



PRESIDENT

Tracy Young

Tracy Young is the Judicial Assistant to Judge Linda V. Parker in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Tracy joined the court family in April 2014 when Judge Parker was appointed to the Federal Court. Tracy has worked with Judge Parker in the Michigan State Court since 2010. Tracy joined the FJAA as soon as she began her journey at the court with strong encouragement and support from the Judicial Assistants in the Eastern District of Michigan.

Tracy is currently the President-Elect of the association and Chair of the 2022 FJAA Education Conference Committee which consists of the members in the hosting state of Arizona. Prior to that position she served a term as the Vice-President. During her term, she diligently worked with each of the circuit representatives to seek new members and gather renewals of the membership. Tracy would always say to each of the circuit representatives, "You Rock" because they each let their light shine in various ways. She served on the FJAA Publication/Newsletter Committee as one of the editors. Tracy says that serving as the Vice-President and working with the Executive Board has been a great honor and privilege. As Vice-President one will serve as the Chair of the Membership committee and it was amazing, rewarding and a great way to connect with the Circuit Representatives as well as other members of the FJAA organization.

A native Detroit, she has been married for 37 years and has two amazing adult children. Tracy enjoys planning and hosting family events, bowling, and baking. She is the secretary of a non-profit organization for teenage girls. She serves on the Greeters Ministry at her church. She is an active member of the Critical Incident Stress Management team in the Eastern District of Michigan.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Bernita Henley

Bernita Henley started as a Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Charmiane G. Claxton, Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Tennessee – Western Division in June, 2009. Her current title is Chambers Paralegal.

Prior to employment with the Federal Judiciary, Bernita's legal career began in 1994 as a Legal Secretary for a sole practitioner. In 1996, she accepted a Legal Secretary position with the City of Memphis' City Attorney's Office where she served in this position for 5 years until she was promoted in 2001 to the Paralegal position. Another opportunity for growth presented itself in 2002 when she was offered a Paralegal position with the newly established in house legal department for Memphis Area Transit Authority. In 2005, Bernita landed a position with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare as a Workers' Compensation Paralegal for the Workers' Compensation Department wherein she stayed until her current position.

Bernita received her B.P.S. in Paralegal Studies Magna cum Laude from the University of Memphis in 1999 and an A.A.S. in Legal Assistant Technology Magna cum Laude from State Technology Institute of Memphis (now Southwest

Tennessee Community College) in 1993. She was a member of Greater Memphis Paralegal Alliance (GMPA), Inc. from 2002 to 2007. She was also a member Mid-South Workers' Compensation Association (MSWCA) and served as Secretary for the 2007 and 2008 terms. She has served in the positions of Secretary from 2018-2019 and now, Vice President/Membership Chair since 2019 for FJAA.

Bernita has two adult daughters and 4 grandchildren (2 girls and 2 boys) which she affectionately refers to as her "4-Piece Spicy". She is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and when she is not handling SGRho's business, Bernita enjoys dancing, singing, traveling, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.

VICE-PRESIDENT

JENNIFER HODGE

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

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

Jennifer has been the FJAA Sixth Circuit Representative since 2019. She was on the Annual Conference Committee for the Nashville, TN conference and has also been on the Nominations and Elections Committee and the Professional Development Committee. Since becoming a member in 2014, she has attended each of the yearly conferences which includes: Charleston, SC; Minneapolis, MN; San Francisco, CA; Grand Rapids, MI and Nashville, TN.

SECRETARY

TREASURER

Melissa Hardin

Melissa has been a judicial assistant since 1998, first with the state courts in Wisconsin, then joining the U.S. District Court for Western Wisconsin in 2002 as the administrative assistant to the Clerk of Court. After 10 months, she moved up to chambers as the judicial secretary for Judge John C. Shabaz until he retired. Since March of 2010, Melissa has been the judicial assistant for Judge William Conley. She has been a member of FJAA since 2003, spending four years as the Seventh Circuit Representative, two years as Vice President, before becoming President. Melissa is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point and has served on its Alumni Board of Directors since 2005. She also has a legal assisting degree from Columbus State Community College in Columbus, Ohio.

Melissa and her husband, Bob, love to travel the world. They have visited 6 out of the 7 continents and have 43 countries on their life list. Most recently, they traveled to Iceland in August of 2021 to see the lava flows from an active volcano and spent time hiking in Utah and Arizona. Other favorite places include Egypt, the Galapagos Islands, Machu Picchu, Venice & Rome, London, Angkor Wat, Japan, and the Great Ocean Road in Australia.