

FIFTH CIRCUIT, CONT.

SUSAN BARRIOS RETIREMENT

After 46 years of government service, she left us ... but who can blame her. She is off to create more memories for the next chapter in the Susan Hendry Barrios biography. Yes, we will miss our beloved "Social Director" who had a talent for bringing people together and for always make it a great time! We all thank her for her service, her leadership, her commitment, her friendship and her kind smile.



Friends and co-workers from over the years helped celebrate her send-off at a luncheon. In her honor, the attire was to dress like Susan in her "always together look" with her beautiful scarfs. All good time and delicious food from the Happy Italian and a homemade cake by fellow JA, Sharon Johnson, was enjoyed by all.

TRIVIA QUESTION:

Can you guess, what year this chamber's photograph was taken?



If you guessed 2020, you are correct -- I wonder what gave it away.

I guess we won't need to add a year to this photo! Praying that 2021 will be mask free.

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*

JUDGE CORY T. WILSON

5TH CIRCUIT JUDGE

Assumed Office July 2, 2020



Early riser or night owl?

If I make it past 9:30 p.m. *some nights* during the week, does that count as "night owl"? Definitely an early riser, much to my family's chagrin.

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

An eccentric billionaire philanthropist. That failing, it might be fun to be an architect, or perhaps a gardener.

On a relaxing Sunday, what

would be your ideal thing to do?

After church and "Sunday dinner" with the family, naps (in the hammock, weather permitting) are always nice. Kayaking and fishing work too.

Dessert or no dessert?

Isn't dessert why we eat the meal?

Sweet tooth or salt-a-holic?

Sweet tooth. Salt is occasionally good, however, to cleanse the palate between courses of chocolate.

Kale or "No way!"?

See *supra* responses to questions #4 and #5 above.

Favorite flavor of ice cream?

Mint chocolate chip. Chocolate chip, if in a pinch.

Favorite pet?

Our rescue dog Foxy would be more accurately classified as a daughter, not a pet. We have fish as pets (freshwater, not brave enough for a saltwater aquarium).

And, my wife names every duck and goose that lands in the lake behind our house and would take them in if they

would let her.

Favorite kind of food?

Tie: Greek/Lebanese and Italian (note to chambers: Olive Garden is not Italian).

Favorite book?

The Bible (which is in its own category, really). *A Tale of Two Cities*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *A River Runs Through It* are all favorites. I also love histories and biographies, among which *Team of Rivals* is certainly up there.

Favorite movie?

Probably, based on the sheer number of times we have watched them, the *Star Wars* movies. Except for Episodes I and II, and that *Solo* offshoot.

Favorite hobby?

Assuming napping on Sundays or dining out with my wife and son (when we can get him to go nowadays) don't count as "hobbies" per se, I also like to collect old political memorabilia and old books. It is also nice to putter around in the yard outside (not enough expertise to call it "gardening," but maybe one day).

Favorite kind of music?

Not sure what this combo says about me, but it is what it is: 80s Alternative, 40s Big-Band Era (Billie Holliday, etc.), Mozart, and old-school (not jazzed up or modernized, but left as Watts, Newton and Cower wrote them) hymns.

Favorite vacation spot?

Cashiers/Highlands, North Carolina. But we also love Wyoming, Utah, and the West generally. Mountains; beach only when the mountains are closed.

Favorite sports team?

Applying the term "sports team" liberally, the Ole Miss Rebels.

Fifth Circuit's "Judicial Spotlight"

Getting to Know Your New 2021 Fifth Circuit Representative, Barbara Alcon

Barbara Alcon

Judicial Assistant to Judge Shelly Dick



Early riser or night owl?

Definitely a night owl. My husband is the drummer in a band and I'm often out late.

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

TV Newscaster.

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

Beer, Barbecue Chicken Pizza w/Jalapeno Peppers, and a Saints game.

Dessert or no dessert?

Nah, I'm a spicy and savory girl all the way.

Beer, wine, or cocktails?

ALL OF THE ABOVE!

Kale or "No way!"?

Heck no!

Favorite flavor of ice cream?

If I did have some, it would be mint chocolate chip.

Favorite pet?

None, I'm allergic to cats and dogs.

Favorite kind of food?

Fresh jalapeno peppers and fresh guacamole.

Favorite book?

The Life of Pi.

Favorite movie?

Shawshank Redemption.

Favorite hobby?

Dancing.

Favorite kind of music?

Anything with horns.

Favorite vacation spot?

A tropical beach.

Favorite sports team?

LSU (graduate) and the SAINTS (born and raised in NOLA).

Barbara Alcon is the Judicial Assistant to United States Middle District Chief Judge Shelly D. Dick, who was appointed by President Obama in May of 2013. The Middle District of Louisiana comprises the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, Saint Helena, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

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Barbara attended LSU in Baton Rouge and, in 1995, obtained two Bachelor's Degrees, one in English and one in Political Science. She completed one year of law school, also at LSU, before enrolling in LSU's Accelerated Paralegal Studies Program in 1996. Barbara attained her Paralegal Certificate in January of 1997 and was an active member of the Baton Rouge Paralegal Association for several years before taking her new position as a Judicial Assistant.

During her career as a Paralegal, Barbara attended and participated in a total of 9 state court and federal trials, including a 7 week bench trial in Federal Court in New Orleans, Louisiana, and a 3 ½ week oil and gas

trial in Franklin, Louisiana. Additionally, as Senior Paralegal, Barbara was responsible for designing, developing, drafting and implementing the "paperless" protocol for Forrester & Dick.

Although she is still the Chief Judge's JA, Barbara is thoroughly enjoying her newly obtained title and role as Courtroom Deputy, as well, to Chief Judge Shelly Dick. In addition to her daily duties in this dual position, Barbara is a member of the Middle District of Louisiana's Re-Entry Program called R.I.S.E. (Rehabilitating Individuals through Strategic Encounters). Barbara Alcon lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with her husband and three children.

"Doing What We Can in 2020"

By Christine Abadie

Oh, what a year! Almost all of us would admit that for multiple reasons, 2020 has been one of the most unusual and challenging times in recent memory. Together, we have all suffered losses and experienced fear and uncertainty. That uncertainty continues with the 2020 Presidential election. We find this election even more difficult than one might expect—lots of unrest, different sides with passionate views. First and foremost, whatever our views are, I hope you voted. It's our duty.

After the election is over, let's focus on moving forward. Individually, we may not feel like we can change the world, but individually, we can start by doing small things—help a neighbor, help someone you never thought of helping, perform random acts of kindness, find and be thankful for the positives in our own lives, help the less fortunate, and share a smile every day with someone you have never met before. If we all did these little things, it could really turn into something bigger and better than what we have previously known.

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Little League World Series Baseball A Domestic and International Tradition

By Christine Abadie

I don't know if it's only me, but growing up, we often watched Little League World Series Baseball. We didn't know anyone playing and my immediate family was not that athletically inclined, but the kids' enthusiasm always drew us in to watch, and of course, we always pulled for the United States.

Fast forward a few years, my children played sports. My husband is the eleventh of fourteen children—a good Catholic family. They always played sports, and all were competitive. As our children grew up, my husband coached them. Although they are grown now, he continues to coach and last year he had the opportunity to take a team to the Little League World Series. He was one of the coaches of the Eastbank Little League team, from Louisiana, representing the Southeast Region. Although Hawaii was the favorite, our team, who initially lost to Hawaii in the first game, came back to be the first team to come out of the loser's bracket to win the U.S. Championship beating Hawaii. Our team went on to win the International Championship having beaten Curacao, who beat the favor international team; Japan. It was truly an amazing time, and we thought our great season had come to an end.



Although they are grown now, he continues to coach and last year he had the opportunity to take a team to the Little League World Series. He was one of the coaches of the Eastbank Little League team, from Louisiana, representing the Southeast Region. Although Hawaii was the favorite, our team, who initially lost to Hawaii in the first game, came back to be the first team to come out of the loser's bracket to win the U.S. Championship beating Hawaii. Our team went on to win the International Championship having beaten Curacao, who beat the favor international team; Japan. It was truly an amazing time, and we thought our great season had come to an end.

What we didn't realize was that it was only the beginning of a very memorable year. I'm not sure if I can remember all that happened afterwards, but our events included a "Welcome Home" parade in honor of the team, riding on a float in the Bacchus parade during Mardi Gras; being invited to the Governor's mansion for dinner with the Louisiana Governor, John Bell Edwards, and the first lady; being invited to dinner with the Archbishop of New Orleans; being recognized at many local, college and professional sporting events; and finally, traveling to our great Capital and meeting our Congressman, Steve Scalise, and affording me and my husband the opportunity to go into the Oval Office to meet our President, Donald Trump.

I am proud of my husband and his team of Little Leaguers who represented our country well. I am proud to be an American, and even prouder to be part of this great judiciary. Throughout the World Series, I received kind notes and encouragement from our judiciary family, who were cheering our team on to victory!

To my gracious, fellow Hawaii rep, Suzanne Lofton, may we both have another opportunity to face-off in the champion game next year!



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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

Events to Note for FJAA Newsletter -“Submitted by Barbara Alcon”

9/17/2020 Naturalization Ceremony

In the midst of all the turmoil in our world these days, we'd like to share a joyous moment that we facilitated on the steps of our courthouse last week. As you are likely aware, we perform a Naturalization Ceremony each year on Constitution and Citizenship Day (September 17). This year, the ceremony took place on the front lawn of the courthouse (a first for our District) so that social distancing protocols could be observed. Below you will find a link to a page on our public-facing web site with a few photographs.

Here is the link -> <http://www.lamd.uscourts.gov/naturalization>

For the first time in the Middle District's history, on Thursday, September 17, 2020, the Middle District's Judicial Officers naturalized twenty-three candidates for United States citizenship in an outdoor court ceremony “under the oaks” at the Russell B. Long Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

The Honorable Brian A. Jackson presided over the ceremony, alongside District Judge John W. deGravelles, United States Bankruptcy Judge Douglas D. Dodd, and United States Magistrate Judges Richard L. Bourgeois, Erin Wilder-Doomes, and Scott D. Johnson, who each offered remarks and congratulations to the United States' newest citizens.

Mr. Russell Long Mosely, local attorney and grandson to the late Senator Russell B. Long to whom the Middle District Courthouse is dedicated, offered special remarks to welcome the naturalized citizens and to commemorate the historical significance of the Middle District's second only court ceremony on its stately grounds. The first outdoor ceremony was the official dedication of the Russell B. Long Federal Building and United States Courthouse on November 3, 1994.

Ms. Jessica Ryan, Immigration Services Officer for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, introduced the candidates for citizenship. United States Attorney, Mr. Brandon Fremin, admitted the candidates and Chief Deputy, Mrs. Tara Madison, administered the Oath of Allegiance. Other distinguished guests in attendance included Ms. Brooke Altazan, President of the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, Mr. Dennis Blunt, President of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, and Ms. Ann Gregorie, Executive Director of the Baton Rouge Bar Association.

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Although the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the outdoor ceremony complete with social distancing and face coverings, the beautiful weather, picturesque scenery, and the Court's impassioned commitment to fulfilling its Constitutional obligations, overshadowed the looming public health crisis. Undoubtedly, the Middle District's historic 2020 Constitution Day Naturalization Ceremony will be remembered fondly for years to come.

8/3/2020 Criminal Jury Trial

I would like to extend a colossal and sincere word of thanks to all those who volunteered to assist with our State's first pandemic-era jury. The process went far more smoothly than anyone anticipated and the reason for that is based entirely on the planning and preparations made by our dedicated staff. What occurred today is a textbook example of what happens when a team of people work together to achieve a common goal and we could not be more proud of our Clerk's Office. Though the trial lasted a week, the most difficult and logistics-heavy aspect (jury selection) couldn't have gone much better than it did.

We have many hurdles left to negotiate before things return to anything close to "normal" at our courthouse. But if this trial is any indication, we have no doubt that we will be able to support the critical mission of this Court with the same level of proficiency and professionalism that we have all come to expect.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the outstanding leadership of our new Chief Deputy throughout the planning and execution process. Tara Madison has been with us only 10 months, half of which have been spent managing in the midst of a crisis. What's more incredible is that she made it look easy, and we all agree that it was anything but.

As we transition back to trial proceedings and the occasional in-person hearing, we will continue to put forth our best efforts. We have all done outstanding work over the last 5 months. Simply stated, none of this works without each of us.

SIXTH CIRCUIT— JENNIFER HODGE

Congratulations!

What's been going on since the last conference in Nashville? One of the Nashville Conference speakers and Sixth Circuit Judicial Assistants, formerly known as Amy Robinson, has married AND is now expecting a baby boy! Amy, now Dunes, is anticipating the arrival of Baby Boy Dunes on December 2, 2020. Congratulations and well wishes to Amy and her family.



Welcome New Sixth Circuit Member Haley Hages

Paralegal to Judge Thomas L. Ludington MI/ED



Please join me in welcoming new FJAA Sixth Circuit Member, Haley Hages. Please read her bio below.

I am a mom of three, one 11-year-old boy, and two girls, ages 4 and 2. With the support of my husband I obtained my Paralegal Certification in 2015. My legal career started off working as a legal secretary at a private practice for about 2 years. I then worked in the legal department for a local sub-prime vehicle loan company for 2 years and then I accepted a position as a swing secretary for Saginaw County Circuit Court. As a swing secretary, I was trained to cover administrative duties as well as court room procedures for six circuit court judges. My husband and I are very involved with our local amateur hockey association that my son plays for. I have served as the secretary for three years and in April I have taken over as the social media manager. When we are not at work or at a hockey rink, my family enjoys spending time at our family cabin, traveling and camping.

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NEWS RELEASE

United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee

www.tnwd.uscourts.gov



July 24, 2020

Annie T. Christoff Sworn in as United States Magistrate Judge

The United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee is pleased to announce that Annie T. Christoff took the Oath of Office in a private ceremony July 24, 2020, to serve as a magistrate judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. A date for the public investiture ceremony has not yet been set.

Magistrate Judge Christoff was appointed by the District Court to fill the position left vacant by Magistrate Judge Diane K. Vescovo, who retired in May.

Magistrate Judge Christoff received her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 2007 and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Tulane University in 2000. Magistrate Judge Christoff was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of Tennessee, and prior to that was a litigation partner at Bass, Berry & Sims, PLC. Magistrate Judge Christoff served as law clerk to U.S. District Judge Jon P. McCalla from 2007-2008.

Magistrate Judge Christoff is married to Michael O'Neill Christoff.

SIXTH CIRCUIT, CONT.



NEW CLERK OF COURT SELECTED FOR THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE, TN, August 6, 2020. The United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee is pleased to announce the selection of Lynda Motes Hill as the new Clerk of Court.

Hill, a Middle Tennessee native, brings to the Court over twenty years of civil litigation experience in state and federal courts. Prior to joining the Court, Hill served as a member at Frost Brown Todd LLC in Nashville, Tennessee, from 2012 to July 2020 where she was Chair of the firm's Automotive Industry Team, comprised of more than 60 attorneys who work extensively with original equipment manufacturers and tier suppliers. She represented clients in the areas of complex commercial litigation, automotive supplier risk management, distressed supplier workouts, internal investigations, class actions, and product liability litigation. She also served as Vice Chair of the firm's Mobility & Transportation Industry Team, Chair of the firm's Litigation Technology Committee, Co-Chair of the firm's Coronavirus Response Team, and a member of the firm's Ethics and Women's Initiative Steering Committees.

From 1998 to July 2012, Hill was a member at Miller & Miller PLLC in Chattanooga and Nashville, Tennessee, where she served as Chair of the firm's Intellectual Property Litigation practice group and established and served as Chair of the firm's IT-Litigation Support Committee and Co-Chair

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of its Academy Committee. Early in her legal career, Hill served as the Youth Services Officer and chief administrator for the Marion County, Tennessee Juvenile Court and Temporary Holding Resource.

Hill holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of the South, a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law, and a Master of Business Administration degree with an emphasis in Executive Management from the Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management, the latter of which Hill obtained while practicing law full-time. Hill also is a Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 Listed General Civil Mediator.

In her free time, Hill enjoys gardening, riding horses, and basketball. Hill's husband of 26 years, Ben, is an educator at Eagleville School and their son, Isaac, is a junior aerospace engineering major at the University of Tennessee.

On August 3, 2020, Hill was sworn in by the Honorable Waverly D. Crenshaw, Jr., Chief Judge of the United States Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, with her husband and son at her side.



Hill Swearing-In Ceremony. Photo Credit Kelly Parise, 8/3/2020. Ben Hill (left), Lynda Hill, Isaac Hill (right).

SIXTH CIRCUIT, CONT.



Judge Thomas Wiseman, Jr.

Thomas Wiseman Jr., a retired United States District Court Middle District of Tennessee judge, has died. He was 89.

Wiseman was appointed U.S. District Judge for the Middle Tennessee District in 1978 on the recommendation of Sen. Jim Sasser and nomination by President Jimmy Carter. Wiseman was also chief judge of the Middle District from 1984 to 1991. Wiseman took senior status in 1995.

Cases Wiseman presided over included the desegregation of Nashville schools. He also presided over the Tennessee Higher Education desegregation case.

Wiseman was born in Tullahoma and graduated from Vanderbilt University and went on Vanderbilt Law School and the University of Virginia to earn post-graduate degrees. He served two years in the U.S. Army in 1954-56 and was a state representative for Coffee, Franklin and Grundy counties from 1965 to 1969. Wiseman was a state treasurer from 1971 to 1974 when he resigned to run for governor, finishing third in a crowded Democratic field, his son said.

Retired U.S. District Court of Middle Tennessee Judge Todd Campbell was appointed to fill the Wiseman's vacancy in 1995. Campbell also remembered his first election as a teenager in 1974 and voting for Wiseman in the governor's race. Campbell described Wiseman as "the only person I was afraid to disappoint. I tried to emulate him on the bench and his high standards every day."

In Honor of the Retirement of the Honorable Diane K. Vescovo, Chief Magistrate Judge



The Honorable Diane K. Vescovo, Chief Magistrate Judge, is retiring today after twenty-five years of service.

In 1977, the Honorable Diane K. Vescovo graduated with highest honors from the University of Virginia. She continued her education by attending what is now The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, receiving her juris doctor in 1980. While in law school, Judge Vescovo served as Editor-in-Chief of The University of Memphis Law Review. Upon graduation, Judge Vescovo remained in Memphis, serving as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Harry W. Welford, then U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee. For the next six years, Judge Vescovo worked with her father, Lloyd C. Kirkland, Jr. Beginning in 1987, Judge Vescovo left private practice and served as in-house litigation counsel for International Paper Company for six years. Judge Vescovo then returned to private practice, becoming a partner at Wolff, Ardis, P.C.

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On June 15, 1995, Judge Vescovo was appointed to the bench as a federal magistrate judge for the Western District of Tennessee, making her the first female federal magistrate judge in the district. Since her appointment, Judge Vescovo has served three consecutive eight-year terms as a federal magistrate judge and was named Chief Magistrate Judge in November 2014.

Judge Vescovo has a long history of participating in various professional associations and engaging in community activities. She is a member of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association and served on its Board of Directors for several years as the Sixth Circuit representative, she is a master member of the Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inn of Court, and she has served twice as the chair of the Memphis Bar Association Bench Bar Conference. Judge Vescovo also served on the Memphis Bar Association's Committee on Minorities in the Profession and has been a member of the Association of Women Attorneys since her law school graduation in 1980. She has served as a Memphis Area Legal Services Campaign for Equal Justice Cabinet Member as well as on the Lawyers Committee for the National Civil Rights Museum and on the Youth Villages Board of Directors. This year, she is serving as the Co-Chair of the Memphis Area Legal Services Campaign for Equal Justice. Additionally, Judge Vescovo has contributed to the Memphis legal community by giving numerous presentations in the fields of e-discovery, technological advancements, ethics, and mediation. Additionally, Judge Vescovo considers her mediation skills and success in settlement conferences as another achievement in her career.

Judge Vescovo is also a proud University of Memphis alumna. She has served on The University of Memphis Alumni Association Executive Board of Directors, The University of Memphis School of Law Alumni Board as president, and The University of Memphis School of Law Advisory Board. Judge Vescovo aided in re-locating the law school downtown. One of her proudest moments was serving as Co-Chair of the Grand Opening Gala for the new law school building. Judge Vescovo was also instrumental in implementing the Law Alumni Association's Pillars of Excellence Awards Dinner, which recognizes attorneys who have given significant service to the legal profession and community. She has been selected to receive the Pillars award in 2021.

During her tenure as a federal magistrate judge, Judge Vescovo has dedicated her efforts to hiring newly graduated law students from The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, ushering in further generations of legal professionals in the Memphis community.

Throughout her career, Judge Vescovo has received several awards including the Young Lawyer's Division Outstanding Judge of the Year Award in 2010, the University of Memphis Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015, and most recently, the Association of Women Attorney's Marion Griffin Frances Loring Award which honors those who have made outstanding contributions to women in the legal profession.

After retiring from twenty-five years on the bench, Judge Vescovo plans to enjoy time with her loving family, get a puppy, and travel with her husband, Mike McLaren.

SEVENTH CIRCUIT – CATHY GEIER



News From the Central District of Illinois

So much to say, so little space! As with most of the country, we here in the Central District have had an interesting year. After doing nothing but telephone or virtual hearings since the middle of March, I believe we started holding some in-person hearings in June. In July, we started the process of converting our courtrooms so that trials could resume. To date, I believe only one trial has been held within our District since March, and all reports are that it went off rather smoothly. Our Peoria judges will be busy in October and November with trials so we will find out how well our preparations and precautions work. Offices are still staffed at 50%, and will remain so until at least the first of the year. With my judge in the office more now for in-person hearings, I am finding teleworking more difficult. I have been in the office only a handful of times since March, and then only for a few hours at a time. I truly do miss my work family and am looking forward to the day when we can all be in the building together again.

CDIL Federal Book Club meet for our 3rd time this year. First time on Zoom as it is now too cold outside to meet in a backyard. We read “Whisper Network” by Chandler Baker. It provided a very interesting discussion and I recommend the book. We are reading “The Storytellers Secret” for our next zoom meeting in early December.



Update from Western District of Wisconsin, Submitted by Melissa Hardin

It is still strange being one of a handful of employees coming to work every day, even with it being over 6 months now. We held our first jury trial since the coronavirus shut everything down during the week of July 6th. It was a criminal trial, and used 3 out of our 4 courtrooms (yes, we are a small court with only 2 district judges and 1 magistrate judge). We used our largest courtroom and did the jury pick in 2 pools of 20 each, to allow for social distancing. For the trial itself, the jury sat in the public benches, so they could space out. When we needed to have a bench conference, the judge and attorneys went next door to a smaller courtroom (the judge could go thru the robing room, and the attorneys went thru the Marshal’s holding cells). Anyone from the public wishing to watch the trial, were in a third courtroom watching on a large screen. Everyone wore a mask, unless they were actively giving testimony or questioning the witness. So, we got the trial done. Interestingly, knowing we weren’t going to automatically move a trial has helped our Clerk of Court during his settlement conferences. We have also had to reschedule 2 criminal trials because the defendant, who was being detained, ended up being quarantined with his jail unit because of possible Covid exposure.