Federal Judicial Assistants Association

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From

The President



Mary Ellen Druckenbrod

Dear FJAA Members and all Judicial Assistants:

Happy New Year! I am honored to serve as your President and look forward to the year before us! Stephanie Lawley, our past President, served us well and I want to take this opportunity to thank her for her leadership and commitment to our organization! Her intellect, determination and grace set the bar at an all-time high. Believe me, she is a very hard act to follow!

I am so thankful for the Federal Judicial Assistants Association. The wonderful thing about this organization is that it's made up of so many bright and strong Judicial Assistants! Isn't that why our Judges chose us?! I'm also very thankful for our Board Members and our Circuit Representatives. One of my goals this year is to see our membership rise. The FJAA's mission is: "To promote the general welfare, continuing education and professional development of its members." Our last conference in Charleston, South Carolina, was fabulous from start to finish! If you have not renewed your membership, please do! If you are not a member, I encourage you to join. There is a membership form provided in this newsletter. Please fill it out and send it to your Circuit Representative. I encourage you to make contact with your Circuit Rep, as they work hard for you and they will be happy to submit newsworthy items you share that can be printed in our quarterly newsletter.

The excitement for our 2016 Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota is rising! It will be held September 8th - 11th . Minneapolis is a beautiful city, known for its architecture, horticulture, international culinary traditions, museums, and tax-free shopping, which can be done at the mecca of shopping--the Mall of America and more! The Planning Committee is hard at work and it will prove to be an outstanding conference full of educational opportunities tailored exclusively to our unique professional duties! Details and registration information will be available to those who join the FJAA, so start filling out those membership forms and join us. It behooves you to become a member, as there is power in numbers and when issues come up our FJAA has a voice.

I hope you take time to read the articles in the newsletter. Our Board will continue to work together this year to bring you news and developments that affect us individually and as an organization.

All the best, Mary Ellen

CIRCUIT NEWS

A Poem from the President

My wish for all of you comes from a poem by D.Simone:

"May light always surround you;
Hope Kindle and rebound you.
May your hurts turn to healing;
Your heart embrace feeling.
May wounds become wisdom;
Every kindness a prism.
May laughter infect you;
Your passion resurrect you.
May goodness inspire
Your deepest desires.
Through all that you reach for,
May your arms never tire."



First Circuit Joan Ausman

First Circuit News - January 2016

Happy New Year to everyone - New England (and especially New Hampshire) is having a wonderfully mild winter (hope I didn't just jinx us!) and it won't be long and the flowers will be blooming and

the sun warming us again. Here in the First Circuit there is not much new to report this time. So, in place of news, I will take this opportunity to reach out to anyone interested in becoming the next First Circuit representative in 2017. After several years as the circuit rep., I have decided it's time to step down and pass the reigns. Please email me if you are interested (Joan_Ausman@nhd.uscourts.gov) and I can give you more information on what is entailed.

I promise to have some news to share next time!



Second Circuit *Janet Hansen*

News from around the Second Circuit:

Happy New Year to all!

District of Connecticut

On January 7, 2016, U.S. Marshal Joseph P. Faughnan was honored at a farewell party to commemorate his retirement the next day. U.S. Marshal Faughnan served for 5 years as U.S. Marshal. On the day of his retirement, the Court celebrated National Law Enforcement Day. At the New Haven, CT ceremony, Chief Judge Janet C. Hall recognized Marshal Faughnan for his 46 consecutive year career in law enforcement. He served on the CT State Police force for 22 years and was Chief of Police in Clinton, CT, for 19 years. Thank you Marshal Faughnan for all of your service! We wish you a long and fulfilling retirement!



District of Connecticut

On January 12, 2016, the Honorable Janet Bond Arterton, U.S. District Judge for the District of Connecticut, administered the oath of office to Magistrate Judge Robert A. Richardson. Judge Richardson was a partner at the New Haven, CT firm of Garrison, Levin-Epstein, Richardson, Fitzgerald and Pirotti, PC at the time he was appointed. Judge Richardson replaces Magistrate Judge Thomas P. Smith, who retired in June 2015. Congratulations to Judge Richardson on his appointment!



Photos courtesy of Ms. Robin Tabora, Clerk of the U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Alan H.W. Shiff retired on December 31, 2015 after 34 years of service. We send Judge Shiff our best wishes for a long and fruitful retirement!

Eastern District of New York:

After 40 years (yes, 40!) of federal service, Ms. Joan Newton, Judicial Assistant to Magistrate Judge Pohorelsky, retired on December 29, 2015. Joan worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs for 10 years, the United States Attorney's Office (EDNY) for 2 years, was secretary to the Clerk of Court and Chief Deputy Clerk for 10 years, served 2 years as Swing Pool Secretary for Judicial Officers, and then served 15 ½ years as a Judicial Assistant working with Judge Pohorelsky. Phew, she has had quite a career! In her retirement, Joan plans to spend more time with her family, travel, exercise, and do community work. We wish Joan all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for her many years of service! Enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

Western District of New York:

U.S. Magistrate Judge Leslie G. Foschio, and his Judicial Assistant, Sandra Wilson, are celebrating 25 years of service with the U.S. Courts! Sandra actually started working for Judge Foschio in 1984, but they both started with the court on February 1, 1991. She states that "time sure does go by quickly!" And how.... Congratulations to Judge Foschio and Sandra on their 25-year milestone!

MORE NEWS FROM THE SECOND CIRCUIT.....

Western District of New York:

The Western District of New York welcomes Colleen Demma as Judicial Assistant to United States District Judge Lawrence J. Vilardo, who was sworn in on October 29, 2015. Colleen formerly worked in the Clerk's Office. As soon as Colleen became a Judicial Assistant, she didn't hesitate to become a member of the FJAA! Welcome, Colleen! Congratulations and best wishes in your new position!!!

Court of Appeals:

On January 31, 2016, Maria (Terry) Papinaeau, Judicial Assistant to Judge Dennis Jacobs, will be retiring. Terry, as she is known to all, came to the Court of Appeals in 1999, after the partner she worked for at a law firm for 27 years passed away—she has been with Judge Jacobs ever since. Terry was treated to a surprise luncheon at Forlini's in Little Italy by her fellow Judicial Assistants on January 13, 2016 (picture below). In her spare time, Terry trains various breeds of dogs for dog shows (including her own!), has won numerous awards, and ultimately, became an official judge of dog shows. She has even appeared on "Big Ang's" show as a dog trainer a few years ago! At the luncheon, Terry was presented with a beautiful glass German Shepard from her colleagues—she will certainly be missed by all!

Terry is also the proud grandmother of two grandsons. In February, she will assume the position of part-time babysitter for them, where "the pay is just hugs and kisses, but worth it!" We wish Terry every happiness and good health in the next chapter of her life! Have a great time with the little ones!



Picture courtesy of Ann Pisacano,
Judicial Assistant to Judge Robert D. Sack.
Pictured from left to right: Judicial Assistants
Ann Pisacano, Dominique Welch, Cheryl Galsini, Jeanette Santos, Terry Papineau, Mary
Wieczorek, Sue Meyer, Joanne Falletta, Sharon
Volckhausen and Chris Corcoran.

That's about all the news for now.

The Second Circuit wishes everyone a healthy and happy 2016!

Janet F. Hansen

Judicial Assistant to Judge Jose A. Cabranes



THIRD Circuit Iris Liriano

2016 WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR



FOURTH Circuit
Barbara Barry



Fifth Circuit Penny Stautberg

I have worked for Judge Jerry E. Smith with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals since 1987. Before that I was a legal secretary for a number of years, worked on political campaigns, was a precinct chairman (which thankfully I can't do any more), and was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1986. I have been a member of FJAA almost since I came on board with Judge Smith, and was President in 1990. I really enjoy getting to know new members, and find the annual conventions a wonderful way to meet new people, reconnect with old friends, and network. I am 66 years old, am a widow, and have wonderful son, daughter-in-law, and 16 month old grandson. I look forward to serving you as your circuit representative.

2016 HOPE TO SEE YOU IN MINNESOTA



SEVENTH Circuit

Anne Wolf



SIXTH Circuit Suzanne Gammon

Sixth Circuit News - Suzanne Gammon

Let us tip our collective hat of appreciation to Kelly Kopf for her more than three years of service as our circuit representative. At the judicial conference this past fall, confidence in Kelly's talents was demonstrated by voting her into the position of president-elect of the FJAA. On a personal note, I want to express my gratitude for her guidance and assistance during my transition as your incoming circuit representative.

I would also like to thank the Sixth Circuit Judicial Assistants for allowing me this opportunity to serve as their representative in our organization. If you have any questions or concerns about our association or its mission, please contact me either by e-mail (suzanne_gammon@mied.uscourts.gov) or telephone (989-894-8810). I would be happy to encourage, coach or simply commiserate with each of you. If I don't have a satisfactory answer or solution, I will seek one out. I have some 43 years of experience in the legal field, with a little over 13 years in the federal courts. I am happy to report I rarely feel bored or under challenged. As you may have guessed, I am very proud to serve the federal courts, my fellow JAs, and in particular my judge, the Honorable Thomas L. Ludington.

A cyclical challenge for associations everywhere is membership enrollment and retention. I encourage every member of our circuit to not only renew their membership but to recruit one new member this year. Our prior president Stephanie Lawley's capstone paper, The Demise of Judicial Assistants, reports that the overall employment numbers for judicial assistants across the federal courts are shrinking. She sets out the unbiased observations for and against this trend. Inform your recruit that it is our Association that gives voice at the Administrative Office in Washington DC to the valuable contribution judicial assistants make to the judiciary. Our Association vigorously lobbies for our continued existence as a profession in the federal courts. Numbers matter, recruit a member this year!

As for news here in the Michigan Eastern District, the JAs ended the year on a high note, attending our annual Christmas luncheon meeting at Westin Book Cadillac's 24grille in downtown Detroit. At that meeting Donna Vinson, Judicial Assistant to then Chief Judge Gerald E. Rosen, passed the baton of leadership to Charlene Gill, Judicial Assistant to now Chief Judge Denise Page Hood. Productive conversation, delightful company and delicious cuisine were enjoyed by all!

A note from Donna Vinson, Michigan Eastern District

As the year 2015 came to an end so did the era of CJ Rosen. The new Chief for the Eastern District of Michigan is CJ Denise Page Hood. Her Judicial Assistant is Charlene Gill. I would like to congratulate Charlene in her new position and would encourage all the JA's to get to know hershe is a great gal (smile). I have enjoyed my time as CJ Assistant and now look forward to winding down working for a District Judge again. Thank you all, look forward to seeing everyone at the next JA Conference in Minneapolis/Minnesota.





EIGHTH Circuit

Lynn Magee

Here's an update from the Seven states that comprise the Fighth Circuit

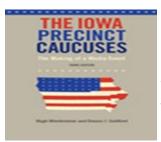
Arkansas

With the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference just a few months away (May 3-5, 2016), the Embassy Suites Hotel in Rogers is a positively beautiful venue.



Hon. John G. Roberts, Chief Justice of the United States, and Hon. Samuel A. Alito, Jr., Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, both plan to attend the conference as guests and speakers.

If you have any questions, or if your judge has not received information, please contact the Eight Circuit Executive's Office at JudConf@ca8.uscourts.gov, or by telephone at (314) 244-2600.



Iowa

With the Iowa caucus (for both parties) just days away, February 1st, we want you to know we're watching you. No pressure!! Just sayin.

Minnesota

As home of the 2016 FJAA Annual Conference, we know two things:

- 1. It will likely be warmer in September than it has been this week (below zero for highs); and
- 2. We will not fumble (Adrian Peterson) or miss the mark (Blair Walsh) in bringing you a well-executed Conference.

To all the Vikings fans: Did you see what Seahawks fans posted this week?

<u>Missouri</u>

The New Year also brought changes to those in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District. A new Chief District Judge, Hon. Rodney Sippel, began his seven-year term, succeeding Hon. Catherine Perry; Hon. Nannette Baker's term as Chief Magistrate Judge began, succeeding Hon. Thomas Mummert who retired after 27 years; and finally, Hon. Patricia Cohen was sworn in and has begun her work as a new Magistrate Judge.

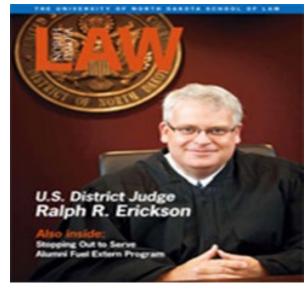
We have humbly watched the images while the highest flood stages ever recorded hit the Mississippi River basin. Our thoughts are with those who have been so deeply affected.

Nebraska

Selection of a new Magistrate Judge is underway to succeed Magistrate Judge Thomas Thalken, who will retire at the end of 2016. May the new Magistrate Judge be "Nebraska Nice."

North Dakota

The Hon. Ralph Erickson, Chief Judge of the District of North Dakota was featured in a UND School of Law article in November 2015, entitled "Judge Ralph Erickson, '84, Takes Lead role in Fight over Waters of the U.S. Rule."



http://law.und.edu/news/2015/11/erickson-us-waters.cfm

More News.....

The article opens by saying: "With the stroke of his pen, Ralph Erickson catapulted himself to the center of a decades long politically charged battle over the country's foremost water law. The little-known North Dakota federal district judge blocked the Obama administration's contentious Waters of the U.S. rule on August 28, hours before it was scheduled to go into effect."

It is a great story, and goes on to note that Judge Erickson was born in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, and grew up in Rugby, a town of fewer than 3,000 people.

Incidentally, the town of Rugby is the geographical center of North America. A rock obelisk, about 15 feet tall, flanked by poles flying the United States and Canadian flags marks the location.

South Dakota

The United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Dakota employs around 60 people, including nearly 30 Assistant United States Attorneys. In the Spring of 2015, Randolph Seiler assumed the role of Acting United States Attorney, after serving in the U.S. Attorney's office for 20 years. In October 2015, Mr. Seiler was nominated by the President as the 41st United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota and is awaiting confirmation by the United States Senate. Congratulations, Mr. Seiler, on your work in Indian country and in other areas throughout the District.



(Karen Labriola, Lynn Magee, Becky Baertsch at Annual Conference, Charleston)

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Conference: Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 8-11, 2016



NINTH CIDCUIT Julie I emm

Peckham Award Recognizes Individual Achievement

The 2015 recipient of the Robert F. Peckham Award for Excellence in Alternative Dispute Resolution is Debra Newman. Ms. Newman is a paralegal who serves as the judicial assistant in the chambers of Magistrate Judge Valerie Cooke, District of Nevada. The nomination form for Ms. Newman included letters from Chief District Judge Gloria M. Navarro,

Judge Cooke, and Dr. James Greiner at Harvard Law School, outlining her significant work in advancing the delivery of effective court-based ADR in Nevada.

The District of Nevada established a prisoner mediation pilot program in 2007. The program was designed to explore settlement of prisoner civil rights cases after the court completed the initial review orders in the cases. Ms. Newman laid the groundwork for the pilot program through compiling a report on the Section 1983 inmate litigation filings, organizing meetings with the Nevada Department of Corrections officials, and developing sample orders, FAQ sheets for inmates, and mediation protocols. The prisoner mediation program relies on volunteer attorney mediators, and Ms. Newman assisted in the recruitment and training of the attor-

neys to serve on a mediator roster. As part of the initial mediator training, Ms. Newman developed a manual for the mediators and a guide for judicial assistants on the mediation referral process. She also trained deputy court clerks in the mechanics of inmate mediation referrals.

The majority of inmate mediation sessions in the pilot program were convened by video conference. The inmate participated at the prison and the mediator, along with NDOC counsel, participated at the courthouse. Ms. Newman coordinated the video conference schedule with the prisons and the court. She also assisted in the development of post-mediation surveys for all mediation participants and tabulated the survey results. Statistics were gathered in settlement rates and the types of claims being settled. Ms. Newman also helped compile a Judges' Guide to Inmate Mediation for the District of Nevada that can be disseminated to other district courts.



In 2010, Judge Cooke contacted Dr. Greiner at Harvard about creating an effectiveness study of the prisoner mediation pilot program. Over the course of several months, Ms. Newman helped create the structure and forms for the study. She served as the liaison between the Clerk's Office and the researchers at Harvard, troubleshooting case-specific questions on mediation sessions and coordinating three-way video conferences in which the researchers observed mediation sessions. She updated forms and tracked internal statistics for the study.

As a result of the collaboration with NDOC on the prisoner mediation program, the District of Nevada began to hold quarterly meetings with the prisoner litigation stakeholders. Ms. Newman organizes the quarterly meetings, creates agendas, and gathers documents and current statistics. She participates in the meetings, providing practical suggestions on improving the program administration and coordination with the attorney's general correction law counsel.

When other district courts call to ask questions about creating their own prisoner mediation programs, Ms. Newman provides consultation, training, statistics and forms. She generously shares her experience with courts in designing and studying the effectiveness of their prisoner mediation programs.

Ms. Newman also served on a team that implemented a prisoner e-filing program in Nevada, traveling to the prison to meet with prison staff, train the law library staff and developing materials for inmates. She is helping with the expansion of the e-filing program to another prison. She also helps the District of Nevada administer its prisoner re-entry court program, including planning graduation ceremonies and organizing a luncheon for the participants.

The ADR Committee is pleased to recognize the efforts of excellent public servants like Debra Newman and applaud her outstanding work in the District of Nevada ADR programs.

Debra Newman previously served in the positions of secretary, vice-president and president (2008-9) of the FJAA. Her photo and this article were printed with permission from the Ninth Circuit's Winter 2016 ADR Newsletter.

TENTH CIRCUIT *I ynda Brown*

GREETINGS FROM THE TENTH CIRCUIT!

Happy New Year to everyone in 2016!! I am thankful for our current members and hope more people will join FJAA in 2016.

NEW MEXICO NEWS: Claudette Romero retired December 31 after almost 11 years as a Judicial Assistant to Circuit Judge Harris L. Hartz. Claudette is enjoying retirement now with her husband and family pets and is planning on taking trips in the near future. I am sure Claudette's routine has changed quite a bit, but she will get the hang of it soon!



Pictured from left to right: Rita Gallegos (Santa Fe) , Claudette Romero (Albuquerque), and Lynda Brown (Roswell)



Karen Baca - Judicial Assistant to Judge Harris L. Hartz (Albuquerque)

Karen Baca, a member of the FJAA, replaced Claudette on December 14. Karen was the Judicial Assistant to Chief Judge Christina Armijo at the United States District Court in New Mexico and prior to that worked at Sandia National Laboratories' legal division as a paralegal. Karen has big shoes to fill as Claudette was well-organized, conscientious, and efficient, but Claudette's organization has made Karen's transition so much easier. During training, Claudette and Karen discussed how similar their characteristics were and think the fit will be perfect.

2016 FJAA Annual Educational Conference

We are so excited to host the 2016 FJAA Annual Educational Conference in Minne-apolis/St. Paul on September 8 - 11, 2016. Minnesota is so beautiful during that time of year, with fall in the air! While you are here in September, the temperatures typically average around the mid-70's during the day and mid-50's at night. It is very comfortable!

The Committee is diligently working on another great program for everyone to enjoy. Some of the potential topics include: CM/ECF NextGen Preview and Panel Discussion; Terrorism and High Profile Trials by Senior Judge Michael Davis; Active Shooter Training by the District of Minnesota U.S. Marshal; a comparison of Word to WordPerfect; more on Community Outreach; and a presentation on the Kennedy Assassination by Chief Judge John R. Tunheim.

You will be staying right in the heart of downtown Minneapolis where you will find many good restaurants, shopping and entertainment all within walking distance. The Light Rail runs between Minneapolis and St. Paul so that you may travel effortlessly between our Twin Cities. St. Paul is our State Capitol and offers many historic sights, as well as the Science Museum and the Children's Museum.



And, let us not forget about the Mall of America!

The Light Rail will take you directly to the Mall of America from downtown Minneapolis and back again.

We can't wait to say "Welcome to Minnesota!"





CIRCUIT REDRESENTATIVES

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

1ST CIRCUIT JOAN AUSMAN

c/o Hon. Paul J. Barbadoro Warren B. Rudman United States Courthouse 55 Pleasant Street, Room 110 Concord, NH 03301 Ph: 603-226-7303

2^{ND} CIRCUIT & COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

JANET F. HANSEN

c/o Hon, Jose A. Cabranes U.S. Courthouse, #CH-133 141 Church Street New Haven, CT 06510 Ph: 203-867-8782

3RD CIRCUIT IRIS LIRIANO

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4TH CIRCUIT BARBARA BARRY

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5TH CIRCUIT PENNY STAUTBERG

c/o Hon. Jerry Edwin Smith Bob Casey U.S. Courthouse, Room 12621 515 Rusk Street Houston, TX 77002 Ph: 713-250-5101

6TH CIRCUIT SUZANNE GAMMON

c/o Hon. Thomas L. Ludington U.S. Courthouse 1000 Washington Ave Room 214 Bay City, MI 48706 Ph: 989-894-8810

7TH CIRCUIT ANNE M. WOLF

c/o Hon. James B. Zagel Everett McKinley Dirksen U.S. Courthouse 219 S. Dearborn, Room 2588 Chicago, IL 60604 Ph: 312-435-5713

8TH CIRCUIT LYNN MAGEE

c/o Hon. Paul A. Magnuson Warren E. Burger Federal Building 316 North Robert Street, Room 734 St. Paul, MN 55101 Ph: 651-848-1150

Go to www.fjaa.net for a complete list of officers, circuit representatives, committee memberships, and other great information.

9TH CIRCUIT JULIE LEMM

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10TH CIRCUIT LYNDA BROWN

c/o Hon. Bobby R. Baldock Joe Skeen Federal Building 500 N. Richardson Ave., Rm 167 Roswell, NM 88202 Ph: 575-625-2388

11TH CIRCUIT BARBARA LAY

c/o Hon. Gerald B. Tjoflat Byron Simpson U.S. Courthouse 300 North Hogan St., Ste 14-200 Jacksonville, FL 32202 Ph: 904-301-5670

FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS SHARON DEARE

c/o Hon. Douglas H. Ginsberg E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Courthouse 333 Constitution Ave., N.W. Room 5128 Washington, D.C. 20001 Ph: 202-216-7191

FJAA Committee Members Wanted:

The FJAA Bylaws list the Committees that work on issues related to FJAA business. The following committees need members who are willing to work telephonically during the next year: Bylaws, Audit, History & Archives, and Professional Development & Continuing Education (Scholarship).

Please consider volunteering for one of these and helping make a difference in the FJAA.

If you would consider serving on a standing committee with other FJAA Members, please contact Stephanie Lawley at stephanie lawley@akd.uscourts.gov.

A free one-year membership for the year 2016-2017 is available to all new JAs that are/were hired between September 1, 2015—September 1, 2016. This free one-year membership is available only to first-time FJAA members.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Kelly Branding AZ District / Christina Cavazos MI Western Dist Court / Tracy Young MI Eastern Dist Court c/o Hon. Roslyn O. Silver c/o Hon. Paul Lewis Maloney c/o Hon. Linda V. Parker.

2016 FJAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

FJAA membership dues (January 1 - December 31, 2016) are \$30.00. Retired members only: \$25 annually or \$100 lifetime membership.



Name:	Title:
Judge:	Court:
Judge Type:	Circuit:
Mailing Address:(court address if active, home address if	
Telephone:	E-Mail Address:
Birthday (mm/dd):	Renewal
Check if you are retired:	New Member
Date of Retirement:	Date of Hire as JA:
STANDING COMMITTEES:	

Annual Conference Audit **Budget and Finance**

By-Laws History and Archives Legislative

Long-Range Planning Membership Nominations/Elections

Public Relations/Newsletter Ways and Means Professional Development/Continuing Education

I am interested in working on the committee(s) selected above. I am interested in being a Circuit Representative for my Circuit.

MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE TO YOUR CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVE



EMAIL THIS FORM TO YOUR CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVE AND PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP VIA PAYPAL (To pay via PayPal you must create an account at www.paypal.com; then use the PayPal button on our website's home page.)

The Representative for your Circuit is:

To obtain additional information about the FJAA, please visit http://www.fjaa.net/FJAA/FJAA.html Membership renewals are due during the month of January. Keep our Association strong!