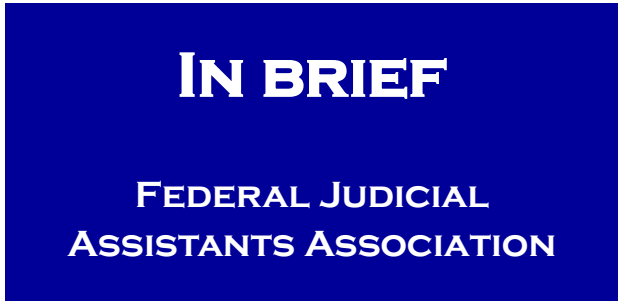




OFFICERS

2019 - 2020



Letter from the President

Judith Stoyko

Northern District of California, San Francisco

Dear FJAA Members and all Judicial Assistants:

Happy new year! Thank you for the trust and confidence that you have placed in me by electing me president of the Federal Judicial Assistants Association! Just for fun, let me share with you a few tidbits of personal trivia: I have moved houses only twice in my life and still live within 20 miles of my childhood home; I love to travel and have been to over a dozen foreign countries, including Cuba; my favorite TV show is *Jeopardy!*; I try to read at least two dozen books per year; I hate vegetables; I'm afraid of spiders; and I can wiggle my ears!

On a serious note, my career began in 1977. Immediately after graduating from business college with an A.A. in legal secretarial administration, I joined a small plaintiffs' personal injury firm as one of two legal secretaries. By 2000, I had shifted into law firm management with responsibility for human resources, benefits, finances, and billing. In 2009 – in my early fifties – I found myself unemployed and struggling to compete in the job market. I was either “over qualified” [a euphemism for “too old”] or “under qualified” [because I didn't have a bachelor's degree]. I couldn't change my age, but I could change my education! So back to school I went, earning a B.S. in business management in 2012. As it turns out, 2012 was quite a year! I earned my degree, married my husband Rich, and was hired as the judicial assistant to Senior District Judge Charles R. Breyer at the U.S. District Court in San Francisco. Oh ... and of course I immediately joined the FJAA and attended the annual conference in San Diego!

Two years later, the office of FJAA treasurer was vacant. I hesitated to volunteer for the position because I thought I was too inexperienced as a JA, not to mention too new and too unknown within the association. After several months of indecision, I thought, *They need SOMEONE to do this job; why not me?* So, I volunteered. I was welcomed by a lovely and supportive group of board members, many of whom would tell you that they too hesitated about holding office because they thought they were too new, too busy, too young, too old, too unqualified, or too whatever. I experienced the same indecision about running for president, but here I am!

The point is, this organization does not run itself. It takes a village. No matter when you joined the courts or the FJAA, you have unique and valuable insights and experiences that would inspire your colleagues and contribute to the future of the association. There are 5 elected officers, 12 committee chairs, and 12 circuit representatives. *SOMEONE* needs to fill these positions each year – *why not you?* I applaud and thank those who said *Why not me?* and volunteered to serve the FJAA for the 2019-2020 term!

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c/o Hon. William M. Conley
Robert W. Kastenmeier U.S. Courthouse
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Grammar Matters

By Judy Stoyko, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Charles R. Breyer

USDC, Northern District of California, San Francisco

Computer Abbreviations: Usage of File Extensions as Nouns

Computer file extensions are acronyms, so they should be capitalized when referring to the file format and not to the actual extension. Some of the more common ones are PDF (Portable Document Format), JPEG/JPG (Joint Photographic Experts Group), and GIF (Graphics Interchange Format).

Examples: I will send the document to you as a PDF file.

Please attach a JPG of the judge's photo for use in our brochure.

(Refers to the file format.)

But: Files ending with .pdf can be opened with Acrobat Reader.

(Refers to the actual extension.)

When using a computer abbreviation, do not follow it with a word that is part of the abbreviation.

Example: The file must be in GIF for our purposes.

Incorrect: The file must be in GIF format for our purposes.



HOPE TO SEE YOU IN ARIZONA!

COME ONE, COME ALL ...

SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, September 17, thru
Saturday, September 19, 2020.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE 2020 FJAA EDUCATION CONFERENCE

It will be an exceptional conference in a beautiful setting located in Tucson, Arizona. Tucson is in Southern Arizona along the banks of the Santa Cruz River, surrounded by four mountain ranges: the Santa Catalinas to the north, the Rincons to the east, the Santa Ritas to the south, and the Tucson



REGISTRATION FOR THE 2020 FJAA Education Conference will open in Spring 2020.
Check the website for updates: www.fjaa.net.

Click the links below to see the venue:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCBNV-txmeA&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzKMOxtJxNOuCROmIoVbBLA>



**NOTE: You must be a member of the FJAA to attend.
JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!!**

<http://fjaa.net/sites/default/files/Membership%20Application%20for%202020.pdf>

Member Services

1st Quarter Birthdays



Bernita Henley
VP & Membership Chair

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

From All of Us at
FJAA



Name	Circuit	Date
Terianne Bender	8th	2-Jan
Sharon Callahan	4th	4-Jan
Suzanne Lofton	9th	6-Jan
Patricia View	8th	7-Jan
Lena Tapscott	4th	11-Jan
Melody Byrd	9th	12-Jan
Flay Samrone Metoyer	5th	13-Jan
Bernadette DeBrubeis	2nd	15-Jan
Mary Farmer	9th	16-Jan
Judy Kirby	8th	19-Jan
Tracy Young	6th	19-Jan
Kourtney Barefoot	2nd	20-Jan
Melissa Seay	6th	20-Jan
Mona Eckroad	8th	20-Jan
Christine L Bockheim	6th	21-Jan
Christie Piche	1st	24-Jan
Lisa P Martin	5th	26-Jan
Pamela Angelette	5th	27-Jan
Neva Kanelos	7th	28-Jan
Amy Robinson	6th	31-Jan
Laura Stevenson	10th	1-Feb
Bonnie Zaidel	6th	3-Feb
Elizabeth Claes	6th	3-Feb
Debra Newman	9th	4-Feb
Dianna D. Davis	5th	10-Feb
Peggy Weisberg	2nd	10-Feb
Deann Harvie	1st	12-Feb
Pamela J Wood	5th	13-Feb
Mary Doubrava	6th	18-Feb
Barbara Barry	4th	20-Feb
Debbie Hillyard	4th	21-Feb
Ellen Weber	9th	22-Feb
Rebecca Greenup	5th	23-Feb
Carol Kronquist	6th	25-Feb
Bernita Henley	6th	26-Feb
Judy Stoyko	9th	2-Mar
Staci Momii	9th	2-Mar
Jeanette Santos	2nd	12-Mar
Terri Scott	5th	14-Mar
Deb Wilhelm	10th	15-Mar
Jenny Rudolph	5th	17-Mar
Stephanie Haltom	10th	20-Mar
Karen Ballard	5th	21-Mar
Debby Sawyer	6th	26-Mar
Lori Van Hove	6th	31-Mar

FIRST CIRCUIT— Christie Piche

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

On, Monday, December 16 through Wednesday, December 18, the Gignoux Courthouse staff participated in an Elf Scavenger Hunt. The theme of the hunt was that “Elf” was lost in the building and needed to be found so Elf could attend the holiday party on Wednesday afternoon. We had seven teams participating:

Bigley’s Bloodhounds

IT Crowd

JHR Chambers

KMNOPs

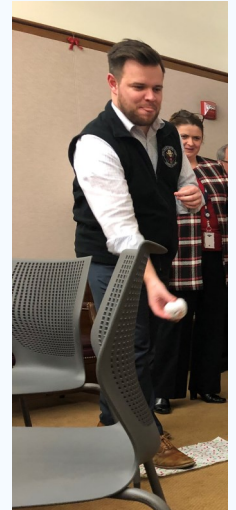
The A Team

The Harmless Errors

The Immortal Jellyfish



Each morning between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. (depending on the court schedule), a message was sent by email to everyone participating and the search would begin. As each team found a “clue,” they had to return it to a designated person in the clerk’s office and they were rewarded with a “snowball.” The first day there were 5 clues, the second day there were 3 clues, and the last day there were 2 clues to be found. We ended up having a tie between the Bigley Bloodhounds and the Harmless Errors and had a snowball toss competition to determine the winner.



The winner was the Harmless Errors and they were rewarded with a \$35.00 pizza gift certificate so they could all share lunch together.



Everyone seemed to enjoy it and next year we hope to improve our strategy and add some more challenging items to be found during the search.

The District of Maine wishes you all happy holidays and a great New Year!

FIRST CIRCUIT, Cont. — Christie Piche

NEXT GEN -

The NextGen version of CM/ECF has come to Maine! We had a successful upgrade on the weekend of December 7, and we went live on December 9, 2019, with Central Sign-On, Citation Links, and Judge Review Packets. So far, 592 attorney users have linked their PACER/CMECF accounts and are successfully filing.”

CIVIL DISCOURSE -

On Thursday, November 14, 2019, the District of Maine welcomed young women from the Long Creek Youth Development Center into the Edward T. Gignoux Courthouse to participate in the second ever *Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions* Program in Portland. The students debated the scope of the First Amendment in the context of online bullying through a simulated oral argument and jury deliberation before Chief Judge Jon D. Levy. The program gave the students, who have experienced the juvenile justice system firsthand, an opportunity to share their unique perspective on important issues that affect their lives, and to envision themselves as advocates and jurors. The students also engaged in a discussion with volunteer lawyers of what civil discourse means and why it is so important, both in our personal lives and in the operation of our democracy. Their teacher described the program this way: “The girls really enjoyed the experience and it was really empowering for them to be in the role of an attorney and get a different perspective on the court system. I think it will be a day that they remember for a long time.”



SECOND CIRCUIT—Samantha Gencarello



NEWS FROM AROUND THE SECOND CIRCUIT

District of Connecticut

The District of Connecticut celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the Richard C. Lee Courthouse on October 29, 2019. The Honorable Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and Richard Blumenthal, United States Senator, were among the dignitaries present to celebrate this occasion. Designed by famed architect James Gamble Rogers, the building originally served as both a courthouse and a post office. The post office moved to another location in 1979, and the courthouse underwent a massive renovation and restoration and reopened in 1985. Justice Sotomayor said: “Today, 100 years later, the Lee Courthouse continues to demonstrate the majesty of our democracy and add significance and important to the City of New Haven. Within these halls walk people from all paths of life, seeking to be heard; seeking mercy and justice. The judges of this Courthouse have served it with distinction and honor – serving all those who have entered these halls with dignity, respect, and dedication.” Congratulations on 100 years!

The court sadly lost two members of their court family, Judge Ellen Bree Burns and Judge Warren W. Eginton.

Judge Burns was born in New Haven, Connecticut on December 13, 1923. Judge Burns was nominated to the District of Connecticut by President Jimmy Carter on February 15, 1978. She served as Chief Judge from 1988-1992 and assumed senior status on September 1, 1992. Judge Burns took inactive status in 2015 and passed away on June 3, 2019 at the age of 95. Judge Burns was the first woman to serve on the federal bench in Connecticut. Chief Judge Stefan Underhill said of Judge Burns: “She was the model for so many judges in terms of demeanor. She set an example for women that I think still is highly regarded. I find inspiration in her example every day.” Judge Burns was celebrated at a memorial service on November 15, 2019.

Judge Warren Eginton, known to his colleagues and friends as “Edge,” was born in Brooklyn, New York, on February 16, 1924. He was appointed in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter and was Connecticut’s longest-serving federal judge. Judge Eginton died on October 7, 2019, at the age of 95. Judge Janet Hall said: “He was the glue of our court. He will forever be the glue of the court.” Fellow Judge Janet Bon Arterton said, “He was never going to retire. He retired the way he wanted to retire: The lights just went out.” The life of Judge Eginton were celebrated at a memorial service on December 20, 2019.

SECOND CIRCUIT—Samantha Gencarello, Cont.

Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals recently confirmed two new judges: Steven J. Menashi, who will be in New York; and William J. Nardini, who will be in New Haven. They were confirmed on November 14. Judge Menashi graduated from Stanford Law School and served as a law clerk to Judge Douglas Ginsburg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and to Associate Justice Samuel Alito of the Supreme Court of the United States. He worked in private practice, as an assistant professor of law and in 2018 moved to the White House to become a Special Assistant to the President and Associate Counsel to the President.

Judge Nardini graduated from Yale Law School and served as a law clerk to Judges Jose A. Cabranes and Guido Calabrese of the Court of Appeals, and to Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the Supreme Court of the United States. Judge Nardini also served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut prior to being confirmed as a judge.

The Court of Appeals held their Employee Appreciation Celebration on December 10, 2019. They welcomed Michael Jordan as the new Circuit Executive, taking over for Karen Milton who left the position earlier in 2019. Janice Kish has been promoted to Deputy Circuit Executive.

Southern District of New York

The Daniel Patrick Moynihan Courthouse is home to “History Through Art: An Exhibition of 35 Years of Courtroom Art.” The exhibit opened on October 4 and features 118 pieces from three veteran courtroom sketch artists: Liz Williams, Jane Rosenberg, and Aggie Kenny. The exhibit is sponsored by the Bench and Bar of the United States Court for the Southern District of New York and is open to the public from 8:30-5:00, Monday through Friday.

On a personal note, I'd like to introduce myself as the new Second Circuit representative, taking over for Janet Hansen who so wonderfully served for so many years. I have worked for Judge Preska for seven years and worked for Judge Sand for two years prior to that. I live in Staten Island, New York, with my husband, my almost 5-year-old daughter, Charlotte, and a new baby girl on the way, arriving June 2020! I am excited to start this journey with the FJAA and hope to meet so many of you soon!



THIRD CIRCUIT—Iris Liriano

On October 10, 2019, Pretrial Services swore in a new Chief Pretrial Services Officer, Jonathan Muller. Jon was sworn in by Chief Judge Wolfson while Jon’s wife Maryellyn held the bible. Jon and Maryellyn met while working for Pretrial. They have a son, James Muller, who gave remarks which were quite touching. Christine Dozier, Jon’s predecessor, spoke and recounted how Jon and Maryellyn met and eventually tied the knot. She also spoke of Jon’s invaluable skills, hard work, and dedication to the office. Jon, as the honoree, spoke about his time in the office and his colleagues, his parents support, how he met his wife, and of his son. At times, he was humorous, yet he choked up when he spoke about anything sentimental. This event was full of laughter and tears. At the conclusion of the swearing-in ceremony, refreshments were served in the Great Hall. Congratulations to Jon!



THIRD CIRCUIT, Cont.—Iris Liriano



On October 23, 2019, the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey held their annual Hispanic Heritage Program. This year’s guest speaker was Julia Lopez, Esq., who works for Reed Smith LLP. Julia is also the President of the Hispanic Bar Association. Julia was born in Guatemala and came to the United States at the age of 5. She attended Elizabeth, NJ, public schools and graduated high school as Salutatorian. Thereafter, Julia attended and graduated from Georgetown University. While working as a paralegal for a law firm, she attended Rutgers Law school. Julia clerked for the Hon. Esther Salas, U.S. District Judge for the District of New Jersey. She credits Judge Salas for being her mentor, along with her parents and grandparents. She told a story of how her parents worked 2 to 3 jobs to take care of her and her siblings. She also



recounted a story about sitting in the back of her father’s truck doing homework while her father delivered pizza. Her story was so compelling and inspiring. The program concluded with a delicious lunch representing Latin cuisine.

On October 8, 2019, the U.S. District Court held their annual BBQ. These events are always so special because they bring everyone together from all different agencies within our Judiciary and we even had some personnel from the U.S. Attorney’s Office attend. The menu was macaroni and cheese, potato and macaroni salads, garden salad, pulled pork, and BBQ chicken. There was even some grilling of hamburgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs going on. We sat and ate our lunch while socializing with our colleagues. Games were played and prizes awarded. A gift basket full of liquor and a football was won by our Human Resources Specialist, David Rodriguez. Although the weather was gloomy and called for rain, we didn’t have a wash out and everyone enjoyed themselves.



FOURTH CIRCUIT— Lena Tapscott

From the 4th Circuit.....

Happy holidays to all our fellow Judicial Assistants and welcome to our newest 4th Circuit Members: Meggie Holson (Eastern Division of Virginia) and Kathy Collins (Columbia Division of South Carolina).

The Charleston Judges hosted their Annual Holiday Soiree on December 19. A few hundred friends and members of our local legal community, including state judges, elected officials, attorneys, and former law clerks, were in attendance. We are always grateful for everyone in attendance and the opportunity to fellowship and spend time with our extended family in this informal setting. I am especially grateful that I get to lay eyes on, catch up with, and love on our former law clerks whom we of course have worked with on a daily basis but unfortunately see less frequently after their clerkships end.

New Chambers

When my Judge, Judge Richard Mark Gergel, came on the bench in August of 2010, nearly every available space in our courthouse was occupied. We were thankful to be able to occupy the “Visiting Judge Chambers”; however we have outgrown this space tremendously. In recent years several of our judges have retired, taken senior status, and unfortunately two have even passed on. Our beloved, Judge Patrick Michael Duffy, has now retired and we are about to begin renovations for our move to his former Chambers. YEAH, for the space!!!! We are told by GSA that the entire process from renovations to move-in should take about 9 months to a year. No, I’m not holding my breath but I look forward to sharing with my Judicial Assistant Family about our upcoming adventures.....hopefully it will all be good news!!!!

Breath of Freedom

New art work now graces our main floor....



FOURTH CIRCUIT— Lena Tapscott, Cont.



During the FJAA Educational Conference that was held in Charleston a few years ago, the Judicial Assistants enjoyed a presentation given by Judge Gergel about Judge J. Waties Waring and his “awakening to the injustices and suffering by African Americans” and his many efforts to effect change. Every judicial assistant in attendance received an autographed poster by a local artist and dear friend of the Court, Jonathan Green, which captured the essence of the day that African Americans were “no longer afraid” of the consequences of taking a stand... in this instance bravely pressing their way to be present for the opening day of the famous *Briggs v. Elliott* trial. The original painting, which is 10 ½ inches tall and 14 inches wide sits on a small stand in our office. On December 19 we held a small ceremony and unveiled a 2-piece, 5-foot tall, 3 ½ feet wide digital painting/replica of the original painting. This painting hangs just a few feet away from our historical courtroom where the *Briggs v. Elliott* trial was actually held. Now everyone who enters the J. Waties Waring Judicial Center and proceeds to either of three courtrooms on our main floor will be able to view the “Breath of Freedom.”

Fifth Circuit News

HaPpY BiRThDaY
To YoU!!...

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- 13th – Flay Sambrone-Metoyer
- 26th – Lisa Martin
- 27th – Pamela Angelette

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- 10th – Dianna Davis
- 13th – Pam Wood
- 23rd – Becky Greenup

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

- 14th – Terri Scott
- 17th – Jenny Rudolph
- 21st – Karen Ballard

Employment

Anniversaries:

JANUARY:

- 33 Yrs – Penny Stautberg
- 17 Yrs – Hope Taormina
- 2 Yrs – Terri Flowers
- 1 Yr – Kelly Brossett

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



Christine Abadie, Circuit Representative

NEW TO THE CIRCUIT!

U.S. DISTRICT JUDGES:

- JUDGE MATTHEW J. KACSMARYK – NDTX
- JUDGE JAMES D. CAIN, JR. – WDLA
- JUDGE GREG G. GUIDRY – EDLA
- JUDGE JAMES WESLEY HENDRIX – NDTX
- JUDGE SEAN D. JORDAN – EDTX
- JUDGE MARK PITTMAN – NDTX
- JUDGE JEFF BROWN – SDTX
- JUDGE BRANTLEY STARR – NDTX
- JUDGE JASON PULLIAM – WDTX
- JUDGE ADA E. BROWN – NDTX
- JUDGE CORY T. WILSON - SDMX

U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGES:

- Judge Julie K. Hampton, SDTX

RETIREMENT NEWS!

Carolyn Springman, JA to Judge Weiner, Circuit Judge

-- 20 Years of Service

Lisa P. Martin, JA to Judge Mills, NDMS (eff. February 28, 2020)

-- 28 Years of Service

FIFTH CIRCUIT— Christie Abadie, Cont.

On November 1, 2019, the Judicial Assistants of the Eastern District of Louisiana participated in an all day, offsite training. The training was facilitated by experienced JA’s (Hope McDonald, Flay Metoyer, Jenny Rudolph and Marie Firmin) and was geared toward not only new J.A.’s (3 new judges), but also as a means to round table and share knowledge among all J.A.’s new and experienced.

The agenda included, among many other things, a talk from the newly hired 5th Circuit’s Director of Workplace Relations, Mary Gaber Thompson, law clerk hiring procedures, reports, jury information and travel information. Binders were made for all participants with handouts and form examples.

The program ended with a team building activity of a scavenger hunt in the Sculpture Garden of the New Orleans Museum of Art.

It was a very informative day and everyone, even experienced Judicial Assistants, learned new information and better skills for day to day operations of Chambers.

5TH Circuit JA Christmas Luncheon



FIFTH CIRCUIT— Christie Abadie

INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF JUDGE JAMES D. CAIN

Hundreds attended the confirmation of Judge James D. Cain for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana last month in Lake Charles. The ceremony, which took place in the historic courtroom A of the old Calcasieu Courthouse, celebrated his honesty, character and professionalism.

At the ceremony, Judge Cain proclaimed he had two goals. First, he announced he intends “to treat everyone who comes before me with dignity and respect.” Second, he plans “to apply the law as written and the provisions of our constitution as written by our founders.” Cain underscored the importance of the oath to protect the Constitution, which he described as this country’s greatest achievement. Protecting the Constitution, Cain declared, “has a greater importance for the world. And I think it was best said in the immortal words of Lincoln, ‘It’s the last best hope of man.’”

Cain obtained his Bachelor of Arts from McNeese State University before attending law school at the Southern University Law Center. Upon graduation from law school, Cain clerked for Judge Henry Yelverton of the Louisiana Third Circuit Court of Appeal.

Congratulations to Judge Cain!

FIFTH CIRCUIT— Christie Abadie, Cont.

“Judicial Spotlight”

Judge Carl E. Stewart Receives the Nation’s Highest Judicial Honor Award

Submitted by: Marilyn Myers, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Carl E. Stewart

Judge Carl E. Stewart of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit received the 35th Annual Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award at a ceremony held at the Supreme Court of the United States on October 17, 2019. The prestigious award is sponsored by the Dwight D. Opperman Foundation and is given to an Article III federal judge who has made significant contributions to the administration of justice, the advancement of the rule of law, and the improvement of society as a whole. It is the highest honor bestowed upon a federal judge and has been described as the Nobel Prize for the Federal Judiciary.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. presided over the ceremony and speakers included Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, Chief Judge Barbara M. G. Lynn of the United States Northern District of Texas, Judge James E. Graves, Jr. of the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, James C. Duff, Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, and Danielle R. Holley-Walker, Dean of Howard University School of Law and former law clerk to Judge Stewart.

Along with Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Kennedy, attending the award presentation were Associate Justices Stephen G. Breyer, Samuel A. Alito, Jr. (Circuit Justice for the Fifth Circuit), Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Brett M. Kavanaugh. Following the presentation, a reception was held in the East Conference Room and a dinner in the West Conference Room. Also, in attendance were many invited guests and family members of Judge Stewart.

In announcing the award this summer, the Foundation stated: “This year’s recipient, Chief Judge Stewart, has throughout his career demonstrated his commitment to decency, civility, fairness, and justice.” When notified that he would be this year’s recipient, Judge Stewart said: “I am deeply honored and humbled to accept this year’s Devitt Award. I am very grateful to have been nominated and supported for this very special award in this my 25th year on the federal bench.”

Judge Stewart was nominated for the award by Chief Judge Barbara Lynn of the Northern District of Texas. The nomination included more than 60 letters of support from fellow jurists, community leaders, university officials, former law clerks, professors, and practitioners. Dallas attorney, Kim Askew, in her nomination letter wrote: “Chief Judge Stewart represents the highest of excellence in Article III judges and is an exemplar of leadership and service to the bar and community. He is a wise judge, role model, mentor and beacon of hope for lawyers and is unquestionably one of the most influential jurists in our nation. His distinguished legal career and outstanding service to the profession and community are equaled by few, and his humanity, temperament and often unassuming leadership all combine to make him such a truly exceptional man and jurist.” Judge

Fifth Circuit's “Judicial Spotlight”, Cont.

Elizabeth Foote of the United States Western District of Louisiana wrote: “Underlying his lifelong career in public and community service is Chief Judge Stewart’s ability as a uniter who is able to incite the best qualities in others and to bring together diverse individuals to achieve a common goal.”

Julie C. Opperman, Foundation Chairman and widow of Dwight D. Opperman presented the award to Judge Stewart at the October ceremony. In an earlier statement she noted: “I congratulate Chief Judge Stewart as he joins an esteemed group of colleagues over the decades who are recipients of the Devitt Award, our nation’s highest judicial honor.”

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy chaired this year’s selection committee which included Judge Raymond Kethledge of the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and Judge Lucy Koh of the United States Northern District Court of California. The award was established in 1982 and is named for the late Judge Edward J. Devitt of the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota.

Judge Stewart, a Shreveport native, was appointed to the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals by President William J. Clinton on May 9, 1994 and served as Chief Judge of the Circuit from October 1, 2012 until September 30, 2019.

FIFTH CIRCUIT— Christie Abadie, Cont.

Recipe Corner

Easy Recipes for the Busy Lifestyle

IT'S SUPERBOWL TIME!

Below are some quick and easy recipes

Jalapeno Popper Mushrooms – Football Game Appetizer

Source: *Plain Chicken*

Ingredients:

- 24 whole white button mushrooms
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 1 (4 oz) can diced jalapenos, drained
- 1 (8 oz) package cream cheese, softened
- ¾ cup shredded cheddar cheese
- ½ pound bacon, cooked and chopped

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Place a baking rack on a foiled lined rimmed baking sheet. Set aside.
2. Remove stems from mushrooms.
3. Combine cream cheese, garlic, jalapenos, cheese and cook bacon.
4. Spoon cream cheese mixture into mushroom caps. Place on baking rack.
5. Bake for 15-20 minutes.

Corn and Black Bean Salsa

Ingredients:

- 1 can yellow corn, rinsed
- 1 can seasons black beans, rinsed
- 1 small purple onion, chopped
- ¼ cup olive oil
- ¼ cup balsamic vinegar

Mix in a bowl. Serve with tortilla chips

SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge



NEWS FROM MICHIGAN EASTERN DISTRICT

by Suzanne Gammon

Becky McGee, longtime member of the FJAA and Judicial Assistant, retired December 31, 2019, after 25 years of service to the judiciary. Becky started her career as secretary with the Law Review at the Detroit College of Law in 1989. In 1994, a former Law Review staffer encouraged her to apply as a Judicial Assistant to District Judge Paul D. Borman with the United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan. Judge Borman was confirmed to the Bench in August 1994 and hired her that same month as his first JA.



Becky found the Court a wonderful and unique place to work. “There are Local Rules, Rules of Law, and Opinions that dictate how Judges organize their workload/docket.” She offers these words of advice to newly hired JA’s: “Use a listening ear first, then pertinent questions, patience, and a very high level of ‘the devil is in the details’ to give both you and your Judge peace of mind!” Judge Borman appreciates the different positions that make up Chambers, that each person brings a specific skill set that enables Chambers to run smoothly. To that end, he has found a JA is best for his Chambers and will continue staffing accordingly.

We enjoyed a celebration farewell luncheon at the Detroit Club with Becky in December. As is our tradition in the Michigan Eastern District, the Judicial Assistants gave Becky a 14k gold bracelet and gavel charm, along with a personalized photograph of the Theodore Levin Courthouse. Becky has two grown children and four grandchildren spread from shore to shore across the United States. At long last, she has the time to visit them.



SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge, continued ...

USDC - MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE - NEW COURTHOUSE!

On a gorgeous Friday in late September 2011, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the site where the new federal courthouse in Nashville, TN, will be built. The new courthouse will be named in honor of former Senator Fred D. Thompson. Judge Aleta Trauger, the Courthouse Project Judge, led the ceremony with remarks by Chief Judge Waverly Crenshaw, Senator Lamar Alexander, Representative Jim Cooper, Patrick Burke (architect), Brian Stern (GSA Deputy Regional Administrator), Judge Chip Campbell, and Fred D. Thompson, Jr. The building will contain 276,000 gross square feet on a 4-acre site, with six floors above ground and one floor below ground. It will contain six district judge courtrooms, two magistrate judge courtrooms, and eleven chambers. The U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the office of the U.S. Attorney also will be located in the building. The new courthouse will be completed in the Spring of 2021.



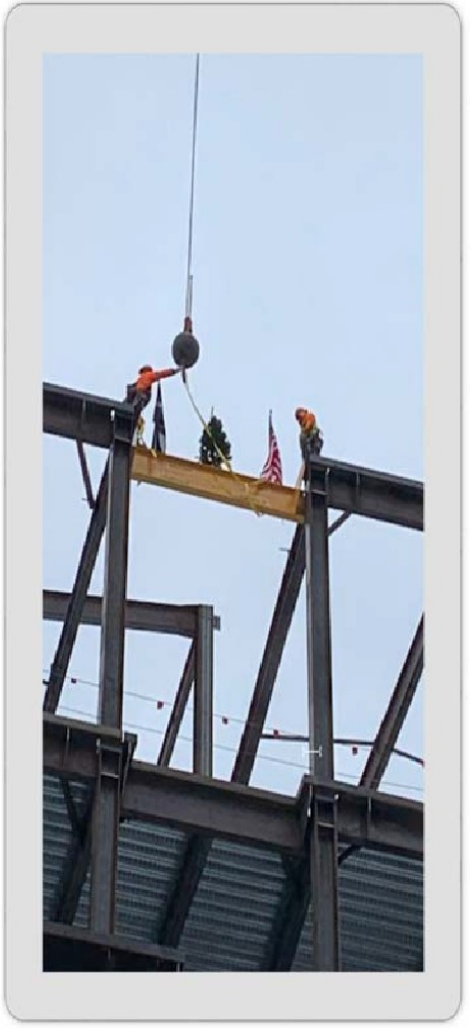
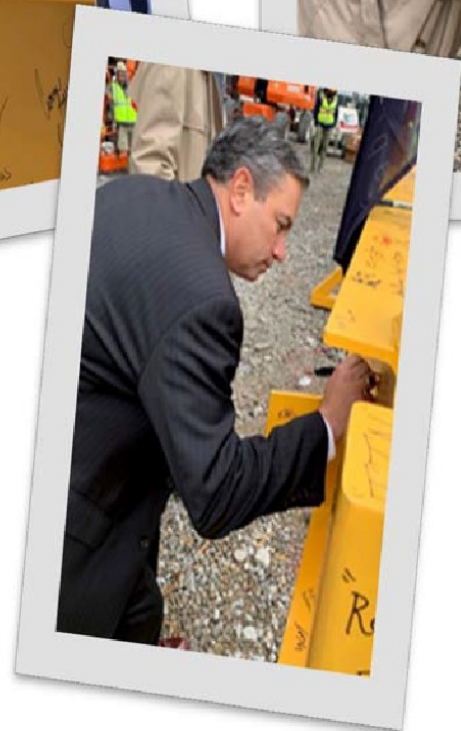
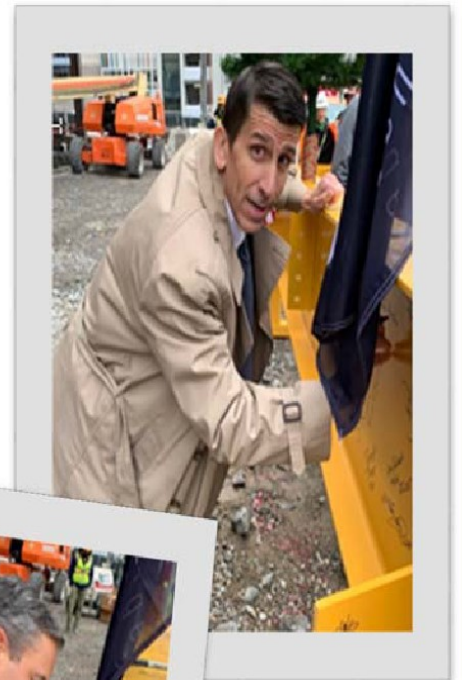
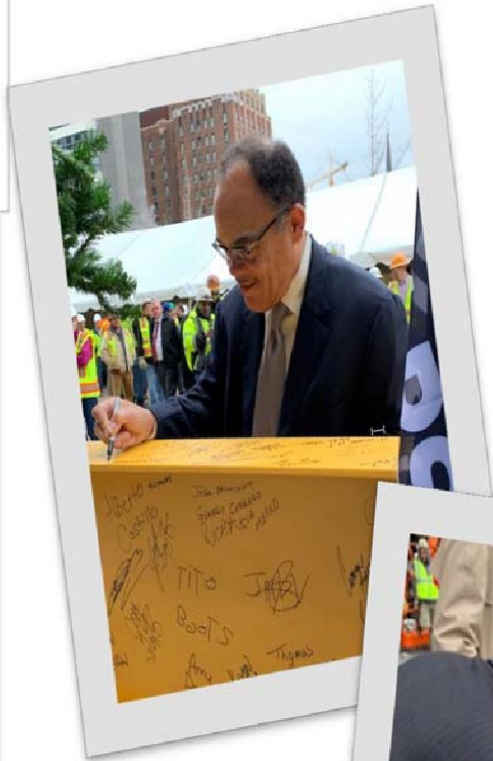
AND THEN

SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge, continued ...



On November 22, 2019, the last beam was put into place on the top of the building. In spite of the weather our judges were on hand to celebrate this milestone and sign the beam before it was hoisted into place at the very top of the structure.

Topping Out Ceremony for Our New Courthouse



7th and Church
— here we come!

SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge, continued ...

Sixth Circuit TN/WD Eastern Division in Jackson, TN

On December 11, 2019, FJAA Sixth Circuit Members from Jackson, Tennessee, attended the divisional office building holiday luncheon. The Bankruptcy Court for the District hosted the annual event, with staff from the entire Federal Building invited to purchase tickets to the catered event. The proceeds from the purchase covered cost associated with food, décor and door prizes. With the sudden blast of cold air, the decor centered around snow and included snowflakes sprinkled on the tables while much larger snowflakes hung from the ceiling. Games, prizes, fun, and fellowship were had by all in attendance.



Pictured above with the snowman (from L to R) are Emily Smith, Jennifer Hodge and Jackie Logue.

Western District of Michigan

Grand Rapids

United States Magistrate Judge Ellen S. Carmody to Retire

As taken from the court website: www.miwd.uscourts.gov

The Judges of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan announce the retirement of their friend and colleague, Magistrate Judge Ellen S. Carmody. Her retirement will be effective November 1, 2019. Judge Carmody has served this District with excellence for over 18 years since her appointment in October 2000.

Judge Carmody has the notable distinction of being the first female judicial officer in the Western District of Michigan. She has served on the steering committee and faculty of the Hillman Advocacy Program, the Western District of Michigan's

SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge, continued ...

training program for newly practicing lawyers. Among other accomplishments, Judge Carmody has also served on various Western District of Michigan court management committees, including the Pro Bono, Alternate Dispute Resolution, Employment Dispute Resolution, Information Technology, and Case Management/Electronic Case Filing committees.

Judge Carmody has taught as an adjunct professor at Grand Valley State University and Michigan State University College of Law. She has served the community with her involvement as the federal court liaison for the Michigan State University College of Law pro bono clinic for prisoner civil rights and her past work on the “ACE” (Accelerated Community Entry) Program, an intensive post-custody supervision program.

Judge Carmody grew up in Ambler, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Grand Valley State College (now Grand Valley State University) and Magna Cum Laude from the University of Michigan Law School. She is married to Dr. Robert Roosenberg and is the proud mother of Caitlin Carmody, who will receive a Master’s Degree in Social Work from Smith College in August 2019.

Before starting her distinguished career on the bench, Judge Carmody worked as a special education teacher for the Grand Rapids Public Schools from 1975 to 1980. Following her graduation from law school in 1983, Judge Carmody served as a law clerk to the Honorable Douglas W. Hillman of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. From there, she joined the law firm of Law Weathers and Richardson as an associate, and later as a partner, where she specialized in commercial and employment litigation, until her appointment as Magistrate Judge in October 2000.

The Honorable Janet T. Neff had this to say about Magistrate Judge Carmody’s distinguished service:

"Judge Carmody has been an integral part of the Court’s operation and progress. In addition to her regular judicial duties which she carries out so ably, she has played important roles in many of the Court’s projects, including shepherding the alternate dispute resolution program from its inception to the successful status it now enjoys and her tireless efforts to secure pro bono counsel for prisoner civil rights plaintiffs. She will be greatly missed, not only for her great contributions to the Court, but also for her upbeat and always pleasant manner which make her so easy to work with. She leaves big shoes to fill."

The Chief Judge of the District, Robert J. Jonker, adds:

"Judge Carmody models what it means to exercise authority with genuine respect for the persons most directly affected by it. She listens with genuine interest and empathy to the stories of the litigants who appear before her while at the same time delivering unflinchingly the decisions the law requires. In so doing, she models the best of what the federal courts provide."

Judge Carmody’s tenure on the bench has been characterized by her exemplary and consummate service to others inside and outside of the Court. The entire Court family wishes Judge Carmody and her family the best in this next chapter of their lives.

SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge, continued ...

Finding My Niche in Retirement

By Carol Kronquist, Retired
Former Judicial Assistant to Magistrate Judge Diane K. Vescovo
Western District of Tennessee

Greetings from Memphis, Tennessee. I want to tell you about this magical place where I have been volunteering, but first a little background on my career. I retired from the Court in September 2016, having served 41-1/2 years in various court offices – as a clerk stenographer in the US Probation & Parole Office (I'm sure the name of that office surprises many of you), three separate stints as a deputy clerk in the Clerk's Office, Judicial Secretary to Chief and then Senior District Judge Robert M. McRae, and finally as Judicial Assistant to Magistrate Judge Diane K. Vescovo. It was a great and rewarding career.

If you have talked to anyone in the retirement office, you know they stress that you need to have in mind something to do when you retire. I heard that many times through the years and always thought to myself, "No problem. I have hobbies, church activities, and friends to keep me busy." Well, there is only so much sewing and quilting and reading to be done, most of my church activities occur on the weekends, and I was the first of my friends to retire. Wow – what was I going to do to keep busy????

It took a while, but I finally found the perfect place for me. My daughter is a special needs girl, and in 2017, she started therapy riding at Southern Reins Center for Equine Therapy. She loves riding, and I love watching her ride. In early 2018, Southern Reins moved from a small farm in Nesbit, Mississippi, to a beautiful facility in Collierville, Tennessee. It includes 28 acres of gentle rolling pastures and woods with 6 turnout pastures, a 12-stall barn with wash rack, grooming bay, volunteer lounge and large tack room, a covered riding arena which provides much needed shelter for the participants, and the main house which is used for offices, therapy rooms and meeting rooms.

In January 2018, I sent this message to the volunteer coordinator:

Before Christmas, I decided that after the holidays I would contact you about volunteering at Southern Reins if you use volunteers in the office. Although I love to see Stacey riding, I am not really a horse person and working with horses is not something I want to do. However, I am really good in an office setting. I retired in September 2016, after working 41 years in the United States District Court. Most of that time, I was a secretary to federal judges -- District Judge Robert McRae for ten years (1984-1994) and Magistrate Judge Diane Vescovo, for the last 21 years (1995-2016). I have enjoyed all my free time, but I feel I am now ready to share some of that time as a volunteer with an organization that I feel is helping people in our community. I am hopeful that can be with Southern Reins.

Soon after that, I started my volunteer relationship with Southern Reins. It wasn't long before I discovered that I had found my perfect niche in retirement. I work at the computer 1-2 days a week in the office, but at the same time, I can look out the window and see horses exercising, grazing, and playing in the front arena. Sometimes I walk to the barn to visit and say hello to the horses. Occasionally, they say "hello" back. I can walk to the covered arena and watch our participants riding the horses. Just to see those smiling faces is reward

SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge, continued ...

enough. Our Stacey practically sits upside down in a chair, sprawled all over it, but when she gets on Jazz (“her” horse), she sits tall with her head held high. Every time she passes me, she looks down at me with a smug look on her face. She knows she is doing something special.

Southern Reins was founded in 2015 with 23 participants in adaptive riding. Each year since then, another program has been added. In 2019, the number of participants has grown to 262 unique individuals. There are four full-time employees and four part-time employees. Not surprising to all of us who know Southern Reins and the wonderful work done there, we have 305 active volunteers. I met a new volunteer recently who was ready to retire from her nursing career, but didn’t want to retire until she had found something to do in her retirement. She attended a volunteer training session one day and returned to work the next day and turned in her retirement notice. She now spends a lot of time at Southern Reins.

The mission of Southern Reins Center for Equine Therapy is to serve individuals with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities and hardship by providing equine-assisted activities and therapies to *empower, inspire, Nurture, and succeed*. It currently offers 7 types of programming to serve the community, including adaptive horseback riding, Occupational Therapy incorporating Hippotherapy, Unbridled Horsemanship, Making Strides Recreation Therapy, Silver Stirrups, equine assisted psychotherapy and PATH Intl. Equine Services for Heroes.

I have indeed found the place I want to spend time that is definitely helping people in our community, and I love every minute I am there. For more information, visit our website, www.southernreins.org, or find us on Facebook.



SIXTH CIRCUIT— Jennifer Hodge, continued ...

Sixth Circuit Holiday Recipes

Pumpkin Fluff

1 can pumpkin
3 oz. Cream cheese
1/3 cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
dash of nutmeg

Beat together until creamy. Fold in 8 oz. Tub of Cool Whip. Serve chilled with Ginger Snaps or other cookies.

Mandarin Orange Cake

1 box Duncan Hines yellow cake mix (butter)
1/2 cup oil
4 eggs
1 can mandarin oranges (use juice also)

Place all ingredients in bowl. Beat together 3-4 minutes. Do not add any other moisture. Cook in 9x13 cake pan. Bake until done at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes.

Icing for Cake

1 (No. 2) can crushed pineapple in own juice
1 pkg. Vanilla instant pudding (large)
1 (13 oz.) Carton Cool Whip

PINEAPPLE SALAD

1 Large can crushed pineapple
1 large box instant sugar free/fat free vanilla pudding
1 large Lite Cool Whip
Nuts (optional)

Do not drain pineapple. Combine all ingredients in large bowl. Chill and serve.

SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Neva Kanelos

SEVENTH CIRCUIT NEWS

~ NEVA KANELOS



I want to thank Cathy Geier for putting the Seventh Circuit section of the October FJAA newsletter together while I was in Brazil. We have a wonderful group of members this year who are eager to volunteer and make contributions.

The FJAA is a resourceful organization that offers opportunities for training, be it our annual educational conferences, newsletters, or by networking. In addition to the work-related opportunities through networking, I have developed friendships throughout the country. In fact, during the 2018 educational conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, I met the Ninth Circuit Representative, Suzanne Lofton. Suzanne and I connected right away as her son is a student at University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana (where I am currently living), and my daughter is living in Hawaii (where Suzanne lives). We stay in touch for personal and work-related reasons, and occasionally we visit one another while visiting our adult children. I realize that the top five reasons to join our group include education, scholarships, networking, newsletters, and our website, but I would like to add one more – friendship. (Photo from the 2019 conference in Nashville, Tennessee)

SEVENTH CIRCUIT, Cont.— Neva Kanelos

NEWS FROM THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

I had the honor to receive an invitation to attend the investiture ceremony for Judge Damon R. Leichty, Northern District of Indiana. Judge Leichty was confirmed on July 10, 2019. He was nominated by President Trump to a seat vacated by Senior Judge Robert Miller, Jr. He earned his B.A. degree, *summa cum laude*, from Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana, a Masters of Letters degree from University of Aberdeen, Scotland, and his J.D., *cum laude*, from Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Bloomington, Indiana. Prior to his judicial appointment, he was in private practice, a partner at the law firm of Barnes & Thornburg, an adjunct professor at Notre Dame Law School, and clerked for his predecessor, Judge Robert Miller, Jr.

Neva Kanelos

Judicial Assistant

Hon. Daniel A. Manion

U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Tis the Season:

A group of current and retired staff from the Central District of Illinois gathered at The Cookery on Dec. 13th for a night of “Cookies and Cocktails.” The Cookery specializes in fun hands-on cooking classes and is run by an executive Chef. They offer themed classes as well as catering options. We donned our Ugliest Christmas Sweaters and enjoyed a lot of laughter in our class making everything from sugar cookies, Bailey’s truffles, chocolate covered cherry cookies, caramels, tea cookies, and mocha truffles to gingerbread eggnog, candy cane-Kahlua hot chocolate, sloshy slushies, and cranberry mimosas.

Whitney Gingrich

Paralegal to U.S. Magistrate Judge Jonathan E. Hawley
Central District of Illinois



SEVENTH CIRCUIT, Cont.— Neva Kanelos

Microsoft Tips

Label a document to locate it quickly – Add a path to a file

Position cursor at the bottom of the document page

Insert Tab

From Text, select Quick Parts, select Field

From Categories, select Document Information

From Field Names, select File Name

From Field Properties (Format), select Lower Case

Check mark the box for – Add Path to File Name

Okay

Here is an example of how the path will appear: f:\manual 2017\microsoft instructions\add path to a file.docx

Create and pin a macro button to the Quick Access Toolbar

View Tab in word

Macros option

Record Macro

Name Macro (use only one word to name it) and select “button”

Highlight "quick access toolbar" at the left margin,

Highlight “Normal New Marcos,” click add, okay

Cassette tape icon appears – create the macro you want (all steps will be recorded)

e.g. – to create a section symbol (§) macro: Select Insert Tab, Symbol, Special, Section, Insert, Close

Stop Recording – (View Tab, Macro option, stop recording)

The new macro will appear in the Quick Access Toolbar, and when you hover over it, the macro name will appear

(e.g. Normal New Macros “Symbol”)

Just click it to type (a section symbol or any macro you create)

Delete a macro

View Tab in word

Macros option

View macros

Delete selected macro

SEVENTH CIRCUIT, Cont.— Neva Kanelos

News from the Western District of Wisconsin

Our court is in the process of renovating several areas of our courthouse (the building is close to 40 years old). We just got a kitchen remake for chambers. We were all happy to get a full-size refrigerator/freezer with the water/ice cubes in the door. It's the simple things in life that make you happy! Our court has a lot of food events, including a building-wide cookoff in the Spring, tailgate party in the Fall, and Christmas potluck, so a full-size refrigerator is really a necessity. Now, our ceremonial chambers is being renovated to replace the carpeting, reupholster the gallery benches, and replace all existing chairs, including in the jury box. It is supposed to be completed within a month, then we will move onto the next courtroom to replace the finishes. Eventually, all four courtrooms will be refreshed.

Melissa Hardin
Judicial Assistant to Judge William M. Conley
USDC - Western District of Wisconsin

Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals

Christmas Cookie Contest – winners and their recipes

The Staff Law Clerks of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals has a cookie contest every December in honor of Christmas. Cookies submitted into the contest are tested at a festive event when the entire court staff comes together for a tasting. After all ballots are cast, winners are named, but in 2019 there was one first prize winner, and three runner ups for second prize. The winning staff law clerks have been gracious in sharing their prize-winning recipes.



- 1st Place Winner: Zachary Henderson, Ferrero Magnolias
- 2nd Place Winners: Tara Kennedy, Chocolate Snickerdoodles
Ellyn Gendler, Chocolate Peppermint Crinkles
Vanessa Ing, Salted Butter and Chocolate Chunk Shortbread

SEVENTH CIRCUIT, Cont.— Neva Kanelos

Ferrero Magnolias

(1st Place Winner, Zachery Henderson)

Description:

Two of my favorite things in the world are Ferrero Rocher hazelnut chocolates and the banana pudding from Magnolia's Bakery. This recipe is a happy marriage of those flavors!

Airy cream wafers stuffed with scratch banana pudding a la Magnolia, with a touch of hazelnut chocolate.

RECIPE (This recipe yields roughly 25 cookies, with *lots* of banana pudding left over. If you want more cookies, you can double or triple the wafer recipe—you'll still have enough pudding.)

Wafers

Ingredients:

1/3 cup heavy cream

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 cup butter (margarine is acceptable)

Decorative sprinkles (optional)

Preparation:

Allow butter to soften on the counter, then mix flour and butter in a large bowl. Once thoroughly mixed, stir in heavy cream and continue to mix until smooth. Cover and chill for 1-2 hours.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.

Roll dough to a thickness of 1/8 inch on a floured table, then cut into 1 1/2-inch circles.

Add decorative sprinkles to the tops of half of the wafers.

Place on ungreased baking sheet and prick each cookie with a fork (to keep them from puffing up.) Bake for 6-7 minutes.

Notes:

Make sure to keep your rolling surface well-dusted—the wafers are very delicate and will deform easily if you have to “scrape” them off of your rolling surface.

Another way to enjoy these wafers (without filling) is to generously dust both sides with largely granulated sugar before baking. Prepared this way, they make lovely semi-sweet coffee or tea biscuits!

Make sure to place these in an airtight container as soon as you're done!

SEVENTH CIRCUIT, Cont.— Neva Kanelos

Banana Pudding

Ingredients:

1 14oz. can sweetened condensed milk
3 cups heavy cream
6-8 ripe bananas
1 3.4oz. box vanilla **instant** pudding mix
1.5 cups cold water
1 11oz. box mini Nilla Wafers

Preparation:

In a large bowl, beat together condensed milk and water until combined. Add instant pudding mix and continue to beat for 2 minutes. Cover and refrigerate 4+ hours.

In another large bowl, whip heavy cream until steeply peaked. Blend the whipped cream into the pudding mix until there are no more streaks.

In any wide dish, layer wafers, then sliced bananas, then pudding mix. Do this until you've reached the top of the dish.

Cookies

Ingredients:

Banana Pudding
Wafers
Nutella
Paper Cupcake cups (optional—these are messy cookies!)

Preparation:

Add a dollop of Nutella to the top of an un-sprinkled wafer

Add banana pudding on top of the Nutella. Ideally you want to try to scoop a slice of banana *and* mini Nilla wafer on top, but it will still be delicious if you can only manage to get one or the other on a cookie.

Add a sprinkled wafer on top.

Serve, or place inside a muffin cup.

SEVENTH CIRCUIT, Cont.— Neva Kanelos

Chocolate Snickerdoodles

(2nd Place Winner, Tara Kennedy)

Ingredients

- 1 cup butter softened
 - 1 cup sugar (200g)
 - 1/2 cup light brown sugar tightly packed (100g)
 - 2 large eggs
- 2 3/4 cups [all-purpose flour](#) (326g)
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder (25g)
 - 1 1/2 tsp cream of tartar
 - 1 tsp baking soda
 - 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp salt

For rolling

- 3 Tbsp sugar
 - 1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 3/4 tsp cocoa powder

Instructions

1. In KitchenAid or with electric mixer cream butter.
2. Add sugars and beat until light and fluffy.
3. Add eggs, one at a time, beating until combined and pausing after each addition to scrape down sides of bowl.
4. In separate, medium-sized bowl whisk together flour, cocoa powder, cream of tartar, baking soda, cinnamon and salt.
5. With mixer on low speed, gradually add flour mixture to butter mixture, pausing occasionally to scrape down sides of bowl.
6. Once all ingredients are incorporated, transfer bowl to refrigerator and chill 30 minutes.
7. In small bowl, whisk together sugar, ground cinnamon and cocoa powder for rolling.
8. Once dough has finished chilling, remove from refrigerator and roll into 1- 1 1/2" balls.
9. Roll in sugar/cinnamon/cocoa powder mixture until coated in mixture and place on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet, spacing about 2" apart (do not ever put cookie dough on a hot/too-warm pan, the cookies will spread too thin when baking if you do).
10. Place pan in refrigerator (or freezer!) and chill sugar/cinnamon/cocoa coated dough balls for another 30 minutes (this step is optional & can be skipped if you're impatient -- you can jump right to placing them in the oven. However, doing this step will give you nicer, more pronounced crackles in your cookies, if you're into that sort of thing)
11. While dough is chilling, preheat oven to 350F.
12. Once dough has finished chilling, bake on 350F for 10 minutes.

Remove from oven and allow to cool 5-10 minutes on cookie sheet before transferring to wire rack to cool completely.

Recipe courtesy of Sugar Spun Run, <https://sugarspunrun.com/chocolate-snickerdoodles/>

SEVENTH CIRCUIT, Cont.— Neva Kanelos

Chocolate Peppermint Crinkle Cookies

(2nd Place Winner, Ellyn Gendler)

Dough

- * 2 cups all-purpose flour (I added 2 tablespoons extra for a less fudgy cookie)
- * 2½ teaspoon baking powder
- * ½ teaspoon salt
- * 1 cup cocoa powder
- * 2 cups sugar
- * scant ½ cup vegetable oil
- * ¾ cup applesauce
- * 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- * scant 1 teaspoon peppermint extract

Sugar Coating

- * ½ cup granulated sugar
- * ½ cup powdered sugar

Instructions

1. In a small bowl combine flour, salt, and baking powder. Set aside.
2. In a medium bowl stir together cocoa powder, sugar, applesauce, oil, and extracts until well blended. Add flour mixture and mix until just combined.
3. Freeze dough for 30-60 minutes. (Can also refrigerate for 2 hours if you have the time.)
4. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Place the granulated and powdered sugars in two separate bowls.
5. Remove chilled dough and roll into balls about one tablespoon each. Toss first in the granulated and then second in the powdered sugar, coating fully.
6. Bake for 13-14 minutes (slightly less for fudgier cookies). Remove from oven and allow to cool for 2-3 minutes before transferring onto a wire rack to cool completely.

Adapted from My Darling Vegan - <https://www.mydarlingvegan.com/chocolate-peppermint-crinkle-cookies/>

Salted Butter & Chocolate Chunk Shortbread

(2nd Place Winner, Vanessa Ing)

Alison Roman's Dining In: <https://www.bonappetit.com/recipe/salted-butter-and-chocolate-chunk-shortbread> She's great!

EIGHTH CIRCUIT— Judith Kirby

EIGHTH CIRCUIT NEWS

~ JUDY KIRBY

Happy New Year to all!

It seems like time flies so quickly these days. I hope you all had a happy and fun-filled holiday season. Much has happened in the District of Minnesota. One of our Magistrate Judges, Steven E. Rau, passed away in October, after a long fight with cancer. His staff is being moved into other positions. On the happier side, we have three retirements happening in December and early January. Jackie Phipps, Connie Baker, and Katie Haagenson, current and former members of FJAA, are moving to the next phase of their lives, and we wish them all the best – they will be missed.

The Eastern District of Missouri has a new District Judge. Sarah E. Pitlyk was sworn in on December 6, 2109. She replaces District Judge Catherine D. Perry, who took senior status. New Magistrate Judges will be appointed in the near future in both the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri.

I have included an article below about one of the District Judges from the Northern District of Iowa, and his journey to visit inmates he had sentenced. I know there are activities like this going on all around our Circuit.

Because there isn't a lot of other news from around the Circuit, I am sure that everyone has been really busy trying to get through the holidays and to year's end. I, for one, always enjoy the holiday season, but am always glad when it finally ends and life goes back to normal.

I do want to encourage all of you to renew your memberships for 2020, if you haven't done that already. I also want to encourage you to talk to your colleagues who may not be members and encourage them to join us. I am sure that your experiences with FJAA have been outstanding, and the people you have met have made a lasting impression on you. I, for one, have met some of the most interesting people through FJAA, and been exposed to ideas and work tips that I have found very helpful. Our annual conference is always fun, and I have been able to go to cities and parts of the country that I would likely not have made it to on my own. First year members are invited to join us without having to pay dues, and I think it is rare that a member doesn't continue their membership after that first year. And if you renew your membership soon, you will be entered into a drawing for \$100 at the end of March.

Finally, our annual conference this year will take place in Tucson, Arizona on September 17-19, 2020. It will be great and I hope you all have an opportunity to attend. You won't regret it!!

EIGHTH CIRCUIT, Cont.— Judith Kirby

Passion for equal justice takes Iowa judge on rare journey: Into prisons, to visit 400 inmates he had sentenced

Des Moines Register, October 31, 2019 (reprinted from 8th Circuit Library NEWSWATCH, 11/01/19)

A federal judge in Iowa sentenced 4,000 people in his career. He visited 16 federal prisons to meet with 400 of the defendants he sent behind bars.

In preparation for taking the bench as a newly appointed federal judge in 1994, Mark W. Bennett visited a federal penitentiary in Atlanta. It was, he says, the scariest experience of his life.

But by the time he retired this past March as U.S District Court judge for the Northern District of Iowa, based in Sioux City, the 69-year-old Bennett had deliberately paid visits to 16 federal prisons, one of those at least 10 times.

It first happened in 2004, when the judge, who was recommended by then Sen. Tom Harkin and nominated by President Bill Clinton, was attending a conference in Long Beach, California. That was just after he had sentenced four drug dealers from South Central Los Angeles for robbing a Sioux City bank — twice.

They were convicted, and Bennett sentenced them to Terminal Island men's prison in California. Since he was out there, he decided to visit and was given a tour. Though not ready to be reunited with the four, "It dawned on me I would learn a lot more if I just talked to inmates." So he requested that, and had a 90-minute meeting with three convicts he described as "rough looking" men. He said one broke into sobs, saying he could never have imagined a federal judge caring about his opinion.

"It just kept gnawing at me," Bennett said. "An inner voice said, "Next time, I will interview people I've sentenced." So began an extraordinary journey of seeking out people he had confined to see how they were doing. In 24 years on the bench, Bennett sentenced 4,000 people. And in 15 of those years, he visited 400 of them in prison. He says 95% responded positively.

"Mostly I asked, did they feel treated fairly, and (satisfied with) the quality of their court-appointed lawyers," said Bennett in a recent interview in his office at Drake Law School. Today he teaches law and heads Drake's Institute for Justice Reform & Innovation, which does research and training on implicit bias, among other things. He said the vast majority of inmates did, though about a fifth complained about their defense counsel and a fifth said the judge had been too harsh.

That, contends Bennett, is largely due to mandatory minimum sentences stipulated by federal law in drug cases. Nearly half of the inmates in federal prisons are there for drug offenses.

When he had no say in the sentence, Bennett tried to at least get the offenders into prisons with programs they could benefit from.

He suggested a culinary arts program at the Federal Correctional Institute in Oxford, Wisconsin, to an offender who had worked at restaurants. When Bennett visited the inmate around 2011, close to his release date, he was excited about upcoming interviews with Chicago restaurants. He told Bennett he had saved his life by helping him get on the right track.

The inmate also told him he was the only visitor he'd ever had in prison.

On a visit to another inmate he had sentenced to the mandatory 10-year minimum, a recovering crack addict in her early 20s, she asked Bennett to attend a drug treatment class with her. He did, and told her he was proud of her.

EIGHTH CIRCUIT, Cont.— Judith Kirby

Bennett used other tools to challenge an inherently discriminatory system. In 2014 he co-authored a piece for a social justice journal with former federal prosecutor Mark Osler. It cited the war on drugs as a major reason that the U.S., with less than 5% of the world's population, has nearly 25% of the world's incarcerated.

“Prison populations have mushroomed through incarceration of increasing numbers of young males, especially young black men, mostly from impoverished urban areas,” it said. One discriminatory aspect of the law he lobbied against was its differential treatment of powder and crack cocaine. A 1986 federal law created a 100:1 ratio between the amount of powder cocaine and crack cocaine that would trigger a mandatory minimum sentence. Crack cocaine is cheaper, and used more by black people, while wealthier suburban white people tend to use powder cocaine.

Under the guidelines, someone convicted of dealing 5 grams of crack could get a five-year sentence, while someone dealing powder cocaine would have to deal 500 grams to get the same sentence. So in 2009, citing a U.S. Supreme Court directive that judges had the right to disagree with federal sentencing guidelines, Bennett deviated from them and challenged that discrepancy. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Bennett's favor in the case, *Spears v. United States*.

In another case, *United States v. Billy Williams Sr.*, Bennett treated crack and powder cocaine equally, was challenged and again was upheld. Congress had by then adopted an 18:1 ratio, which Bennett wrote was “more irrational and pernicious than the original 100:1.” By then, he wrote, Congress and the Sentencing Commission had access to scientific evidence demonstrating “that the difference between crack and powder is like the difference between ice and water...”

Bennett and his work have been featured in *The Washington Post* and in a Brad Pitt documentary “*The House I Live In*,” on the war on drugs. He was honored recently by the ACLU of Iowa for bold leadership in fighting the war on drugs, racism, and mandatory minimums.

In a 2011 essay for *Judicature* magazine, Bennett wrote of the “profound ways” in which his prison visits had changed him, saying, “I have a much greater appreciation for the ability of people to make fundamental changes in their lives but also understand how hard this is in the prison context.”

It's regrettable that more judges haven't followed his lead in meeting with inmates they sentenced. But amid the demonization of poor and marginalized people from up high, and the self-serving rhetoric from political campaigns, it is deeply nourishing to see someone at Bennett's level think independently and speak truth to power with no dog in the race — only an abiding passion for equal justice.

NINTH CIRCUIT—Suzanne Lofton



Happy New Year FJAA members!

2020 is here and I am truly looking forward to another year of growth, knowledge, and motivation to continue to do a fantastic job supporting our judges. We all know how important it is to function at our best. As we continue to share our ideas and support one another in our professional development, we grow stronger as a group and also as individuals. Making connections with other federal judicial assistants across the nation is a valuable resource. Thank you to Dawn Stitt and Kathleen Abbot for sharing news for our section in January's issue. As FJAA members, your input for our newsletter is important; news from your courthouse, tips, recipes, etc. always makes for a successful newsletter, so I encourage you to participate and send in your articles.

Thank you to our FJAA conference committee who have already gotten off to a great start planning our September 2020 conference to be held in Arizona. Wishing you all a wonderful new year filled with good health, smiles and hard work.

Thank you for the honor of being your 9th circuit representative.

Suzanne Lofton

Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Judge Derrick K. Watson
United States District Court of Hawaii

Judicial Nominations for Tucson Judgeships

On Dec. 4, 2019, John Charles Hinderaker and Scott H. Rash were nominated to be United States District Judges for the District of Arizona.

The Hon. John Hinderaker is currently of the Arizona Superior Court for Pima County bench, to which he was named by GOP Gov. Doug Ducey in December 2018. He previously worked on commercial litigation as a partner at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP. He earned his law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law before clerking with two federal district judges in Arizona, Judge John M. Roll and Judge Raymond T. Terlizzi. He is nominated for the judgeship formerly held by Hon. Raner Christercunean Collins, who has taken Senior Judge status.

Also nominated is Hon. Scott H. Rash, who joined the Arizona Superior Court for Pima County in 2010. Before that, he practiced civil litigation as a shareholder at Gabroy Rollman & Bossé PC and supervised criminal prosecutions in the state attorney general's office. He received his bachelor's with highest honors and his law degree cum laude from the University of Arizona. He is nominated for the judgeship formerly held by Hon. Cindy K. Jorgenson, who has taken Senior Judge status.

To follow the status of these nominations, see: <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/nominations>

OR

A comprehensive guide is available here:

<http://jnet.ao.dcn/resources/legal-general-research/general-reference/resources-tracking-judicial-nominations>

NINTH CIRCUIT, Cont.—Suzanne Lofton

Small Ship vs Big Ship Comparison, Cruise Guide

TRAVEL CORNER

(Shared by Judicial Assistant Kathleen Abbott)

For those of you who are interested in taking a cruise ship adventure, the comparison chart below is about Small Ship vs. Big Ship, just a brief synopsis of various aspects of cruising. This chart was part of a larger article and it belongs to AdventureSmith Explorations. The numbers on the ships across the top refer to typical numbers of people on these types of cruises. If anyone wants to have further discussions, or has any questions, they may contact me at Havefunnowtravel@gmail.com.

Kathleen Abbott

	 < 40	 < 200	 200-5,000
	Adventure Yacht	Expedition Ship	Cruise Ship
Focus of Cruise	Flexible, off-ship exploration, solitude, culture	Flexible, off-ship exploration, active adventure	On-ship activities, floating resort, large ports
Atmosphere	Up-close, active cruising, fun and family-like	Relaxed, appreciation of nature, varied new friends	Las Vegas-style nightlife, pools, events
Staterooms	Luxury to simple, less cabin space	More options, some with balconies	Like standard hotel room, pay more for windows
Dining	Intimate, casual, open seating, family-meal feel	Ocean-view dining, casual, open seating	Formal, specialty restaurants, assigned seating
Service	Like floating B&B, local guides & crew	Personalized, excellent & varied guides	Impersonal but adequate service, long lines.
Amenities	Smaller bathrooms, halls & decks	Lots of common space, view decks & often fitness/spa	Many decks, water slides, salons, golf simulators, etc
Itinerary	Free or not set until cruise departs, interest of guests	Remote locations, flexible, ready for unexpected sightings	Popular ports on fixed schedule, travels far from shore
Entertainment	Naturalist guides, wildlife, landscapes	Onboard experts lead lectures, wildlife, landscapes	Movies, pools, casinos, arcades
Shore Excursions	Hiking, kayaking, small towns, all inclusive	Hikes, kayaking, small craft, small towns, more options	Large ports, large group tours, added fee
Families	Family charters & departures, over age 6 ideal	Family departures & onboard kid programs, over age 6 ideal	Babysitting, water parks, rec rooms, kids camps
Transfers	Often personal pickups & transfers included	Often airport pickup & drop-off, pre/post options	DIY travel, pay extra for transfers

HAWAII

USMS Shooting Range

The USMS of Hawaii invited the courthouse and chambers staff for a day of shooting at the gun range on the East side of Oahu. For many, it was their first time holding a weapon. This was an educational event designed to improve the safety of those who attended in terms of firing a weapon and defending themselves. With careful instruction and patience from the USMS, staff had a safe and rewarding experience.



NINTH CIRCUIT, Cont.—Suzanne Lofton

RETIREMENT

Congratulations to Dawn Stitt



Dawn Stitt will be retiring as of December 31, 2019. She has been an FJAA member since 2015. She has had a 30-year career with the Central District of California. Dawn started in 1989 as an Assistant Supervisor to the court reporters, then in 1998 became the Supervisor to the Court Reporters. In 2005, Dawn was asked to take over the Supervision of the Records Department; they then added Mail Services and Office Supplies to the department and it was renamed the Office Services Department. In 2015, Dawn was hired by Judge Manuel Real to be his Judicial Assistant as his long time JA was retiring. Judge Real passed away this past summer. Dawn has truly enjoyed her career with the court. “The best part of my years has been the people I have worked with and those I have met from other courts, many who I remain in contact with.” Dawn is looking forward to spending time with her mom, needlepointing, cross stitching, and quilting during retirement. Best wishes Dawn! We thank you for your years of service to the courts and your commitment to FJAA.



~ Dawn’s Retirement Party ~



TENTH CIRCUIT— Karen Baca

Hello everyone! So we are off to a new year. I thought I would pass on some information from the 10th Circuit relating to our Clerk of the Court. She retired on December 31, 2019. Below is Chief Judge Tymkovich's nomination for the Director's Leadership Award. She will truly be missed.

When she retires at the end of the day on December 31, 2019, Betsy Shumaker will have served the Tenth Circuit for exactly 30 years. In that time, she has been a Staff Attorney, Chief Deputy Clerk, Clerk of Court and Circuit Executive. She is currently the seventh Clerk in the Tenth Circuit's 90-year history, and the only woman to have served in that role. She is also the only woman to have served as Circuit Executive for the Tenth Circuit.

In addition to the extraordinary service she has provided to the Tenth Circuit, Betsy has consistently sought out opportunities to be of service to the entire Federal Judiciary. Betsy has served as chair of the Appellate Clerks Advisory Group, and she has been a member of several of the Administrative Office's advisory councils, including the Budget and Finance Advisory Council, and the Space and Facilities Advisory Council. In addition, Betsy's colleagues and leaders at the Administrative Office have routinely sought to leverage her experience and expertise for some of the Federal Judiciary's most complex and critical national initiatives. For example, Betsy is currently a member of the NextGen Project Steering Group and Advisory Board, which provides guidance and assistance to the Administrative Office regarding the scope and direction of the Next Generation Case Management/Electronic Case Files project. She also recently served on the Appellate Court and Circuit Offices Work Measurement Steering Group, which is charged with advising the Administrative Office regarding the development of staffing formulas and execution of the 2018 Appellate Work Measurement Study. Betsy is also a member of the Judiciary Data & Analysis Office's Data Governance Working Group, which advises the Administrative Office regarding data strategy and governance with the goal of facilitating better decisions and reducing costs associated with data collection, management and analysis. Betsy has also served on national committees for appellate court statistics, appellate clerk's office manuals, and shared administrative services.

The fact of Betsy's involvement in such a wide variety of important councils, committees and initiatives that deal with critical issues such as funding, staffing, electronic case management, shared administrative services, and data governance speaks volumes of her stature as a national leader. She has earned a well-deserved reputation as a seasoned executive who can be consistently relied upon to bring her intellect, substantive expertise and work ethic to bear for the benefit of the entire Federal Judiciary.



Chief Judge Tymkovich's nomination of Betsy's for
Director's Leadership Award

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT—Gail Shafer ... until next time



Elbert P. Tuttle Courthouse

56 Forsyth Street, N.W.

Atlanta, GA 30303

FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS—Connie Roy... until next time



E. Barrett Prettyman

U.S. Courthouse and

William B. Bryant Annex

333 Constitution Ave., NW Washington, DC 20001



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
FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020**

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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