bone chilling, windy days. Unfortunately, the snow was scarce this year which was sad for those ski lovers.

What's going on in the 4th

- The 80th Annual 4th Circuit Conference will be held this spring at the Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia
- The Northern District of West Virginia welcomed William Powell as our new US Attorney in January

WVND- Martinsburg held the first of three Naturalization Ceremony of 2018, in February, with 40 candidates for Citizenship. The ceremonies are very special with members of the community bringing greetings and best wishes from our Senators, local Civic Leaders, ROTC and many youth organizations. We are fortunate to have keynote speakers that have been touched by the immigration system in one way or the other. We always look forward to the next ceremony.



FIFTH CIRCUIT—Penny Stautberg



FIFTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

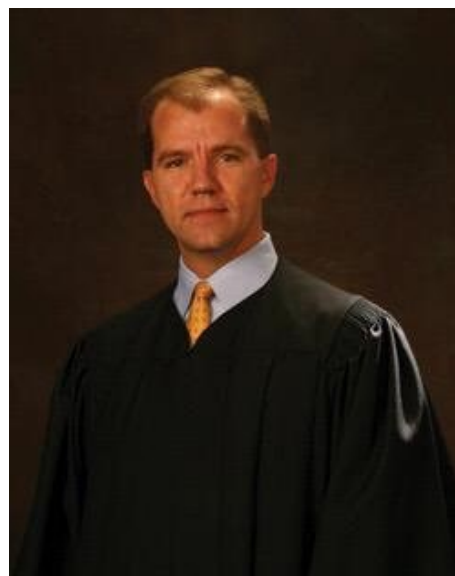
A lot has been happening here in the Fifth Circuit.

First Senior Circuit Judge Eugene Davis was named this year's Distinguished Jurist by the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

Judge Don R. Willett

Sworn in to the Fifth Circuit

Court of Appeals on January 2, 2018.



Before joining the federal judiciary, Judge Willett served a dozen years on the Supreme Court of Texas. He has devoted his professional life to public service, and prior to becoming a judge, he served as legal counsel to a Texas Attorney General, a Texas Governor, a U.S. Attorney General, and the President of the United States.

Raised by a widowed mom in a doublewide trailer in a town of 32 people, Judge Willett is his family's first college graduate. He earned a triple-major BBA from Baylor University and then three degrees from Duke University: JD *with honors*, MA in political science, and LLM in judicial studies.

The former editor in chief of JUDICATURE, Judge Willett publishes widely and speaks frequently throughout the country. A native Texan, Judge Willett is a former rodeo bull rider and professional drummer, and in 2015 he was named the Tweeter Laureate of Texas.

Judge Willett and his peerless wife, Tiffany, are the exhausted cofounders of three wee Willetts.

FIFTH CIRCUIT—Penny Stautberg



Honorable James C. Ho is a Circuit Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, appointed on January 4, 2018. His Judicial Assistant is Terri Flowers who came from Gibson, Dunn. Hope she will consider joining the association.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Ho was a partner in the Dallas office and co-chair of the Appellate and Constitutional Law practice group of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. Over the course of a decade as an appellate practitioner, he presented 50 oral arguments in federal and state courts nationwide, including the U.S. Supreme Court. He appeared most frequently before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the Texas Supreme Court, where he argued over 25 cases. He was routinely ranked among leading appellate litigators.

Judge Ho has an extensive record of government service. Most recently, as the Solicitor General of Texas, the state's chief appellate and Supreme Court litigator, he represented Texas in its most significant disputes. He is the only solicitor general in U.S. Supreme Court history to be invited to express the views of a state.

In addition, Judge Ho has served in all three branches of the federal government, including stints at the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Justice Department, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He served as chief counsel to Senator John Cornyn and the Subcommittees on the Constitution and Immigration. He helped lead the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department during the first year of the George W. Bush Administration. At the Office of Legal Counsel, he advised White House and other Administration officials on constitutional and other complex legal issues. He also served as a law clerk for Justice Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court, and Judge Jerry E. Smith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

His record of public service also includes appointments to various boards and commissions. Most notably, he was appointed vice chair of the Federal Judicial Evaluation Committee by U.S. Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz to evaluate appointments to the federal bench and U.S. Attorney in Texas. He has also published numerous articles, taught U.S. Supreme Court Litigation as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Texas School of Law, and served as co-editor of *Pub. L. Misc.*, and as senior editor of the *Green Bag*. Before law school, he was a legislative aide to California State Senator Quentin Kopp.

Taiwanese by birth and Texan by marriage, Judge Ho graduated from Stanford University with honors and a B.A. in Public Policy, and from the University of Chicago Law School with high honors. He and his wife Allyson, a distinguished appellate litigator, have a twin daughter and son.

News from the Northern District of Texas



Rebecca Rutherford was sworn in as a

United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Texas on January 26, 2018.

Judge Rutherford is a native Texan, born in San Antonio and raised in Lubbock. After graduating from Lubbock High School, Judge Rutherford moved to Dallas to attend Southern Methodist University. She graduated *summa cum laude*, earning a B.A. in History, with Honors in the Liberal Arts. Judge Rutherford is certified by the state of Texas to teach English, Reading, and History, and she taught middle school Language Arts in Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD before going to law school.

Judge Rutherford attended SMU School of Law from 1995 to 1998, where she was a member of the Barristers, an Articles Editor for the SMU Law Review Association, and a student attorney in the SMU Civil Clinic. Judge Rutherford graduated second in her class, *magna cum laude*, and was elected to the Order of the Coif. Following law school, Judge Rutherford worked as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable A. Joe Fish, United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, and then joined Thompson & Knight LLP in Dallas. Judge Rutherford returned to the Northern District of Texas court family in 2004. She worked as a judicial law clerk for U.S. Magistrate Judges Jeff Kaplan and Paul D. Stickney. From 2015 to 2017, Judge Rutherford was the senior judicial law clerk to the Honorable Barbara M.G. Lynn, Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas. Judge Rutherford was twice recognized as the District Chambers Staff Person of the Year, in 2013 and 2017.

Judge Rutherford is a member of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar College, the Federal Bar Association, the Dallas Bar Association, and the Dallas Women's Lawyers Association. She has published numerous articles and is a frequent presenter at CLE events and bench bar conferences. She has been an Associate and a Barrister in the Patrick E. Higginbotham American Inn of Court and is a current Barrister in the Barbara M.G. Lynn American Inn of Court.

CONGRATULATIONS !!!!!

Judge Karen Gren Sholer was confirmed on March 6 and sworn in on March 9 to the Northern District of Texas. As of this time I have no other information on Judge Sholer.

Eastern District of Texas

District Judge Rodney Gilstrap became Chief Judge for the Eastern District of Texas on February 28, 2018.

Eastern District of Louisiana

On a sad note,

U.S. District Judge Peter Beer of the Eastern District of Louisiana passed away on February 9, 2018. Judge Beer was born in New Orleans in 1928. He attended Tulane University for both undergraduate school and law school. Before graduating from law school in 1951, he was the President of the Student Bar Association and the winner of the national Moot Court competition. Judge Beer served in the Korean War from 1952-1955 and was awarded the Bronze Star.

He practiced law for several years before he was elected to the New Orleans City Council in 1969. In 1974 he was elected to Louisiana's Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal. President Carter appointed Judge Beer to the Eastern District of Louisiana in 1979 where he served as judge for 30 years.

Our condolences to the family of Judge Beer.

Western District of Louisiana

Judge Terry Doughty was confirmed on March 6 as a District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

Stay tuned....

Two Fifth Circuit nominations are pending as well as an additional six district judgeships.

SIXTH CIRCUIT— Debby Sawyer



Senate confirms Nashville Attorney Chip Campbell as federal judge for Middle Tennessee



The Senate voted 97-0 to confirm Nashville attorney William “Chip” Campbell Jr. to become a U.S. District Court judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, which includes Nashville and the surrounding counties. He was sworn in earlier this year.

President Donald Trump nominated Campbell for the judicial post in July 2017. Campbell replaces Chief U.S. District Judge Kevin H. Sharp.

Judge Campbell, a Nashville native, was an attorney in the Nashville office of Frost Brown Todd LLC, where he handled a wide range of civil litigation matters. He previously worked as an associate and later a partner in the Nashville firm of Riley Warnock & Jacobson PLC and as an associate in the Birmingham, Ala., office of Maynard, Cooper & Gale P.C.

He received his bachelor’s degree from the Naval Academy and served seven years in the Marine Corps, principally as a naval flight officer. He received his law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law, where he served as editor-in-chief of the Alabama Law Review.



The Origin of Black History Month and The Man Who Started It All

By: Michelle Howard Judicial Assistant to Hon. David M. Lawson

January 25, 2018

In preparation for our Black History Month celebration, as a member of the Court's Diversity Committee, I began scouring the web to learn more about Black History Month itself. A quick Google search produced a website for a 102-year-old organization I had never heard of, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Once on the site, I quickly discovered that the association's founder, Dr. Carter G. Woodson was the creator of Black History Month.



Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), Founder of ASALH

In February of 1926, Dr. Woodson established a week of black history celebration called "Negro History Week". The week was marked during the second week in February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (Feb 12) and Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14). Dr. Woodson also saw the importance of creating a "Negro History Bulletin", now known as the "Black History Bulletin" for elementary and high school grade teachers and still published to this day.

Dr. Woodson's creation of "Negro History Week" was the precursor to what is now recognized and celebrated as "Black History Month." In February 1969, the Black United Students at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio first proposed a month-long celebration of Black history. The first Black History Month celebration was held on Kent's campus during February 1970. In 1976, President Gerald B. Ford was the first U.S. President to officially recognize February as Black History Month. Ford urged the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

To this day, Dr. Woodson's lifelong mission lives on with the organization that he founded. The organization's "mission is to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black, life, history and culture to the global community." Also, every year, the ASALH is responsible for selecting the theme for each Black History Month. This year's theme is African Americans in Times of War. It is evident that Dr. Woodson's legacy is and always will be Black history. Dr. Woodson is affectionately known as the "Father of Black History Month".

*Court Employees of the Eastern District of Michigan
Visit Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History*

Excerpts from Courtside Article By: Kelly Clark, Human Resource, Training Coordinator

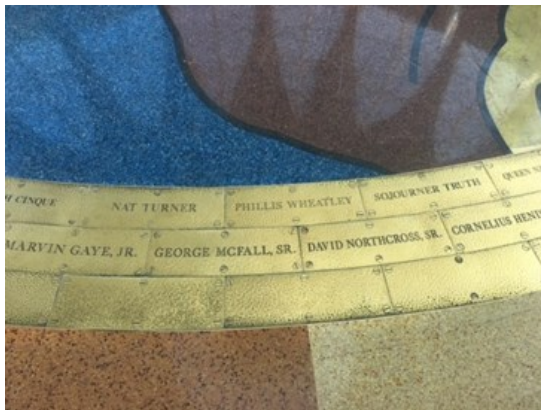
Updated: Thursday, March 01, 2018

In Recognition of Black History Month

On February 28, 2018, a group of Court Employees attended a guided tour of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. This trip was organized by the Court's Diversity Committee in recognition of Black History Month. The tour started in the majestic Rotunda with the sun shining down on to a beautiful 37-foot terrazzo tile mural by artist Hubert Masse entitled, Ring of Genealogy. The mural was surrounded by bronze nameplates of prominent African Americans in history. We were greeted by a young man who explained the significance of the mural as well as the other features in the Rotunda.



Photo: Rotunda and Ring of Genealogy bronze nameplates



Pictured: Mama Yo

We were then introduced to a warm and welcoming woman named Yolanda, who goes by the name Mama Yo, and once you meet her, you can't see calling her anything else but Mama Yo. She guided us through the exhibit that the museum is most known for, "And Still We Rise." She used her storytelling and musical talents to tell us the tales of black history from long before European settlers came to Africa to present day.



Group Photo: Eastern District of Michigan Employees

This is a moving experience which broadens one's perspective and understanding of the trials and tribulations experienced by so many. Throughout the tour one is reminded of the pain and suffering and it is a wake-up call for those who have little to no historical reference for this period of our history. I highly recommend taking a trip through this well thought out and exceptionally well guided program. The experience is one which will be difficult to forget.

If you find yourself at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, say hi to Mama Yo. Thank you to all the participants who attended, the Diversity Committee for organizing this opportunity, and the Court Administration for supporting this event.

Photo: A replica of an Old New England town where slave auctions were held.





News from the Central District of Illinois:

On March 2, 2018, Chief U.S. District Judge James Shadid, along with Senior U.S. District Judge Joe Billy McDade, presided over a Naturalization Ceremony at the Peoria Public Library. 90 new citizens from 29 countries were sworn in at the ceremony. We were honored to have had U.S. Senator Richard Durbin attend as the keynote speaker. During the ceremony, Judge Shadid invited all of the children in the audience to come forward and lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It is anticipated that the next Naturalization ceremony will be held in September and rather large for the Peoria Division of the Central District. We plan to hold it at Bradley University and it will coincide with a celebration of National Voter Registration Day. Our very own Cathy Geier, FJAA member and JA to Chief Judge James E Shadid, coordinates the naturalization ceremonies.



News from Western District of Wisconsin:

Our WIWD news:

Our librarian retired in early February, and is not being replaced due to our court being very small (apparently budget cuts have dictated needing at least 10 judges to have a full-time librarian). Instead, we are supposed to have a librarian come up from Chicago or Milwaukee one day a week, and have numbers to call if we need anything at other times.

We're also gearing up for this year's courthouse cook off on March 22nd. We're using an Olympics theme where each court unit is assigned three countries and you have to make an appetizer from one of your countries. Chambers drew the countries of Mongolia, Ghana and Spain. We have our chambers-wide mini-cook off March 14 to pick our entry. Instead of our typical judge's choice and people's choice trophies, this year you can win gold, silver or bronze trophies.

EIGHTH CIRCUIT— Judith Kirby



Hello, all!

I have agreed to take over as 8th Circuit Representative from Karen Labriola. I want to thank Karen for her work as our rep and know that I follow in some very capable footsteps. I am the Courtroom Deputy for Magistrate Judge Hildy Bowbeer in the District of Minnesota. I joined the Court in September, 2007, after 27 years as a paralegal with a small law firm, a state agency and a very large national law firm. I worked with Magistrate Judge Jeanne Graham until her retirement in 2014, when I was assigned to work with Judge Bowbeer. In addition, I have been a member of FJAA since shortly after I started. I have met many really talented people during that time and look forward to seeing everyone and meeting new members each year as we gather for our annual conference. I also look forward to getting to know many of the individuals who support our Judges in the 8th Circuit. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions that I can pass on to our Board.

Thank you Karen for submitting the articles for the April 2018 Newsletter.

News from Iowa:

President Trump has nominated Chief United States Magistrate Judge C.J. Williams to become United States District Judge. His nomination will be considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The seat became available when United States District Judge Linda Reade took senior status in October. He received a J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law and an L.L.M. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law.

News from District of Minnesota

February 7, 2018, Minnesota Lawyers held their annual banquet to honor Minnesota Attorneys of the Year. Several Minnesota Judges were honored for their outstanding service to the profession. Here are the excerpts from the Minnesota Lawyers Weekly you might enjoy reading.



United States Court of Appeals Judge Diana Murphy By Barbara L. Jones, Minnesota Lawyer, February 8, 2018

Judge Diana Murphy's career advice:

"You have to fight for others and you also have to fight for your own situation. You also have to be willing understand that you will make mistakes. You have to just keep learning."

Murphy first worked at Lindquist & Vennum and deeply admired litigator Edward Glennon. But he was never in the office. So she telephoned him and sold herself. He bought, somewhat grudgingly, but eventually came around. "You have to be really pushy. Don't be afraid to be pushy. You want to do it and that's a benefit to [the court or the firm] but you've got to get in there and talk to them," Murphy advised.

Murphy has been a judge since 1976 and on the 8th Circuit bench since 1994. She was the first woman on that bench and was the only woman until the appointment of Judge Jane Kelly in 2016. She also chaired the United States Sentencing Commission from 1999 to 2004.

It was inevitable that Murphy would become an advocate of women lawyers and judges, and she has embraced that opportunity. "It's a joy to see good men and women lawyers and to see how many women have succeed," she said. "I want to help other women."

Senior United States District Judge Donovan Frank
By Barbara L. Jones, Minnesota Lawyer, February 8, 2018

There's been an identifiable arc to the career of U.S. District Court Judge Donovan Frank. It started when Frank, fresh out of law school, went to work in the St. Louis County Attorney's Office. Judge Mitchell A. Dubow allowed him to present testimony from the therapist of a 7-year-old victim who would explain what results when a child is sexually assaulted. There was no precedent — Dubow was the first judge in Minnesota to allow the evidence. "Most judges wouldn't have had the courage to do it, even me," Frank said.

Two years later, similar expert testimony was used with a teenage victim, and in 2011 it was allowed with an adult. In 1985, Frank became a state court judge in the 6th District and met activist Ellen Pence, who introduced him to Sheila Wellstone. Sen. Paul Wellstone nominated him for the federal bench, to which President Bill Clinton appointed him in 1998.

His new role only increased his commitment to the community and the profession, and he has served on a variety of task forces and boards to address the needs of the minority, disabled and vulnerable population. He is also a reliable resource for lawyers and judges struggling with chemical dependency. "It all made me a better person and a better judge," he said.



United States District Judge Donovan Frank gave the keynote talk at a Sexual Assault Awareness program in Virginia. April is national Sexual Assault Awareness month.

Senior United States Judge Richard Kyle
(Award Accepted by his son, Ramsey County District Judge Richard Kyle, Jr.
By Barbara L. Jones, Minnesota Lawyer, February 8, 2018

“He looked like a judge, he acted like a judge, he was tough, and he never lost his temper.” That’s how U.S. District Court Judge Richard Kyle recalls his early boss, U.S. District Court Judge Edward Devitt. The judges may be similarly described and both are notably respected in Minnesota.

Kyle later became the state solicitor general and an attorney in private practice, until he was appointed by President George H.W. Bush to the District Court in 1992. He was confirmed only a few months after his appointment.

“I didn’t have anybody that I was aware of that was trying to stop my nomination,” Kyle recalls. Since 1992, Kyle has been associated with some of the biggest trials in state history, such as those of transplant surgeon Dr. John Najarian (acquitted of violating drug safety rules), financial fraudster Tom Petters (sentenced to 50 years), and defamation plaintiff Jesse Ventura (won at trial, reversed on appeal, settled).

“It’s been a good life,” said the judge, 80.

He doesn’t spend as much time in court as in the past, and he misses it.
“I’ve been very fortunate, I have no complaints. If I did, I wouldn’t tell you.”

Photo: Award Accepted by his son Ramsey County District Judge Richard Kyle, Jr.



Senior United States District Judge Ann Montgomery

By: Barbara L. Jones February 8, 2018

Judge Ann Montgomery was welcomed when she started practicing law in 1974 in the U.S. attorney's office, especially after winning a few trials. She was appointed in 1983 to the Hennepin County Municipal Court, which then merged with the 4th Judicial District. She became a federal magistrate judge in 1994 and a District Court judge in 1996.

There has been progress for women in appointments to the bench and in general counsel's offices but there are still obstacles in "big law," Montgomery said. The proverbial glass ceiling is still there. "It's really tough for women senior partners to get to the very top. I think there are good firms," Montgomery said.

Montgomery has enjoyed her work with Judicial Branch, a committee of the Federal Judicial Conference. It has focused on establishing appropriate communications with the other branches of government, for all participants to understand their disparate roles and checks and balances.

Montgomery worked with the Latino Legal Experience, which hosted her friend, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, last year and is ongoing. "I've loved the job. We have a strong tradition of a good work ethic [on the bench]. I'm proud to be a member of it," Montgomery concluded.



News from District of South Dakota:

Judge Roger Wollman announced he intends to step down as an active judge on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. He plans to assume senior status as soon as the U.S. Senate can confirm a successor, but no later than Dec. 31. Judge Wollman will turn 84 this year, and is the longest serving judge of the 11 active judges on the circuit.

Judge Wollman will continue to hear selected cases. He has been on the South Dakota Supreme Court for 15 years. He was appointed by President Ronald Reagan and took his seat in 1985. At the time, he was the first South Dakota judge on the court in 25 years. Former Sen. Larry Pressler had used his connections with the White House to secure a 10th seat on the court and then forwarded Judge Wollman's name to be selected for the new seat. Judge

Wollman grew up in a Mennonite farming family in Frankfort, S.D. He attended the University of South Dakota School of Law, then clerked with a U.S. district judge. He also attended a year of graduate studies at Harvard Law. Judge Wollman was in private practice in Aberdeen and then worked as the Brown County State Attorney before his appointment to the state Supreme Court in 1970.

NINTH CIRCUIT—Julie Lemm

Respected federal magistrate judge dies after battle with brain cancer



U.S. Magistrate Judge David Bartick, who served on the federal bench in San Diego for nearly six years and litigated complex cases as a criminal defense attorney, died Sunday following a long battle with brain cancer.

He died at home surrounded by his family, court officials said Thursday. He was 59.

Bartick was already a prominent defense attorney when he represented notorious cartel leader Francisco Javier Arellano Félix. In the end, he was able to negotiate a plea deal with the government in 2007, sparing Arellano Félix from potentially facing the death penalty in exchange for a life sentence.

“Magistrate Judge Bartick was beloved by the bench and the bar,” Senior U.S. District Judge Marilyn Huff said in a statement. “He had an exceptional ability to communicate with people over the years as a successful lawyer and as a thoughtful judge. We will miss him.”

Bartick was appointed as a magistrate judge in 2012, after serving for 18 years as a pro tem judge in San Diego Superior Court.

David H. Bartick was born in Los Angeles on April 28, 1958, and raised in Orange County. He graduated from University of California Berkeley with a double major in political science and psychology.

As an intercollegiate boxer, he qualified for the Olympics but was not able to compete because the United States boycotted the 1980 summer games in Moscow.

Bartick studied law for two years at University of San Diego School of Law and transferred to Western State University, now known as Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Bartick is survived by his wife, Terry, and two children, Brian and Jenn.

Source:

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/courts/sd-me-bartick-obit-20180222-story.html>

NINTH CIRCUIT—Julie Lemm

Court of Appeals Appoints New Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Idaho

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the appointment of Boise attorney Joseph M. Meier as a judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Idaho.

Mr. Meier will serve a 14-year term, beginning March 23, 2018. He succeeds Bankruptcy Judge Jim D. Pappas, who will be completing his 28th year of service to the District of Idaho bankruptcy court.

“Joe Meier is well respected by both the bench and bar in Idaho and beyond. We are extremely pleased to welcome such an experienced bankruptcy practitioner to the federal bench,” Chief Judge Thomas said.

Mr. Meier, 59, has been a partner with the Boise, Idaho law firm of Cosho Humphrey, LLP since 1985. He has practiced in the areas of bankruptcy, commercial, real property and business law and has represented creditors, debtors, committees and trustees in chapters 7, 11, 12 and 13 proceedings. He has also represented lenders and borrowers in complex loan restructures and commercial litigation.

Active in local, state and federal bar activities, Mr. Meier was director of the Commercial and Bankruptcy Law Section of the Idaho State Bar from 1995 to 2001 and has been a frequent speaker and moderator on bankruptcy issues at events sponsored by the state bar. He was a Ninth Circuit lawyer representative for the District of Idaho from 2002 to 2005 and sat on the circuit’s Lawyer Representative Coordinating Committee from 2006 to 2008, serving as chair from 2007 to 2008.

TENTH CIRCUIT— Susan Goodwin

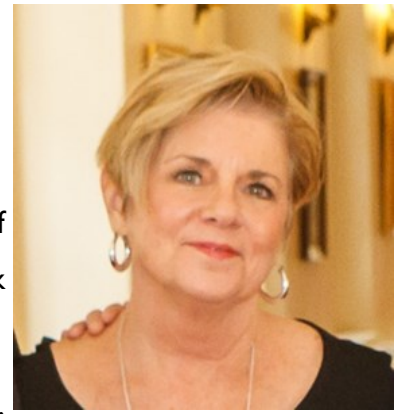
On February 8, 2018, District Judge William P. Johnson became the Chief of the District of New Mexico. The previous Chief Judge, M. Christina Armijo, took senior status leaving the position for Judge Johnson to fill.

U. S. District Judge William P. Johnson was born and raised in Roanoke, Virginia. He attended college at the Virginia Military Institute where he earned his B.A. degree in 1981. He accepted a reserve commission in the United States Army Reserve and then attended law school at Washington & Lee University where he earned his J.D. degree in 1985.

Judge Johnson started practicing law in Houston, Texas with the firm of Bracewell & Patterson and then moved to Roswell, New Mexico in 1986 and joined the firm of Hinkle, Cox, Eaton, Coffield & Hensley where he

practiced primarily in the areas of commercial, oil and gas and bankruptcy litigation. In 1995, Judge Johnson became a New Mexico state district judge in Roswell, NM where he presided over a general jurisdiction docket of criminal, civil, domestic relations and children's court cases.

In August of 2001, President George W. Bush nominated Judge Johnson to a vacancy on the United States District Court for the District of



Seated: Phyllis Amato (Career Law Clerk); Kimberly Gallegos (Case Administrator). Standing (left to right): Leanna Minix (Term Law Clerk); Mary Loughran (Court Reporter); Martha Garcia (AA); Judge Johnson; Nicholas DeRosa (Term Law Clerk); and Richard Garcia (CRD)

New Mexico and in December of 2001, the United States Senate confirmed Judge Johnson's nomination to the federal bench. Although Judge Johnson's duty station is in Albuquerque, since joining the federal court he has spent a considerable amount of time in Las Cruces presiding over border related cases for the District of New Mexico. Additionally, Judge Johnson has sat by designation on the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and has been designated to preside over cases in the U.S. District Courts for the Districts of Wyoming, Utah, Kansas, Colorado and Western Oklahoma.

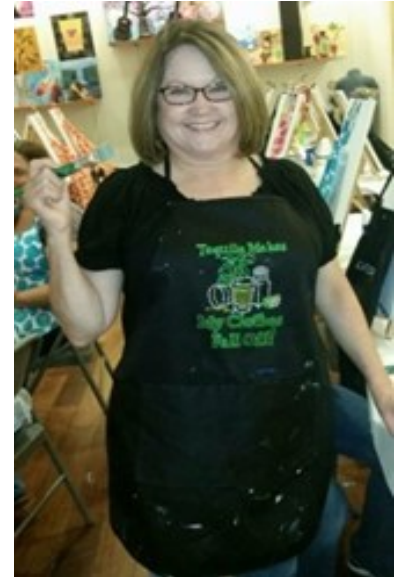
ELEVENTH CIRCUIT—Gail Shafer



News from the 11th Circuit

Gail Shafer, Circuit Rep

Southern District of Georgia



Hello everyone! Hope you all survived the winter weather! It wasn't so bad here, but I'm really looking forward to Spring. *The Masters* golf tournament is coming soon and our town is getting ready for the crowds! It takes place the week of April 2nd, and Augusta, Georgia will certainly be on the map! People come from all over to witness the most beautiful course and best tournament around. You should check it out!



I'd like to welcome our newest member Laura Stevenson. Laura is a Judicial Assistant for Bankruptcy Judge Caryl E. Delano, of the Middle District of Florida. Also, sending out a warm welcome to those who have renewed their memberships. Let's all strive to get more members from our circuit.

Until next time,



ELEVENTH CIRCUIT—Gail Shafer



St. Patrick’s Day Celebration in Savannah
Submitted by Becky Overstreet
Southern District of Georgia

One of our favorite St. Patrick’s Day traditions in Savannah is dying all of the fountains green and it all starts with the with everyone’s favorite – the fountain in Forsyth Park. During this ceremony, the St. Patrick’s Day Parade Grand Marshal pours green dye into the water with the help of many friends and family. Savannahians know that St. Patrick’s Day would not be the same without green water in all of the city’s fountains.



Another St. Patrick’s Day tradition in Savannah, leading up to the March 17th celebration, is the Celtic Cross Ceremony and Reception. Irish Catholics join together to celebrate their heritage with family and friends in a ceremony at Celtic cross statue in Emmet Park. Bagpipes play as different members of the Irish community



The St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Savannah is not just one of the biggest parades in the United States; it is one of the biggest parades in the world. For more than 190 years, the parade has attracted thousands of guests to join in the city-wide celebration on St. Patrick’s Day, by cheering for all the floats, bands, dancers, Irish groups and societies marching in the parade. The parade is regulated by the St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee. The route takes the parade through out many sections of historic downtown Savannah.

News from the Middle District of Florida

by Laura Stevenson

Retirement & Portrait Ceremony in Honor of Judge May

On December 4, 2017, over 200 people, including the Judges and court staff of the Bankruptcy Court, members of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association, District and Magistrate Judges and other dignitaries, as well as attorneys from around the state of Florida gathered to honor the Honorable K. Rodney May on the occasion of his retirement. The retirement and portrait unveiling ceremony was held in the 17th Floor Ceremonial Courtroom in the Sam M. Gibbons United States Courthouse in Tampa. Judge May's family, many friends, and retired chambers staff were also in attendance.

The ceremony, presided over by Hon. Michael G. Williamson, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida, began with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Judge May's daughter, Lauren, followed by the Invocation given by Judge May's son, Andrew. Remarks followed from Hon. Steven D. Merryday, Chief Judge, United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida; Lee Ann Bennett, Deputy Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and former Clerk of Court of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida; Scott A. Stichter, Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association President; attorneys Mark J. Wolfson, Jeffrey W. Warren, and Leonard H. Gilbert; and attorney and former law clerk



to Judge May, Barbara A. Hart. This was followed by the unveiling of the portrait by Judge May and his wife, Charo. After closing remarks by Judge May, the attendees adjourned to a reception at the University Club where a video of recorded tributes to Judge May by his fellow judges, attorneys, and court staff was featured.

The portrait was commissioned by members of the bar and was painted by Jon Houghton, one of the most accomplished portrait artists in the country. It now hangs in Courtroom 9B, the courtroom in which Judge May presided for 14 years.

More News from Middle District of Florida

By Laura Stevenson

Hon. Roberta A. Colton Appointed to U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Middle District of Florida

On December 15, 2017, Hon. Roberta A. Colton was sworn in by Eleventh Circuit Judge Charles Wilson as the newest bankruptcy judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Hon. K. Rodney May.

Previously, on April 1, 2016, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit appointed Judge Colton as a bankruptcy judge for the District of South Dakota. She was given her oath by Circuit Judge Duane Benton on July 15, 2016. Under an approved Bankruptcy Judge Vacancy Pilot Program, Judge Colton was then designated to the Middle District of Florida and served in the Orlando Division until her appointment by the 11th Circuit.



Judge Colton being sworn in by the
Honorable Charles R. Wilson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS— Millie Graves



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEDERAL & DC CIRCUITS

Washington, DC

It's once again time for Daylight Savings, and while we're all grateful to have more sunlight during the waking hours, it means we lost an hour of sleep. Unfortunately, this can mess up your sleep cycle for weeks, but experts say that one of the single best ways to help your brain adjust to the new sleeping pattern is to minimize electronics use before bedtime.

The practice of changing daily schedules in order to make the most use of daylight has been around for centuries, but modern Daylight Savings is credited to American inventor and politician Benjamin Franklin. In springtime, we set our clocks forward, which means that we also are forced to wake up an hour earlier. Such a sudden change in sleep patterns can cause something known as "micro sleeps," which are tiny lapses in attention. Although we may not be aware of these micro sleeps, they can be potentially dangerous during the workday or your daily commute.

Micro sleeps are preventable, and although you aren't able to stop the clock from pushing forward, there are steps you can take to prevent this time change from having an adverse effect on your sleep. One of the most beneficial

lifestyle changes you can make to help you sleep is to avoid using electronics during the evening.

Our "body clock," also known as circadian rhythms, takes cues from the environment to know when it's time to fall asleep and time to wake up. Since the beginning of human life the patterns of the sun have been the biggest indication of when we should sleep and wake, but the fairly recent onset of artificial light can trick our body into thinking it's the waking hours when it's actually bedtime. Lack of light prompts the body to create a hormone known as melatonin, which induces a drowsy sensation. The detection of light causes the body to revive once again. Experts believe the artificial light emitted from electronics can interfere with this delicate cycle.

On the second Sunday in March, move your clocks ahead one hour. The effect depends on a person's age and work, eating and sleep schedules. Resisting the urge to use devices such as smartphones and tablets before bed could help you to fall asleep faster, which in turn would help you to regain those z's lost during this year's "spring forward."

Source: medicaldaily.com



FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS—Millie Graves



United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

FURTHER EXPANSION OF D.C. CIRCUIT POLICY REGARDING LIVE AUDIO STREAMING ARGUMENTS

On December 19, 2017, Chief Judge Merrick Garland announced that the Court has voted to live stream any oral argument upon request in an individual case. A panel may make an exception to this policy if it determines that one is required in light of case-specific confidentiality concerns.

Requests for live streaming should be sent by email to liveaudiorequest@cadc.uscourts.gov.

To listen to live oral arguments, go to the Court's website at www.cadc.uscourts.gov. On the homepage, under Live Audio Streaming, click on the link for the live oral argument, then click the Listen Live link at the bottom of the page.

Audio recordings of oral arguments have been available online since September 2013. In addition to live streaming, audio recordings will continue to be posted by 2:00 p.m. on the day of the oral argument. An archive of audio recordings going back to the 2007-2008 term is available.

To listen to audio recordings, go to the Oral Arguments page and click on Audio of Oral Arguments. You may also listen to live streaming of oral arguments from this page under Live Streaming Audio of Oral Arguments.

Questions should be directed to Betsy Paret, Circuit Executive, at 202.216.7360 or Elizabeth.Paret@cadc.uscourts.gov

FEDERAL LAW CLERK HIRING PLAN

In February, the D.C. Circuit adopted the new Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan, as set out below:

Starting with students who entered law school in 2017, the application and hiring process will not begin until after a law student's second year.

For students who entered law school in 2017 (graduating class of 2020): Judges will not seek or accept formal or informal clerkship applications, seek or accept formal or informal recommendations, conduct formal or informal interviews, or make formal or informal offers before June 17, 2019.

FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS—Millie Graves

For students who enter law school in 2018 (graduating class of 2021): Judges will not seek or accept formal or informal clerkship applications, seek or accept formal or informal recommendations, conduct formal or informal interviews, or make formal or informal offers before June 15, 2020.

A judge who makes a clerkship offer will keep it open for at least 48 hours, during which time the applicant will be free to interview with other judges.

This is a two-year pilot plan. Participating judges will reconsider their participation after June 2020. A copy of the plan is posted on the OSCAR website at https://oscar.uscourts.gov/federal_law_clerk_hiring_pilot.



Coping With Job Stress

Job stress also frequently causes burnout, a condition marked by emotional exhaustion and negative or cynical attitudes toward others and yourself. Burnout can lead to depression, which, in turn, has been linked to a variety of other health concerns such as heart disease and stroke, obesity and eating disorders, diabetes, and some forms of cancer. Chronic depression also reduces your immunity to other types of illnesses, and can even contribute to premature death.

What you can do to combat job stress

Fortunately, there are many ways to help manage job-related stress. Some programs blend relaxation techniques with nutrition and exercise. Others focus on specific issues such as time management, assertiveness training, and improving social skills. A qualified psychologist or other mental health professional can help you pinpoint the causes of your stress, and develop appropriate coping strategies.

- Make the most of workday breaks.
- Even 10 minutes of “personal time” will refresh your mental outlook. Take a brief walk, chat with a co-worker about a non-job topic, or simply sit quietly with your eyes closed and breathe.
- If you feel angry, walk away. Mentally regroup by counting to 10, then look at the situation again. Walking and other physical activities will also help you work off steam.
- Set reasonable standards for yourself and others. Don’t expect perfection.
- Talk to your employer about your job description. Your responsibilities and performance criteria may not accurately reflect what you are doing.

Working together to make needed changes will not only benefit your emotional and physical health, but also improve the organization’s overall productivity.

Stressed is Desserts spelled backward. ~ Author Unknown

Source: psychcentral.com





United States Court of Federal Claims

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judge Marian Blank Horn made a presentation in January about mediation at the Georgetown School of Law Saudi Arabia & Middle East Legal Forum, following up on the Saudi Deputy Minister of Justice's visit to the court last summer.



On February, 20, 2018, Chief Judge Susan G. Braden and Judge Thomas C. Wheeler participated in the ABA's Bid Protest Committee meeting to discuss the RAND REPORT and the court's response in more detail. In addition, Chief Judge Braden s moderator on a panel with Paul Clement from Kirkland Ellis, Mark Perry from Gibson Dunn, and David Kappos from Cravath at a meeting held on February 22 of the Giles Rich Inn of Court about recent Supreme Court decisions involving patent and intellectual property matters.



Chief Judge Braden



Judge Wheeler

Judge Lydia Kay Griggsby was one of three panelists participating at this year's event. The Section's flagship program focused on the significant federal procurement developments over the past year and provided valuable insight to chart the course ahead. Also participating at the conference were Judges Marian Blank Horn and Mary Ellen Coster-Williams.

On March 24, 2018, Judge Griggsby received the 2018 Ebone' Image Award for Judicial and Community Service from The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Northern Virginia Chapter. The award was presented at the Annual Sisterhood Luncheon and 25th Ebone' Image Awards held at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA.

On April 6, 2018, Judge Griggsby was asked to judge the semi-final rounds of the 2017-2018 [ABA Law Student Division National Appellate Advocacy Competition \(NAAC\)](#), which emphasizes the development of oral advocacy skills through a realistic appellate advocacy experience. Competitors participate in a hypothetical appeal to the United States Supreme Court. The competition involves writing a brief as either respondent or petitioner and then arguing the case in front of the mock court.



Judge Griggsby



Judge Coster-Williams

Katherine Oler Sworn in as Special Master in the Vaccine Program



Katherine Oler was sworn in as a Special Master of the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (Vaccine Program), located within the U.S. Court of Federal Claims by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act. The Vaccine Act became effective October 1, 1988. It establishes the Vaccine Program as a no-fault compensation program whereby petitions for monetary compensation may be brought by or on behalf of persons allegedly suffering injury or death as a result of the administration of certain compulsory childhood vaccines. Congress intended that the Vaccine Program provide individuals a swift, flexible, and less adversarial

alternative to the often costly and lengthy civil arena of traditional tort litigation. For Special Master Oler's biography, please visit <http://www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/katherine-e-oler>

How to Get Along with Co-Workers

A Happy Office Is a Productive Office

Everyone wants to be productive at work. But sometimes, the only thing standing in your way of productivity is the people who are supposed to be helping you out: your co-workers. You don't want every encounter with your co-workers to become a human resources incident, but you do need to find a way to develop a productive working relationship with the people on your team. Here are eight tips that will help you foster strong relationships with your co-workers.



Avoid Too Much Personal Information - One of the topics that can strain professional relationships is your personal life. Over time, you may develop a friendship with some of your co-workers that allows you to confide in them about your personal issues. But if you want to create a comfortable work place, then the best approach is to avoid talking about your personal life to the people you work with.

Be a Good Listener - The stress at work can build up and people often just need a way to vent. That's where you can step in and become an attentive co-worker. By allowing your teammates to say what's on their minds, you can make them feel comfortable with you and establish a good working rapport.

Keep Your Hands to Yourself - As a general rule, most people get uncomfortable when they're touched by someone that they don't consider a personal friend. You definitely want to avoid the reputation for being the "touchy" person at work, because that can tend to alienate you from the rest of your co-workers.

Always Be Positive - Sometimes the techniques that work well with customers also work with co-workers. Even if you really don't feel happy, you can make your co-workers feel more at ease when you approach each day with a smile on your face. If you smile a lot, then the people you work with will tend to give you a break on those days when you just cannot muster a smile.

Be Good at What You Do - Your interactions with other people in your office become much smoother when you have a reputation for being good at your job. When people know that they can rely on you to get things done and make them look good, then they tend to value your presence in the office.

Avoid Office Drama - Every work place has drama, but that doesn't mean you have to be part of it. The moment you choose sides in any kind of office incident is the moment you lose your ability to get along with some portion of the people you work with. Stay out of office drama and run far away from office gossip as well.

Worry Only About Your Job - When you look across the hall and see one of your co-workers talking away on a personal phone call, just remember that it really doesn't concern you. If your productivity is being affected by the way someone else executes their duties, then you may have to speak up. But it's always a good idea to worry about your job and let management worry about what everyone else is doing.

Be Dependable - This is different than being good at your job because this deals with being on time in the morning and not taking breaks that are longer than allowed. If co-workers see you bending the rules, then that will create resentment. If you want to get along with your co-workers, then show up on time and keep to your scheduled breaks.

Source: livecareer.com



United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

On Friday, March 16, 2018, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held its Judicial Conference. Morning sessions included moderated panels composed of judges from the Federal Circuit and judges and officials from tribunals within the Federal Circuit's jurisdiction.

The Honorable John G. Roberts, Jr., Chief Justice of the United States addressed the audience, and Senator Orrin Hatch delivered the keynote address. Afternoon breakout sessions addressed current issues arising within the Federal Circuit's jurisdiction, including Patent and Trademark and International Trade, as well as actions heard before the United States Court of Federal Claims, the Boards of Contract Appeals, the United States Merit Systems Protection Board, and the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

The conference offers the opportunity to engage in discussion that advances the administration of justice and promotes the long-standing tradition of collegiality within the Federal Circuit. The conference is authorized "for the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice within the circuit." 28 U.S.C. § 333.



FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS—Millie Graves

NEXTGEN CM/ECF IMPLEMENTATION

On February 28, 2018, the Clerk's Office of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the Federal Circuit Bar Association presented a special community service webcast on the court's implementation of NextGen CM/ECF. On March 19, 2018, the Court went live on the next generation of the national case management and electronic case filing system.



ENCOURAGEMENT STATION



Making Relations Special

When I was a kid, my Mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made dinner after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my Mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all dad did

was reached for his biscuit, smile at my Mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my Mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits." Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides – a little burned biscuit never hurt anyone!"

Moral: Life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. But what I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults – and choosing to celebrate each other's differences – is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

Source: moralstories.org

WHEN YOU LOOK
AT A FIELD OF
DANDELIONS, YOU
CAN EITHER SEE A
HUNDRED WEEDS,
OR A THOUSAND
WISHES.

New FJAA Members as of March 14, 2018

FIRST CIRCUIT

Deann Harvie, Eastern District of Maine, District Judge D. Brock Hornby

SECOND CIRCUIT

Ilene Lee, Court of International Trade, New York, District Judge Jennifer Choe-Groves

Rosemary Rizzico, Court of Appeals, Circuit Judge Peter W. Hall

FOURTH CIRCUIT

Shannon Thuemmel Proctor, Court of Appeals, Circuit Judge Allyson Duncan

FIFTH CIRCUIT

Christine Abadie, Court of Appeals, Circuit Judge W. Eugene Davis

Nereida Perez, Southern District of Texas, District Judge Micaela Alvarez

SIXTH CIRCUIT

Melissa Seay, Middle District of Tennessee, District Judge Waverly D. Crenshaw Jr.

SEVENTH CIRCUIT

Debra Hansen, Central District of Illinois, District Judge Michael Mihm

TENTH CIRCUIT

Susan McKey, Court of Appeals, Circuit Judge Robert E. Bacharach



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 member a feeling of camaraderie and mutual confidence.

FROM MY DESK TO YOUTIPS 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!



**SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO YOUR
CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVE BY
JUNE 15, 2018
THANK YOU!**



CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES

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

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A free one-year membership for the year 2017-2018 is available to all new JAs that are/were hired between September 1, 2017—September 1, 2018. This free one-year membership is available only to first-time FJAA members.

EDITORIAL TEAM

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