



OFFICERS

2018 - 2019

IN BRIEF
**FEDERAL JUDICIAL
ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION**

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Letter from the President

Cathy Gray

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HAPPY SUMMER, MY FRIENDS!

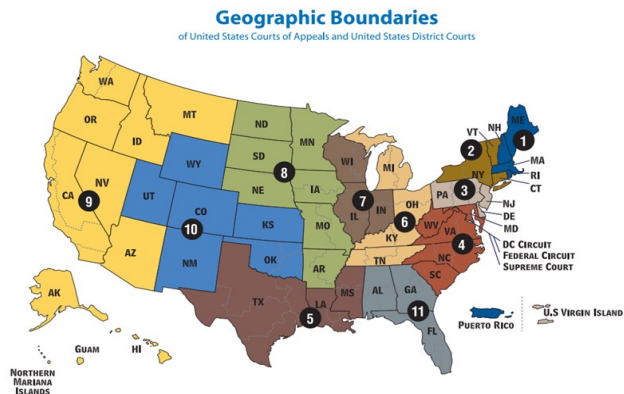
Here's a confession: I get very nervous about writing these articles for you. I take these articles, as well as my position, very seriously. Although I love chatting with each of you individually, writing and speaking in front of large groups makes me very anxious. As one example, I get very scared when asked to say a prayer in a group. In my head, I'm saying, "it's important to get this right, don't screw up!" What if I pause too long, what if I say the wrong thing, what if, what if! I feel the same way about writing these President articles for *In Brief*. I want to send out something positive, something worth reading. I know that I'm not perfect, probably nervously ramble on too long, and have and will make some mistakes, but I'm trying to get it right. I'm giving it my best, which is all that I can do, and I'm grateful to you and to my predecessors for being generous with your time, feedback, and assistance along the way. I recently began reading *Year of Yes* by Shonda Rhimes. You may recognize Shonda's name; she is the producer, creator, and head writer for *Grey's Anatomy*, *Scandal*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, etc. If you like to read, I highly recommend this book. *Year of Yes* is Shonda's memoir. The title of the book comes from Shonda's promise to approach her life with a "yes" attitude. I was about half way finished with *Year of Yes* and I realized how much of a "no" person I can be. Years ago, when I was Secretary then Vice President of FJAA, I told myself I would not run for re-election past Vice President because that would mean running for President-Elect and then PRESIDENT! I didn't want to put myself out there that way.

Lucky for me and my "no" attitude, after serving two years as Vice President and everyone else opting to stay on in their positions for one more year, I didn't have a position to run for, so I finished my VP term. Yippee! A few years later, I was asked to run for President and had to decline. My excuse – I had just started working for a new judge and just couldn't take on this active of a role in FJAA. Again, the answer was "NO." A couple of years later, I was again approached and asked to run for an office – President-Elect. "Let me think on it," I replied. I thought on it, talked to my family and judge, and finally came to the decision to say "YES

CIRCUIT NEWS

Letter from the President

Cathy Gray, Cont.



It was scary to say yes, but it was worth it, and here I am, well into this year and getting ready for the conference. This means I face another one of my fears – standing up in front of you and having to conduct myself as President. Although I have a nickname of “Chatty Cathy,” and love to gab, I only do so in situations where I feel comfortable, in small groups, not in front of all of you. But I’m going to take a deep breath and dive head first into the pool of my fears.

So I’ve done it! Set out my fear for all of you to know, and I imagine I am not alone in being afraid of public speaking, writing for large audiences, or saying yes to new experiences that will require us to do things that are uncomfortable, even if we know they will be meaningful and rewarding. Why have I said and shared all of this? Well, it’s because FJAA needs people to say yes. I would like to see FJAA continue to flourish and leave a strong legacy for future JAs. I think all of you are strong individuals who are clearly dedicated to FJAA and the judiciary, and I would like to encourage all of you to think about running for an officer or circuit representative position, or getting involved in one of our many committees. It takes many of us to keep our association on track. Please consider saying “yes” before you comfortably say “no.” For some of you, this may be stepping outside your comfort zone to say “YES!” I think you will find it very fulfilling and, in the end, you will be glad you had the experience. I know we are in the process of finalizing the 2019-2020 Board and Circuit Representative positions, but please keep this in mind for the future. Although it may not be possible to run for office or be a circuit representative right now, you can still say yes in other ways. You can say yes to renewing your FJAA membership or serving on a committee. You can also say yes to attending the annual conference. It may seem like a small thing, but the FJAA enters into contracts with hotels with commitments for room nights, as well as food and beverage minimums. We need to continue to keep our attendance numbers up in order to sustain our yearly conference. So, if you haven’t already registered for this year’s conference in Nashville, please say yes and do so soon! You won’t want to miss out on the fabulous City of Nashville, which is full of good music, great food, and a lot of Southern hospitality!

In closing, some of you may need to tell me to take a breath during the conference or give me an affirmative look that I can do this, but I trust you all to support me in my decision to say yes, and know that you can count on me to support you as you continue to say yes to FJAA now and in the future.

Looking forward to Nashville and seeing all of your warm smiles!

Cathy

**FJAA SCHOLARSHIP
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 8/31/2019**

The FJAA Scholarship Program is administered by the Professional Development & Continuing Education Committee (PDCEC). The program was formed to enable and assist members in good standing to pursue educational goals and professional development by providing additional job-enhancing knowledge and skills. Eligible requests include educational courses, seminars and workshops. **A scholarship up to \$750.00 will be awarded in September 2019.**

The course or training program for which the scholarship is used does not have to be applied toward a degree, but must be work- or career-related so that it benefits both the court and the individual recipient.

Please take advantage of the opportunities this excellent program offers. The scholarship recipient will be able to utilize the award to enhance skills and personal growth, which will in turn increase the recipient's value as an asset to the court. Why not apply for that job-related course you've always wanted to take, or that seminar that will help you brush up on vital skills? Be creative, think outside the box, and apply!

The application, along with additional scholarship information, can be found on the website at fjaa.net and must be **submitted to me by email** by August 31, 2019.

For other questions or inquiries, please contact:

Emily J. Smith, Scholarship Chair
731-421-9206
emily_smith@tnwd.uscourts.gov

U.S. District Court
111 S. Highland Ave., Room 444
Jackson, TN 38301



Shine your boots and dust off your cowboy hats; we're going to Nashville!! As most of you already know, the 2019 FJAA Education Conference will be held in the booming city of Nashville, TN, September 12-14 at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel.

Nashville, also known as Music City, is home to the Grand Ole Opry, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Ryman Auditorium, and so much more! My personal favorite are the honky-tonks on Lower Broadway. The neon lights and music streaming out onto the streets are an experience you won't want to miss! Rows of honky-tonks line the street, offering live music all day and night at no cover charge. Be sure to check out Nashville's FREE Live Music Guide App that will show you the who, what, when, where, and how of all live music playing in the Music City. See the links below to download the app for either Android or Apple devices. Also, make sure you check out www.visitmusiccity.com to see all Nashville has to offer.

Nashville's fame doesn't end with music. You'll want to try Nashville's famed Hot Chicken. Whether it is Hattie B's, Edley's Bar-B-Que, Party Fowl, Prince's Hot Chicken Shack, Pepperfire Hot Chicken, or 400 degrees, you haven't been to Nashville until you have tasted Nashville Hot Chicken.

Location aside, this year's conference is going to be fantastic! The robust lineup of sessions will prove to be informative, relative, and stimulating. Topics to be covered include: Evoucher; OSCAR Update; Legal Research and Advanced Legal Research; InfoWeb; Judges' Travel Tips & Tricks; Law Clerk Orientation and Case Management; Writing, Editing, and Proofreading; Active Shooter Training; and Outlook, OneNote, Skype.

Along with the astute and pertinent sessions, this conference is a signal opportunity to network, fellowship, and build companionship with the FJAA Membership. Each and every single member has something to offer, so why miss this chance to share and gain valuable knowledge from our cohorts?!

You can find additional information, including the full agenda and registration, at www.fjaa2019conference.com. If you haven't registered, please do so as soon as possible. The deadline to register is August 9, 2019.

Nashville's Free Live Music Guide App:

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.mobindustry.nashville>

App Store: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/nashville-live-music-guide/id441433439>

Sincerely,
Amy Robinson
Judicial Assistant to the
Honorable Bernice B. Donald
U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit



Nashville, Tennessee Conference Reminders

By Jennifer Hodge

The Nashville, TN conference is approximately two months away! Don't forget to register to attend the annual event. As you can see from Amy's article, the Conference Committee is working on a great education line up, but also want you to enjoy everything Nashville has to offer.

For those of you attending, I would like to encourage you to renew your FJAA membership while at the conference. This will save time, as well as the costs associated with snail mail. More importantly, it gets you added to the membership roster right away and an entry to the Early Bird Drawing during the conference.

Be sure to add to your packing check-list either a check, cash or debit/credit card to get this small, albeit, very important detail out of the way for the 2019-2020 membership renewals.

Also for those attending the Nashville Conference, I would like to remind each District that it is customary to bring a door prize. The door prize drawings are always so much fun. Just remember that most people attending will be traveling via airplane, so come up with something fun, unique and able to be transported in a suitcase.

I'm so excited about this years' conference, I can't wait to see you all there.

GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS HERE !!!

Our Annual FJAA Raffle will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2019

Winner need not be present

A packet of 12 tickets is \$10.00 or individual tickets are \$1.00 each

Circuit Representatives may contact Flay Sambrone-Metoyer to sell tickets prior to the conference. Prizes: Jewelry, leather goods, etc. **Grand prize: Apple Watch**



Wear your boots! Wear your bling! Wear both!

*Come in your jeans and boots or dressed to the nines with all your bling. We will be stepping lively at this year's closing banquet in Nashville. We are honored to present a live performance from the award-winning band, **NO TIME FLATT**. The five-member bluegrass band started in 2015 and is taking the music scene by storm with their own twist on the bluegrass genre. Their tight harmony and unique arrangements have secured them a place as the opening band for the legendary Vince Gill. They have won the Tennessee Music Awards, "Bluegrass Band of the Year" in 2017 and 2018, and are a 2019 nominee.*

The Boots and Bling event will be one you will not want to miss.

FIRST CIRCUIT— Christie Piche

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

By Christie Piche (formerly Christie Clifford)

REMEMBERING BRIAN D. HOWE

On Friday, April 19, 2019, the staff at the Gignoux Courthouse laid a stone in memory of Brian D. Howe. Brian passed away suddenly on August 8, 2017, at the age of 28 from an undiagnosed heart condition. At the time of Brian's death, Brian was a law clerk for Judge D. Brock Hornby in the U.S. District Court in Portland, Maine. Brian had also served as a judicial intern for Judge David Hurd in U.S. District Court in Utica. Brian held a firm belief and hope in the American legal system as a source for good and a safeguard of democracy. Brian will be remembered as a devoted friend and colleague with a keen intellect, a strong work ethic and a ready sense of humor.



CIVIL DISCOURSE AND DIFFICULT DECISIONS PROGRAM

The U.S. District Court for the District of Maine held its first “Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions” Program on Monday, May 20, 2019. Twenty-two students and their teacher from Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School attended the half-day program at the Edward T. Gignoux U.S. Courthouse in Portland.

The feedback from students who participated in the program was positive and enthusiastic. Students reported leaving the experience equipped with new tools to engage in civil discourse, including active listening, being respectful of others, and keeping an open mind when others express opinions that differ from one's own. The students also expressed their appreciation for the civil manner by which lawyers and judges address complex issues, resolve disputes, and uphold the rule of law.



Chief Judge Levy speaks at the
Power Act Event

THE POWER ACT EVENT

On May 21, 2019, The U.S. District Court for the District of Maine, in partnership with the Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project, the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, and the Maine Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, held its first public event pursuant to the Pro Bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018 (the “POWER Act”). The POWER Act was enacted by Congress with the goal of having every U.S. District Court host an event each year to encourage lawyers to provide pro bono assistance to victims of domestic violence. A panel of volunteers discussed Maine's acute need for pro bono representation for victims of domestic violence and the opportunities for attorneys to provide representation in protection from abuse (“PFA”) proceedings and as *guardians ad litem* for children affected by domestic violence. The panel also discussed the profound and positive impact legal representation can have for victims of domestic violence, their families, and for communities as a whole, as well as the challenges and rewards of providing such representation.

FIRST CIRCUIT— Christie Piche, Cont.



The Hon. Lance E. Walker, U.S. District Judge for the District of Maine, received the 2019 L. Kinvin Wroth Award during the University of Maine School of Law’s commencement ceremony on May 25.

The award, named after former Dean L. Kinvin Wroth, honors a Maine Law graduate who has achieved distinction in his or her career by contributing as a leader – locally, nationally or globally – and who has helped advance his or her alma mater.

“Judge Walker represents so well the value of lawyers and the value of Maine Law to this state,” said Danielle Conway, dean and professor of Maine Law. “His judicial service at the state level and his service on the federal bench exemplify the importance of home grown talent in furtherance of the rule of law in Maine,” continued Conway. “He has already inspired members of the Class of 2019 to seek and obtain federal and state clerkship opportunities to launch their legal careers right



Finally, we have a great group of Judicial Assistants attending the Nashville Conference and we will be sure to once again bring a “Maine” themed door prize.



SECOND CIRCUIT—Janet Hansen



NEWS FROM AROUND THE SECOND CIRCUIT:

District Court of Connecticut

Judge Ellen Bree Burns, a beloved member of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut for 37 years, died at age 95 on June 3, 2019. Revered by many for her fairness and patience, Judge Burns was a trailblazer and a legend. She was the first woman to be appointed a judge to the state bench in Connecticut, the first woman to be named to the federal bench in Connecticut, the first woman to serve as Chief Judge of the District of Connecticut, and the longest serving woman in District of Connecticut history.

Nominated by President Jimmy Carter, Judge Burns was appointed to serve as a federal judge on May 17, 1978. She assumed the role of Chief Judge of the District on November 18, 1988, serving in that capacity until she took senior status on September 1, 1992. Over the course of nearly four decades, Judge Burns presided over hundreds of cases, both criminal and civil. She retired from the bench at age 91 on March 31, 2015.

Born in New Haven on December 13, 1923, and raised in Hamden, Judge Burns received a Bachelor of Arts degree, *summa cum laude*, from Albertus Magnus College in 1944 and an LL.B. degree from Yale Law School in 1947. She was one of only three women in her law school class. Judge Burns served as Director of Legislative Legal Services of the Legislative Commissioners' Office for 24 years, from 1949 to 1973, helping to shape the Connecticut General Statutes. In 1973, Governor Thomas J. Meskill, Jr. appointed her to the state Circuit Court, making her the first female state judge in Connecticut, and elevated her to the Court of Common Pleas the following year. Just two years later, Governor Ella T. Grasso appointed Judge Burns to the Superior Court.

Chief Judge Stefan R. Underhill said, "My colleagues and I are deeply saddened by the passing of Judge Burns, our dear friend and beloved colleague. Judge Burns was a kind and brilliant jurist, and the people of our state were enriched by her service, temperament, and commitment to justice. Her tremendous legacy will forever inspire judges and lawyers to work for greater fairness in our legal system."

Judge Burns is remembered as being incredibly smart, patient, humble, caring and sensitive to the needs of all individuals who appeared before her. She was noted for her ability to let attorneys try their case, while she controlled the courtroom to ensure collegiality and fairness.

Judge José A. Cabranes, who serves on the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, said Judge Burns was "A wonderful colleague and one who was justifiably respected for her exemplary life and career."

SECOND CIRCUIT—Janet Hansen, cont.

District Court of Connecticut

Although she enjoyed an illustrious judicial career spanning 42 years, and received numerous awards recognizing her contributions to the legal profession, Judge Burns once remarked that what she was most proud of was her three children, who are all lawyers. During an interview before her retirement, when asked whether there was anything she was particularly proud of when she looked back at her career, Judge Burns was quoted as saying, “I hope that I have done a good job. I hope that I have made the right decisions. I just hope that people feel that I have done a good job for them, and that I fulfilled the responsibilities of the job in an appropriate way.”

Recalled U.S. Magistrate Judge Joan G. Margolis, who served as one of Judge Burns’ first law clerks, said, “For all of us female attorneys and judges, she has always been a stellar role model, professionally and personally. We have all tried to aspire to follow in her footsteps, as best we can.”

During her lifetime, Judge Burn received numerous prestigious awards, including: the Connecticut Bar Association Award for Service to the Bar and Legislature in 1971; the Judiciary Award from the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association in 1978; the Judiciary Award of the Connecticut Bar Association in 1987; and the Raymond E. Baldwin Public Service Award of the Bridgeport School of Law at Quinnipiac College (as it was called) in 1992. Judge Burns was a trustee of Albertus Magnus College, and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Connecticut Bar Foundation; she was also a member of the New Haven County Bar Association, the Connecticut Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.

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(The above “Press Release” was provided by Ms. Robin Tabora, Clerk of the U.S. District Court)

SECOND CIRCUIT—Janet Hansen, cont.

Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals has two new judges, Judge Joseph F. Bianco and Michael H. Park. Both judges were commissioned on May 13, 2019. Their public inductions are being planned for the near future.

At the time of his appointment, Judge Bianco was serving as a United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of New York. He was appointed to the bench by President George W. Bush in January 2006. Judge Bianco is a graduate of Georgetown University and Columbia Law School. After law school, Judge Bianco served as a law clerk to Judge Peter K. Leisure of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. He served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York, and subsequently rose to Deputy Chief, and then Chief, of the organized crime and terrorism unit. He was in private practice in the litigation department at Debevoise & Plimpton when he returned to the United States Department of Justice as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Division, Washington, DC, which is where he worked until his appointment to the bench.

Judge Bianco has presided over many high profile cases to date—most notably the cases involving the MS-13 gang members on Long Island (for those unfamiliar with the MS-13 gang, they are a very violent group). Judge Bianco also handled a case involving a Levittown coin dealer, Joseph Romano, who was convicted in a \$19 million coin fraud case and subsequently sentenced to serve 15 years in prison. Judge Bianco then became a target of a murder-for-hire plot! Mr. Romano was convicted of hiring two hit men to decapitate the Judge and a prosecutor, and now has been sentenced to life in prison.

At the time of his appointment Judge Michael H. Park was a partner in the New York City office of Consovoy McCarthy Park, PLLC. Judge Park is a graduate of Princeton University and Yale Law School. After law school, Judge Park served as a law clerk to then-Judge Samuel A. Alito of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Following his clerkship, he became an associate in the New York City office of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr. He later was an attorney-advisor in the United States Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel, when he accepted a clerkship with Justice Samuel A. Alito of the Supreme Court of the United States. Following that clerkship, he was counsel and then a partner at Dechert. In 2015, he was a named partner in Consovoy where he was working until his appointment. Judge Park is also an adjunct professor at the Antonin Scalia Law School of George Mason University.

We send a warm welcome to Judge Bianco and Judge Park!

The Court of Appeals also has two new senior judges: Judge Dennis Jacobs (as of May 31, 2019) and Judge Christopher F. Droney (as of June 30, 2019) have assumed senior status. We thank both Judges for their years of active service and wish them all the best as “seniors!”

* * *

SECOND CIRCUIT—Janet Hansen, cont.

This Summer, the Court of Appeals will be hosting a Summer Teachers Institute at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse, 40 Foley Square, New York, NY.

The curriculum for the five-day Summer Teachers Institute will be based on the civil education program—Project Citizen—whereby students engage in research and design of public policy in their communities. Students identify a public policy issue, research alternative policies, create and propose their own solution to the problem and design an action plan to implement their proposal which usually involves government action either through the Executive or the Legislative branch of government.

The goal of this year's Summer Teachers Institute is to “teach-the-teachers” how to teach Project Citizen to their students. The program would include several substantive sessions on topics such as the Separation of Powers among our three branches of government, an in-depth overview of the legislative branches with regard to the powers of the legislative branch, a library labs session on how to research public policy issues, interpretation of legislative statutes and regulations, executive orders and the rule-making authority of the Executive Branch, and an overview of public policy. Teacher-participants would select a topic, research it, propose a solution and present it to a panel of judges on the final day.

On the last day of the five-day Institute, the teachers will present their Project Citizen proposals to a panel of three federal judges for review and critique. There will also be a closing reception and ceremony to conclude the program.

* * *

On another note, as many of you know I have been serving as the FJAA Second Circuit representative for many years. I have decided it is time for me to step aside and to pass the torch to someone new. As such, this will be my last entry in the FJAA Newsletter. It truly has been an honor and a privilege to serve as a representative for my peers, and for this great organization. I shall treasure all of the friends and acquaintances made along the way, and I look forward to seeing you at future conferences!

I am happy to announce that Ms. Samantha Gencarello, Judicial Assistant to Judge Loretta Preska of the United States District Court of the Southern District of New York, has agreed to be my replacement. I know Samantha will be a fabulous FJAA representative and the Second Circuit will be in good hands! Please extend a hearty welcome to her once she is confirmed.

* * *

Well, that's about all the news we have for now. We wish everyone a very happy, healthy and FUN Summer!

All the best,

Janet F. Hansen

Judicial Assistant to Judge José A. Cabranes



THIRD CIRCUIT—Iris Liriano

During the Spring, a filming production company came out looking for some talent in the City of Newark for the upcoming Sopranos movie. Thousands of fans of the Sopranos show lined up to get a chance at starring in the movie which will be out next year. Some of the fans, young and old, were dressed up with wardrobe of the 70's and some who were interviewed even spoke of having known about the Mafia in that era. After the hundreds of extras were selected, the filming production had some streets closed off to stage the area for the film the week of May 7-11. I decided to take a walk to the filming area during my lunch hour. There was an antique police car and a fire truck parked on the street. Businesses' storefronts were changed to reflect the name of the store back in the 70's. Prices posted of food, clothing and furniture on the storefront window were very inexpensive but again we are talking the 70's. One of the businesses' storefront glass was actually plastic but when you see a movie it looks like real shattered glass. The street was staged as a time that the riots occurred in the City of Newark in the '70's with debris such as clothing, garbage and pieces of furniture. I have never seen a filming take place and was amazed at the amount of personnel and equipment it takes to shoot a scene. I am looking forward to seeing the Sopranos movie next year and hoping to see if that scene that was shot during my lunch hour makes the movie.



THIRD CIRCUIT—Iris Liriano, Cont.

Chief Judge, Jose L. Linares for the District of New Jersey has decided to retire in May 2019. Judge Linares was the 16th Chief Judge and after serving the Court for approximately 20 years has decided to return to private practice. Judge Linares is the first Cuban-born Chief Judge and is the first Hispanic Chief Judge. The Court held a special event commemorating Judge Linares tenure with the Court and proceeded to ask him some questions. Judge Linares commented on Court's diversity and the Court's outreach to the community as being the changes he saw as Chief Judge. During his tenure, he talked about the Court's diversity reflecting the first Hispanic Chief Judge and Chief of Probation, first female Chief of Pretrial, the first Hispanic U.S. Marshal, the first Hispanic female Magistrate Judge who is now a District Court Judge, and two Asian descent Magistrate Judges. Judge Linares spoke highly of the court personnel and their professionalism, especially during the government shutdown. Also, the ways the Court has reached out to the community, the judicial vacancies and the contributions the Senior Judges have made to our Court.

One last event was held for the Hon. Jose L. Linares before he commenced his new role a partner for McCarter & English. A portrait presentation was held on May 20, 2019 in the Frank L. Lautenberg U.S. Post Office & Courthouse in Newark, NJ. His successor, Chief Judge Freda L. Wolfson presided over the event as this was her first official ceremonial role. Court family, former law clerks, and the Judge's family gathered to witness the unveiling of the Judge's portrait. Former law clerk Hector D. Ruiz, Esq. was the master of ceremonies and the Judge's son, Joe and daughter, Megan, whom are practicing attorneys gave warm remarks. Judge Linares concluded the event by touching on the portrait's background, his Cuban heritage, the Bill of Rights and the importance of family. We wish Judge Linares the very best in his next milestone.



Hon. Jose L. Linares and his wife next to his portrait



THIRD CIRCUIT—Iris Liriano, Cont.



The U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey has a new Chief Judge – Hon. Freda L. Wolfson. A “Passing down the Gavel” celebration was held on May 23, 2019, where the Hon. Jose L. Linares, former Chief Judge, presented Judge Wolfson with an actual gavel. This celebration is a tradition where the current Chief Judge passes down the gavel to his successor as to formally acknowledge the new Chief Judge for the District of New Jersey. During the ceremony, Judge Wolfson spoke so eloquently on her predecessors who served as Chief Judge during her tenure. She touched on the ways her predecessors were the first in a given category and she was actually thrilled to be the first Jewish Chief Judge. We congratulate Judge Wolfson as she takes on her new role as Chief Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Chief Judge Wolfson holding the gavel



Hon. John W. Bissell, Retired, Hon. Garrett E. Brown, Jr., Retired, Hon. Jose L. Linares and Hon. Freda L. Wolfson

Have a Happy Summer!

Iris

FOURTH CIRCUIT —- Lena Tapscott

District of Maryland is chiming in . . .



The Passing of the Honorable Roger W. Titus

The District of Maryland is mourning the loss of a great jurist. The Honorable Roger W. Titus passed away on Sunday, March 3, 2019, after a courageous battle with liposarcoma. Judge Titus was commissioned as a U.S. District Judge on November 17, 2003. He served in the Court's Southern Division at the Greenbelt courthouse and was on active status until January 17, 2014. Judge Titus continued service on senior status until his death. Judge Titus was a former president of the Maryland State Bar Association.



Stop the Bleed Training

Both divisions of the District of Maryland participated in "Stop the Bleed" training. Stop the Bleed is a national awareness campaign and call-to-action. Stop the Bleed is intended to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. The training sessions were well attended by judges and courthouse staff.

Judge Theodore D. Chuang and others learn techniques to be of assistance in an emergency

District of North Carolina . . .

Please join us in welcoming the Honorable Kenneth D. Bell, Jr. to the NCWD bench. Judge Bell was sworn in June 12, 2019 in Asheville, NC, and his office will be located in the Charlotte courthouse.

Fifth Circuit News

HaPpY BiRThDaY To YoU!!...

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

5th – Desiree Sillas
10th – Jennifer Graig
13th – Belinda Saenz
23rd – Gina Rogers

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

1st – Sharon Johnson
19th – Karen McClelland
21st – Paige Lessor
22nd – Cindy Odom
23rd – Linda Henshaw
31st – Nereida Perez

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

1st – Christine Abadie
3rd – Penny Stautberg
7th – Susan Barrios
8th – Sandra Flores
16th – Lynda Dupre

Employment Anniversaries:

JULY:

17 Yrs – Adalia Mora
8 Yrs – Nereida Perez
5 Yrs – Phyllis Simmons
1 Yr – Becky Greenup
1 Yr -- Lauren Webster

AUGUST:

19 Yrs – Jenny Rudolph
18 Yrs – Gina Rogers
14 Yrs – Pam Wood
4 Yrs – Karen Ballard
3 Yrs – Lisa Wallace

SEPTEMBER:

23 Yrs – Dwendy Pennell
16 Yrs – Sandra Flores
1 Yr – Lynda Dupre

**WELCOME TO THE FIFTH CIRCUIT;
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!**



Christine Abadie, Circuit Representative

U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGES:

- Judge David S. Morales, SDTX – Arlene Rodriguez, CM
- Judge J. Campbell Barker, EDTX – Nicole Cadenhead, CRD, JA
- Judge Michael J. Truncale, EDTX – Karen McClelland, JA
- Judge Wendy Vitter, EDLA – Marie Firmin, JA

U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGES:

- Judge Susan J. Hightower, WDTX

U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGES:

- Judge Stephen D. Wheelis, WDLA – Jennifer Sues, JA

FIFTH CIRCUIT WELCOMES ITS NEW MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION.

Kelly Brossett, EDLA – Mag. Judge Dana Douglas

Dianna D. Davis, NDTX – Mag. Judge D. Gordon Bryant

Lynda Dupre, WDLA – Judge Robert Summerhays

Barbara Ewing, WDLA – Judge Michael Juneau

Jennifer Graig, NDTX – Judge Karen Gren Scholer

Rebecca Greenup, COA – Cir. Judge Patrick Higginbotham

Gretchen Heldner, EDLA – Judge Barry W. Ashe

Paige Lessor, NDTX – Mg. Judge Hal R. Ray, Jr.

Brandy Lemelle Route, MDLA – Mag. Erin Wilder-Doomes

Karen McClelland, EDTX – Judge Michael J. Truncale

Belinda Saenz, EDTX – David A. O’Toole, Clerk of Court

Desiree Sillas, COA – Cir. Judge Thomas Reavley

Adria Wallace, COA – Cir. Judge Catharina Haynes

Lauren Webster, TXSD – Judge Andrew S. Hanen

WE ARE GLAD YOU JOINED US!

Fifth Circuit's “Judicial Spotlight”

Sure – you can Google their names, but how much do you really know about them? Here is our Multi-Question Interview Series to help you get to know a little bit more about our wonderful Judges within the Fifth Circuit.

JUDGE MICHAEL J. TRUNCALE

DISTRICT JUDGE, EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Assumed Office May 16, 2019



Early riser or night owl?

Both.

If you weren't a judge, what would you like to be?

If I could play the cello like YoYo Ma, I'd be a professional cellist. Considering the odds of that happening, I am thankful for a lifetime judicial commission.

On a relaxing Sunday, what would be your ideal thing to do?

Relaxing by the pool with my family.

Dessert or no dessert?

Do you really have to ask?

Sweet tooth or salt-a-holic?

Sweet tooth and salt-a-holic.

Kale or “No way!”?

Occasionally.

Favorite flavor of ice cream?

I have never refused a bowl of ice cream on the basis of flavor. Actually, I have never refused a bowl of ice cream!

Favorite pet?

Cocker Spaniel.

Favorite kind of food?

I love all food, except liver. I even like anchovies and sardines on my pizza.

Favorite book?

I enjoy reading biographies or books on theology.

Favorite movie?

Sargent York, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and my latest favorite, *Bernie* (a must for anyone practicing in the Eastern District of Texas).

Favorite hobby?

Playing the cello, cycling, and working in the yard.

Favorite kind of music?

The greatest hits of the past 1,000 years, with a particular interest in the late-Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical Periods.

Favorite vacation spot?

Europe.

Favorite sports team?

Houston Astros.

MARIE FIRMIN RETURNS!



MARIE FIRMIN, WHO YOU MAY RECALL WAS THE FORMER JUDICIAL ASSISTANT TO THE NOW RETIRED MAG. SALLY SHUSHAN, RECENTLY ACCEPTED THE JUDICIAL ASSISTANT POSITION FOR JUDGE WENDY VITTER, WHO WAS SWORN IN AS DISTRICT JUDGE IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA ON MAY 29, 2019.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT WE MISSED HER, BUT THE REALITY IS SHE NEVER LEFT US. MARIE CONTINUED TO BE A FIXTURE IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA AS THE ASSISTANT JURY ADMINISTRATOR. SHE IS ALSO ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT WHO SPEARHEADED MANY ACTIVITIES FOR HER CO-WORKERS AND MANY ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT OF THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY.

CONGRATULATIONS! WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK, MARIE, AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR.

CHEERS!

Recipe Corner

Easy Recipes for the Busy Lifestyle

Quick & Cheap Hamburger Soup

By Phyllis Simmons

1 lb. ground beef	1 can green beans (drained)
1 can whole kernel corn (drained)	1 can sliced carrots (drained)
1 can sliced potatoes (drained)	1 can sweet peas (drained)
1 can Ro-Tel Tomatoes (your desired heat)	1 can tomato sauce
1 stalk of chopped celery	1 cup water
2 tbsp. onion powder	1 tbsp. garlic powder
2 tbsp. Accent	Salt and Pepper to taste

In Dutch oven, brown ground meat and drain fat. Return to pot and add all of the vegetables and water. Season accordingly. Bring to a boil and lower heat to medium-high and let simmer for 20 minutes. Serve hot with crackers, bread, or cornbread. Bon Appetit!

Substitutions: *Fresh or frozen vegetables for canned, takes longer to prepare and cook but just as tasty.*

Ground turkey for beef and add 1 pack of Lipton Beefy Onion soup mix and delete the onion powder (if you prefer). Same flavor—less calories.

The more we share, the more you know....

---Ink---

You are at work and get ink on your clothes. You think another piece of clothing ruined. Ink ruins everything, right... Or does it?

Ink does not ruin everything. A secret to getting ink out of clothes, off your sofa or off other items is hairspray. That's correct. Put some hairspray on the ink and watch the ink dissipate before your eyes-- than wash or wipe off as usual.

This rule also applies to Sharpie markers. After my granddaughter took a Sharpie to a white wooden table at the house we were renting on vacation, everyone frantically tried to get the Sharpie off out of fear we would lose our rental deposit. Nothing worked. We got some hairspray and within one minute, the Sharpie disappeared. ...And we got our deposit back!

SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge

USDC - MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW COURTHOUSE

On a gorgeous Friday in late September, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the site where the new federal courthouse in Nashville, TN will be built. The new courthouse will be named in honor of former Senator Fred D. Thompson. Judge Aleta Trauger, the Courthouse Project Judge, led the ceremony with remarks by Chief Judge Waverly Crenshaw, Senator Lamar Alexander, Representative Jim Cooper, Patrick Burke (architect), Brian Stern (GSA Deputy Regional Administrator), Judge Chip Campbell, and Fred D. Thompson, Jr. The building will contain 276,000 gross square feet on a 4-acre site, with six floors above ground and one floor below ground. It will contain six district judge courtrooms, two magistrate judge courtrooms, and eleven chambers. The U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the office of the U.S. Attorney also will be located in the building. The new courthouse will be completed in the Spring of 2021.



SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge, cont.

USDC – Middle District of Tennessee Announces New Clerk of Court



KIRK DAVIES

Chief District Judge Waverly D. Crenshaw Jr. of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee has announced Kirk Davies has been named Clerk of Court.

Davies will begin his role May 20.

Davies most recently led the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies, which serves as the U.S. Department of Defense's primary source for international legal education, training and rule of law programs. He oversaw a staff of 40 and managed a \$9 million budget at the Institute's Newport, Rhode Island, location.

Entering the U.S. Air Force as a judge advocate almost 30 years ago, Davies previously was commandant of the Air Force Judge Advocate General's School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. Other positions included deputy staff judge advocate for U.S. Air Forces in Europe – Air Forces Africa at Ramstein Air Base in Germany; staff judge advocate at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan; and executive officer, Office of the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters Air Force at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Davies holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Utah, where he also earned a Juris Doctor degree. He later received a Master of Law degree at the Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia, and a Master of Science degree, National Resource Strategy at The Eisenhower School in Washington, D.C.

“Mr. Davies will play a key leadership role on our team, communicating effectively and ensuring the docket is managed efficiently,” Crenshaw said in the release. “He has had an exemplary career in the U.S. Air Force and brings with him extensive legal and management experience. My fellow judges and I are confident that his professionalism and strong character will serve the bench, bar and public well.”

SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge, cont.

Jon A. York Sworn in as United States Magistrate Judge

Submitted by Jennifer Hodge

The United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee is pleased to announce that Jon A. York took the Oath of Office in a private ceremony March 8, 2019, to serve as a magistrate judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. He was appointed by the District Court to fill the position left vacant by Magistrate Judge Edward G. Bryant, who retired in February. His official duties commenced on March 18, 2019.

Magistrate Judge York received his law degree from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in 2003 and his Bachelor of Arts degree from Lambuth University in 1997. He was a member of the firm of Pentecost, Glenn, Mauldin & York, PLLC, where he was a civil and criminal litigator. Magistrate Judge York also served as a law clerk to U.S. District Judge James D. Todd from 2003-2004. Magistrate Judge York is married to Mrs. Felica York and they have two sons.

SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge, cont.

Michigan- Western District

By Christina Cavazos

Big changes are happening in the Western District of Michigan this year. We recently said farewell to our beloved Magistrate Judge Timothy Greeley and hello to Magistrate Judge Maarten Vermaat.

An excerpt from the official press release:

***“APPOINTMENT OF MAARTEN VERMAAT AS
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE***

The United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan is pleased to announce the appointment of Maarten Vermaat as its newest Magistrate Judge. Mr. Vermaat will fill the position opened by the retirement of Magistrate Judge Timothy P. Greeley after more than 30 years of distinguished service. The appointment is based in Marquette and effective March 15, 2019.

In reflecting on the transition, the Chief Judge of the District, Robert J. Jonker, commented: “Judge Greeley has served the District with such uncommon skill and dedication over the years that we will never be able to truly replace him. But Maarten Vermaat will be a worthy successor. Maarten brings a wealth of leadership experience, a deep record of achievement in the law and a fresh level of enthusiasm. Plus, he genuinely loves living in our Northern Division. We are eager to welcome him to our bench.”

Mr. Vermaat was born and raised in Beloit, Wisconsin, the son of first generation Dutch immigrants. In 1984, he graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. Mr. Vermaat rose to the rank of Major during his more than twelve years of active service in aviation, earning the Air Medal for distinguished combat service. After more than twelve years with the United States Marine Corps Reserve, Mr. Vermaat retired from military service in 2009 with the rank of Colonel.

Mr. Vermaat earned his Juris Doctor degree from Yale Law School in 1999. He began his legal career clerking for Chief Judge Robert G. Coats of the Alaska Court of Appeals. He then served as an Assistant District Attorney in Anchorage, Alaska, and later joined the law firm of Dorsey & Whitney in the same city. For the past 15 years, Mr. Vermaat has been serving in the Western District of Michigan as an Assistant United States Attorney. He is active in the Federal Bar Association. He lives with his wife and their two sons in Marquette.”- MIWD

SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Neva Kanelos



Summer is here! I realize that the circuits and courts arrange their court schedules a little differently, but at the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, summer is a time to catch up on pending cases, clean out files, and take a vacation.

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals schedules court approximately 125 days each year, depending on the volume of filings, but generally 125 days. Each active judge and each senior judge working at 100% usually serves on thirty-four panels, and judges sit on panels hearing six cases one or two days per week. Panels of three change daily. The court holds short argument days for simpler issues hearing nine cases per day; and again, the number of short argument days vary according to the number of filings. The Seventh Circuit schedules argument and recess weeks for the calendar year, but the largest number of recess weeks occur during the summer months.

So, my summer will be devoted to not only working on pending cases and cleaning out files, but as I mentioned, taking a vacation. This year I'll go to Brazil!

Neva Kanelos, Judicial Assistant, U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, Hon. Daniel A. Manion

News from the Western District of Wisconsin

The Western District has had one trial after another for the past few months. Criminal, civil, jury trials, bench trials -- it has been constant. We're not quite sure why we haven't had a break in more than two months, but we (and especially our court reporters and jury clerk) are ready for a week without a trial. Judge Conley has even taken three different jury trials from Judge Peterson, so that they did not need to be rescheduled. In other news, our court-rooms are getting technology upgrades, putting one courtroom out of commission for two months at a time while the upgrade is happening. This can make scheduling interesting at times.

Melissa Hardin, Judicial Assistant, U.S. District Court, WD-WI, Hon. William M. Conley

Please Welcome New Members to the Federal Judicial Assistants Association, Seventh Circuit

Lindsay Franklin, Judicial Legal Assistant, Judge Brady, U.S. District Court, ND-IN, Fort Wayne, IN

I am the Judicial Assistant for Judge Holly Brady. I joined the Court in April 2019. Prior to joining the Judge in chambers, I worked as her assistant for the law firm of Haller & Colvin. I have worked with Judge Brady since 2003. I am thankful for the opportunity to continue my journey with her.

My husband, Brad, and I are busy raising three daughters, who are in high school, middle school and elementary. All three are very involved with cheerleading, summer softball, and 4-H. We enjoy taking care of our horses and riding whenever possible and spending time with our friends and family. We're not sure what we would do without the crazy busy schedules.

Colleen Quirk, Judicial Assistant, Judge Perhach, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, ED-WI, Milwaukee, WI

Prior to taking this position on May 6, 2019, I worked for 24 years at a Creditors' Rights law firm in Wisconsin. I managed the firm's Loan Resolution Department, which dealt with complex litigation in foreclosure, bankruptcy and eviction matters, as well as mediation and manufactured housing replevin. My experience with the Court thus far has been exceedingly positive. I am enjoying this new role immensely!

SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Neva Kanelos, Cont.

Introduction to the Bluebook

By: Neva Kanelos

(Assistant to the Hon. Daniel A. Manion, U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit)

Judicial Assistants and Secretaries can develop and offer valuable skills to assist law clerks and judges. One needed skill is to not only proofread opinions and orders for spelling and grammar errors, but to recognize, understand, and edit citation form.

Various types of citation manuals include: *The Bluebook* (compiled by the editors of the Columbia Law Review, the Harvard Law Review, the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, and the Yale Law Journal), *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation*, formerly known as the *ALWD Citation Manual* (produced by the Association of Legal Writing Directors and Coleen M. Barger, William H. Bowen School of Law, University of Arkansas Little Rock), the *Universal Citation Guide* (by the American Association of Law Libraries), *The Maroon Book* (published by the University of Chicago), and various state publications. Even though some may think *The Bluebook* has met its match with the *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation*, *The Bluebook* seems to maintain its dominant authority. At least in my experience working for the Seventh Circuit, it's the default with limited exceptions. Rule BT2.1 (*Bluebook's* Bluepages Tables, pp. 30 – 45) provides cites that can be accessed through Westlaw and federal court web sites regarding additional jurisdiction-specific citation rules. Keep in mind that “whenever those local rules differ from *Bluebook* rules, the local rules take precedence.” Alan L. Dworsky, *Users Guide to The Bluebook* (revised for the 20th edition) (2015).

You may find the 500+ pages in the 20th edition of *The Bluebook* overwhelming, but as Judicial Assistants and Secretaries, our focus will be on approximately one-third of the manual. It's set up as two books in one; the Whitepages for writers of law review articles and treatises, and the Bluepages for legal practitioners (including judges, lawyers, law students, judicial assistants, legal secretaries, and paralegals). This doesn't mean that legal practitioners don't use the Whitepages, but they primarily refer to the Bluepages and various tables that govern citation form. The Bluepages are actually a shorter version of the Whitepages, and there will be times when one must consult the Whitepages for more details. But be careful to adjust or modify material you use from the Whitepages to follow the specific rules set out for court documents and legal memoranda.

To begin, take a look at the quick reference guide (cheat sheet) at the back of the book for general citation information for court documents and legal memoranda. Examples are provided along with corresponding rule numbers for citing cases, constitutions, statutes, legislative materials, treaties, books, periodical materials, the internet, court documents, etc.

The basic navigation tools begin with the Bluepages that provide examples of the most common types of citations (B1 – B12, pp. 3-25). The second section of the book includes the Whitepages (R1 – R21, pp. 57 – 232). The third and largest section has a dark blue stripe on the edges of the pages, and it contains guidance tables (T1 – T16, pp. 233 – 523). Note also the

SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Neva Kanelos, Cont.

tables section in the Bluepages beginning on page 29 (BT1 – BT2). The Bluepage tables include instructions on how to abbreviate words used in titles of court documents, and the list of citation rules that are jurisdiction-specific. The first set of tables provided in the blue-striped pages cover federal jurisdiction (T1, p. 233), and tables for state jurisdiction follow (T1.3, p. 248).

There are many sections within *The Bluebook* that are frequently referred to, but one other section that I have found very helpful and want to point out begins on page 58: R1.2, introductory signals and how to use them. Finally, the index (p. 525) is a very important tool. Examples of some detailed topics I've found in the index include how and when to use short and split citations, how to cite from commercial electronic legal databases, and citing sentencing guidelines, unreported cases, secondary sources, etc.

I've provided an outline on how *The Bluebook* generally works and some important sections to become familiar with. To learn more about citation skills regarding style, cases, statutes, constitutions, and other commonly cited sources, I want to recommend a book Notre Dame Law School students have been required to read, Linda L. Barris's *Understanding and Mastering The Bluebook*. Another source of information you might find interesting is Georgetown University Law Center's *Bluebook Guide*, <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/library/research/bluebook/>. LexisNexis offers a book you can purchase, *Interactive Citation Workbook for The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* by Tracy Norton. The website to make this purchase is: <https://store.lexisnexis.com/products/interactive-citation-workbook-for-the-bluebook-a-uniform-system-of-citation-skuusSku40365>

As we develop and master new skills, we have more to contribute to our workplaces, and we allow ourselves to grow personally and professionally. I've found bluebooking interesting and this skill has added to my value in chambers.

Works cited and suggested reading:

Linda L. Barris, *Understanding and Mastering The Bluebook* (3rd ed. 2015)
Alan L. Dworsky, *User's Guide to The Bluebook* (revised for the 20th ed. 2015)
Georgetown Law Library, *Bluebook Guide*: <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/library/research/bluebook/>, (addresses the 20th ed.)
Official Bluebook Site (with online subscription) <https://www.legalbluebook.com/>, (20th ed.)
American Association of Law Libraries, *Universal Citation Guide*:
<https://www.aallnet.org/resources-publications/publications/universal-citation-guide/>
Tracy Norton, *Interactive Citation Workbook for The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (2019) <https://store.lexisnexis.com/products/interactive-citation-workbook-for-the-bluebook-a-uniform-system-of-citation-skuusSku40365>

(Reprinted with updates from the FJAA Newsletter, Volume 11, Issue 3, July 2013, p. 15.)

SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Neva Kanelos Cont.

WESTLAW TIPS

Retrieve Opinion/Final Decision Case List (authored by your judge from Westlaw)

Sign on to Westlaw

Click on the “All Content” tab

Click on “Cases”

Under Federal Cases by Circuit, click on the name of your circuit (e.g. “7th Circuit”)

Under District or Appellate, click the name of your court (e.g. “Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals”)

In the Search Box, type in: ju(Manion) (your judge’s last name), and click the search button On the left margin, under Narrow, click on “date,” and select “date range”

(Westlaw will generate a maximum of about 1,000 cases)

Under Date, type the date range – to and from

To generate cases within topics, click on the blue Topics link to view all topics, make selections

Email or Download the list using the down arrow next to the envelope icon at the right top of the screen

Retrieve A Dissent/Concurrence Case List for an Appeals Judge (from Westlaw)

Sign on to Westlaw

Click on the “All Content” tab

Click on “Cases”

Under Federal Cases by Circuit, click your circuit name (e.g. “7th Circuit”)

In the Search Box, type in: con,dis(Manion) (your judge’s last name) OR just search with con(Manion) or dis(Manion)

*Caveat: the search will result in some cases where the judge is mentioned in the opinion only.

MICROSOFT TIP

Export a PDF document to a Microsoft Word document

Open the PDF document File

Export to

Microsoft Word

Word Document

Select the location to save and save the Word document

SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Neva Kanelos Cont.

Favorite Recipes

Apple Chicken with Cheese

Ingredients:

5 T. margarine
3 C. Gala cooking apples (about 4 or 5 medium size), sliced with peelings
2 C. thick sliced onions
3 large boneless chicken breasts
1 t. salt
¼ t. pepper
1 C. shredded swiss cheese
½ C. parmesan cheese
¼ C. breadcrumbs
4 T. apple cider

Instructions:

Melt margarine in a large pan or pot.
Add and sauté the sliced apples and onions until tender.
Pour this mixture into the bottom of baking pan.
Rub chicken on both sides with salt and pepper.
Place chicken on top of the apple/onion mixture.
Combine the swiss cheese, parmesan cheese, and breadcrumbs in a separate bowl.
Sprinkle this cheese/breadcrumb combination over the chicken.
Sprinkle the apple cider on top, spreading it evenly.

Bake at 375 degrees for about 45 minutes. Remove from oven periodically and cut into the chicken to test if it is done. Cooking time may vary depending on the pan used.

EIGHTH CIRCUIT - Judith Kirby

Greetings to all!

It's hard to believe that we have moved through spring already. My, how time flies!! The conference is just 3 months away, and I, for one, am really looking forward to it.

This has been a spring of travel for me. I went to San Antonio in early April for the Train the (Chambers) Trainer program. I got a lot out of it, and would highly recommend it as each of your courts make the transition to Microsoft Office 365. The program lasts 3 days and covers much of the Office programs.

In mid-July, the Circuit Executives for the 7th and 8th Circuits are sponsoring a workshop for Judicial Assistants in the circuits in Chicago. And then, we have our conference in mid-September. So, there are lots of opportunities to meet and spend time with our colleagues in other courts. And to top it off, I am going to Ireland for 2 weeks for my vacation this year. All in all, it is turning out to be a good year.

If you have not registered for our conference yet, please do it soon. You won't regret attending.

Finally, with a great bit of sadness for us, and a terrific amount of excitement for her, I want to take this opportunity to recognize Rebecca (Becky) Baertsch, as she retires at the end of June.



As most of you know, Becky has been a very active member of FJAA for many years. But, not only has she been active in FJAA, she has been instrumental in activities within

our court, supporting District Judge Donovan W. Frank (with her in the photo), being the driving force for many years behind our Open Doors program for high school students, actively engage in projects for the Page Educational Foundation, and many other activities. But more importantly, Becky has always been a very warm and welcoming presence in our court, taking the time to remember birthdays, keeping in touch with staff, and always having a smile on her face. It has been a great pleasure to know her and learn from her. We will miss her very much! Please join me in wishing her the best in retirement.

Have a great summer and hope to see many of you in Nashville!!



NINTH CIRCUIT NEWS

~ SUZANNE LOFTON

Aloha FJAA Members !

We are already coming upon July and boy, the year is flying by! I would like extend a warm welcome to our new FJAA members of the 9th circuit listed below:

Kathleen Abbott
 Vivian Johns
 Vee Maisel
 Portia Muniz

And a bigger welcome to all new members from all circuits who have made the BEST decision to join our amazing organization. I hope this year has so far been a fulfilled one for many of you and that you are all enjoying the important work we do day in and day out. I am honored to be a part of such a strong group of women and am grateful for the friendships that we have formed through the years. It is important that we continue to share information with each other that continues to enlighten our mind, body and spirit. As a group, we are able to share our talents and exchange ideas for improving our performance of our administrative duties as we continue to contribute to the judiciary. Hope to see many of you in Nashville in September. Looks like it will be an exciting time for all.

Suzanne Lofton, 9th circuit representative



Vivian Johns, Paralegal Judicial Assistant to Magistrate Judge Camille D. Bibles

Vivian joined the United States Magistrate Court on February 18, 2019, as the Paralegal Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Camille D. Bibles. Prior to that, she was a Judicial Assistant for Judge Jacqueline Hatch in the Coconino County Superior Court and a legal assistant at the Coconino County Attorney's Office. Vivian worked with Camille Bibles at the Coconino County Attorney's Office years ago and is excited to have the opportunity to work with her again!



Vee Maisel, Second Judicial Assistant to Chief Judge Snow

In April 2019, I became the second Judicial Assistant to Chief Judge Murray Snow. Before his retirement, I was Judicial Assistant to Justice John Pelander of the Arizona Supreme Court. My joys in life include time with family and friends, travel, exploring foods ... I enjoy tastings, and several hobbies - sewing, paper artistry, jewelry creation, dabbling in Asian arts, and pool time.

Magistrate Rom A. Trader

On January 4, 2019, Rom A. Trader joined the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii as its newest Magistrate Judge. He filled the vacancy created by the retirement of highly-respected Magistrate Judge Kevin S.C. Chang who served for 18 years with the Court.

Judge Trader is joined by his Judicial Assistant Portia Muniz and Law Clerk Angela Jacso, both of whom served alongside him during his previous 10 years as a Hawaii State Circuit Court Judge, assigned to both civil and criminal trial calendars. Prior to his judicial career, Judge Trader spent 20 years as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. Judge Trader and his staff are honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve as part of the Hawaii District Court family.

The Honorable Judge Bridget S. Bade

Judge Bridget S. Bade was confirmed as Circuit Judge to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on April 2, 2019. She was formerly a Magistrate Judge with the US District Court, AZ division. Ellen Weber has stayed on as her judicial assistant.

The Honorable Magistrate Judge Wes Reber Porter

Wes Reber Porter has been selected to serve as a United States Magistrate Judge for the District Court for the District of Hawaii. Judge Porter replaces Magistrate Judge Richard L. Puglisi, who retired in March 31, 2019.

From 1998 to 2002, Mr. Porter served in the U.S. Navy as an officer and a Judge Advocate General (JAG). From 2000 to 2002, Mr. Porter worked as a special assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii handling matters in the areas of Federal Tort Claims, employment discrimination and other civil matters filed against the United States. Mr. Porter then prosecuted crimes involving violent offenses, drug offenses and white-collar matters as an assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii (2002-2006). He then worked at the Department of Justice's Criminal Division, Fraud Section, in Washington D.C. as a senior trial attorney (2006-2009) and at the Securities and Exchange Commission in its San Francisco Regional Office (2009-2010).

Mr. Porter taught courses in evidence, criminal law and advocacy as a visiting professor of law at the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law. From 2010 to 2016, he was a tenured professor of law at Golden Gate University School of Law, where he served as the Director of the Litigation Center. Mr. Porter also served as President and CEO of Damien Memorial School (2016-2019).

He received his undergraduate degree in 1995 from Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire, and his law degree in 1998 from Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law.

Judge Porter began his eight-year term as a United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Hawaii on May 8, 2019.



Image: Ronen Zberman

Article for the Travel Tip Corner

A few years back I took an early retirement from a CA State Court and my friend and I decided it was time to take a “Bucket-List trip”. Since we both wanted to go to Europe and we both liked cruising we decided on a Viking 1-week cruise from Passau, Germany to Budapest, Hungary stopping in both the Czech Republic and Austria. I just cannot say enough about the beauty of the landscape, the awesome architecture, and the friendly people; but what impressed me the most was the fact that I did not see a single piece of trash in the river during that entire week. I did not see trash on the trip through the countryside of Germany or in the streets of the Czech Republic, etc. Of course, I will admit we were generally in the “tourist areas” except for the many miles traveled in Germany...still with no trash! Maybe we can take a lesson from our neighbors in the world and encourage one another to keep our land and water clean by depositing trash only where it belongs. We are blessed with so many natural resources so let’s take care of them.

The one regret I have about the trip was that I did not go a few days earlier or extend my trip after the cruise, and the last day of the cruise we had to leave around 4 am. so really missed much of that day that we could have enjoyed if we stayed longer... Also, I left for home thinking “there is so much I did not have time to do and see.” So, take advantage of pre and post-stays. You do not have to book it with the cruise company either and can probably get a better deal elsewhere.

Finally, when I took the trip I was a little shocked at the price tag around \$4,500 P.P. but the positive outcome from that experience was my decision to become a part-time travel agent from home. Now I am loving the travel perks, saving money, and not only have a tax write-off for owning my own business but also much of my travel is now a business-related expense. I learned that the price I paid was not so unusual and I also learned to purchase my own trip-cancellation insurance because the cruise company charges too much for that!

With some recent changes in the travel industry, it is now even possible to become involved in the industry without becoming a travel agent. People can become travel savings ambassadors getting very low-cost travel for themselves and family and helping others save money as well while earning a commission; but that is a story for another time...More about river cruising and Viking in future publications. They also do ocean cruising now. If you have specific questions do not hesitate to contact me at Havefunnowtravel@gmail.com

Kathy Abbott
U.S. District Court - Southern District of CA



Greetings from the Tenth Circuit

~ Susan Goodwin, J.A. for Judge Nancy L. Mortiz

Carolyn Dennis retired from the Tenth Circuit in January of 2019 after being Judge Monroe McKay's J.A. for 12 years. Carolyn's legal career started in 1981 at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Salt Lake City. Before leaving there three years later, she had become the administrator for the office and really enjoyed the work and the people. Wondering if she wanted to pursue an administration career in the private legal field, she accepted an offer from a former AUSA to be the office administrator for a Denver firm opening a Salt Lake City office - Holme Roberts & Owen. Carolyn loved the work and after 5 years with them she spent the next 20 years as an administrator with two Utah firms which were wonderful, challenging, and rewarding.

However, her favorite job of her entire career was working for Judge Monroe McKay. And, no surprise, he's also the most outstanding boss and friend of her career. She says she learned so much from his example and mentoring and strives to be as kind, caring, nonjudgmental, and considerate of everyone in her path as he has shown.

She thanks Shari Akers for being her replacement and doing a such great job for the Judge.

Judge McKay has lived a very interesting and varied life. He has been a shepherd, a steelworker, a sawmill employee, a Marine, a husband, the father of 9 children, an attorney, Director of the Peace Corps, President of BYU, and a "birder" (he continues to travel all over the world to find and document rare birds). He was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit by President Jimmy Carter in 1977. He took senior status 26 years ago and doesn't appear to be slowing down at all. One of his many passions is the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, where he has taken many court employees and friends on personal tours. This May I was able to join a group of over 30 people who happily followed him through part of the exhibits listening to his narrative and asking numerous questions. Unfortunately, our time was limited, it could have been a multiple day event!

TENTH CIRCUIT - Susan Goodwin



Carolyn & Judge McKay at Carolyn's son's wedding. The groom and groomsmen wore kilts, so Judge McKay surprised them by showing up in his to perform the ceremony

Shari Akers began working in her early 20's for the clerk's office of the Third District Court of Utah as a Data Entry Supervisor. It was there that she met her husband, Chuck Sampson, who was the Court Clerk for the first female judge appointed at the Third District Court, Judge Christine M. Durham. Later, when Judge Durham was appointed to the Supreme Court of Utah, Chuck also left the Third District Court and decided to attend law school while Shari became a stay-at-home mom to raise their three sons. After her husband passed away in 2005, Shari re-entered the workforce, starting out as a part-time file clerk at the small, boutique law firm of Williams & Hunt, and shortly thereafter was offered a full-time position as a legal secretary working with four attorneys who specialized in land use and zoning, insurance defense work for state and local municipalities, mixed in with real estate and contract work plus medical malpractice insurance defense. In 2016, the eight partners went their separate ways as two of them had made the decision to retire. Shari was asked to join the others at their respective new law firms, but ultimately ended up at Strong & Hanni, providing support in complex litigation matters to four of their partners. In the fall of 2018 when Carolyn Dennis decided to retire, she enthusiastically applied for the position of JA to Judge Monroe McKay and now once again is working at a position with the courts. She states that this has been a very positive move for her and feels that she has come full circle; that it was a "welcome transition back to the arena of the application of the law from the business side of the law." However, she has formed treasured relationships and invaluable experience at all the steps along the way and is looking forward to continuing on in that journey.



Judge McKay & Shari Akers



Susan Goodwin & Judge McKay

This will be my final article for the Newsletter. I am retiring the end of August and hope Karen Baca will be my replacement as the Tenth Circuit representative.

Karen has been the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Harris L Hartz of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in Albuquerque, New Mexico since 2015. Prior to her position with Judge Hartz she was the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable M. Christina Armijo, Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court of New Mexico. Before coming to the Judiciary, she was a paralegal at Sandia National Laboratories working in the legal department with in-house counsel,

both in the litigation department as well as assisting the patent area. Her legal career started in 1984, and she has worked at several firms throughout her career.



Karen is a native of New Mexico. She recently celebrated her 30th wedding anniversary with her husband Alfred, a retired engineer from Intel Corporation. They have three children, a boy and two girls, a daughter-in-law, son-in-law, and a grandson expected early July 2019. Karen enjoys, hunting, fishing, swimming and most importantly, being with her family.

* * *

It has been such a pleasure to be involved with FJAA. I have met so many wonderful people and learned so much. I wish you all well in the future and thank you for sharing your wisdom and fun with me!

11th Circuit News

~ Gail Shafer

D.C. & FEDERAL CIRCUIT

~ Connie Roy

See

You

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In

Nashville



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.



**SEND YOUR ARTICLES TO
YOUR CIRCUIT
REPRESENTATIVE BY
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**



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

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