



OFFICERS
2018 - 2019

IN BRIEF
FEDERAL JUDICIAL
ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION

Volume 17,
Issue 1
January 2019

Letter from the President

Cathy Gray



Greetings, FJAA Members!

Typically, the first newsletter of the year begins with New Year wishes; however, as I'm writing this, it is Thanksgiving and I am reflecting on all the things for which I am thankful and how lucky I am to be a member of FJAA.

It was at the invitation of former FJAA President, Jackie Logue, that I joined the association...almost fifteen years ago! Over those years and still today, I have met and made lifelong friends with judicial assistants from all over the county. These are friends on whom I know I can count on, both professionally and personally.

While some of us only see each other once or twice a year, many of us connect through social media. It is a joy to see all your happy times displayed – a new child, grandchild, furry addition to the family, fabulous vacations, concerts, graduations, birthday, anniversaries, and the list goes on! Then there are the not so happy times; the loss of a loved one, illnesses, be it human or pet. Through these ups and downs, we share our lives, rejoice in the happy times, and send our heartfelt condolences and support in the sad times. By the time the annual conference rolls back around, we haven't missed a beat in each other's lives!

This year, one of those sad moments was the loss of our friend, Ashley Mankin, who left her earthly body too soon. It is difficult to understand why someone so young and vibrant could be taken so suddenly. There was an overwhelming response to my e-mails informing our membership of her situation. The number of prayers, wishes, etc. extended to Ashley and her family made me so proud to be a part of this strong and caring association. Our sympathy is also extended to her court family in the Western District of Michigan. A donation to Ashley's favorite charities was given in her memory from all of her FJAA friends.

Ashley was an organ donor, so her life still shines through in all the people she was able to help. My final memory of her is from the closing dinner of the 2018 conference. Watching her dance, sing, and enjoy life with her friends in the hotel lobby is how I choose to remember her and know that she lived a full, albeit short, life full of love and joy.

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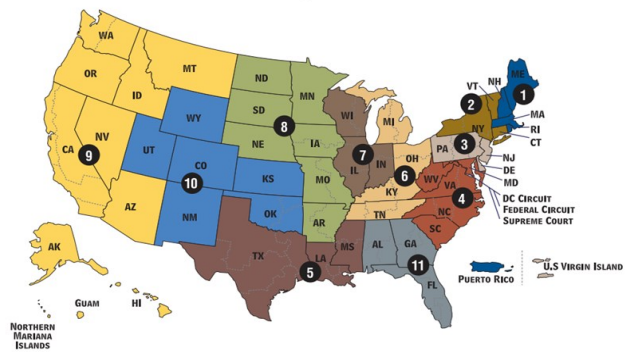
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CIRCUIT NEWS

Geographic Boundaries

of United States Courts of Appeals and United States District Courts



Friendship is just one of the wonderful benefits of becoming a member of FJAA; however, it is certainly not the only one. Please take the time to log in to the “members only” section of our website – www.fjaa.net. We have some new additions and I am proud to announce the “Who’s Who” section. I know we have all left a conference trying to remember someone’s name but can only remember their face. Well, now we can log in to this secure, password protected section and look through the photos of our members who wish to participate in this project. If you haven’t already done so, I hope you will consider emailing a photo of yourself in .jpg format to Melissa Hardin or Tracy Young to be included in this section. Start practicing your best selfie!

Get your cowboy boots ready for Music City! The 2019 FJAA Education Conference will be held in Nashville, TN. We are busy working on a great agenda and hope that many of you will be in attendance. After a membership vote, Loews Vanderbilt Hotel was chosen as the conference location. Loews is very nice hotel and near many of the attractions you will want to visit. Nashville is a hot destination, so hotel rates are high. While you might find a cheaper room in the suburbs, I encourage you to stay at the conference location, so you can easily access all the great activities we have planned for you! Although Loews is above per diem rate, if you start tucking away \$20/month now, you will have enough to cover the overage by the time the conference is here.

In order for our association to thrive, provide useful resources, and plan our fabulous events, we rely on our membership and dues. One of the challenges we face is the current decline of judicial assistant positions. Remember, there is strength in numbers, so please, renew your memberships, encourage others to join, attend the educational conferences, and keep your local, district, and circuit memberships strong. Let’s reinforce to our judges and encourage incoming judges that judicial assistants are a crucial and relevant part of ensuring a chambers is run efficiently and smoothly.

In closing, Happy New Year, everyone! Cheers to friends! I hope to see all of you in Nashville. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you on social media. This is going to be a great year of building, fellowshiping, and learning, and I can’t wait!!

Please feel free to e-mail me with any suggestions, thoughts, concerns, etc. My e-mail door is always open!

All the best,
Cathy

Renew or join the FJAA with a paid membership before

March 31 for a chance to win \$100.



.....MEMBERS WANTED – JOIN or RENEW TODAY

Common Questions

Q: Why should I join?

A: Membership inspires a sense of belonging to something bigger than our individual chambers.

Q: Why does the Association want me?

A: We are independent characters and each of our chambers is as unique as its Judge. But collectively we can demonstrate the valuable contribution made through the exemplary performance of our administrative duties. The educational opportunities provided by the Association increases the knowledge base of our profession as a whole and promote individual professional development.

Q: What's in it for me?

A: A few incentives for joining our association are monetary awards through annual scholarship application, travel opportunity to annual educational conferences, and networking with like-minded individuals to solve common obstacles.

Q: How can I become involved?

A: Being involved is not only simple, it is encouraged. Volunteer for committee positions or circuit representative, encourage membership within your District and throughout your Circuit.

**JOIN TODAY. COMPLETE THE ATTACHED APPLICATION OR VISIT THE WEBSITE
FJAA.NET**

**SEND YOUR PHOTO TO Melissa Hardin to be added to "Who's Who" Directory
For questions contact your Circuit Representative**

**From: Tracy Young, Membership Chair
Membership Annual Dues: \$40.00 (Payments accepted via Paypal or by mail)**

SAVE THE DATE!!! FJAA IN NASHVILLE, TN!!!

This will be a conference not to miss! Mark your calendar and start planning to attend FJAA's 2019 Conference – September 12-14, 2019!!! More details coming soon!!! Also checkout: <https://www.visitmusiccity.com/>



FIRST CIRCUIT— Christie Clifford

MAINE

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY



Pictured Above: Eric Storms, Marine Military Policeman from 1988 to 1993 and Chief Judge Nancy Torresen

Two hundred and forty-three years ago, the 2nd Continental Congress decreed that two battalions of Marines be raised to fight for freedom. The first Marines to enter the service signed up at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia. Since that day, Marines —a/k/a Leathernecks, Devil Dogs, Jarheads, etc. -- have embodied Honor, Courage and Commitment, serving with distinction on land, on sea and in the air in such battles as Fallujah, Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Hue City, Al Anbar Province and Belleau Wood.

Each year on the 10th of November, Marines celebrate the birthday of the Marine Corps as his/her very own. This year we celebrated with our Chief Deputy Eric Storms, who brought in homemade chocolate chip and peanut butter cookies to share and celebrate. There were enough for a at least a platoon.

WELCOME JUDGE LANCE E. WALKER

Chief Judge Torresen swore in Judge Lance E. Walker at our District Conference on October 18, 2018. Judge Walker's chambers will be in Bangor and he announced the following hires for his chambers:

Marc Veilleux will be transferring from Magistrate Judge John Nivison's Chambers to Judge Walker's Chambers as a Career Law Clerk.

Katie Bressler has been selected as a Term Law Clerk. Katie graduated from the University of Maine School of Law in May 2018 and was admitted to the Maine Bar this past October. She graduated from Brigham Young University with a BA in Communications.

Cheryl Derrah has been selected as Judicial Assistant. Cheryl holds an Legal Assistant Associate Degree from Thomas College in Waterville. She has worked for 30 years at the Law Firm of Rudman Winchell in Bangor as a paralegal and prior to that as a legal secretary for a law firm in Waterville, Maine.

Judge Walker's INVESTITURE CEREMONY was held on Friday, December 14 at 1:00 p.m. at the Margaret Chase Smith Federal Building & Courthouse in Bangor, Maine.



SECOND CIRCUIT—Janet Hansen



NEW FROM AROUND THE SECOND CIRCUIT:

District of Connecticut:

On November 2, 2018, during a Special Ceremonial Session of the Court, an investiture ceremony for Judge Kari A. Dooley was held at the Brien McMahon Federal Building and United States Courthouse, Bridgeport, CT. Chief Judge Stefan R. Underhill gave the opening remarks and provided introductions of the speakers: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal, United States Senator for Connecticut, and Kevin J. O'Connor, Esq. (Former United States Attorney). Ms. Robin D. Tabora, Clerk of the Court, read the Commission and Chief Judge Underhill administered the oath. Mr. James P. Dooley assisted with the robing ceremony. Following Judge Dooley's remarks, Court was adjourned and a reception immediately followed.

From 2004 until the time of her appointment to the District Court bench Judge Dooley was serving as a Judge of the Superior Court for the State of Connecticut. From 1992-2004 (prior to her appointment on the Superior Court), Judge Dooley was an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut. Judge Dooley received her B.A. from Cornell University, and her J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

We wish Judge Dooley every success as she embarks on a new chapter of her professional career!

Court of Appeals:

On December 13, 2018, during a Special Session of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, an induction ceremony for Judge Richard J. Sullivan was held at the Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY. Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann gave the opening remarks. Mrs. Catherine O'Hagen Wolfe, Clerk of the Court, read the Commission and Chief Judge Katzmann administered the oath. Judge Sullivan's children assisted in the robing ceremony (Monica, Marie and Raymond Sullivan). Remarks were given by Judge Loretta A. Preska, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of NY, Anirudh Bansal, Esq., Cahill Gordon and Reindel, LLP, New York, NY and Kathleen L. Matsukas, Esq., Barnes & Thornburg, LLP, Indianapolis, IN. Following Judge Sullivan's remarks, Court was adjourned and a reception followed.

Judge Sullivan was appointed a judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in 2007. Prior to his appointment, Judge Sullivan served as General Counsel and Managing Director of Marsh, Inc. He was an assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York from 1994-2005. Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, he was a litigation associate at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz in New York. Judge Sullivan served as a law clerk to the Honorable David M. Ebel of the 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. Judge Sullivan earned his J.D. from Yale Law School and his B.A. from the College of William and Mary. He is a member of the New York American Inn of Court and an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University School of Law. Judge Sullivan filled the vacancy on the Court of Appeals created when Judge Richard C. Wesley assumed senior status. We wish Judge Sullivan continued success on the bench and welcome him to the Court of Appeals!

SECOND CIRCUIT, Cont.—Janet Hansen

On December 11, 2018, the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit held an “Employee Appreciation Ceremony.” Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann gave the opening remarks. Adam Coffee, Director of Human Resources, presented the Court Recognition Awards to various recipients in the Office of Court Operations, the Clerk’s Office, the Office of Legal Affairs, the Library, the CJA Panel Committee and the Circuit Executive’s Office. In addition, Court Service Awards were distributed to the following Judicial Assistants (and some are members of the FJAA who you may know!): Chris Corcoran (Judicial Assistant to Judge Reena Raggi) - Five Years; Sue Meyer (Judicial Assistant to Judge Richard C. Wesley) - Fifteen Years; Ann Pisacano (Judicial Assistant to Judge Robert D. Sack)- Twenty Years, and Dominique Welch (Judicial Assistant to Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann) - 25 years. Congratulations to all, and thank you for your continued dedication and hard work!

* * *

On December 12, 2018, a group of Judicial Assistants from the Court of Appeals made their annual visit to Rockefeller Center to see the tree, the lights/windows and enjoy a holiday dinner together. The tree was even more spectacular this year as it has a new swarovski crystal top. In addition, FAO Schwartz opened in Rockefeller Center and from the second you walk in the door, everyone becomes a BIG kid! There are two floors of fun toys to play with and explore—including the piano keys floor mat to play using your feet (you may recall it from the movie “Big”)! There was even a Mercedes Benz for some lucky kid coated in swarovski crystals (I heard it cost a mere \$25,000)! It was truly amazing. Enjoy the pictures below which hopefully will get you in the holiday spirit!



Rhonda Matson (Judge Dennis Jacobs) had a chat with Santa!



SECOND CIRCUIT, Cont.—Janet Hansen



Judicial Assistants from left to right: Gail Szczegiel, (Judge Christopher F. Droney); Janet F. Hansen (Judge José A. Cabranes), Sandy Faulkner (friend of Chris M.), Chris Marascalchi (Judge Rosemary S. Pooler); Sylvia Bell (Judge Barrington D. Parker) and Jeanette Santos (Judge Debra A. Livingston)

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Janet F. Hansen

Judicial Assistant to Judge José A. Cabranes

THIRD CIRCUIT—Iris Liriano



On September 26, 2018, The Drug Enforcement Administration held a presentation called, **Hidden in Plain Sight** at the Peter Rodino Federal Building, Newark, NJ. The topic included the opioid crisis we are facing especially among our teens and the ways they hide the drugs right in their bedroom. DEA Special Agent McMahon conducted a presentation which staged a teenager's bedroom right in a conference room for all to see. The items staged were a twin size bed, a bookcase with several items and a night stand. While Special Agent McMahon gave the presentation, he would turn to items in the bedroom that you would never suspect drugs would be hidden. As a mom to a teenage son, I was stunned to see the creative ways drugs were hidden. This presentation was not only educational but quite eye-opening. In addition, he gave statistics on the increase of opioids and vaping, which is the new trend among teens. Prior to this event, my sons' high school held a Teen Mental Health presentation to educate parents on the ways teens are suffering from various forms of anxiety, the pressures of academic excellence and social media. After the presentation, I approached the guidance counselor and asked her if she was interested in having DEA Special Agent MacMahon conduct the Hidden in Plain Sight presentation for the parents. The counselor thought the presentation would be a great idea to bring awareness to the parents. We haven't scheduled the event yet but look forward to holding it in the near future.

On October 3, 2018, we celebrated our Hispanic Heritage Program. Our guest speaker was Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia Valdes. Prosecutor Valdes was supposed to be our guest speaker last year but her father passed away the day of the program. I've had the pleasure of working with Prosecutor Valdes when we worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office and she is still the same person I met years ago. I was thrilled to hear that she was this year's guest speaker. Prosecutor Valdes is the first Dominican female Prosecutor in the United States. Her parents migrated to the United States from the Dominican Republic with very little education. However, Prosecutor Valdes was the first one in her family to graduate from high school, namely Barringer High School in Newark, NJ, which happens to be my alma mater. Thereafter, she attended Seton Hall University and Rutgers Law School. Growing up, Prosecutor Valdes recounted the many ways she helped her family and neighbors by translating and assisting them with any issues they encountered. That's when she found her calling and decided to go to law school. Prosecutor Valdes is a wonderful person, bright, warm, and personable who comes from humble beginnings. The people from Passaic County are extremely lucky to have such a great Prosecutor representing their community.



**Prosecutor Camelia Valdes and
Hon. Katherine S. Hayden**

THIRD CIRCUIT—Iris Liriano



We welcome our newest member to the Court of Appeals, Erin Dalfonzo. Erin replaced Sylvia Lock, Hon. Michael A. Chagares’s Judicial Assistant. Sylvia retired after working with Judge Chagares for approximately 21 years. While Judge Chagares insisted on celebrating her years of service, Sylvia’s wishes were to leave quietly. On October 5, 2018, Sylvia retired and Erin started her new position on October 9th. Erin and I worked together at the United States Attorney’s Office until I left in April 2003. We were delighted to hear that Judge Chagares asked her to join the Court upon Sylvia’s retirement. Currently, I’m training Erin with the Court of Appeals procedures and lingo. We were all thrilled to learn that Judge Chagares continues the tradition of having a Judicial Assistant run and manage a Judge’s Chambers. We wish Erin the very best in her new position!

Happy Holidays!

FOURTH CIRCUIT — Lena D. Tapscott

Construction has begun on the Annex to the Charles R. Jonas Federal Building in Charlotte, NC

By : **Karen A. Burton (Charlotte, NC)**

Built in 1918, and because of its age, the Charles R. Jonas Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse require major upgrades and the replacement of critical building systems to ensure continued operations and to promote energy efficiency. Work on this multiyear project began on the Annex on November 1, 2018.

A temporary prisoner salleyport has been erected, and the front lawn has been converted to a secure parking lot and will remain so until the Annex project is complete.

Once completed, the renovated Jonas Building and new Annex will be home to the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts, U.S. Probation Office, Bankruptcy Administrators Office and other federal agencies. Currently, the entire construction of the Annex and renovation of the historic Jonas Building is expected to be completed by 2022.

Here is a rendering of what the final result will look like:



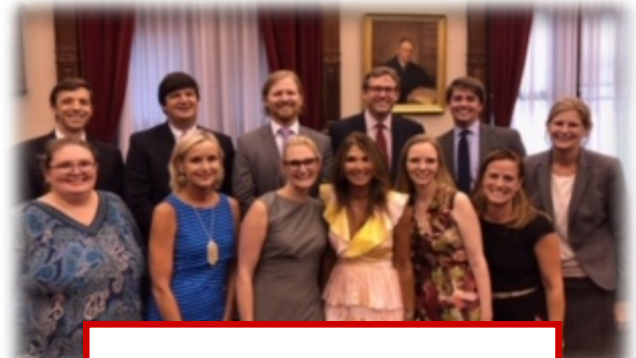
Sweet Retirement

By: **Lisa Richberg (Charleston, SC)**

On September 30, 2018, the District Court of South Carolina said farewell to The Honorable Patrick Michael Duffy and his Judicial Assistant, Cindi Hubbard. Judge Duffy and “Judge Cindi” (as she was affectionately known) began their federal service together on December 26, 1995 in Charleston. Cindi was a vital and active member of FJAA throughout her career, ultimately serving as its President in 2009-2010. Because both Judge Duffy and Cindi were so loved and respected in the Charleston legal community, several parties were thrown in their honor, and many fun stories and memories were shared by attorneys, former law clerks, family and even an Irish friend from overseas. Since their retirement, Judge Duffy has enjoyed traveling with his wife and spending lots of time with his beloved grandchildren, while Cindi moved to the west coast to begin new adventures in San Francisco. The Charleston court family misses them tremendously, but if we are still and quiet, we may just hear the faint whistle of an Irish tune by Judge Duffy and the clicking steps of Cindi’s Jimmy Choos!!



Pictured Left to Right: Judge Michael P. Duffy, Cindi Hubbard, and Cathy Duffy



Cindi Hubbard (Center) pictured with former law clerks

FOURTH CIRCUIT, Cont. — Lena D. Tapscott

Innovative Non-profit Law Firm Represents the Working Class

By: Adair Boroughs (former Law Clerk—Charleston, SC)

With degrees from Dartmouth and NYU School of law, two federal clerkships, and a variety of litigation and community organizing experience, Sally Newman could have made a number of career moves in the fall of 2016. The move she made was to found South Carolina’s first and only nonprofit sliding scale law firm, Charleston Legal Access (CLA). CLA is the only law firm in South Carolina (and one of only a handful in the 4th Circuit) designed to serve the working poor and lower middle class who do not qualify for free legal services but who cannot afford a private attorney.

CLA serves clients on a sliding scale, meaning that all CLA clients pay something but that their rates are based on income and ability to pay. CLA’s rates are \$50-\$100 an hour, 25-33% of the cost of a private attorney. This hybrid funding model where philanthropic support is supplemented by low-rate fees allows donor dollars to go farther, ensures CLA is only pursuing claims both CLA and the client think are worth the investment, and gives clients agency.

CLA attorneys practice at the trial and appellate level in municipal, magistrate, state, and federal courts, handling a wide variety of civil matters including property, housing, contracts, civil rights, consumer issues, tax, guardianships, and victims’ rights.

How CLA Fits into the Legal Landscape

% of South Carolina's Population	Federal Poverty Level	Annual Income for Single Person	Annual Income for a Family of Four	Available Legal Services	Cost of Legal Services
37%				Traditional For-profit Firms	\$200-\$500 an hour
	400%	\$48,560	\$100,400		
42%				CLA	Based on Income and Family Size (\$50-\$100 an hour)
	125%	\$15,175	\$31,375		
21%				SCLS, Pro Bono, Free Clinics, Other Non-profits	Free (if you qualify)

Sally began taking clients in January of 2016 as the organization’s sole practitioner. In January of 2017, Adair Boroughs, Sally’s co-clerk in the chambers of United States District Judge Richard Gergel, joined Sally at CLA. Soon, they added a third attorney and litigation assistant. Now, a little over 2.5 years since taking their first case in February of 2016, CLA has represented 352 families, micro-businesses and small non-profits and, through their representation, put or kept \$1,157,481 directly into the pockets of low- and moderate-income families.

As the organization continues to grow, the group hopes to expand into new areas of law and to other regions of South Carolina. Potential clients can have their case or matter evaluated for free by calling CLA’s office at 843-640-5980.

FOURTH CIRCUIT, Cont. — Lena D. Tapscott

“*Unexampled Courage* . . . recovers a pivotal moment in America’s civil rights movement . . . A timely book, a monumental achievement.”

Professor Henry Louis Gates, Harvard University

Submitted by: Judge Richard M. Gergel

For all who were able to attend the FJAA Conference when it was held in Charleston, SC just a few years ago, as well as the talk given by the Honorable Richard M. Gergel during that conference, Judge Richard Gergel’s book, *Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waties Waring*, will be released on January 22, 2019. The book is being published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux and is now available for preorder from national booksellers. A brief summary of *Unexampled Courage* is provided below:

Sergeant Isaac Woodard, a battlefield decorated African American soldier, stepped onto a Greyhound bus on February 12, 1946 in Augusta, Georgia on his last leg home after three years of military service. Things suddenly went awry when a brief heated exchange with the bus driver resulted in Woodard’s removal from the bus and arrest in the small town of Batesburg, South Carolina. Shortly after being taken into custody by Batesburg Police Chief Lynwood Shull, Woodard was brutally beaten with the officer’s blackjack, blinding him.

Details of Woodard’s tragic encounter soon reached President Harry Truman. Outraged by the treatment of a uniformed American soldier, Truman wrote his attorney general the day after learning of the incident and made it clear that there was a need for an effective federal response. Within days, criminal civil rights charges were brought in the federal district court in South Carolina against Shull, and Truman established the first presidential committee on civil rights. Truman’s civil rights committee recommended groundbreaking reforms, including the ending of segregation in the armed forces of the United States. On July 26, 1948, Truman, over vigorous opposition, issued Executive Order 9981 integrating the American military, marking the beginning of the end of Jim Crow in America.

The Shull prosecution was tried before United States District Judge J. Waties Waring, a Charleston patrician whose father was a Confederate veteran. An all-white jury quickly acquitted Shull, but Judge Waring was conscience-stricken by the failure of the justice system to hold the obviously culpable police officer accountable. Waring soon began issuing landmark civil rights decisions that rocked his native state and challenged the foundations of American apartheid, racial segregation and black disenfranchisement. Waring’s courageous dissent in a 1951 school desegregation case, in which he declared segregation *per se* unconstitutional, became the model for the Supreme Court’s unanimous decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* three years later.

Unexampled Courage details the long overlooked story of the blinding of Sgt. Woodard and its transformative effect on President Truman, Judge Waring, and, ultimately, America’s civil rights history. This is a story that deserves to be told, with all of its pathos, its brutality, and its redemption of the American system of justice.

FIFTH CIRCUIT, — Christine Abadie



Farewell and Many Thanks to Penny Stautberg as Former 5th Circuit Rep

After her dedicated tenure as Fifth Circuit Rep, Penny Stautberg has resigned her position as representative. I will be taking over as the new Fifth circuit representative and wish to extend a thank you to Penny for her selfless service to the FJAA and for her guidance as I prepare for what I expect to be a fun-filled year.

What's Happening Around the 5th Circuit

I have been with the Fifth Circuit just over a year, but during that time, there have been some new faces, and we have said farewell to some familiar faces as they take on new adventures. They include the following:

2018 New JA Faces:

Fifth Circuit

- Susan Adams (Judge Engelhardt)
- Cherie Arthur (Judge Duncan)
- Terri Flowers (Judge Ho)
- Connor Mighell (Judge Willett)
- Desiree Sillas (Judge Reavley)
- Adria Wallace (Judge Haynes)

Louisiana District Courts:

- Lynda Dupre (Judge Summerhays, WDLA)
- Barbara Ewing (Judge Juneau, WDLA)
- Gretchen Heldner (Judge Ashe, EDLA)
- Karen Hess (Judge Hodge, WBLA)
- Crystal Lee (Mag. Roby, EDLA)
- Cynthia Odom (Judge Doughty, WDLA)

Texas District Courts:

- Debbie Baxter (Judge Counts, WDTX)
- Jennifer Graig (Judge Scholer, NDTX)
- Marie Kim (Mag. Rutherford, NDTX)
- Adalia Mora (Judge Rodriguez, SDTX)
- Dwendy Pennell (Mag. Griffin, WDTX)
- Lizza Ramirez (Mag. Farrer, WDTX)
- Sahirsh Soleja (Judge Morris, NBTX)

Mississippi District Courts:

- Jace Ferraez (Judge Maddox, NBMS)

FIFTH CIRCUIT, Cont.— Christine Abadie

2018 JA Faces on the Move:

- Susan Adams (EDLA to 5th Cir. with Judge Engelhardt)
- Lynda Dupre (WBLA to WDLA with Judge Summerhays)
- Becky Greenup (Judge Rodriguez, WDTX to Judge Higginbotham, 5th Cir.)
- Gina Rogers (Judge Higginbotham to Judge Oldham, 5th Cir.)
- Scott Toland (Judge Willett, 5th Cir. to Assistant White House Secretary in DC)

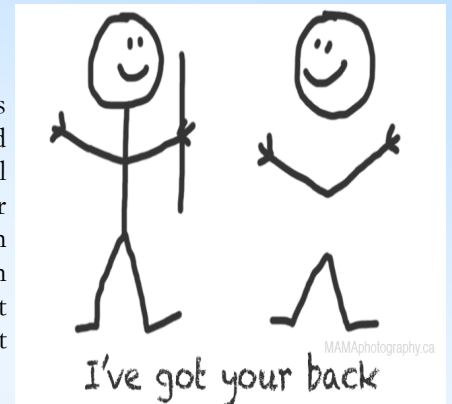
2018 JA Retirees:

- Carla Baker (Mag. Roby, EDLA)
- Linda Henshaw (Judge Davis, 5th Cir.)
- Susan Hudson (Judge Haynes, 5th Cir.)

To those new faces, on behalf of the Fifth Circuit, I want to extend a sincere, “Welcome to the Family!” For those who have retired or moved on to other adventures, we thank you for your dedication and outstanding service. We will miss you!

Thanks for having our back!

I would like to express my thanks and pay tribute to the many, many behind the scenes individuals who have made the Fifth Circuit run so smoothly in 2018. I wish I could name them all individually, but there are truly too many outstanding people to list them all by name. Nevertheless, I want to acknowledge all that they do for us and say that our Circuit Executive Office, Clerk’s Office, Automation Department, Librarians, and Human Resource Department are absolutely, positively the best!!! Over the last year, I have been blown away by their dedication, positive attitudes, and enthusiasm to assist and support us. They make working at the Fifth Circuit a joy. I am honored and privileged to be part of the Fifth Circuit Family.



FIFTH CIRCUIT, Cont.— Christine Abadie



FORMER FJAA PRESIDENT, GWEN HUNTER, SET TO RETIRE IN 2019

By: Flay Sambrone-Metoyer

Gwendolyn J. Hunter, former President of FJAA (2010-11) will retire on January 31, 2019 with over 30 years of federal service. She has been a member of our association since 2000 when she became a Judicial Secretary to United States District Judge Lance M. Africk.

Gwen has been as dedicated to our association as she has been to the Court since her beginning as a Deputy Clerk Generalist in July 1988. In addition to serving on the board of FJAA, including chair of various committees, Gwen never once missed an association conference.

She will spend her leisure time travelling and enjoying family and friends. Her retirement is bittersweet for all of us, especially her daily companions in New Orleans. We will miss her dearly and send loads of well wishes in joyful retirement. The accompanying photo is from the October 2008 FJAA Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It was the occasion of her crowing as Queen as a first time board member.

Congratulations Gwen!

Our Latest Queen of Retirement.





SIXTH CIRCUIT

Jennifer Hodge

Mark S. Norris, Sr. Sworn in as United States District Judge

The United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee is pleased to announce that Mark S. Norris took the Oath of Office in a private ceremony on November 8, 2018, to serve as a federal district judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee and has commenced his official duties. A public investiture ceremony will be held on January 11, 2019.

Judge Norris was nominated by President Donald Trump and confirmed by the Senate on October 11, 2018. He was appointed to the position left vacant by U.S. District Judge J. Daniel Breen, who took senior status in 2017.

Judge Norris received his law degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in 1980 and his Bachelor of Arts from Colorado College in 1977. Judge Norris has been a member of the litigation practice group at the law firm of Adams and Reese LLP since 2006. He was previously a partner with the law firm of Armstrong Allen where he had practiced since 1980.

Judge Norris was elected to the State Senate in 2000 and served as the Majority Leader from 2007 to 2018. Prior to that, Judge Norris served on the Shelby County Commission from 1994 to 2000.



KEEP CALM and LEAD ON...

By Debby Sawyer, ACP

I want to congratulate all of the new FJAA Officers and Circuit Representatives who were elected to serve FJAA and its members this next year. Each of you have the opportunity and responsibility to lead our association and make it bigger and better than ever. So — Keep Calm and Lead On...

Each of us recognizes the importance of leadership when we vote for our political leaders. We recognize effective leadership of parents who enable their children to grow strong and healthy and become productive adults. And we've seen how great leadership can create great things for our economy and our country. If we can recognize these things, we should be able to recognize that leaders in our associations are just as vital. A lack of leadership can be detrimental, because without leaders, organizations move too slow, stagnate, lose their way, and sometimes even disappear.



ON

SIXTH CIRCUIT—Jennifer Hodge, Cont.

KEEP CALM and LEAD ON..., Cont.

Leadership is a process by which one person influences the thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors of others. Leaders set a direction for the rest of us. They help us see what lies ahead, they help us visualize what we might achieve, and they encourage us and inspire us. Many may think our leaders are just our board members or officers. Leaders are much more than that, and can be any person within our association.

Good leaders are in short supply. Most of our members never envision themselves as being leaders. I believe every member of FJAA has the potential to be a leader. What makes a good leader and how can someone develop himself or herself into a good leader if they do not believe they can be? Here are a few factors that can not only help us be good leaders, but things we can also utilize to develop future leaders:

Get To Talking: One of the key factors of good leadership is communication. Good communication skills are needed to effectively become a good leader. When communication occurs, a leader will be able to accurately convey ideas and thoughts to those members they are leading. Members, in turn, can give helpful feedback and generate new ideas that help the association as well.

Get Something Moving: Motivation is another variable that plays into good leadership. Members tend to languish when motivation decreases. A fresh challenge always adds excitement and spawns creativity. Challenge members with tasks that may be slightly out of their range and let them at it! If they run into a snag, coach them into discovering the solution themselves. Once they have, their self-esteem will rise, thereby raising their motivation level.

Two Heads Are Better Than One: Teamwork is always something to consider when striving to become a good leader. This means not only being the teacher, but becoming part of the team as well. Many times, members' potential is wasted - trust members to do more.

Back to School: As always, increasing your education and knowledge is definitely a good thing when trying to improve your leadership skills. Take the time to learn as much about your position of being a leader as possible. Talk to other leaders and see how they do/did things and exchange ideas. The more you continually evaluate yourself and your practices and search for as much information on leadership as possible, the more you will be able to keep up with changing times.

These are just a few fundamentals on how to become a leader. I think it is the responsibility of all in leadership positions to constantly strive to create more leaders within our organization. I run into the age-old question all the time about whether leaders are born or made. This question is as controversial as the question about the chicken and the egg, and sometimes I feel it's just an excuse. It is my opinion that every person has the capacity to become a leader given the necessary tools.

FJAA has many useful tools to create good leaders. First, its "people" are its very best asset. FJAA Officers, Board Members, Circuit Representatives and Committee Members are very accessible and are always excited to talk and share information. FJAA's Annual Seminar offers great opportunities to enhance your knowledge and personal growth. And last, but certainly not least, FJAA offers a scholarship to assist members in pursuing educational development.

John Maxwell said, "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." Let us all strive to be leaders, who do exactly that, not only within our organization, but also in our professional and personal lives.

SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge, Cont.

Summary of 2018 FJAA Educational Conference

By: Michelle Howard (Eastern District of Michigan)

Thursday, August 23, 2018 was the kick off to our 2018 Federal Judicial Assistant's Association Educational Conference. The festivities began with our opening reception atop of the flagship hotel restaurant, Cygnus 27, that was in the newly remodeled tower of the famed Amway Grand Hotel. It was on the 27th floor with spectacular views of the Grand Rapids skyline. I enjoyed meeting first-time attendees and, seeing familiar faces in the JA friends I made during my first conference. Afterwards, a group of us were still hungry and decided on a piano bar next to the hotel. That was a total blast! We were able to request some Aretha Franklin songs and sing and dance along with the piano players.



On Friday, August 24, 2018, we spent the entire day at the Gerald R. Ford Federal Building which is the courthouse for the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. We assembled in their Jury Assembly Room for a warm welcome from our FJAA President, Lynn Magee of Minnesota and, Chief Judge Robert Jonker. He was on a family vacation in Sedona but made a special appearance by video conference. One of my favorite quotes from him, is that “it takes resources to translate judicial independence into a practical purpose...otherwise it is just a concept and it takes people like you.”

In speaking with all of us, he hoped that we found a renewed sense of purpose and pride in our roles as Federal Judicial Assistants. I can confirm that I as well as my fellow J.A.s felt a sense of renewal and pride from the beginning of the day and throughout the conference. As judicial assistants, we each play an integral role in assisting our judges in making critical decisions, on and off the bench, daily. Personally, I take a great deal of pride in that and never take it for granted. It is truly an honor to serve the public through the Federal Judiciary.



Next, on the agenda was a presentation by the members of the jury department on the history of the Grand Jury and how the Western District uses them today. This was of great interest to me because I still have only limited experience with grand juries. The jury staff began with the history of grand juries being first recognized in the Magna Carta. Of course, it is the Fifth Amendment that specifically mentions what we now know as the “grand jury indictment”. Federal, state and local agencies such as ATF, U.S. Postal Police, etc. can recommend a case to the grand jury. Another interesting fact I learned is that the “law of secrecy” is for life and so if you were ever involved in a grand jury proceeding, you are bound by that rule for the rest of your life. The Western District has a total of three grand juries who meet two to three times per week for a term of 18 months and they cover 49 counties.

SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge, Cont.

Summary of 2018 FJAA Educational Conference, Cont.

After the grand jury presentation, we began our journey into the fascinating case of U.S.A. v Rami Saba (08-cr-68). This was one of my favorite parts of the conference. First up was Michigan State Police Detective Sergeant Jackie Stasiak. Detective Stasiak took us a rollercoaster ride of a missing persons case of an eccentric man named Donald Dietz who remarkably had saved close to half a million dollars on a meager janitorial salary at Amway that turned into a (still pending) state murder investigation then into a capital murder, aggravated identity theft, mail and bank fraud case. Before this, I had no idea that the United States Secret Service is the only agency that can investigate bank fraud. I honestly thought they just were responsible with protecting the President, Vice President and other leaders and dignitaries. While presumed deceased, unfortunately, the body of Dietz was never recovered and thus Detective Stasiak's murder investigation remains open 11 years later. Determined to get some form of justice for the Dietz family, she turned the case over to the United States Attorney's Office to file federal charges against Saba and his buddy, Raogo Ouedraogo, both of whom had Ph. D's in microbiology, for capital murder, conspiracy to commit kidnapping, mail fraud, bank fraud and aggravated identity theft.

Like the San Francisco case presentation of Chinatown mobster "Shrimp Boy", we were able to hear from the actual judges presiding on the case, Magistrate Judge Phillip Green and District Court Judge Janet Neff. Also, on the panel, was former Assistant United States Attorney Russ Kavalhuna, who is now the President of Henry Ford College. One interesting fact was that AUSA Kavalhuna was under the supervision of Judge Green while he (Green) was Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division of the USAO. So together, they were able to shed a great deal of light into their strategy in presenting their case to Judge Neff. As Judge Neff put it, Green and Kavalhuna had a "purely circumstantial" case to prove because, "they had NO EVIDENCE!" (side note: Judge Neff was so funny yet so unassuming. She kept us on our toes!)

Further, she added with her unsuspecting wit, "when it landed on my desk, it was truly an 'oh crap' moment." Kavalhuna and Green argued Ouedraogo helped his friend, Saba, kidnap and kill Dietz as part of a plot to gain Dietz's \$450,000 in life savings. However, without a body, it proved difficult to tie the duo to the suspected kidnapping and murder of Dietz. Judge Neff went on to say how this case had a little bit of everything in it. There were mental competency evaluations, seven suicide attempts by Saba, the case was death penalty eligible, Saba motioned to represent himself at trial (which was granted by Neff) and the list goes on and on. At the end, they all, including Det. Stasiak, still cannot agree on what they believed happened and Stasiak is still working hard to recover Dietz's body for his family. Saba is currently serving a 32-year sentence and Ouedraogo served a 5-year sentence after appealing his original sentence for the kidnapping charge.

After the day at the courthouse, about 30, including myself, of the attendees went to a beer tasting event at New Holland Brewery. It was fitting as Grand Rapids is hailed as "Beer City U.S.A.!" The event was organized by a member of the WDMI Clerk's Office staff. I was only one of a few from EDMI who attended so it gave me yet another opportunity to meet and connect with other JAs. I sat with two funny ladies from Minnesota, one who is currently the JA to the Chief Judge there. It was her first conference, so we quickly hit it off. Again, no matter how many miles apart, we can always find something to relate to each other in terms of our jobs.

On day 2, Saturday, August 25, we remained in the hotel ballroom for the remainder of the conference. The second day always starts with our general membership meeting where each of the officers makes a report to the organization. Then, all the new officers and circuit representatives are sworn in. Another fun thing is that a lot of us bring in gifts to raffle off, so in the morning we can check out the goodies and throw our bids in for the banquet raffle later that evening.

We had a variety of speakers come in to speak with us. The first was Henry Broitman, who is a Senior Benefits/Retirement Advisor from the AO. Usually, I think that retirement is so far down the line that I may not find it particularly useful to me now. However, I was pleasantly surprised that he had a section of his presentation dedicated to me (well those who have less than 5 years of service). Mr. Broitman motivated me to research investing more so that I can maximize the full employer match (4%) offered by the plan.

SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge, Cont.

Summary of 2018 FJAA Educational Conference, Cont.

Then, there was a representative from the AO, Dave Gustafson, who made a live presentation of all the new changes coming to JNET. I first learned of JNET when I attended the Chambers Staff Administration Workshop in D.C. in 2015 for newly hired judicial assistants and other chambers staff. I quickly fell in love with the site as it is now my go-to source. If I need to find someone quickly within the judiciary, I can look them up on people finder. If I need to answer a travel inquiry, I can quickly pull up the Guide to Judiciary Policy there. It truly is a lifesaver!

Next, Marty McDade of OSCAR discussed the new changes being made to the OSCAR site. This is where I got the idea to send out the mass emails to each candidate advising them that our term clerk position has been filled. It is a helpful feature because it automatically puts in the name of each applicant so that it is personalized, and not just a generic email. You can also set up future emails for law schools regarding available positions. Further, Mr. McDade encouraged us to provide as much information as possible on OSCAR to curtail the increase of calls from what he called “eager applicants”. Lastly, he reiterated the law clerk hiring pilot plan, which states that for the graduating class of 2021, we would not seek or accept formal or informal applications prior to June 15, 2020.

Finally, my favorite Microsoft Word trainer, Lois McLeod was back but this time with a new training module specific to our upcoming transition from IBM Lotus Notes to Outlook 2016 and she added a quick Excel refresher session. I personally prefer Outlook to Lotus Notes, because one of my favorite features is the delayed delivery of email. For example, say you wanted to send an email to someone at 10:00 p.m. but you don’t want it to show that you sent it at that time. You can schedule your email to be delivered on a specific day and time (i.e. 8:15 a.m. on September 21) Lois also said that we will have “read-only access” to our Lotus Notes email as we make the transition to Outlook. Also, while our same time IM feature is gone, we will have Skype for Business as our instant messenger. Much to the dismay of the JAs, we will not be able to have our emoji transferred. Unfortunately, emails over 80 MB and our calendar entries will not be transferred, so that is something to consider with the switch happening soon. (Josh Matta predicts at the end of the year)

Overall, the conference was educational, fun, interesting and enriching. On Saturday evening we had our annual banquet. Our president asked that we submit or share a story of triumph with the group and wear yellow as it represents positivity, clarity, energy, and optimism among other things. While I wanted to share my story of losing my dad and how my court family lifted me up (thank you!), I just couldn’t bring myself to do so. Several anonymous letters were read, and a few brave ladies stood up and poured their hearts out to us. Needless to say, we were all in tears at the end. It was truly therapeutic and uplifting and I feel that overall the conference brings a sense of renewal to all of us. I left with more memories and lots more friends from Hawaii to New York. Next year, we are headed to the Sixth Circuit again to... (drumroll please) NASHVILLE!



Thank You Note to FJAA from Sixth Circuit - Western District of Michigan

As many of you know our court lost a vital player in the Clerk's Office staff recently.

When the Western District of Michigan decided to host the 2018 Grand Rapids FJAA Conference we knew right away that we wanted to have Ashley Mankin on our committee to plan the event.

Though she had not yet acquired the title of Judicial Assistant she had much experience in planning events for our court and we knew we would be blessed to have her assist us with every step in the process.

Adding special touches and detail to the event agenda and name tags and assisting in the creation of a website for the event, Ashley was involved in every step.

She planned the Friday Night event with fellow FJAA members Kim Briggs and Chris Bockheim and attended the Saturday evening banquet with JA's from our District.

As the night progressed many of you enjoyed the company of the

beautiful "girl in the yellow dress" as she danced in the lobby of the Amway Grand Hotel to music playing from a Bluetooth speaker. Ashley had a very enjoyable night that Saturday in August with all of you! We planned to figure out a way to get her to TN with all of us in 2019 but God had other plans for her.

On October 31, 2018, as she entered work, Ashley suffered a pulmonary embolism which created complications that ultimately took her life a few short weeks later.

The loss of Ashley has been felt deep in our Court family and we know that many of you who had the opportunity to spend time with her in August have also felt the sadness accustomed to such a young life lost.

From our court family to all of you we thank you for the prayers, kind letters of support, messages, and gifts donated to assist her family during their difficult time.

~ **MIWD Judicial Assistants**

Ashley Nicole Mankin

MAY 11, 1988 ~ NOVEMBER 9, 2018 (AGE 30)



Ashley N. Mankin, age 30, of Grand Rapids, MI and formerly of Cheboygan, MI passed away Friday, November 9, 2018 from a pulmonary embolism. She was born May 11, 1988 in Cheboygan, the daughter of Chris and Stephanie (Brickley) Mankin. Ashley married David Seymour on September 13, 2014 in Cheboygan.

Following graduation from Cheboygan High School in 2006 she attended Alma College and completed a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in 2010. For the last six and a half years Ashley worked at the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan, most recently as Operations Specialist, a job she loved.

Ashley is fondly remembered for her wit and creativity. She was an avid reader, loved watching Jeopardy and crocheting dolls (one of which has appeared on TV and now sits in the Chambers of Ashley's heroine, Ruth Bader Ginsburg). She valued spending time with family, whether at hunting camp in Ocqueoc, searching for morel mushrooms or simply being together with her two brothers, Derek and Shawn.

Ever a fierce competitor, Ashley excelled at basketball, softball and volleyball in high school and continued to play softball in college and most recently with co-workers on an intramural softball team, "Club Fed". Ashley was the life of every party and a lover of live music, especially Zac Brown Band and Garth Brooks. Her life continues on as an organ donor.

Ashley is survived by her husband David, her parents, her two brothers, Shawn and Derek, grandparents, Jim & Jennie Brickley, aunts and uncles, Kim Mankin, Michael (Kim) Mankin, Shawn (Mary) Mankin, Jan (Terry) Franz, Kara (Ben) McQueen, Priscilla (Oscar) Brickley, Tiffany Brickley and Christine Mankin, cousins, Michael, Tony, Heidi, Russell, Eddie, Katie, Briana, Caitlyn, Danielle, Zac, Anthony, Arianna, and Gabi, her mother and father-in law, Michael and Marguerite Seymour, two brothers-in-law, Jeff (Katie) Seymour and Joe (Sarah) Seymour, sister-in-law, Lauren (Adolfo) Escobar, many 2nd cousins, great aunts and uncles, friends, and her Chocolate Lab Gus. She was preceded in death by her uncle, Kirk Mankin and her grandparents, Michael and Mary Mankin and JoAnne Kendrick.

SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Neva Kanelos



Many thanks to all of you for the opportunity to serve as the Seventh Circuit Representative (Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin). I feel honored as I begin my new responsibilities, and I am excited about being more involved with the Federal Judicial Assistants Association. Members of this Association benefit in many ways. The annual workshop in Grand Rapids, Michigan, last summer offered many educational classes useful to all types of federal courts and all types of assistants to federal judges (Judicial Assistants, Judicial Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Paralegals, and Primary or Career Law Clerks), and I am sure the 2019 summer workshop in Nashville, Tennessee, will be just as interesting and enlightening. I met wonderful people from around the country who share similar work environments and responsibilities. We exchanged ideas and practices for managing a judge's chambers more efficiently. I look forward to each Association newsletter as it offers more opportunities to learn about other courts and be in touch with people who do the same or similar work for federal judges across the country. The January newsletter is the only publication the Association offers to non-members. I encourage you to join. If you are interested in learning more, you can go to the website at <http://www.fjaa.net/>. Applications for membership are available at <http://www.fjaa.net/node/10>.

I began working for the U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, in 1986. Throughout those 33 years, I have worked for Judge Manion, Judge Kanne, Judge Evans, and Collins Fitzpatrick, Circuit Executive. I have met challenges and learned to multi-task as I have worked for multiple employers in various roles with various tasks. Until January 2018, I worked in Chicago, Illinois, and now I work in South Bend, Indiana, for Judge Manion. I miss Chicago, but I appreciate the lower cost of living in South Bend.

Prior to my employment with the federal courts, I worked for an Illinois state court judge, and during that time I was the Legal Education Chairman for the Champaign County Legal Secretaries Association. My hope is to share something educational, big or small, in each newsletter. For now, here is a little-known offer. Microsoft 365 (full suite) is available to federal employees for only \$14.95. Another option available through June, 30, 2019, is the Microsoft Office Suite at the same price. Here are instructions to access this offer:

1. Go to the J-Net.
2. Select Information Technology (from the blue highlighting at the top of the screen).
3. Select Contracts and Enterprise Agreements.
4. Under Software and Support, select Microsoft Products and Services.
5. Under Software and Services available to End-Users, select Microsoft Office Home Use (HUP).
6. Follow the directions provided on this page.

EIGHT CIRCUIT— Judith Kirby

EIGHTH CIRCUIT NEWS

Happy New Year! Now that the mid-term elections are over and the holidays have passed, it is time to look to the future. We can look forward to a great conference in Nashville later this year, and the call of spring and summer. I don't know about all of you, but we, here in Minnesota, jumped right past fall into winter. It got cold in October and progressed from there, so spring and summer are looking really good right now.

As we begin the new year, it is time to talk to our co-workers and colleagues about this organization and why you have chosen to be a member. Please let those you work with who are not members know that now is the time to join. The membership year runs from January 1 to December 30 and the yearly dues are only \$40.00. And for those of you who have colleagues that are new in their positions, membership during their first year on the job is free – no membership dues required. It's a great way to introduce them to FJAA. For those of you who are members but have not renewed for next year, now is also the time for you to send in your renewal forms, as well. Let's make 2019 a really great year for this organization.

DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA:



Chief Judge John R. Tunheim, Rebecca Baertsch, Judge Donovan W. Frank

And the Award goes to . . . Rebecca Baertsch receives 2018 Chief Judge's Award!!

Rebecca Baertsch, long-time FJAA member and Judicial Assistant to Senior Judge Donovan W. Frank in the District of Minnesota, was named the recipient of the 2018 Chief Judge's Award for Chambers Staff on December 7, 2018 at the District's Employee Recognition ceremony. Chief Judge Tunheim made the following comments in recognizing Becky for her significant contributions over the years:

“The Chief Judge Award winner for Chambers was instrumental in getting the Open Doors Program on the map and award worthy. She spent countless hours getting volunteers for the program and organized a memorable event every year for a group of enthusiastic students. She held top leadership roles with the Federal Judicial Assistants Association and represented our District with the utmost pride and respect. This award winner is active in improving our service to people with disabilities and is an important player in building the comradery we want to see in our Reentry Court. She supports the Courtwide

Security Committee and assists work related to our naturalization ceremonies. She is the ultimate multi-tasker and she has finger on the pulse of chamber's life and is constantly keeping track of the many changes that occur almost constantly with chamber's life. She is always willing to go above and beyond and does so in a pleasant and professional manner. Please join me in congratulating Becky Baertsch, our 2018 Chief Judge Award winner for Chambers!

I would say the same – please take a moment to congratulate Becky on this well-deserved honor.

EIGHT CIRCUIT, Cont.— Judith Kirby



New Judges in the District

Elizabeth Cowan Wright sworn in as a Magistrate Judge on September 4, 2018. She received her bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from Iowa State University, with distinction, and her master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois. Wright graduated from William Mitchell College of Law, valedictorian and *summa cum laude*, in 2006. She served as a law clerk for District Judge Joan N. Ericksen and is a registered patent attorney. Judge Wright practiced at Faegre Baker Daniels, litigating patent cases across the United States, including in Minnesota, Delaware, Texas, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin. Before she became a lawyer, Wright worked as an engineer at 3M for five years. In addition to her practice she served as an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Law School, where she taught patent litigation. She has also taught and moderated numerous CLE classes and seminars about patent litigation and discovery. In 2017 and 2018, she was listed as a Minnesota Super Lawyer for Intellectual Property Litigation.



Eric Tostrud was sworn in as a District Judge on Sept. 14, 2018. A William Mitchell College of Law alumni, Tostrud spent more than 26 years at the Lockridge Grindal Nauen firm and also clerked for the late U.S. District Judge Edward Devitt and Circuit Judge George MacKinnon in Washington, D.C. In addition to his practice, in 1993 he began teaching as an adjunct professor at William Mitchell College of Law, and later at the University of Minnesota Law School. In 2014 he began teaching full time for William Mitchell, and in 2015, the school gave him the title of Distinguished Practitioner in Residence.

Nancy Brasel was sworn in as a District Judge on September 17, 2018. A graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, Judge Brasel was a state court judge for seven years, presiding over juvenile, adult criminal and civil division cases. Prior to joining the state court bench, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney, where she prosecuted narcotics, firearms and financial crimes. Earlier in her career, Judge Brasel was a partner at Greene Espel PLLP, where she focused on business and employment litigation. From 1997 to 1999, she was an associate attorney at Leonard, Street and Deinard. She also worked as a law clerk for 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Donald P. Lay.

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA:

C.J. Williams was confirmed as a District Judge on September 6, 2018. He was sworn in as a Magistrate Judge on February 16, 2017 and had served as Chief Magistrate Judge since January 1, 2017. Previously, he was an assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa, serving as the Senior Litigation Counsel. He also was a trial attorney for Lathrop and Gage L.C. in Kansas City, Mo., and for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Williams received his undergraduate degree at the University of Iowa, his Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law with high distinction and his Masters of Law from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law.



Mark A. Roberts has been named to the position of United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Iowa. He received his undergraduate degree in English and Political Science from Iowa State University in 1989. He received his law degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1993 with high distinction and was inducted into the Order of the Coif. He began his legal career at the firm of Simmons, Perrine, Moyer, and Bergman, in Cedar Rapids, where he handled cases regarding criminal defense, business and commercial litigation, construction and design practice, environmental law, and labor/employment law. He has been listed as a Great Plains Super Lawyer from 2009 through 2017.

EIGHT CIRCUIT, Cont.— Judith Kirby



DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA:

U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles S. Miller, Jr., of the District of North Dakota, retired on November 5, 2018. He entered duty as a full-time magistrate judge stationed in Bismarck on November 2, 2004. Judge Miller was born in 1951 and graduated summa cum laude in 1973 with his B.A. in political science from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. He attended the University's law school, serving on the law review and earning his J.D. with distinction in 1976. Early in his career, Miller worked as a staff attorney for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative and as an Assistant United States Attorney in Bismarck. He worked in private practice until his appointment to the federal bench. Judge Miller will continue to serve the District of North Dakota on recall status on an ad hoc basis. His recall term runs from November 6, 2018 until November 5, 2019.



Rick L. Volk was named to the position of United States Magistrate Judge for a term of eight years effective November 6, 2018. This appointment will follow the retirement of Magistrate Judge Charles S. Miller, Jr., on November 5, 2018. Judge Volk will be stationed at Bismarck.

EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

Lisa G. Peters was sworn in as the new Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Arkansas on November 16, 2018. Ms. Peters is a graduate of Fisk University, a historically black university in Nashville, Tenn., and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's William H. Bowen School of Law. She has been with the Federal Public Defender's office since its inception.



FINALLY, IN THE WORLD OF "REALLY?!?":

US Marshals Find Missing Juror Through Facebook Video

Social media helped U.S. Marshals track down a Sioux Falls (South Dakota) woman who was selected to be on a federal jury and then disappeared during a lunch break.

September 8, 2018, U.S. News & World Report

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Social media helped U.S. Marshals track down a Sioux Falls woman who was selected to be on a federal jury and then disappeared during a lunch break. The 30-year-old woman had been selected to sit on the jury of a financial criminal trial that ended last week, The Argus Leader reported. But she didn't return from lunch during the trial's first day, court officials said. "Nobody knew where she was," said Gary Bunt, a senior inspector with the U.S. Marshals Service. "The court tried to call her, and she wouldn't answer her phone." Judge Karen Schreier sent two U.S. Marshals to find the woman. Bunt said they discovered the woman's whereabouts after she posted a live-stream video on Facebook to promote her business, while supposedly home with a sick child. "This juror chose to abscond, so to speak, and not take her civic responsibility seriously," Bunt said. It's not uncommon for a juror to get sick or have a family emergency, which is why juries have alternates, said Matt Thelen, the Clerk of the U.S. District Court in Sioux Falls. But he said he's never seen an instance where a juror simply decided not to return to court. An alternate juror ultimately took the woman's place. Schreier sentenced the woman to perform 40 hours of community service.

NINTH CIRCUIT NEWS - SUZANNE LOFTON



Aloha and Happy Holidays FJAA Members ! What an amazing time we had in Grand Rapids this past August ! Not only were the conference speakers on top of their game, but the conference setting and comradery among judicial assistants were memorable as well. Big thanks again to our Grand Rapids planning committee. Job well done ! I hope most of you are enjoying the Christmas weather, music, and festive decorations wherever you may be. It is an honor to be a part of such an amazing organization and I look forward to meeting up and reconnecting with current members next year in Nashville and welcoming our new members as well. Wishing you and your loved ones an incredible new year. May your walk into 2019 be one filled with hope, compassion, joy and love.

NINTH CIRCUIT GROUP MEMBERS -GRAND RAPIDS CONFERENCE



NEW CIRCUIT REPS BEING SWORN IN





Judge Mark Bennett and Lovely wife Pat Ohara

Hon. Mark Bennett is a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Judge Bennett took the oath of office on August 16, 2018, after having been nominated by President Trump in February 2018 and confirmed by the Senate in July 2018.

Judge Bennett is a 1976 graduate of Union College, *summa cum laude* and a 1979 graduate of Cornell Law School, *magna cum laude*. After law school, Judge Bennett clerked for Chief United States District Judge Samuel P. King in Honolulu and then served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Columbia and the District of Hawaii for a total of nine years. Judge Bennett then spent eleven years as a partner in a large Honolulu law firm, eight years as Hawaii's (appointed) Attorney General, and seven years as a partner with a different Honolulu law firm.

As an attorney, Judge Bennett, a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, specialized in complex trial and appellate litigation. Judge Bennett first-chaired well over one hundred jury trial and argued scores of cases on appeal, including twice successfully before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Judge Jill A. Otake

United States District Court of Hawaii

Judge Otake was appointed by President Donald Trump in December to fill the vacant seat at the United States District Court of Hawaii by Judge Susan Oki Mollway, who retired two years ago.

Judge Otake was born and raised on Oahu and graduated from Iolani School. She then graduated from Georgetown University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Russian language, and the University of Washington School of Law.

She previously served as a deputy prosecuting attorney for King County, a clerk for Hawaii State Supreme Court Justice Simeon Acoba, and an assistant U.S. Attorney for Washington State.

Judge Otake returned to Hawaii in 2014 to work as an assistant U.S. attorney where she was the head of the Special Crimes Section.





Samuel Conti, U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of California in San Francisco, died August 29, 2018, at the age of 96. Appointed to the federal court by President Richard Nixon in 1970, he retired in 2015 at the age of 92 after 45 years of service, making him the longest-serving jurist in NDCA history.



Judge Charles R. Breyer of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, was presented with the 2018 Devitt Award – our nation's highest honor bestowed upon an Article III federal judge – at a ceremony on November 7, 2018, at the United States Supreme Court in Washington, DC. Judge Breyer was appointed to the federal bench in 1997 by President Clinton. He was a member of the Watergate Special Prosecution Force in the early 1970s, served on the Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation from 2011-2018, and has been a member of the United States Sentencing Commission since 2013.

Chief Judge G. MURRAY SNOW



United States Courts for the District of Arizona

Judge Snow is a former partner with Osborn Maledon, P.A. in Phoenix, Arizona. He has been an Adjunct Professor of Law and Political Science at Arizona State University, a member of the Arizona State Bar Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct and a member of the working group that revised the Arizona Code of Professional Conduct in 2002.

In 2002, Judge Snow was appointed to Division One of the Arizona Court of Appeals by Governor Jane D. Hull. While a member of the Court of Appeals, Judge Snow was the Dean of the Judicial College of Arizona and the chair of the Arizona Task Force on the Code of Judicial Conduct, which revised the Arizona Canons of Judicial Conduct in 2008.

In July 2008, the United States Senate approved President George W. Bush's nomination of Judge Snow to serve as a judge of the United States District Court for the District of Arizona. Judge Snow is a member of the Ninth Circuit Education Committee. Judge Snow became Chief Judge for the District of Arizona on September 4, 2018.

RETIREMENT

Our very own Wilma Arakaki is retiring!

Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Magistrate Judge Kevin S. C. Chang, Wilma Arakaki, will be retiring after 17 years with the United States District Court of Hawaii. Wilma attended the University of Hawaii and received a Bachelor's Degree in Education. There was a large surplus of teachers when Wilma graduated, so her first full time job was as a legal assistant in a law office. Besides working for the federal court for 17 years, Wilma worked for the State Legislature for 5 years, 20 years for the State Judiciary. Wilma worked with the Honorable Judge Kevin S. C. Chang for the past 25 years at the State Court and the Federal Court. Wilma surrounds her time with her adorable grandchildren, 5 total. Her primary job after retirement will be Uber Granny! Wilma has been a member of the FJAA since 2001. She has attended FJAA conferences in Maine, Seattle, San Francisco and Michigan. Congratulations Wilma !

The Honorable Judge Kevin S. C. Chang and Wilma





Greetings from the Tenth Circuit.

I have news from Oklahoma and Kansas and look forward to hearing from any of you about things changing in your district for future publications.

Susan Goodwin, J.A. for Judge Nancy L. Moritz.

News from the Western District of Oklahoma!

Kadi Burleson has been working with Senior Judge Lee West who recently announced he is retiring after 39 years. She will now work with Judge Charles Goodwin, who served as a law clerk to Judge West following law school, was a partner and civil litigator at Crowe & Dunlevy, P.A. and served as a U.S. Magistrate Judge. His formal swearing-in will be January 25th, 2019. Word has it that he plays bridge and keeps bees, gifting honey to colleagues every year. Kadi was a paralegal before becoming a JA in 2015 and is a native of Kansas City. She is an avid Kansas City Chiefs and Royals fan, is married to Cash Burleson and has three dogs, Boogie, Cajun and Cheese.



Judge West with Boogie as a pup.



Kadi



Judge Goodwin



Paige Osborn works with Judge Scott Palk. Prior to coming to the court, Paige worked at the University of Oklahoma for twenty years, with the last fourteen years at the OU College of Law as administrative assistant to former Assistant Dean Scott Palk. When Judge Palk received confirmation as the Western District's newest Article III judge, Paige decided to join him on the journey. Paige is a native of Oklahoma City, where she presently lives. She has two adult children, a daughter, Sidney, who is currently a senior at OU and planning to attend law school. Paige's son, Derek, lives in Tulsa and works for the Senate. Paige enjoys gardening and working in her yard.

Paige with Derek and Sidney.

Willa Bray was Judge Miles-LeGrange's J.A. Judge Miles-LeGrange took senior status in November after serving the Circuit for 24 years. Willa is now working with Judge Timothy DeGiusti.

A NEW MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR TOPEKA, KANSAS

Magistrate Judge K. Gary Sebelius will retire from the bench on February 20, 2019. He began his judgeship career on February 20, 2003. I was hired as his Courtroom Deputy/Judicial Assistant and it has been a great 16 years! Judge Sebelius and I knew each other quite well from the private legal sector. When he had an opening in his law firm and he asked me to come work for him, I was not available. When I was looking to change jobs, there wasn't a job available with him. But, as they say, third time is charm. I had worked for U.S. District Judge Dale E. Saffels for 13 years until he passed in November of 2002. Timing was perfect for Judge Sebelius and me to start together in February 2003. Judge Sebelius said at that time "Sheryl, we start together and we go out together." But, I'm not ready to quit!

The court has selected a replacement Magistrate Judge and her name is Angel D. Mitchell. She currently is a partner in the law firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Kansas City, Missouri, where she practices Intellectual Property Litigation. At the beginning of her legal career, she was a term clerk for U.S. Magistrate Judge James P. O'Hara, Kansas City, Kansas. She then became a career clerk for U.S. District Judge John W. Lungstrum, Kansas City, Kansas. (Submitted by **Sheryl Gilchrist, PP, PLS Courtroom Deputy/Judicial Assistant.**)



Judge Gary Sebelius and Sheryl Gilchrist.



New Judge Angel D. Mitchell

I hope to have an article about Judge Mitchell for the next newsletter! Susan



11TH Circuit News

Gail Shafer, Circuit Rep

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and I wish you all the best in the new year.

Our Southern District of Georgia Court Family is growing as follows:

Judge R. Stan Baker Investiture

On October 19, 2018, Judge R. Stan Baker was formally sworn in as our newest United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of Georgia. Judge Baker is no stranger to our Court as he had most recently been serving as United States Magistrate Judge in the Brunswick Division, and he began his legal career as a judicial law clerk to Judge William T. Moore, Jr. Chief Judge J. Randal Hall, Judge Lisa Godbey Wood, Judge Dudley H. Bowen, and Judge Moore presided over the investiture. Judge Baker's family and friends, distinguished guests from our community, members of our court family, and the Court's Advisory Committee attended the ceremony.



Judge Benjamin Cheesbro Investiture

Judge Benjamin Cheesbro was formally sworn in as the Magistrate Judge for the Brunswick Division on November 5, 2018. Judge Cheesbro was joined by his wife, Whitney, and his sons George and William, along with all of the District Judges for the Southern District of Georgia and a courtroom full of distinguished guests to include family, former colleagues, and Court staff. Two of Judge Cheesbro's former colleagues Patrick Schwedler and Anna Howard, as well as Dean Bo Rutledge of the University of Georgia School of Law, delivered remarks and reiterated the character attributes that will help Judge Cheesbro serve as a distinguished Magistrate Judge.



The sky is the limit





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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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