

SEVENTH CIRCUIT, CONT.

Recipe Corner



Pumpkin Bread – Submitted by Mellissa Schoenbein, CDIL

This is a recipe from my stepmother who passed away in 2002. I like to make it every fall because it reminds me of her and fills my house with the smell of pumpkin spice. Although her recipe didn't call for it, I like to add ½ cup of semi-sweet chocolate chips.

Mix together the following:

2 eggs

1/3 cup vegetable oil

1/3 cup water

1 cup pumpkin (from can of 100% pure pumpkin)

Then add the following:

1 2/3 cups flour

1/4 teaspoon baking powder

1 1/3 cup sugar

3/4 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon cinnamon

2 teaspoons ginger

1 teaspoon cloves

1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips (optional)



Grease bread pan with butter. Bake at 325 degrees for 60-80 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Makes 1 loaf. If making muffins, bake for 20 minutes.

EIGHTH CIRCUIT – JUDITH KIRBY



Greetings to all!

Much like all of you, things here in the 8th Circuit remain the same – most are working remotely, but here in Minnesota, we have started to have in-person criminal hearing, including a small number of trials. I think we can all agree that 2020 has been an unusual year, and one that I think we would prefer not to see again. On the other hand, we have learned a lot about what we are capable of handling, and for many of us, we have learned a completely new way to work.

We have had a number of members renew their memberships during the past few months, and I encourage all of you to renew now if you haven't already done so. I also encourage you to talk to your co-workers who are not currently members about joining us. Having connections to others during this period of change can be very gratifying. Contact your circuit representative for an application or if you have any questions.

Finally, I will be retiring at the end of January, 2021, so this will be my last submission for the newsletter. It has been a privilege being a member of this organization, and I sincerely hope that you continue to support each other and learn from each other long into the future. And, if anyone here in the 8th Circuit has any interest in becoming the new representative, please contact me or Bernita Henley.

Thanks again, best wishes as we head into the holiday, and take care,

Judy Kirby

NINTH CIRCUIT – SUZANNE LOFTON

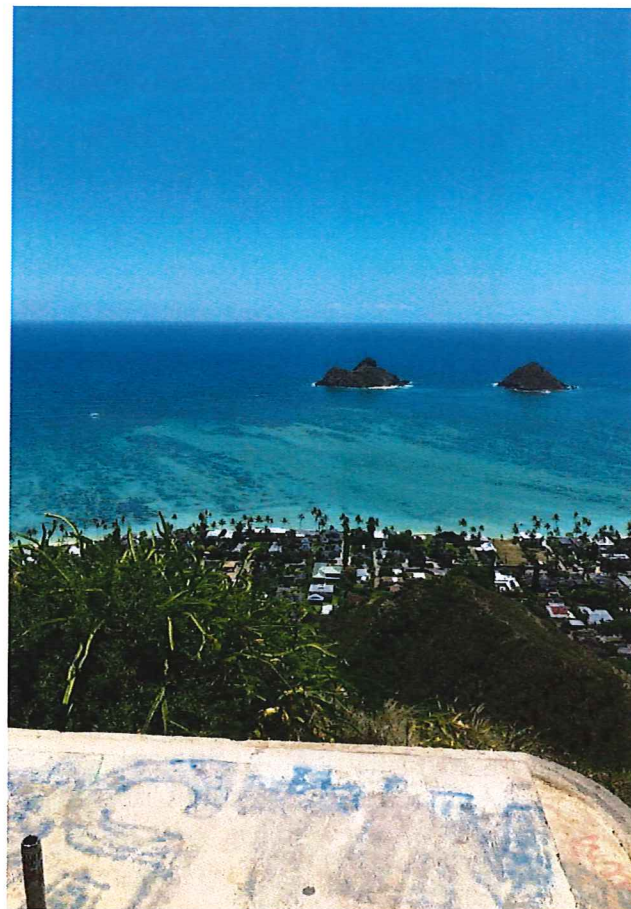


9TH Circuit News

SUZANNE LOFTON

FJAA 9th Circuit Representative

Judicial Assistant, District of Hawaii



Oh 2020! This was supposed to be the year that we would gather in Tucson, Arizona. A year that we would connect after seeing each other last September 2019 in Nashville. Yet each of us is living through a pandemic that has changed our lives in one way or another. We are doing our best to keep chambers running, whether in person or remotely. The pandemic has affected all of us. Some have lost loved ones during this time, and some have chosen to retire from the judiciary to spend more time with family. I miss seeing smiles and miss giving hugs and receiving hugs from friends and family who I have not been able to visit or gather with for the past 7 months. The normal noise here in our courthouse has disappeared and I can only hope that things will change soon, so that we can be fully staffed here like it was back in March. To relax my mind and heart, my husband and I took a hike on the Windward side of Oahu. Standing and looking out at the pristine ocean, the striking aqua color of the calm waters, and breathing in the fresh air made me realize how thankful I am to be living in paradise, even through this pandemic. *Hope. Gratitude. Faith.* These are what I carry in my heart each day. Sending aloha and blessings to all. Be well and stay safe. Hope to see many of you in New Orleans in 2021.

NINTH CIRCUIT, CONT.

OUR RETIREES

Thank you for your amazing years of service!



Catherine (Cathy) Stuchell
United States District Court of Nevada



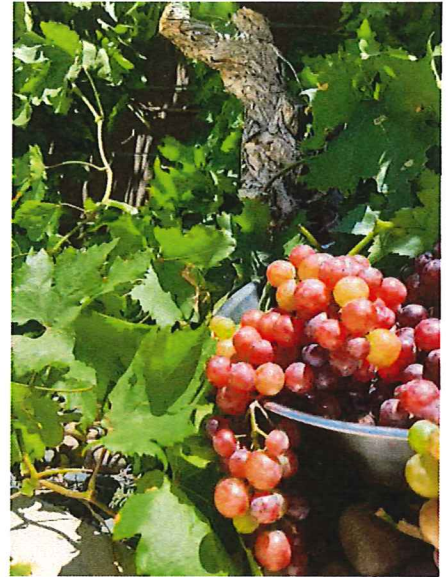
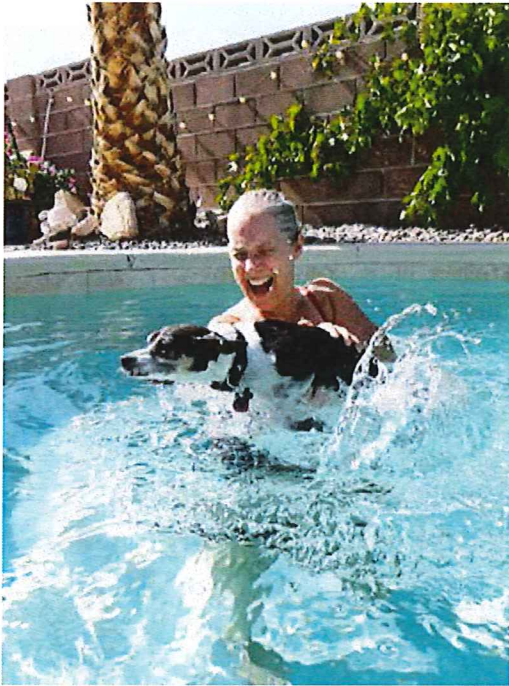
I have worked for two judges since 2013 – Judges Andrew Gordon and Jennifer Dorsey. I was working for Judge Gordon in the private sector for 14 years before coming to the USDC with him. I've worked as a legal assistant for over 40 years (since 1978). Born and raised in Chicago and started working for law firms right after high school. Worked for law firms in Chicago, Florida, and Las Vegas, NV in many different areas of law. Learned so much on that side of the private sector, not realizing how much more there was to learn on the other side – federal court. Working for the federal courts has been an amazing and educational journey. I truly loved learning so much more, especially criminal, and really loved my job!

The best part about working in the federal court, was seeing and making many new friends and acquaintances, but most of all the bond that all of us Judicial Assistants have made with each other ... yet another circle of our own friendships. I have grown in knowledge and appreciation of the justice system, and admire the hard work and decisions judges must make.

Retiring is another story! At first I was sad to leave, but as time went on, became more excited and could hardly wait to enjoy life to its fullest! COVID-19 has not only made it difficult to get out and about, but made it difficult to travel too. I plan to travel with my little companion (Peanut) and make the best of our adventures ... many road trips on the horizon!

In the meantime, I will be doing little projects at home, as well as growing my garden and making wine.

NINTH CIRCUIT, CONT.



My love and hugs goes out to each and every one of you, and pray for a happy future for all of you!

Blessings

– Cathy ☺



NINTH CIRCUIT, CONT.

ARMIE GONZALES Phoenix, Arizona

Full Circle - I worked for the Federal Public Defender for the District of Arizona from 1978-1985. Think about how long ago that was, no computers – 50 page briefs on a typewriter. In 1985 I took time off and stayed home with two small rambunctious boys. In 1987 I returned to work at a private law firm as a secretary to a litigation partner and associate. Chief Judge Snow and I met and have known each other for 33 years when he was a summer clerk at the firm I was working at. I started working with him directly in 1999. In 2002 he was appointed to the Arizona State Court of Appeals and he asked me to go with him. It was a difficult decision, (pay cut and no bonuses), but how could I resist the free parking space incentive. So, I went



along for the adventure and new challenges. In 2008 he was appointed to the federal bench and I had no hesitation in coming back full circle to the courts. Two years ago he became chief to one of the busiest courts in the nation and it has been non-stop and never a dull moment. Helping him mentor two new law clerks each year for the past 18 years has been so rewarding. We have always worked very hard, but also always made time to have fun. Chief Judge Snow is a fair judge, a humble man, very generous, a hands-on mentor, and a great friend. I absolutely have had no regrets in my decision to leave the higher pay and bonuses at the firm many years ago. I have truly been blessed to have had this opportunity and getting to meet and know many of you since my first FJAA Conference in Seattle. I will be retiring on August 28, 2020, after 19 years of federal service and although I look forward to it, it will be bittersweet. Be safe and be well and I hope that our paths will meet again at a future FJAA conference.



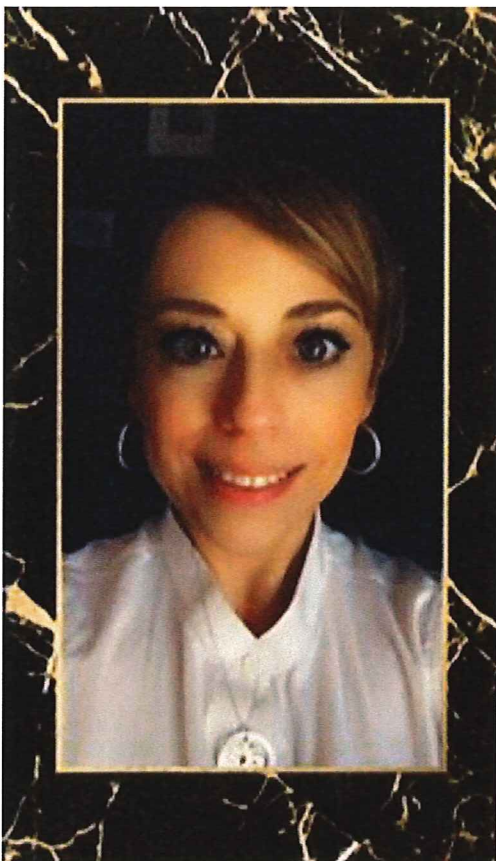
NINTH CIRCUIT, CONT.

Mary Farmer—Retiree
 Judicial Assistant to Judge Rayes
 U.S. District Court, District of Arizona (Phoenix)

Mary has been with Judge Douglas L. Rayes since July of 2005 and worked many calendars in Superior Court before his Federal Judicial appointment in May 2014. Prior to that Mary worked with Judge Jonathan Schwartz as his JA from 1992 and Judge Robert Pickrell as his JA from 1987. She started her career with Maricopa County Juvenile Court and then transferred to the County Attorney's office before becoming a JA. Mary worked for Maricopa County for 39 years and 6.5 years in Federal court. For a total of 45 years of public service for the government and She loved all her positions and will really miss it.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS

Yvonne Herran, USDC Arizona, Judicial Assistant to the Hon. Scott H. Rash



Yvonne began working with Judge Rash at Pima County Superior Court in 2015, as his Courtroom Clerk. In April 2016, she became his Judicial Assistant. Prior to that, she worked as a Legal Assistant in various law firms, including the Arizona Federal Public Defender's Office.

Yvonne was born and raised in Tucson. She is married with three children, two boys and one girl. Prior to COVID, Yvonne spent most of her free time shuttling her youngest son to his club basketball games, tournaments and practices. Yvonne played violin in the school orchestra from 3rd grade until her sophomore year in high school, when she joined her high school's mariachi group. She is currently a member of an all-female mariachi group in Tucson called Mariachi Bellas Musical.



NINTH CIRCUIT, CONT.

Michele Morgan, USDC Arizona, Judicial Assistant to Judge Douglas L. Rayas

Michele started with the District Court in Arizona in Oct 2005 in Customer Service. In Dec 2005, she became a Magistrate Courtroom Clerk, and was assigned to Magistrate Judge David Duncan in Jan 2006. When District Judge Douglas Rayas was appointed and confirmed in May 2014, Michele was promoted to serve as his Courtroom Deputy. Upon the retirement of Judge Rayas' Judicial Assistant, Mary Farmer, on Sept 30, 2020, Michele became his Judicial Assistant. Prior to joining the District Court, she worked at the City of Tempe Municipal Court for 9 years in various capacities.

San Francisco Courthouse Exhibit

Celebrates *The Recorder's* Bygone Editorial Cartoons

By Ross Todd

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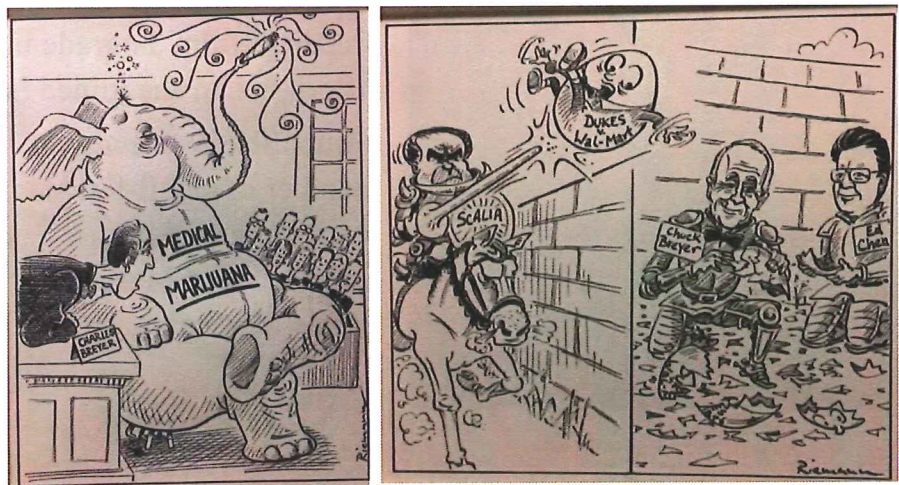
Consider it visual evidence that federal judges in the Northern District of California are committed to the First Amendment: Hanging outside the 18th floor library at the federal courthouse in San Francisco is an exhibit of a decade's worth of editorial cartoons from *The Recorder* depicting the district's judges—and not always in the most flattering light.

The exhibit was the brainchild of the San Francisco District Court library staff, which enlisted the help of frequent cartoon subject U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer for logistical help choosing cartoons and finding funds for framing.

The court's exhibit features the works of George Riemann, who illustrated cartoons for *The Recorder* from the early 1990s until the newspaper ceased print publication in September 2016. Riemann estimates that he worked with about a dozen different *Recorder* editors over the period, first in-person at the paper's offices and then via phone and email once he moved to Germany in 2001.

"The editors would come up with an idea and then give it to me in a few lines or sentences by email or phone," said Riemann via email. "While listening on the phone, I would sketch out a very rough scenario, which often stayed pretty much the same until the end."

Breyer said that there were probably some judges who – either by conduct or appearance – lent themselves to Riemann's work more often. "George has a way of getting to the heart of a matter in caricature that's remarkable and tweaks a judge and prods a judge." The exhibit's organizers say it will remain in place indefinitely and visitors are welcome.



NINTH CIRCUIT, CONT.

French Apple Cake

Nancy Nelson, law clerk for Magistrate Judge Camille D. Bibles in Flagstaff, AZ

Ingredients:

1 ½ pounds Granny Smith apples, each peeled, cored, cut into 8 wedges, and wedges sliced 1/8 inch thick crosswise
 1 tablespoon Frangelico (optional)
 1 teaspoon lemon (or orange) juice
 1 cup (5 ounces) plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 1 cup (7 ounces) plus 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 ½ teaspoon salt
 1 large egg plus 2 large yolks
 1 cup vegetable oil
 1 cup whole milk
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
 2 tablespoons fresh-grated orange or lemon peel (optional)



Instructions:

Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position and heat oven to 325 degrees.

Spray a 9-inch springform pan with vegetable oil spray (or grease with vegetable oil). Place prepared pan on rimmed baking sheet lined with aluminum foil.

Place apple slices into microwave-safe pie plate (I use a glass pie plate), cover (with parchment or a paper towel or a plate), and microwave until apples are pliable and slightly translucent, about 3 minutes.

The microwaved apples should be pliable but not completely soft when cooked. To test for doneness, take one apple slice and try to bend it. If it snaps in half, it's too firm; microwave it for an additional 30 seconds and test again.

Toss apple slices with Frangelico and lemon juice and let cool for 15 minutes. You can substitute brandy or rum orfor the Frangelico.

Whisk 1 cup flour, 1 cup granulated sugar, baking powder, and salt together in bowl.

Whisk egg, oil, milk, and vanilla together in second bowl until smooth. Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and whisk until just combined.

Transfer 1 cup batter to a separate bowl (or glass measuring cup) and set aside.

Add egg yolks to remaining batter and whisk to combine. Using spatula, gently fold in cooled apples. Transfer batter to prepared pan; using an offset spatula, spread batter evenly to pan edges, gently pressing on apples to create even, compact layer, and smooth surface.

Whisk remaining 2 tablespoons flour into the reserved batter. Pour over the batter already in the pan and spread batter evenly to pan edges and smooth surface. Sprinkle remaining 1 tablespoon granulated sugar evenly over cake.

Bake until center of cake is set, toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, and top is golden brown, about 1 and 1/4 hours.

Transfer pan to wire rack; let cool for 5 minutes.

Run paring knife around sides of pan and let cool completely, 2 to 3 hours.

Dust lightly with confectioners' sugar, cut into wedges, and serve.

NINTH CIRCUIT, CONT.



The Honorable Judge Lloyd George
United States District Court of Nevada
(February 22, 1930 – October 7, 2020)



The Honorable Judge Johnnie Rawlinson
Judge of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and
former United States District Judge of the United
States District Court of Nevada

Las Vegas Federal Judge Lloyd George Laid to Rest (Las Vegas Review-Journal)

"**Johnnie Rawlinson** stood atop the steps outside the Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse on Saturday, watching as a funeral motorcade stopped along Las Vegas Boulevard. Inside the white hearse behind four police motorcycles lay the body of the man for whom the downtown Las Vegas building was named, a man she considered a friend. George, who died earlier this month at 90, helped pave the way for her to become the first Black woman to sit on the **U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.**"

TENTH CIRCUIT – KAREN BACA



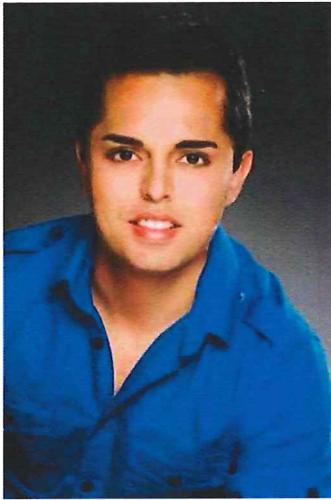
**The Honorable Kea Whetzal Riggs,
U.S. District Judge
“No Stranger to the Bench”**

The Honorable Kea Whetzal Riggs is no stranger to the bench. Prior to her nomination and appointment as a District Judge of the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico, she was appointed as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of New Mexico on April 13, 2001 and served in that capacity until her appointment by New Mexico governor, Susana Martinez to the role of state district judge for the Fifth Judicial District of New Mexico on August 8, 2014. She received her commission as a United States District Judge on December 31, 2019 and assumed her duties in January 2020.

Judge Riggs earned her Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma in 1987 and her Juris Doctor from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1990. In addition to her experience as a federal and state judge, she has served as a prosecutor, with a focus on violent crimes, and as guardian ad litem for abused and neglected children in the foster care system of Chaves County, New Mexico. She also has served as an adjunct professor at Eastern New Mexico State University–Roswell during the periods of 2001–2002, 2008–2009 and 2012–2014 and at New Mexico Highlands University–Roswell from 2006–2009 and in 2011.

Most recently, Judge Riggs successfully held the first jury trial in the district, since the proliferation of COVID-19, while ensuring the safety of jurors, counsel and court personnel through the observation of both local administrative rules and guidelines and recommendations set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

TENTH CIRCUIT, CONT.



**Vincent Espinoza,
Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Kea
Whetzal Riggs, U.S. District Judge**

“Strong passion for the Judiciary”

Vincent “Vince” Espinoza has a strong passion for working in the judiciary which began in 2005. He started his career as Pre-Prosecution Diversion Legal Assistant for Fifth Judicial District Attorney’s Office of Chaves County, New Mexico in April 2005.

Subsequently, he worked for the Fifth Judicial District Court of Chaves County from 2007 to 2019 serving as a Judicial Specialist, Legal Office Specialist and, eventually Judicial Specialist Supervisor, until he moved to the Honolulu, Hawai’i in June 2019 to accept a position as the Statewide Office Administrator for the Hawai’i Supreme Court’s Judicial Selection Commission. He assumed his role as Judicial Assistant for the Honorable Kea Whetzal Riggs in February 2020.

Vince earned his undergraduate degree in Business Administration and Marketing from New Mexico State University in 2007, his Master of Justice Management from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2014 and, most recently, his Master of Social Work from New Mexico Highlands University in 2019.

TENTH CIRCUIT, CONT.

New Mexico is home to the International Balloon Fiesta. For nine days in October, Albuquerque hosts the event which is one of the largest balloon festivals in the world. Visitors are treated to many special-shaped balloons, an evening balloon glow and a morning mass ascension when the participants take to the skies of Albuquerque for a massive balloon launch.





WE ARE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://WWW.FJAA.NET](http://www.fjaa.net)

The Federal Judicial Assistants Association (FJAA) was formed in 2002, as a result of a merger between the Federal Judges Secretaries Association (which was formed in 1972) and the Federal Magistrate Judges Secretaries Association (which was formed in 1995). In 2009, the Federal Judges Secretaries Association officially changed its name to the Federal Judicial Assistants Association.

The Federal Judicial Assistants Association has held annual conferences since 1973, in Washington, D.C., Denver, Las Vegas, Seattle, St. Louis, Memphis, and San Francisco, as well as many other wonderful locations. The Federal Magistrate Judges Secretaries Association (FMJSA) held its first meeting in 1995 in San Francisco as a joint conference with The Federal Judges Secretaries Association. Subsequent joint meetings in Philadelphia (1998), Reno (1999), and Boston (2000) led to the formation of an Ad Hoc Merger Committee for the two organizations. In 2001 the new by-laws were written and the merger of both organizations was proposed to the membership and approved by formal vote. The two organizations became one effective October 12, 2002.

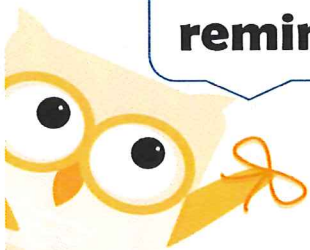
The goals of FJAA are:

1. •To promote the general welfare of its members,
2. •To encourage the highest ethical standards of conduct among its members,
3. •To promote continuing education and professional development of its members,
4. •To further the exchange of ideas and practical information relating to judicial support, and
5. • To foster among its member a feeling of camaraderie and mutual confidence.

FROM MY DESK TO YOU: TIPS FOR THE OFFICE

- * Let your Circuit Representative know if you would like to share tips with your fellow FJAA members. We will be more than happy to include them in the our next newsletter! Thank you all for your participation!

**Just a
reminder...**



**SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO YOUR CIRCUIT
REPRESENTATIVE BY JANUARY 8, 2021**

THANK YOU!



CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES

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

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