



## OFFICERS

### 2017 - 2018

# IN BRIEF

## FEDERAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION

Volume 16  
Issue 1  
January 2018

**Lynn L. Magee —President**  
c/o Hon. Paul A. Magnuson  
**Warren E. Burger Federal Building**  
316 North Robert Street, Room 734  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Phone: 651-848-1150

**Cathy Gray—President-Elect**  
c/o Hon. Sheryl Lipman  
Clifford Davis & Odell Horton Federal Building  
167 N Main Street 9th Floor  
Memphis, TN 38103  
Phone: 901-495-1337

**Suzanne Gammon —Vice-President**  
c/o Hon. Thomas L. Ludington  
U.S. District Court and Post Office  
1000 Washington Avenue, Room 214  
Bay City, MI 48708  
Phone: 989-894-8810

**Yvette Garcia—Secretary**  
c/o Hon. Jacqueline M. Rateau  
Evo A. Deconcini U.S. Courthouse  
405 W. Congress Street, Suite 6650  
Tucson, AZ 85701-5063  
Phone: 520-205-4640

**Judith Stoyko—Treasurer**  
c/o Hon. Charles R. Breyer  
Philip Burton United States Courthouse  
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Room 17-5356  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3434  
Phone: 415-522-3660

**Melissa Hardin— Past President**  
c/o Hon. William M. Conley  
United States District Court  
120 North Henry Street, Room 560  
Madison, WI 53703-4304  
Phone: 608-261-5718

**Cynthia Chapman—Parliamentarian**  
c/o Hon. Henry F. Floyd  
Donald S. Russell U.S. Courthouse  
U.S. Court of Appeals  
201 Magnolia Street Spartanburg, SC  
Phone 864-591-5300

## Letter from the President

### Lynn L. Magee

Dear All:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of the FJAA in 2018.

Melissa Hardin: Thank you for your exceptional leadership in 2017. You truly led by example and exhibited excellent problem-solving skills, as well as prompt and thorough answers to whatever curveball came your way. Thank you for a job well done!



Peaceful Transition of Power

Melissa Hardin to Lynn Magee

Judy Stoyko, Julie Lemm and Debbie Nelson: Thank you for planning, hosting, and presenting such an informative and complete conference in San Francisco. Oh, and for controlling the weather so that we were not in the triple digits!

2018 Circuit Representatives, Committee Members/Chairs, and Executive Board: I am looking forward to interacting with you this year and working diligently for and on behalf of our membership.

The 2018 Planning Committee is preparing for the Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We are doing our best to incorporate your suggestions and ideas from the 2017 Post-Conference Survey. We hope to see you there!

Please feel free to communicate with me at any time. If I don't know the answer, I will do my best to find it. Also, I love a good joke. Please send good jokes—and chocolate chip cookies if you're so inclined. Kind regards,

Lynn Magee!

## **The 2017 FJAA Scholarship – Fall Recipient- Rose Plummer**

The FJAA Scholarship is administered by the Professional Development and Continuing Education Committee of the Federal Judicial Assistants Association. The FJAA enables and assists members in good standing to pursue their educational goals and professional development by taking courses and attending seminars and workshops to provide additional knowledge and skills to enhance job performance. I am so grateful to be the Fall recipient of the scholarship! I would like to thank the Committee Members from the bottom of my heart for choosing me.

I am currently enrolled in the Judicial Administration Program at Michigan State University. The program is a community of learners, scholars, and practitioners dedicated to the advancement of the missions, mandates, and purposes of the judicial system. The mission of the Judicial Administration Program is to bring academic rigor and standing to the administration of justice through certificate programs and Master of Science Degree in Judicial Administration, research, publications, technical assistance, mentoring, and networking opportunities.

The scholarship is going toward earning the Certificate in Judicial Administration. The non-credit certificate is comprised of sixty contact hours of instruction, either in class or online, plus a capstone experience based on the NACM core competencies. Successful completion is possible when students take the required courses within five years from their start date. Forty contact hours with a minimum of six contact hours in each of the following:

- Caseflow Management
- Human Resources Management

- Information Technology Management
- Leadership
- Purposes and Responsibilities of Courts
- Resources, Budget, and Finance

Twenty contact hours in at least three of the following:

- Court and Community Communication
- Essential Components of Courts
- Education, Training, and Development
- Visioning and Strategic Planning

Students are required to begin the Capstone Experience once they have completed the 60 course contact hours. Successful completion of the Capstone Experience will result in the student receiving the noncredit certificate.

I believe the program is invaluable, because it will expand my career opportunities within the judicial system. I will successfully learn the various courses and increase my knowledge base and skillset. While taking the courses I have the opportunity to enlarge my networking foundation. If I wish to further build my academic credentials, I can complete the Master of Science Degree in Judicial Administration offered by the MSU School of Criminal Justice. If I'm not ready for graduate school, I can complete the judicial administration specialization courses and apply those courses toward a bachelor's degree at a college or university of my choice.

# CIRCUIT NEWS



## MEMBERS WANTED – JOIN or RENEW TODAY

This past year, by majority vote, the Association’s constitution and bylaws were amended to make membership more inclusive. The amendment expands the term “judicial assistant” to include “any individual who performs the essential job duties of a judicial assistant such as, paralegal, courtroom deputy, and law clerk . . .” hired in the absence of a person in chambers employed under the job title judicial assistant. Circulation of the January issue of our newsletter is limited to those individuals included in the Lotus Notes email group “USCml\_Judges Assistants-Secretaries” and will not encompass all employees now eligible for membership. I encourage everyone to share this issue of *In Brief* with anyone in your District who is eligible for membership under the amendment but hired under a different job title. Listed below are answers to a few questions recruits may have.

### Q: Why should I join?

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

### Q: Why does the Association want me?

A: We are independent individuals, with varied work experience and education, and each of our chambers is as unique as its judge. But collectively we demonstrate the valuable contribution made through the exemplary performance of our administrative duties. The association provides educational opportunities to increase the knowledge base of our profession as a whole and promote individual professional development.

### Q: What’s in it for me?

A: Semi-annual scholarship awards, 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 APPLICATION ATTACHED AT THE BACK OF OUR NEWSLETTER**

**From: Suzanne Gammon, Membership Chair**

*Greetings from...*

# GRAND RAPIDS

*Located on the Grand River, just a few miles from Lake Michigan, Grand Rapids is a city that will surprise and delight you with unforgettable world-class experiences! Be sure to stop by the attractions below on your visit to the 2018 FJAA Conference!*



**John Ball Zoo**  
[www.jbzoo.org](http://www.jbzoo.org)



**Restaurants & Pubs**  
[www.experiencegr.com/restaurants](http://www.experiencegr.com/restaurants)



**Frederik Meijer Gardens  
& Sculpture Park**  
[www.meijergardens.org](http://www.meijergardens.org)



**Meyer May House**  
[www.meyermayhouse.steelcase.com](http://www.meyermayhouse.steelcase.com)



**Grand Rapids Public Museum  
Grand Rapids Art Museum**  
[www.grpm.org](http://www.grpm.org)  
[www.artmuseumgr.org](http://www.artmuseumgr.org)



**Beer City, USA**  
[www.experiencegr.com/things-to-do/beer-city](http://www.experiencegr.com/things-to-do/beer-city)

**Not convinced? Check out the *Top Ten Reasons* to visit Grand Rapids!**

# FIRST CIRCUIT— Christie Clifford

News from Maine



**Island of the Dark Side (Clerk of Court's Office)**

Tour Escorts

Our Clerk of Court, Christa Berry and our

Chief Deputy Clerk, Eric Storms

# Maine



## Passport Program Around the Court in 280 Days

From May 2017 until January 2018, the District Court of Maine in Bangor and Portland are actively participating in a “Passport Program.” Each of our departments and chambers has been given the opportunity to create a program for our co-workers to travel to. **While we are visiting each other’s offices we can attend** tours, meetings, and other office presentations. The primary goal of this program is for all of our Court staff to gain knowledge of the different roles within our Court, and, ideally, to have a greater respect for and understanding of our co-workers and the challenges of the different job functions. A secondary goal is to foster meaningful relationships based on trust and understanding of our co-worker’s work challenges **and strengthening the Court’s family atmosphere. The final goal we were given was to have fun with it.**

We have many destinations that we can visit which include:

**Judge’s Chambers**  
 IT Department  
**Clerk and Deputy Clerk’s Offices**  
 Portland Operations – Case Management  
 Bangor Operations – Case Management  
 Finance/Budget Administration  
 Procurement/Space & Facilities  
 Jury Administration  
 Human Resources  
 Court Reporters

So far there has been great thought put into these programs and our co-workers are creating great activities for their visitors. A few examples are:

- **Our Bangor’s Clerk’s Office did “The Amazing Race.” We were given clues that brought us to all** of the various work stations, including a courtroom, for presentations and toured us around the federal building in which they are located, learning different jobs along the way.
- **One of our Judge’s chambers had its visitors put a giant puzzle together working as a team which showed all of us the many different pieces that it takes to run a chamber’s smoothly and** the different areas in which law clerks and staff need to be focused on on a daily basis.
- **One of our Judge’s chambers held a game of Jeopardy and the visitors had to answer questions** from categories that ranged from the law to historical questions about the Judges and the courthouse.

At our annual offsite meeting at the beginning of 2018, we will have an opportunity to compare notes and review how much we all learned. So far it has been an enjoyable experience.

## SECOND CIRCUIT—JANET HANSEN



### **News From Around the Second Circuit:**

#### **Court of Appeals:**

On September 28, 2017, Court of Appeals Judge Ralph K. Winter was presented with the 2017 Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award during a special ceremonial session of the Court of Appeals held at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse in New York City. Judge Winter was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1981 and served as Chief Judge from 1997-2000. From 1962 until his appointment, Judge Winter was a full-time member of the Yale Law School faculty. Judge Winter served as a law clerk to Judge Thurgood Marshall in 1961-1962.

In addition to serving the Judicial Conference in many capacities during his tenure, Judge Winter was also a member of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review from 2003-2010.

As further testament to Judge Winter's long judicial career and varied contributions to the federal judiciary, in addition to his Court of Appeals colleagues attending the ceremony, five Supreme Court Justices also attended: Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, Justice Elena Kagan, Justice Clarence Thomas, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Justice Sonia Sotomayor! Justice Kennedy read a letter from Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., who was unable to attend.

The Devitt Award honors an Article III judge who has achieved a distinguished career and made significant contributions to the administration of justice, the advancement of the rule of law, and the improvement of society as a whole. The award is named for the late Edward J. Devitt, the longtime chief judge of the U.S. District Court of Minnesota. The award is given by the Dwight D. Opperman Foundation and was established in 1982.

Congratulations to Judge Winter on receiving this distinguished award!



## SECOND CIRCUIT NEWS CONTINUED

### **“An Evening at Thurgood”:**

On Wednesday, December 13, 2017, there will be a special screening of the film “Marshall,” with a panel discussion to follow, in the 17<sup>th</sup> floor courtroom of the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse in New York City. The movie stars Chadwick Boseman as Thurgood Marshall and depicts his life story.

Fun fact: The movie was filmed in the U.S. Courthouse in Buffalo and one of our very own Judicial Assistants (now retired), Janet Curry, was asked to be an extra in the movie. Be on the lookout for Janet (you may remember her dressed up at our FJAA Conference in San Antonio as Lucille Ball!!!)

### **Supporting Puerto Rico:**

Kudos to one of our Judicial Assistants, Jeanette Santos, for organizing and holding a Charity Garage Sale on November 11, at her home. As we all know, Hurricane Maria made landfall on Puerto Rico as a category 4 storm, with maximum sustained winds of 155 miles per hour. The devastation inflicted upon Jeanette’s parents’ homeland island was heartbreaking. Jeanette felt the need to do something for all those suffering there; including some family members who lost everything. Jeanette organized a huge garage sale and encouraged all of her friends and neighbors to join her and make a difference in Puerto Rico’s road to recovery! The response was overwhelming. It was a hands-on opportunity to directly help affected family members and make a positive change in times of need. Along with her friends and neighbors, they raised close to \$500 to assist fellow Americans in Puerto Rico and donated three truckloads of items to SAVERS, a Big Brother Big Sister charity. Great job Jeanette!!

### **Employee Appreciation Ceremony:**

The Court of Appeals held an Employee Appreciation Ceremony on December 12, 2017 at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse. Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann and Adam Coffey, Director of Human Services, presented “Years of Service Awards” to employees honoring their five to thirty-five years of service. Two Judicial Assistants received honors: Jeanette Santos (J.A. to Judge Debra A. Livingston) for 10 years of service and Gerri Malloy (J.A. to Judge Ralph K. Winter) for 35 years of service!

Congratulations Jeanette and Gerri!

Court Services Awards for sustained excellence were also presented to employees of the Office of Court Operations, the Clerk’s Office, the Office of Legal Affairs, the Circuit Executive’s Office, and the Library. The Pro Bono Committee was also honored for their hard work.

Congratulations to all of our colleagues who work at the Court who received awards too! A lovely reception was held in the beautiful Library immediately following the ceremony.

## SECOND CIRCUIT NEWS CONTINUED

### **Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree:**

It has become a yearly tradition for a group of Judicial Assistants to meet and trek uptown to see the Rockefeller Christmas Tree and light displays (the group varies depending on who is in town sitting that week). This year, as always, the tree was spectacular and the light show on Lord & Taylor's building did not disappoint—they definitely put you in the holiday spirit! Below are a few pictures from our visit the first week in December.

(photos courtesy of Ann Pisacano, J.A. to Judge Robert D. Sack from our visit):



**Well, that's about all the news we have for now.**

**We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!**



October is a special month. It is the time of year when the Fall season is in full swing and the trees are an absolute beauty to look at. In addition, October is when we start looking forward to celebrating the Holidays starting with Halloween, then Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah and New Year’s, among other holidays. There were several events held at the Court from October through December.



The Clerk’s Office for the District of New Jersey hosted a Halloween party and children from the Federal Kids Care Center attended. The employees dressed up in their favorite costumes, read stories to the children and they had lots of treats.

On October 12, 2017, the United States District Court held its **annual Hispanic Heritage Program**. Our guest speaker, Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia Valdes was asked to speak. Unfortunately, her father passed away shortly before the program and she couldn’t attend. However, United States District Judge Esther Salas took her place and spoke so eloquently of Prosecutor Valdes.

Judge Salas spoke on Prosecutor Valdes’s humbled upbringing and of her many accomplishments. We were all moved by her speech that I must admit, my eyes welled up at some point. We are so proud of Prosecutor Valdes and look forward to having her serve as our guest speaker at next year’s program.

Photo: District Court Judge John Vasquez, Chief Judge Jose Linares and District Court Judge Esther Salas



**The Third Circuit Court of Appeals held a special sitting in Pittsburgh on October 12, 2017 to honor our Chief Judge, Hon. D. Brooks Smith with a portrait given by his law clerks for his thirty years of service.** In addition to family, friends, former and current law clerks, active and senior Judges, Associate Justice, Samuel A. Alito, Jr. attended this special event. Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr., and Circuit Judges Anthony J. Scirica and Patty Shwartz were the guest speakers. Former law clerks David Porter and Meredith Price also spoke on the law clerk’s behalf and shared stories and memories of their time clerking for Judge Smith. The portrait by artist Michael Shane Neal was unveiled by Judge Smith’s wife, Karen. Chief Judge Smith gave remarks.



Above photo: Judges Salas, Chief Judge Smith and Judge Rodriguez

Below Chief Judge Smith with family and the Artist



United States Circuit Judge Anthony J. Scirica was honored and awarded with an American Inns of Court Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Award for Professionalism and Ethics. The event took place on October 21, 2017 at the Supreme Court hosted by Associate Justice Elena Kagan. This award is presented to a judge or an attorney who has provided commendable service in the areas of legal excellence, professionalism, and ethics. We congratulate Judge Scirica for this well-deserved recognition!



**Circuit Judges Anthony J. Scirica and Thomas L. Ambro**



**Marcia (Marcy) M. Waldron, Clerk of the Court  
U.S. Court of Appeals**

Our Clerk of the Court, Marcia M. Waldron, known as Marcy, retired on December 6, 2017 after 30 years of service. As soon as word got out, emails were pouring in expressing heartfelt messages letting Marcy know that she will be missed. A retirement luncheon was hosted at the courthouse in Philadelphia where Marcy was presented with a beautiful monogrammed necklace and retirement testimonial. We wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life – Retirement!



**Chief Judge Smith with Hon. Deanell Reece Tacha, retired Court of Appeals 10th Circuit Judge Scirica and Judge Ambro**



**Chief Judge Smith presenting a Retirement Testimonial to Marcy**



**Portrait: Court of Appeals Chief Judge D. Brooks Smith**

## Fourth Circuit News By Johnna Oehlsen



### New Fourth Circuit Rep Johnna Oehlsen

Hello everyone, thank you for the nomination as the Fourth Circuit Rep for 2018. Currently, I am the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Gina M. Groh, Chief Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia. We began working together in 2004 where I was a paralegal to the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. In 2006, I accompanied Judge Groh as her JA when she was appointed as a Circuit Court Judge of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit of West Virginia. In March of 2012, we packed our office and literally moved up the street as she took the bench in Federal Court. In 2012, I was introduced to the FJAA and became a member. I previously attended the FJAA Conference in Charleston, SC.

I am married and have one son who is a senior in high school. Prior to pursuing a legal career, I graduated from the Art Institute of Philadelphia and worked primarily in Marketing and Public Relations. I enjoy being active in my church, gardening, golfing, traveling, event planning

# Fourth Circuit News Continued

## Judge Gina L. Simms

The U.S. District Court, District of Maryland welcomed U.S. Magistrate Judge Gina L. Simms who was sworn into office on November 20, 2017. Judge Simms is a graduate of Swarthmore College (1987) and the George Washington University Law School (1992). Upon graduation from law school, she was a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Curtis E. von Kann in the District of Columbia Superior Court. Upon completing her clerkship, Judge Simms worked as an Associate at the Robinson Law Firm in Washington, D.C. Between 1994-2011, she served first as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Columbia, and then later as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Maryland. While working as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in D.C., she served as an Associate Independent Counsel and as part of a team investigating a former U.S. Secretary of Labor. Following the Deep water Horizon disaster, she was detailed to the U.S. Department of the Interior as a Counsel in the Investigations and Review Unit where she investigated oil and gas companies engaged in offshore oil production. From 2011 until her appointment, she was in private practice, first as a Partner at Ober, Kaler, Grimes & Shriver, PC and then as a Shareholder at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berk-witz., PC. While in private practice, she focused on white collar criminal and civil defense, internal investigations, and corporate compliance issues.

Judge Simms is joined by her judicial assistant, Olivia Zieglar and law clerk Joshua Carback. A formal investiture ceremony will be held on December 8.

## Chief Judge Transition on October 6, 2017

The Honorable James K. Bredar became the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland on October 6, 2017. He succeeded the Honorable Catherine C. Blake who had served as Chief Judge since October 4, 2014.

Judge Blake was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge in 1987. After nomination by President Clinton and confirmation by the United States Senate, she received her commission as a United States District Judge on August 14, 1995. Between April 1999 and January 2003, Judge Blake served as the Court's Administrative Judge. Judge Blake will continue in judicial service as an active district judge.

Judge Bredar was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge in 1998. After nomination by President Obama and confirmation by the United States Senate, he received his commission as a United States District Judge on December 17, 2010.



*A lot has been happening in the Fifth Circuit, with more changes to come soon.*

Judge E. Grady Jolly (USCA) took senior status on October 3, 2017.

***Three JAs with the Circuit Court are retiring on December 31, 2017:***

**Linda Henshaw** with Judge Eugene Davis after 33 years. Her replacement is Christine Abadie who I hope will join us.

**Sharon Berryman** with Circuit Judge Leslie H. Southwick also is retiring. She has been with her Judge for 5 years. Tanya Carruth has just come on board.

**Mary Beth Byrd** has been with Circuit Judge Edward C. Prado for 6 years. His former JA, Mona Martin, will come back part time to work for him.

All the Circuit JAs had IT training this week in New Orleans, so we were all able to get together for a cake and a retirement luncheon.

All three ladies will be sorely missed.

**Western District of Louisiana:**

District Judge S. Maurice Hicks became chief judge on November 2, 2017. He has two JAs that share the job – Betty Gunter and Beth Prest.

On November 3, 2017, the Shreveport Courthouse was renamed the Tom Stagg United States Courthouse.

District Judge Dee Dress assumed senior status on November 30, 2017.

**Southern Mississippi:**

District Judge Dan Jordan became Chief Judge on November 4, 2017.

**Northern Texas:**

Magistrate Judge Lee Ann Reno was sworn in October 1, 2017.



**Western Texas:**

Magistrate Judge John Primono retired on September 23, 2017; Magistrate Judge Richard B. Farrer was appointed September 27, 2017. His JA is Lizza Ramirez who was Judge Primono's JA.

We expect several new Judges in all capacities soon. There will be much to report on next Newsletter.

I encourage everyone to join or rejoin FJAA. The networking and conference are invaluable, and I have made many good friends through the organization.

## SIXTH CIRCUIT— Debby Sawyer



### JOIN, AND BE MORE THAN A JOINER

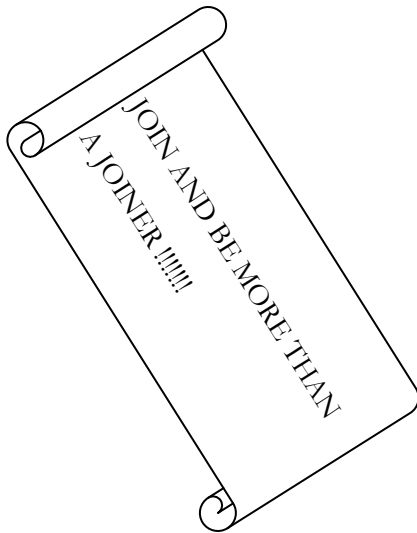
By Debby Sawyer, ACP

The holidays are over and we have started a brand new year. Now is a great time to start planning your strategy for the upcoming 365 days. Start out on the right foot by being a joiner. And if you are already a joiner – THEN BE MORE THAN A JOINER!!

Are you a member of the Federal Judicial Assistants Association (FJAA)? If not, why?

**If you answered “no,”** and your reason is because you don’t think you have the time or don’t get any benefit from it, then I urge you to take another look. The FJAA consists of dedicated individuals who work towards the FJAA goals which are:

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



These goals play an important role in making sure our interests are met at the grass roots where the results are felt directly and often personally.

Belonging to a like-minded professional association is important.

Think about what would happen to our voices if everyone in our profession decided belonging to an association was just not worth the effort.

There would be no communication, no networking opportunities, no leadership opportunities, and no continuing education.



I encourage you to start the New Year with a new outlook. Take the time to take a first or second look at joining or rejoining FJAA and then take it further by being more than a joiner. Individual membership is available to all judicial assistants holding current appointments by Justices of the United States Supreme Court, Article III Judges or United States Magistrate Judges. In the absence of a person in chambers hired under that title, any individual who performs the essential job duties of a judicial assistant, such as paralegal, courtroom deputy or law clerk, shall be encompassed by the term "judicial assistant" and be available for membership. FJAA sponsors an annual conference held in various locations throughout the United States. These conferences are a mixture of business, learning, fun and fellowship.

**If you answered my question with “yes,”** then consider how active you are in contributing to the goals of FJAA. Has it been a long time since you served as a committee member, or committee chair, or officer? As one of your resolutions for 2018, make it a priority to be more than a joiner - become more active in the association. Never underestimate the value of your ideas, wisdom, and assistance. I think in this climate where JA's are being phased out, we all have to step up and support our association, our profession, and each other.

FJAA is always seeking individuals to serve in leadership roles, whether as a new member or long-standing one; in a small part as a committee member or a larger role as committee chair or officer. This can be a sterling opportunity for networking and communicating with others in our profession. Don't assume that your assistance is not needed. Take the initiative by advising an FJAA leader that you want to help. **JOIN AND BE MORE THAN A JOINER !**

### **Sixth Circuit News....**

I am sorry to advise that Vivian Rokfalusi, retired Judicial Assistant to retired Magistrate Judge Jack B. Streepy, passed away on Tuesday evening, December 5, 2017. A memorial service was held on Monday, December 11, 2017. Details were published in the Sunday Plain Dealer.

The following poem was written and submitted by Rose Plummer, Judicial Assistant/Courtroom Deputy to Magistrate Judge Sharon L. Ovington, Ohio Southern District.

### **The Hues of Justice**

The hues of justice are patriotic and bright. They stand for the foundation of a noble plight.

**G**old is the seal affixed and true, on many court documents, old and new.

**B**lue is the ink drying on documents just signed, by Counsel and Parties, polished and refined.

**R**ed is the corrections on the docket anew, and the family of the Convicted bidding adieu.

**G**reen is the gills of the Attorney in denial, as he learned in Court of another mistrial.

**P**urple is the eye of the arrested, “Why am I here? I'm innocent,” he protested.

**S**ilver is the streaks running through my dark locks, witnessing the ticking of justice's clocks.



**PORTRAIT CEREMONY OF  
JUDGE TODD J. CAMPBELL**

**September 29, 2017**

**Estes Kefauver Federal Courthouse  
Nashville, TN**

The ceremony featured the unveiling of Judge Campbell's portrait and honored him for his distinguished service to the Court and to the people of the Middle District of Tennessee since he received his commission on December 26, 1995.

Judge Campbell retired from the bench of the Middle District of Tennessee on December 1, 2016.

For more than twenty years – seven of which were spent as Chief Judge – Judge Campbell worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Court, the bar, the litigants, and the citizens of the Middle District of Tennessee.

Judge Campbell's accomplishments are too many to detail here, but, as Chief Judge, he:

- \* led the Court through many technological developments, such as the early use of the CM/ECF (the electronic filing system), JMS (the computerized jury management system), and WebAppear (an online jury reporting system);
- \* played a critical and instrumental role in securing a new federal courthouse, the fruits of which we are just now beginning to realize;
- \* provided leadership through many continuing resolutions and uncertain budgetary times;
- \* oversaw the renumbering of the local rules to conform with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
- \* created a courtroom that is accessible to individuals with a disability;
- \* enhanced coverage of the federal judiciary by young journalists through a program in conjunction with the Tennessean, Pulitzer Prize winner John Seigenthaler, and Middle Tennessee State University;
- \* allocated funds to provide law school scholarships for local, economically disadvantaged law students; and
- \* worked with the Nashville Bar Association to fund free educational programs for attorneys that were inspired by notable cases in this District, including Baker v. Carr, United States v. Hoffa, and United States v. Blanton.

Such accomplishments, and many more, were achieved while Judge Campbell also handled and managed a full criminal and civil docket with fairness and dispatch.

Words cannot capture all that Judge Campbell has meant to his colleagues, this District, and the Sixth Circuit. What can be said is that this District has been privileged by Judge Campbell's presence on the bench, that his sage advice and counsel to his fellow judges will be sorely missed, and that the Court owes Judge Campbell a debt of gratitude, which can never be repaid.

# SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Whitney Gingrich



## *News from the Central District of Illinois*

(Submitted by Jill Adkins and Whitney Gingrich)

On December 12th the Elite Holiday Choir Performed for the Federal Family in the Central District of Illinois in the Courtroom of Senior District Judge Joe Billy McDade. The Choir is a segment of Carl Cannon's Elite Program for youth through the Peoria Park District. The organization helps children with developmental disabilities. ELITE helps students lead better lives by giving them an outlet to share their talent. The group, comprised of students from Peoria schools, is using its Christmas choir tour to share holiday music with the community. Students must maintain their grades and exhibit excellent behavior to be a part of the choir tour.

Additionally, on December 13th, the Peoria Division held its annual Holiday Luncheon Potluck. The Potluck is held in the Grand Jury room in the basement as there were close to 100 in attendance including members of all chambers, the Assistant U.S. Attorney's office, the Federal Public Defender's office, Probation, U.S. Marshals office, District Clerk's office and Bankruptcy Clerk's office as well as Peoria Building staff. The Luncheon is looked forward to every year as some of us only see each other once a year but yet work together all year long. A game of Holiday trivia is played with prizes of gift cards to local restaurants. The game is always more than entertaining and full of laughs. More than one "phone a friend" was used to get the correct answers.

## *News from the Western District of Wisconsin* (Generously submitted by Melissa Harden)

Some holiday traditions in our court include: Our court always adopts two families to provide gifts for them for Christmas. We go thru a local program that has screened the families and provides a "wish list" from each family. It is truly amazing to see how generous everyone is. Personally, I like to help deliver the gifts to our families; seeing their faces as we keep bringing in armloads of gifts is a joy. Next, we have a Secret Santa gift exchange, capped at \$20. Our tradition gives you a choice of doing one or two small gifts in the 2-3 weeks between drawing names and the gift opening, or just doing one gift at the end. After you open your gift, you have 3 try's to guess who your Secret Santa was, before the person reveals him/herself. It's always lots of fun trying to be sneaky, like enlisting the CSO's to be an "elf" and deliver a small gift. Next, one of our JA's organizes an annual cookie exchange at her house that was held on Dec. 5th this year. We had 15 ladies representing chambers and clerk of court office staff, plus a couple retired members participated. We all went home with a wide variety of 6 dozen cookies. It's always nice to get together outside of work and chat about work, families, etc. Also, our judges, chamber staff, librarian and court reporters (what we call "the fifth floor" staff) have a pot luck chili lunch the week before Christmas. As the court's library is in the middle of all our judges' chambers, we hold it there. Finally, Judge Peterson and his wife host an open house right before everyone scatters for the holidays.

I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season and have recovered from whatever travel and family get-togethers you had. I was thinking about the various holidays spent with family and friends and new ways to celebrate together besides the usual board games, card games, and bedtime stories for the kids. Here are a couple of ideas I found for future family gatherings I thought might be fun, especially for kids and grandkids.

- 1) Book review—if each person were a book, what would his/her title be? Give a brief summary like you'd find on a book jacket.
- 2) Game of Life. Create a simple game board in a document with each space related to memories from past years. Some examples of what to include on the spaces:

*Have a potty accident. Move back one.*

*Take wife on trip. Move ahead five.*

*Play on a soccer team. Run ahead one.*

*Have a hard time going to bed. Lose a turn.*

- 3) Story Time: Instead of reading a bedtime story, read the Family Gift Catalog. Pretend each family member is a different product and describe them as if they were in a catalog. Here's an example I found that I thought was very clever:

*"Thank you for requesting this year's (insert family name) Holiday Gift Catalog. To ensure the best quality craftsmanship, we have reduced our product line to only (include number of family members) best-selling items*

***The Pink Eliza Leatherman:*** *She does almost everything! She sings, dances, draws, runs, writes, and makes difficult tasks look easy. The Eliza Leatherman includes a pair of earrings, four shirts, and 5 different excuses to get out of doing chores. Be careful not to trigger the switch which releases the hidden sour and sass tool. This fun item is reliable and will perform under the most difficult circumstances. Due to package restrictions, this version no longer plays the piano. (Our factory manager is addressing this issue.) Note: Do not leave near Tales of a Five-Year-Old Libby book for more than 10 minutes or a negative chemical reaction may occur.*

**Family Fun & Memories**

## DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS NEWS – Little Rock

In Memoriam:

**U.S. District Judge Garnett Thomas Eisele** died November 26 at age 94. He was known for his fairness and courage. He was one of the first judges to challenge mandatory sentencing guidelines.

Judge Eisele was a native of Hot Springs, Arkansas and was a private in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1942-1946. He received his B.A. from Washington University and both an LL. B. and LL. M. from Harvard Law School. He practiced in the private sector from 1953-1955, then became an assistant U.S. Attorney in Little Rock from 1956-1970. From 1966 to 1969 he was legal advisor to Winthrop Rockefeller, who had been elected governor in 1966 and 1968.

Judge Eisele was nominated by President Nixon and confirmed on August 5, 1970, receiving his commission the following day.



## DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA NEWS

The District of Minnesota welcomes **Kate Fogarty** as the new Clerk of Court. She began October 16, 2017, and is overlapping for several months with Rich Sletten, who is retiring effective December 31.

She has been an innovative leader in the Minnesota Judicial Branch, working for the Fourth Judicial District - Hennepin County for over 17 years. Kate's prior position in the Fourth Judicial District was as District Administrator. Prior to working in Hennepin County, she worked with the justice system in Clark County, Nevada, after her graduation from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Kate is also a graduate of the Institute for Court Management, Court Management Executive Program and studies organizational leadership at Saint Mary's University.



Of course, as you all know **Lynn Magee** was installed as the FJAA's 2017-2018 President at the San Francisco conference. She has also served as the president-elect and as the 8th Circuit representative. Congratulations to Lynn-we know you will do an amazing job as President.



## **DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA NEWS**

**United States District Judge Lyle E. Strom** retired at the age of 92 on December 1. He served on the bench for 32 years. Judge Strom was born in Omaha, Nebraska. He received his B.A. from Creighton University and his J.D. from Creighton University School of Law. He served during World War II as a Naval Reserve Ensign. Judge Strom practiced at the firm of Fitzgerald, Hamer, Brown and Leahy and was a highly regarded civil trial lawyer. He was nominated by President Reagan to fill the seat vacated by Judge Albert Schatz. Judge Strom was confirmed on October 25, 1985 and received his commission on October 28, 1985. He served as chief Judge from 1987 until 1994, and on November 2, 1995, he assumed senior status.

***Congratulations to Judge Strom on his retirement!***

# NINTH CIRCUIT—Julie Lemm

Harry Pregerson, one of the most liberal federal appeals court judges in the nation, dies at 94



U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Harry Pregerson, a Los Angeles-based jurist who embraced the underdog and let his conscience inform his rulings, has died. He was 94.

Pregerson, who was suffering from respiratory ailments, died Saturday night at his Woodland Hills home surrounded by family, said Sharon Pregerson, his daughter-in-law.

A few nights earlier, with his health seriously failing, he turned to his wife, Bernardine, and expressed a regret.

"The hard thing is that I don't have strength anymore to help people," recounted U.S. District Judge Dean Pregerson, Harry's son.

"He was full of love," Sharon Pregerson said. "He helped so many people. That was his mission. That's why he got up every morning."

Pregerson, born in Los Angeles on Oct. 13, 1923, was one of the most liberal federal appeals court judges in the nation.

He grew up in East Los Angeles, served as a Marine in World War II and suffered severe wounds in the Battle of Okinawa. He later graduated from UCLA and obtained his law degree from UC Berkeley.

Dubbed a "thug for the Lord" by one attorney, Pregerson was relentless in his efforts away from the bench to help the poor in Los Angeles.

He worked to establish several homeless shelters and volunteered at one each Thanksgiving.



Dr. Katie Rodan, Pregerson's daughter, said that she nicknamed her dad "the rescue machine" when she was a teenager.

"He wants to save everyone," she said in a 2015 interview. "He wants to save the world."

On the bench, Pregerson was often controversial. He stirred criticism when he refused to follow a 2003 U.S. Supreme Court ruling upholding California's tough three-strikes sentencing law. Not long after the court's decision, Pregerson dissented in rulings that upheld life sentences, some for relatively minor crimes.

His dissents were seen by some critics as insubordination, but Pregerson was frank about putting his conscience first.

"My conscience is a product of the Ten Commandments, the Bill of Rights, the Boy Scout Oath and the Marine Corps Hymn," the Carter appointee said during his Senate confirmation hearing. "If I had to follow my conscience or the law, I would follow my conscience."

## NINTH CIRCUIT—Julie Lemm... continued

Pregerson also angered some when he issued an order in 1992 to put a hold on the execution of Robert Alton Harris, who was already strapped inside the gas chamber. The Supreme Court later overturned Pregerson's decision, and Harris was executed as planned.

Conservatives railed at him for overturning death sentences and accused him of activism. Some prosecutors said they dreaded appearing before him. Pregerson said he simply believed that many death row inmates had not been given fair trials.

"You read the record in these cases, and you see what happened and how defendants' rights are not observed," he said.

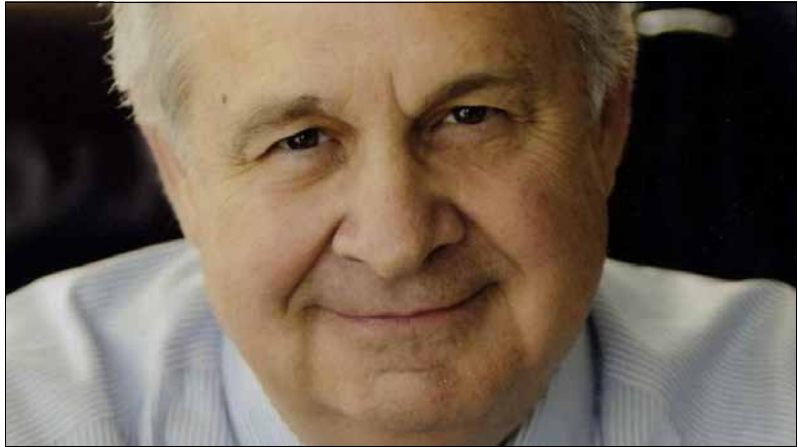
Pregerson also was viewed by some as a federalist, a label most often worn by conservatives and libertarians.

He favored restraints on the power of the federal government and wrote a decision saying federal authorities lacked authority to interfere with state medical marijuana laws. The U.S. Supreme Court later overturned the decision.

"His was a jurisprudence that was really based on the recognition of the dignity of every person," said UC Berkeley Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky.

<http://beta.latimes.com/local/obituaries/la-me-harry-pregerson-snap-story.html>

### Whether a judge or on the jury, he saw a 'true majesty' in America's courts



*Advocate for justice, international legal adviser and longtime Idaho Judge Larry Boyle died Thursday of complications from Parkinson's disease, according to his obituary published in the Statesman. He was 74.*

*Born June 23, 1943, Boyle's legal career in Idaho spanned 36 years after his 1972 graduation from the University of Idaho's law school.*

*Starting out in private practice, Boyle later became a district court judge in 1986 and was appointed to the Idaho Supreme Court in 1989.*

*Among other notable cases, his early experience as a judge included hearing the case against Paul Ezra Rhoades, eventually convicted of three separate Eastern Idaho abductions and murders.*

*Boyle in 1988 was the judge who sentenced Rhoades to death. In 2011, shortly after Rhoades was executed, he commended the appeals process: "With the burden of imposing a judgment that would require taking a human life, even that of a man who committed such heinous and unspeakable crimes, I was pleased, relieved really, that my handling of those cases so long ago and the weighty decisions I had to make, were*



## NINTH CIRCUIT—Julie Lemm... continued

carefully and thoroughly reviewed, and then affirmed at every step... The only good thing about all of this is the true majesty and beauty of the law that guarantees due process to everyone, including a young man who committed such terrible crimes.”

Boyle was named to the federal bench in 1992, serving as a U.S. magistrate judge for Idaho until 2008.

During his time as a federal judge, the U.S. Department of Justice appointed Boyle to teach jurist training in developing democracies, such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ukraine and Azerbaijan. He once conducted court proceedings in Bangkok, Thailand, regarding U.S. citizens who'd been imprisoned in that country. And over time, he also presided over federal court hearings in California, Utah, Washington and Arizona.

## Courthouse Exhibit Celebrates The Recorder's Bygone Editorial Cartoons

By Ross Todd Updated Dec 22, 2017 at 04:08 AM

SAN FRANCISCO — 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 at 450 Golden Gate 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.

“When the bankruptcy court moved in we had to change the entrance to the law library and, in that process, two long bare white walls were erected,” said Breyer in an interview this summer



shortly after the exhibit was installed. “Whenever I see a blank space on a wall I want to hang a picture and so this provided an opportunity.”

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.

# NINTH CIRCUIT—Julie Lemm... continued



'JUDGE HENDERSON VS. THE GOVERNATOR'

Retired Judge Thelton Henderson depicted fighting then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in the wake of rulings over prison over-crowding.

"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."

"I think there was only one time in all those years, when I had to call back and say 'This is impossible to get it all into one frame!'"

Breyer said that there were probably some judges who either by conduct or appearance lended 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."



'BEWARE OF THE JURIST WHO DEVELOPS A TASTE FOR U.S. ATTORNEY BLOOD'

Retired Judge Marilyn Hall Patel sporting two deposed U.S. Attorneys as trophies.

The exhibit's organizers say it will remain in place indefinitely and visitors are welcome. Below is a sampling of the featured cartoons.

# NINTH CIRCUIT—Julie Lemm... continued



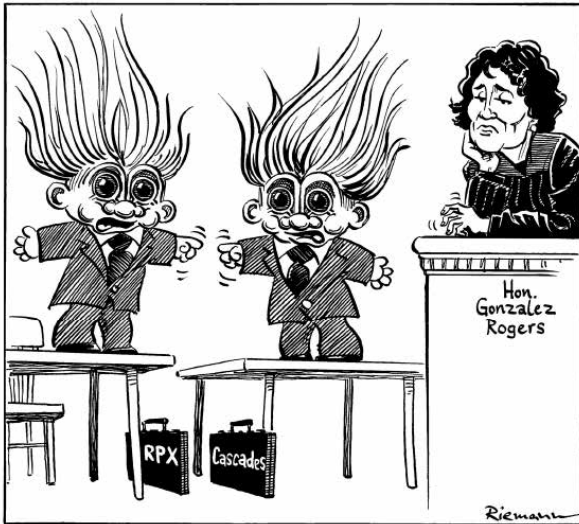
'JUDGE ILLSTON'S BIG LEAGUE DEBUT'

Judge Susan Illston playing the role of umpire in the Barry Bonds criminal trial.



'PUTTING HUMPTY DUMPTY BACK TOGETHER AGAIN'

Judges Charles Breyer and Edward Chen putting Humpty Dumpty back together again after the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Wal-Mart v. Dukes.



'BUT YOU'RE THE PATENT TROLL'

Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers oversaw an antitrust case involving two IP holding companies.



'DECODING ALSUP'S GOOGACLE RULING'

Judge William Alsup's coding bona fides didn't impress the Federal Circuit in Oracle v. Google.

# NINTH CIRCUIT—Julie Lemm... continued



'GAME OF POACH'

Judge Lucy Koh depicted as Game of Thrones' Daenerys Targaryen as trial approached in the high tech jobs no-poach case.



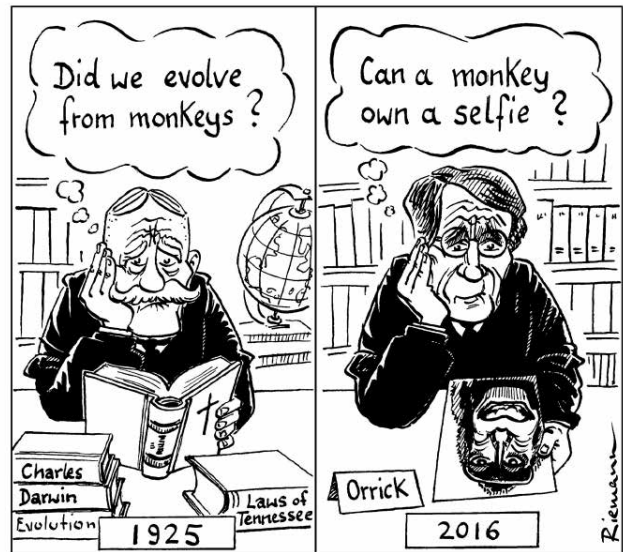
'MONTALI'S UNFINISHED BUSINESS'

Bankruptcy Judge Dennis Montali's courtroom portrayed as a funhouse for claims against partners departing dissolving law firms.



'BIG JUDGE ON CAMPUS'

Judge Claudia Wilken, who sided with college athletes in O'Bannon v. NCAA.



'LEGAL QUESTIONS THROUGH THE AGES'

Judge William Orrick III oversaw a novel copyright case brought on behalf of a Celebes crested macaque.

## NINTH CIRCUIT—Julie Lemm... continued



'SAY IT AIN'T SO'

The Recorder's farewell issue coincided with big celebrity news.

### Ross Todd

Ross Todd is bureau chief of The Recorder in San Francisco. He writes about litigation in the Bay Area and around California. Contact Ross at [rtodd@alm.com](mailto:rtodd@alm.com). On Twitter: [@Ross\\_Todd](https://twitter.com/Ross_Todd).

[More from this author >](#)



## TENTH CIRCUIT

### — Susan Goodwin

I look forward to serving as the Tenth Circuit representative for the upcoming year. I will have a hard time filling Lynda Brown's shoes in this position and appreciate everything she has done for us in the past as the representative. Having worked as a Judicial Assistant for over 30 years I know that association membership is very important to professional development. I encourage every J.A. in the Tenth Circuit to join us; we have so much to share with each other!

Our news from the Tenth Circuit is that Judge Neil Gorsuch was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. He was sworn in on June 15, 2017, and several of our Judges attended the ceremony: Chief Judge Tymkovich, Judge Baldock, Judge McHugh, Judge Phillips, Judge Moritz and retired Judge Tacha. Judge Gorsuch's J.A. Holly Cody decided to retire, again, and we will miss her. She was such a bright spot in the Denver courthouse.



Judge Gorsuch was replaced by Judge Allison Eid. Judge Eid was serving on the Colorado Supreme Court before her appointment and her J.A. is Gina Spruitenburg. I welcome Gina to the Tenth Circuit and hope to interview her in the near future.

Other news: Ana Kahn, formerly J.A. for Judge Matheson in Salt Lake City, Utah, has moved to Judge Briscoe's chambers in Lawrence. Judge Matheson hired Tami Butler to replace Ana. Welcome Tami and Ana, I know you are happy to be back in Lawrence.

Best wishes for the New Year!

*Susan*



## 11<sup>TH</sup> Circuit News

Gail Shafer  
Circuit Rep

Hello from Augusta, Georgia – in the Southern District of Georgia! Hoping you **all had a wonderful and joyous Christmas season. It's my favorite time of year and I really enjoy family, friends and all the madness that goes with it.**

We get together here in Augusta to decorate our courthouse tree every year. We **go in the order of the employees who've been here the longest down to the newest employees, taking turns choosing an ornament and placing on the tree. When it's all decorated – we eat! From breakfast casseroles to sweets – we have a little of it all. Everyone enjoys this time together.**



## **Bobby L. Christine confirmed as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia**



*By Betty Overstreet*

Bobby earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia, and his JD from Samford University in Birmingham. **Bobby worked for a decade in the District Attorney's Office in Augusta,** where he prosecuted thousands of cases, including violent felonies and complex thefts. He is one of only a few prosecutors in modern Georgia to win a conviction for murder in a case where the body of the victim has never been located.

Appointed Judge of Magistrate Court for Columbia County in 2005, he held that post continuously until November, serving as Chief Magistrate from 2009-2012. During that time Bobby also maintained a private practice concentrating in domestic, probate, personal injury, and criminal litigation. He served for a decade as a **prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office in Augusta and as chief of the Columbia County division.**

On November 16, 2017 Bobby resigned his judgeship and closed his law practice, as his nomination by President Trump to be United States Attorney was confirmed by the US Senate.

More news from circuit news next time! Joy and peace to all!

**Happy New Year**



## FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS—

### Millie Graves

I am pleased to have been appointed as the newly-elected Circuit Representative for the Federal and DC Circuits. From what I have experienced communicating with the FJAA over the past two years, the organization is well-managed, with multiple networking opportunities and circuit updates that members have at their full disposal. It is a wonderful feeling to be a part of an organization that serves as a motivator and seeks to make a difference in our daily lives.

My experience with the Federal Judiciary spans 20 years, beginning at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Alabama, followed by the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia. While in Atlanta, Georgia, I was one of two managers responsible for supervising a staff of 30 case administrators. I have also worked in the private sector at a communications firm in New York. For the past three years, however, I have worked as the assistant to the Honorable Lydia Kay Griggsby at the Court of Federal Claims in Washington, DC.

I am truly excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and look forward to a productive year representing the members of the Federal and DC Circuits!

Millie Graves

### January in History

- ◆ New Year's Day is the most celebrated holiday around the world.
- ◆ Senator John F. Kennedy announced his intention to seek the Democratic presidential nomination. (1960)
- ◆ President George Washington delivered the first State of the Union address. (1790)
- ◆ Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming became the first female governor inaugurated in the U.S. (1925)
- ◆ President Richard Nixon signed a bill approving \$5.5 billion over six years to build and test the NASA space shuttle. (1972)
- ◆ The flying boat airplane, made its first flight at Hammondsport, New York. (1912)
- ◆ The U.S. Surgeon General declared cigarettes may be hazardous to health, the first such official government report. (1964)



## FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS — Millie Graves continued ...

- ◆ Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated to an unprecedented fourth term as president of the United States. He had served since 1933. (1945)
- ◆ The 11<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution was ratified, preventing lawsuits against a state by anyone from another state or foreign nation. (1798)
- ◆ The first U.S. commercial bank opened as the Bank of North America in Philadelphia. (1782)

Source: [historyplace.com](http://historyplace.com)



### United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

#### CHIEF JUSTICE NAMES NEW CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., selected a new chair for the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States and three new chairs for other Conference committees. All appointments took effect October 1, 2017, unless otherwise noted.

Chief Judge Merrick B. Garland of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit is the new chair of the Executive Committee. He has served as a member of the Committee since 2013 and replaced Judge Paul Barbadoro of the District of New Hampshire as chair. A new member of the Executive Committee is Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The Executive Committee serves as the senior executive arm of the Judicial Conference. All members are appointed by the Chief Justice and serve open terms.

The 26-member [Judicial Conference](#) is the policy-making body for the federal court system. By statute the Chief Justice of the United States serves as its presiding officer and its members are the chief judges of the 13 courts of appeals, a district judge from each of the 12 geographic circuits, and the chief judge of the Court of International Trade. The Conference meets twice a year to consider administrative and policy issues affecting the court system, and to make recommendations to Congress concerning legislation involving the Judicial Branch.

#### NEXTGEN CM/ECF IMPLEMENTATION

On Monday, November 20, 2017, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit went live on the next generation of CM/ECF. The Next Generation of CM/ECF (“NextGen CM/ECF”) provides new and replacement modules that integrate with existing CM/ECF functionality.

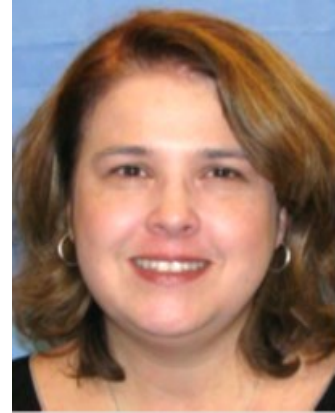
# FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS — Millie Graves continued ...

## United States Court of Federal Claims

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Lisa L. Reyes appointed as Clerk of Court

The judges of the United States Court of Federal Claims appointed Lisa L. Reyes as Clerk of Court, effective August 3, 2017. Ms. Reyes had been Acting Clerk of Court since May 4, 2016. Congratulations, Lisa!



Lisa L. Reyes, Clerk of the Court

#### Federal Contract Conference Supports Court Review of Bid Protests

Judge Thomas C. Wheeler spoke on Friday, September 15, 2017, on a panel for the Practicing Law Institute on “View from the Bench—Adjudicating Government Contracts Disputes.”

Senior Judge Loren A. Smith also spoke on a panel for the Practicing Law Institute on “Bid Protests in Government Contracts—Protection or Obstacle?”



Judge Thomas C. Wheeler



Senior Judge Loren A. Smith

The Judges both expressed views from their experiences and answered questions from the participating attorneys. Attendance of attorneys attending and those live streaming was well over a hundred. There was a strong general view that the bid protest jurisdiction was important to both the public and the government. It gives the contractor confidence in the integrity of the system and encourages people and companies to compete for government contracts. This in turn helps the government and the public to get the best quality at the lowest price.

## FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS — Millie Graves continued ...

### Advisory Council Panel Program

On November 2, 2017, the Court of Federal Claims and its Advisory Council presented an educational panel program entitled, “Federal Procurement and Emerging Trends in Litigation,” which was moderated by Senior Judge Loren A. Smith. Topics of discussion included: Reports from the Court; Mandatory Initial Discovery Pilot Program; the Department of Justice’s Perspective on Emerging Litigation; and Federal Procurement: the Section 809 Panel. Additional presenters included Chief Judge Susan G. Braden, Chief Special Master Nora Beth Dorsey, Clerk of Court Lisa L. Reyes, Senior Judge Nancy B. Firestone, Judge Thomas C. Wheeler and Judge Marian Blank Horn. This was a unique opportunity for law clerks and interns to hear from a variety of practitioners in procurement law.

The Court celebrated the Holidays somewhat differently this year. Instead of the annual Holiday Luncheon, on Thursday, December 7, 2017, all Judges and Clerk’s office staff enjoyed a variety of holiday desserts and punch. It was great to have the court family together. A special thanks to the Judges and Clerk’s office staff for providing the delectable delights.



Have you heard about The Kindness Rocks Project? It’s a wonderful movement that encourages people to decorate rocks with inspirational messages and leave them in random public places for people to find. What a lovely idea, right? Get together with your family, friends and co-workers to make your own rocks and distribute them at public places in your town or neighborhood or during your travels. Help to spread Kindness one rock at a time! Visit [thekindnessrocksproject.com](http://thekindnessrocksproject.com) to learn more.

**KINDNESS ROCKS!**

# FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS — Millie Graves continued ...

## United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit



### Portrait Unveiling

On Friday, October 20, 2017, family, friends, colleagues and members from the Bar witnessed the unveiling of Chief Circuit Judge Sharon Prost’s portrait. The event was held in the Ceremonial Courtroom and was immediately followed by a reception.

## NEXTGEN CM/ECF IMPLEMENTATION

In the spring of this year, the Federal Circuit anticipates going live on NextGen CM/ECF!!

### SAVE THE DATE!

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit will hold its next Judicial Conference on Friday, March 16, 2018 at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC. The one-day conference will be preceded by a conference of judges on Thursday, March 15, 2018. Chief Justice Roberts, the court’s circuit justice, will deliver remarks.

## ENCOURAGEMENT STATION

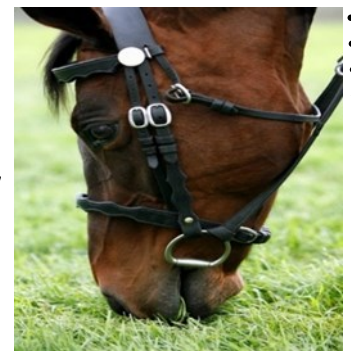
### Stuck in a Ditch

In a rural area a farmer was tending to his horse named Buddy, and along came a stranger who desperately needed the farmer's help. The stranger had lost control of his vehicle and ran it off into a ditch. The stranger asked the farmer if his horse could somehow pull the vehicle out of the ditch for him and told the farmer that the vehicle was small. The farmer said he would come, bring his horse, and take a look, but could not promise he could help if his horse might be injured in some way from attempting to pull the vehicle out of the ditch.

The farmer did see that the stranger was correct and that the vehicle was small, so the farmer took a rope and fixed it so that his horse, Buddy, would be able to pull the vehicle out of the ditch. The farmer then said, "Pull, Casey, Pull," but the horse would not budge. The farmer then said, "Pull, Bailey, Pull," but the horse would not budge again. The farmer then said, "Pull, Mandy, Pull," and again the horse would not move. The farmer then said, "Pull, Buddy, Pull," and the horse pulled until the vehicle was out of the ditch. The stranger was so very grateful, but asked the farmer why he called the horse by different names? The farmer said, "Buddy is blind, and I had to make him think he had help pulling the car out of the ditch or he would not have pulled."

*Moral: Don't wait on others in order to accomplish something or you may always be in a ditch. **Sometimes we won't attempt to do something if we know we don't have help.***

Source: [letterpile.com](http://letterpile.com)





## JUDICIAL BRANCH CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Search for these and other job opportunities on the JNET or at [www.uscourts.gov](http://www.uscourts.gov)

### **Second Circuit**

Relief Courtroom Deputy—New Haven, CT (US Bankruptcy Court)  
 Operations Specialist—New Haven, CT (US Bankruptcy Court)  
 Chief Deputy Clerk –New York, NY (US Court of International Trade)

### **DC & Federal Circuit & Supreme Court**

Administrative Specialist -Washington, DC ( US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit)  
 Case Manager CAFC-17-12 -Washington, DC ( US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit)  
 Chief (Court Services Office) - Washington, DC (A.O.)  
 Communications Specialist -Washington, DC (A.O.)  
 Human Resources Specialist– Washington, DC (A.O.)  
 Pro Se Staff Attorney –Washington, DC (US District & Bankruptcy Court)

### **Fourth Circuit**

Case Manager –Norfolk, VA (USDC )  
 CM/ECF Administrator - Alexandria, Richmond, Norfolk Newport News (USDC)  
 Paralegal –Alexandria, VA (FPD—Eastern District of Virginia)  
 Case Administrator/Courtroom Deputy– Raleigh, NC (USDC)  
 Pro Se Law Clerk –New Bern, NC (USDC)

### **Sixth Circuit**

Chief Deputy Clerk—Memphis, TX (US Bankruptcy Court)

### **Fifth Circuit**

Courtroom Deputy - Dallas, TX (US DC)  
 Division Manager –Fort Worth, TX (US DC)  
 Judicial Law Clerk –Dallas, TX (USDC)  
 Paralegal Capital Habeas Unit 17-15 –Austin, TX(FPD Western District)  
 Research and Writing Specialist Capital Habeas Unit 17-14—Austin, TX (FPD Western District)

Send us open job opportunities in your circuit and we will share them with  
 the other Judicial Assistants in our organization. Email job opportunities to:

[Christina\\_cavazos@miwd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Christina_cavazos@miwd.uscourts.gov)



• 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 YOURS—TIPS FOR THE OFFICE

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



**SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO YOUR  
CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVE BY  
MARCH 14, 2018**

**THANK YOU!**

# 2018 FJAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



**FJAA** membership dues (January 1 - December 31, 2018) are \$40.00. Retired members only: \$25 annually or \$100 lifetime membership.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Court: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge Type: Choose Judge Type Circuit: Choose Circuit to display Circuit Representative below

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(court address if active, home address if retired)

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (mm/dd): \_\_\_\_\_  Renewal

Check if you are retired:   New Member

Date of Retirement: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Hire as JA: \_\_\_\_\_

### STANDING COMMITTEES:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Conference           | <input type="checkbox"/> Audit                | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget and Finance                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> By-Laws                     | <input type="checkbox"/> History and Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long-Range Planning         | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership           | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominations/Elections                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Ways and Means       | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Development/Continuing Education |

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

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



The Representative for your Circuit is:

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

**Please pay your dues promptly.**  
**Your active membership will ensure access to the "Members Section" of our website and to the FJAA Newsletter.**





## CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES

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

### **1<sup>ST</sup> CIRCUIT CHRISTIE CLIFFORD**

c/o Hon. Jon Levy  
U.S. District Court  
156 Federal Street  
Portland, ME 04101 Ph: 207-245-3200

### **2<sup>ND</sup> CIRCUIT & court of international trade**

#### **JANET F. HANSEN**

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

### **3<sup>RD</sup> CIRCUIT IRIS LIRIANO**

c/o Hon. Patty Shwartz  
United States Post Office and Courthouse  
Two Federal Square, Room 477  
Newark, NJ 07102 Ph: 973-645-6596

### **4<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT JOHNNA OEHLSEN**

c/o Hon. Gina Marie Groh  
United States District Court  
Federal Building  
217 West King Street Room 214  
Martinsburg, WV 25401 Ph: 304-267-7027

### **5<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT PENNY STAUTBERG**

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

### **6<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT DEBBY SAWYER**

c/o Hon. Aleta Trauger  
U.S. District Court  
801 Broadway Room 825  
Nashville, TN 37203 Ph: 615-736-5498

### **7<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT WHITNEY GINGRICH**

c/o Hon. Jonathan Hawley  
U.S. District Court  
100 N.E. Monroe Street Room 211  
Peoria, IL 61602 Ph: 309-671-7285

### **8<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT KAREN LABRIOLA**

c/o Hon. Richard H. Kyle  
U. S. District Court  
316 North Robert Street Room 772  
St. Paul, MN 55101 Ph: 651-848-1161

### **9<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT JULIE LEMM**

c/o Hon. Robert J. Bryan  
U.S. Courthouse  
1717 Pacific Ave., Room 4427  
Tacoma, WA 98402 Ph: 253-882-3872

### **10<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT SUSAN GOODWIN**

c/o Hon. Nancy L. Moritz  
Frank Carlson Federal Building  
444 Southeast Quincy Street Room 420  
Topeka, KS 66683 Ph: 783-330-7345

### **11<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT GAIL SHAFER**

c/o Hon. J. Randal Hall  
U.S. District Court  
600 James Brown Blvd.  
Augusta, GA Ph: 706-323-6460

### **FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS**

MILLIE GRAVES  
c/o Hon. Lydia Kay Griggsby  
U.S. Court of Federal Claims  
Markey National Courts Building  
717 Madison Place, NW Room 712  
Washington, D.C. 20439 Ph: 202-357-6620

*A free one-year membership for the year 2017-2018 is available to all new JAs that are/were hired between September 1, 2017—September 1, 2018. This free one-year membership is available only to first-time FJAA members.*

### **EDITORIAL TEAM**

*Gabriela Ma (Gaby) AZ District / Christina Cavazos MI Western Dist Court / Tracy Young MI Eastern Dist Court*

*c/o Hon. James A. Soto*

*c/o Hon. Paul Lewis Maloney*

*c/o Hon. Linda V. Parker*