

**VOLUME 19
ISSUE 1
JANUARY
2021**

FJAA OFFICERS

2020 - 2021

Judith Stoyko— President

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

Tracy Young—President-Elect

c/o Hon. Linda V. Parker
Theodore Levin Courthouse
231 W. Lafayette Blvd Room 204
Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: 313-234-5525

Bernita Henley — Vice-President

c/o Hon. Charmiane G. Claxton
US District Court Clifford Davis &
Odell Horton Fed Bldg
167 N. Main Street Room 357
Memphis, TN 38103
Phone: 901-495-1312

Debby Sawyer—Secretary

c/o Hon. Aleta Arthur Trauger
Estes Kefauver Federal Bldg. & U.S. Courthouse
801 Broadway Suite 825
Nashville, TN 37203
Phone: 615-736-5498

Yvette Garcia—Treasurer

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

Cathy Gray — Past President

c/o Hon. Sheryl Lipman
Clifford Davis & Odell Horton Federal Building
167 North Main Street 9th Floor
Memphis, TN 38103
Phone: 901-495-1337

Melissa Hardin—Parliamentarian

c/o Hon. William M. Conley
Robert W. Kastenmeier U.S. Courthouse
120 N. Henry Street Room 560
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 608-261-5718

IN BRIEF

FEDERAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION

Letter from the President

Judith Stoyko

Dear FJAA Members:

“We open the book; its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity, and its first chapter is New Year’s Day.” ~Edith Lovejoy Pierce

Happy 2021! I can’t remember a time when I’ve been more relieved to welcome a new year! Last year tested us in ways we could have not imagined. Although the COVID pandemic still has a grip on our nation (and the world), I feel hopeful that the vaccine will soon be available to all of us, enabling us to get back to normal. One of my greatest hopes for this year is that “normal” means that the FJAA will be able to hold its annual conference. The beautiful city of New Orleans is our host city this year. Mark your calendars for September 16-18, 2021!

As you know, the FJAA board is comprised of seven officers who work together to bring you the latest information and developments that affect us individually and as an organization. Each of the women whose name appears at the left is an experienced, talented professional. I feel honored to serve with them. I hope you will take an opportunity to get to know the board members — as well as your circuit representatives — sometime this year. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have.

Please note that we still need new representatives for the Eleventh and the Federal/D.C. Circuits. Let me know if you would like to volunteer – *don’t be shy!* – or if you’d like to recommend one of your colleagues.

For 2021, I wish you beautiful moments, treasured memories, and all the blessings a heart can know!

Judy Stoyko, FJAA President

FJAA Membership News

Membership Drive
January 1 to March 31

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY MARCH 31

YOUR NAME WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE \$100 DRAWING

For questions contact you Circuit Representative
From: Bernita Henley, Membership Chair
Annual Dues: \$40 (Payments accepted via Paypal or by mail)

RAISE THE BAR—2021

COMMON QUESTIONS

Q: Why should I join?

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

Q: Why does the association want me?

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

Q: What is in it for me?

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

Q: How can I become involved?

A: **Being involved is not only simple, it is encouraged, volunteer for committee positions or circuit representative, encourage membership.**





FJAA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2021

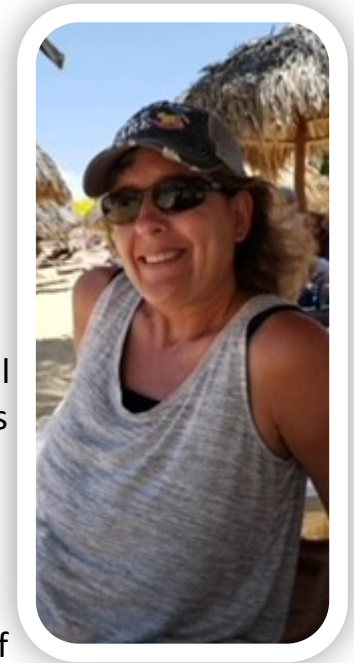
We are moving forward in planning this year's conference.
Hope conditions will allow everyone to travel and join us.

Visit fjaa.net for updated details
The FJAA Planning Committee 2021
Laissez les bon temps rouler!!!

FIRST CIRCUIT— CHRISTIE PICHE

The District of Maine

In Maine, our Covid-19 cases, like others, are still rising so we are still working mostly remotely with no in-court hearings being held at this time.



BANGOR – ELF 1

Remote Holiday Elf Courthouse Hunt:

Last year, we held a Holiday Elf scavenger hunt with a luncheon for everyone in our Portland courthouse. This year we held a Holiday Elf Scavenger Hunt in our Bangor and Portland locations – remotely.

On the morning of December 18 and December 21-23, we sent out a picture of our Elf-like character hiding in the courthouse. The object of the game was to tell us EXACTLY where the Elf-like character is located in your courthouse and they only get ONE guess.



PORTLAND – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

Bangor staff guessed Bangor and Portland staff guessed Portland. It was not a race; if we had a tie at noon on Wednesday (and we did), we sent out a bonus picture for each courthouse and the first one to guess that location won.

Lori Dunbar, Court Reporter in Portland won a \$25.00 gift card to Dunkin Donuts.

Julie Edgecomb, Court Reporter in Bangor, won a \$25.00 gift card to Dunkin Donuts.

It wasn't as much fun as being in person, but people seemed to have a good time with it.

FIRST CIRCUIT— CHRISTIE PICHE CONT...

Maine Promotions, New Hires, Retirements:

Julie Rodrigue was promoted to District Operations Supervisor.

Monica Bigley, Career Law Clerk to Judge Nancy Torresen was hired as the Clerk of the Maine U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Rebecca Klotzle, a former law clerk to Judge John A. Woodcock, was hired as Judge Torresen's Career Law Clerk.

Meghan Maker was hired to be the new Jury Specialist in Portland.

Candice Collins, Facilities & Procurement Specialist retired on December 31, 2020.

News from Puerto Rico:

We have sad news to report from Puerto Rico who have recently lost two judges:

JUDGE JUAN R. TORRUELLA

The United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit mourns the passing of Judge Juan R. Torruella and expresses deepest sympathy to his family, especially his wife, Judith, and their four children. Judge Torruella died on Monday, October 26, 2020, at the age of 87.

Judge Torruella celebrated his 36th year on the First Circuit Court of Appeals on October 4, 2020.

"All of the judges and employees of our court are profoundly saddened by the passing of our colleague and friend Judge Juan Torruella. In his almost five decades as a federal district court judge and appellate judge, Judge Torruella was a wise decision-maker, a brilliant scholar, and a passionate participant in the pursuit of justice. As a judge, his judicial legacy in the First Circuit and Puerto Rico will remain unsurpassed. As a friend, my wife, Marie and I will especially remember the many kindnesses and warm hospitality that he and Judy offered us during our visits to Puerto Rico. Our hearts go out to Judy and the Torruella family," First Circuit Chief Judge Jeffrey R. Howard said.



Judge Bruce M. Selya remarked, "Judge Torruella was a jurist of immense stature and a fierce fighter for the rights of Puerto Ricans and for their place in American society. He never hesitated to advocate for a position in which he believed, and his advocacy was always staunch."

"Judge Torruella had an extraordinary mind, a broad understanding of much of the world, and a true interest in all of his surroundings. He was a man of many talents, both on land and on sea. He was never happier than when on his boat sailing to some far-off place. Judge Torruella will be sorely missed by those of us who worked with him for so many years," said Judge Norman H. Stahl.

FIRST CIRCUIT— CHRISTIE PICHE CONT...

Judge Sandra L. Lynch said, "Judge Torruella was often called a man for all seasons. He was a United States Circuit Judge, an Olympic sailing competitor, President of the Olympic Court of Arbitration for Sport, a leader in the Caribbean and South American judicial circles, and a loving father and husband. His judicial passion was in securing and advancing the interests of Puerto Rico. His loss will be felt."

"Juan was a dear friend. My wife, Nancy, and I spent many wonderful times with Juan and his wife, Judy, on our visits to Puerto Rico. Juan had a deep love for Puerto Rico and he enjoyed showing us why. His incredible array of interests made him a delightful companion. As a colleague, he was the best; challenging but respectful, willing to listen, but, in the end, firm in his commitments. His long years on the court never diminished his zest for the work. He knew it was a privilege to do the work of the court and he honored that privilege to the end of his remarkable life. We always say that no one is irreplaceable. That is not true of Juan. I cherished my time with him and I will cherish his memory," remarked Judge Kermit V. Lipez.

Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson said, "Shortly after I became a member of the First Circuit, I came to appreciate why Judge Torruella was considered a renaissance man. Over the years, it became clear to me why he was so beloved in unparalleled ways. He was characterized by his many interests; including his love of sports and sailing and his love of art and stamp collecting. He also had an absolutely wonderful sense of humor. Judge Torruella's passing is a devastating loss for our circuit; everything about him will be missed."

Judge William J. Kayatta stated, "Juan Torruella tried every day to find in the law an instrument of justice for all, including those who lived in his beloved Puerto Rico. I will miss him greatly as a colleague and a friend."

"One only had to walk through the streets of old San Juan with Judge Torruella after a sitting to appreciate the high regard in which he was held. That walk could take a while, given all the people who wanted to stop to pay their respects. They knew his immense impact on the law, his commitment to justice and the judiciary, and his exemplary character. As did his colleagues. He was a great judge who lived a great life. I will miss him dearly, and I offer my deepest sympathies to his wife, Judy, and his family," said Judge David J. Barron.

Judge Torruella was born in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico on June 7, 1933. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1954 with a B.S. and received his law degree from Boston University School of Law in 1957. Judge Torruella's educational pursuits continued long into his career. In 1984, he obtained his LL.M. from the University of Virginia School of Law and his M.P.A. from the University of Puerto Rico Graduate School of Public Administration. In 2003, Judge Torruella received a Master of Studies in Modern European History from Magdalen College, Oxford University.

After graduating from law school, Judge Torruella was a law clerk to the Honorable Pedro Pérez-Pimentel of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, from 1957 to 1958. Then, Judge Torruella was an attorney at the National Labor Relations Board, 24th Region, until 1960. Thereafter, until 1974, Judge Torruella worked in private practice. On December 20, 1974, Judge Torruella was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, after having been nominated by President Gerald Ford. He served as chief judge of the District of Puerto Rico from 1982 to 1984, when he was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, following his nomination by President Ronald Reagan. Judge Torruella was the first Hispanic judge to serve on the First Circuit Court of Appeals and was chief judge of the court from 1994 to 2001.

Judge Torruella received numerous awards and honors during his career, such as an Honorary LL.D. from St. John's University in 1995, the Boston University School of Law Alumni Award also in 1995, and an Honorary LL.D. from Roger Williams University in 1998.

Judge Torruella was a competitive sailor and competed for Puerto Rico in four Olympic sailing events between 1964 and 1976. He also served as President of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, an organization that settles disputes in competitive sports. Judge Torruella was married to his wife, Judith, for more than 65 years.

FIRST CIRCUIT— CHRISTIE PICHE CONT...

In Memoriam

Honorable Juan M. Pérez-Giménez

United States District Judge

1941 – 2020



It is with a heavy heart that we inform that Judge Juan M. Pérez-Giménez, “Juan Ma” to his close friends, passed away on December 10, 2020. Just a few days earlier, on December 5, 2020, he celebrated his forty-first anniversary as a United States district judge. Judge Pérez-Giménez served forty-five years on the Bench, including four years as a United States magistrate judge. While this information seems rather matter-of-fact, it takes on a different light at this time because for Judge Pérez-Giménez his longevity in public service, first as an assistant United States attorney and lastly on the federal Bench, was a matter of special satisfaction, second only to the immense pride he felt for his family.

Today, the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico –its judges and staff, past and present—mourns the passing of a judge who epitomized service to others. He served as mentor to several generations of law clerks, including Chief Judge Gustavo A. Gelpí, initiating them in the legal profession with a steady hand, and by his own example. His chambers were characterized by long work hours, critical thinking, respect for the rule of law, and the highest ethical and moral standards. He ruled his courtroom firmly, efficiently, and respectfully, and approached difficult and particularly complex or controversial cases with a lion’s heart and fierce intellect. Those closest to Judge Pérez-Giménez are lucky to know his sharp sense of humor, his hand on their shoulder in difficult times, his comforting words in the hardest times, and an unexpected gesture when needed. Above all, Judge Pérez-Giménez exemplified true honor – in the words of Atticus Finch, “The one thing that doesn’t abide by majority rule is a person’s conscience.”

A man of immense faith, he was committed to God above everything, quietly and unswervingly, and to the sanctity of his family. Judge Pérez-Giménez was a devoted husband to Carmen Regina, and proud father to Juan Carlos, Jorge, José, Alelí, and Malena. And, of course, he delighted us all with accounts of his grandchildren whom he deeply loved. Our deepest condolences to them for their personal loss.

THIRD CIRCUIT— IRIS LIRIANO

The year 2021 has finally arrived with hopes that the new year will bring optimism, unity, and some sense of normalcy. The Courthouse has continued to have its employees work remotely given the increased numbers of outbreaks. We're unsure when in-person operations will resume. A surprising number of employees have decided to retire in 2020. Retiring will allow them to spend more time with family, or pursue hobbies or a second career. For those of you contemplating retiring, keep the brain sharp by challenging yourself outside of your comfort zone which can ward off dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Sanjay Gupta has written a book called, *Keep Sharp*. In an interview promoting his book, he said we should do something that scares us. Sounds scary but doing so allows our brain to remain sharp.

The year 2020 has affected many Americans with job loss, financial hardships and food insecurity. We have been fortunate enough to continue to work from home and receive our salary. In lieu of exchanging gifts with friends this holiday season, I decided to donate money to three organizations. Working from home has afforded us the ability to get paid while taking care of our family and home. It feels good to help those less fortunate and what better way to do so by donating to those in need.

As we enter 2021, we will continue to use Zoom to conduct court appearances, Chambers' meetings, and interviews. Looking forward to a better, brighter new year to return to the office to work with my colleagues, socialize with my friends, and to take a flight to the Caribbean.

Iris



FOURTH CIRCUIT—LENA TAPSCOTT

The 2020 Mirror

By Cary Kotcher,

Law Clerk to the Honorable Richard Mark Gergel, Charleston, SC

The year 2020 was a Frankenstein’s monster made of The Longest Monday Ever combined with a long-release dose of the Sunday-Scaries. Needless to say, we’re all happy “it’s over.”

From March 2020 on our lives *changed*, to say the least. We were stuck at home, could not see friends or family, could not take that vacation we had been planning or try that new hobby we had been gearing up to start. Many lost friends and family.

The year 2020 was bad. But what it teaches us about life may be significant. As British author Jeannette Winterson posited in *Written on the Body*, her 1992 novel, the measure of love is indeed loss.

Later this year we will rediscover everyday pleasures we long ago (pre-March 2020) took for granted. As we transition back to “normal,” however, maybe we will begin to see and feel how much those “everyday” or “ordinary” pleasures were in-fact extraordinary manifestations of the sheer act and privilege of being alive.

In the classic HBO series *Six Feet Under*, the ghost of Nathaniel Fisher, Sr. speaks to his son Nate Jr. Nathaniel says, “That’s one of the perks of being dead: you know what happens after you die—and you know the meaning of life.” Nate responds, “That seems fairly useless” To which Nathaniel says, “Yeah, I know. **Life is wasted on the living.**”

Having survived (barely) 2020, this dialogue rings loudly in all of us.

Let us live 2021 in a way where we no longer feel this is the case.

FOURTH CIRCUIT—LENA TAPSCOTT CONT...

I grew up on these cookies and have shared this recipe many times. We had them every Christmas and I learned to bake them with my mom. I have made them myself for about 40 years – my kids have grown up with them - but I don't just make them for Christmas. I have made them for Valentine's Day, Easter and Thanksgiving. I used Alphabet cutouts one year when my kids were in school, and made a bag for each classmate with their names in cookies (only did that once – what a job!) The secret ingredient to these cookies is the quick oats, which gives them a nutty flavor. I recently started using smaller cut-outs to make bite-size cookies. I'll admit though, the smaller cookies are a lot of work.

Submitted by Vickie L. Hearn

Judicial Assistant for the Honorable Bruce Howe Hendricks, Greenville, SC

Not just for Christmas Cut-out Cookies

- 5 Cups Sifted Flour
- 2t Salt
- 2t Baking Powder
- 1 1/2 Cups soft Butter
- 1 1/2 Cups Sugar
- 4T Milk
- 2 Eggs
- 2t Vanilla
- 2 Cups Quick Oats

Sift Flour, baking powder and salt into bowl. Add butter, sugar, milk, eggs and vanilla. Beat until well blended - about 2 minutes. Stir in rolled oats. Roll out on lightly floured board to less than 1/4 inch thickness. Cut into shapes. Baked on greased cookie sheets in oven at 375 degrees, about 10-15 minutes – depending on thickness.

Decorate with a powdered sugar, vanilla, milk frosting, and top with colored sugars, sprinkles, cinnamons, etc.



FOURTH CIRCUIT—LENA TAPSCOTT CONT...

Hello all. I'm not sure how many of you may have gotten and/or used an air fryer recently. I am not much of a cook, but am a big fan of my air fryer. It's easy to use, and easy to clean up. Try this recipe if you have one.

Submitted by: Deb Reynolds,

Judicial Assistant to the Honorable A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Jr., Greenville, SC

Air Fryer Chicken Fajitas

Ingredients:

1 lb chicken breasts, cut into thin strips
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp chili powder
1 tsp cumin
1/4 tsp garlic powder
1 tbsp fresh lime juice
3 sweet bell peppers cut into strips

Directions:

Combine chicken, seasonings, and lime juice in a medium sized bowl.
Add peppers with the chicken, stirring until combined.
Spray air fryer with non-stick cooking spray.
Place chicken and peppers in the air fryer.
Air fry at 400 degrees for 14 to 15 min, stirring halfway through.
Divide into two equal portions.

Makes 2 Servings

If you prefer to bake, preheat oven to 400 and bake 25 to 30 min or until chicken is cooked through.

FIFTH CIRCUIT — Barbara Alcon

Baton Rouge Bar Association Officer Installation

January 11, 2021

Keogh Cox Partner, Christopher K. Jones, was installed as the 92nd President of the Baton Rouge Bar Association in a virtual Investiture Ceremony hosted by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana. Chief Judge Shelley Dick presided over the ceremony and administered the oath of office.

Court Operations Curtailed during COVID-19 Outbreak (see Administrative Orders)

January 15, 2021

[LAMD issued Administrative Order 2021-1](#), superseding previous pandemic related Administrative Orders and governs Court operations until further Order or until rescinded.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the following has been implemented:

Filings in sealed matters which are required to be filed conventionally (in-person) pursuant to administrative procedures shall be filed 1) by facsimile to (225) 389-3501 or 2) by sending an electronically signed pleading in PDF format via encrypted or secure email (if available) to sealedwb@lamd.uscourts.gov.

Non-sealed pleadings and sealed pleadings that are not required to be filed conventionally pursuant to administrative procedures should not be submitted to the above email or by fax, but must be submitted for filing through CM/ECF by registered users or by mail by non-registered users (pro se filers) to:

Clerk of Court
United States District Court, Middle District of Louisiana
777 Florida Street, Suite 139
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

- Pro se filers may also place filings in the Drop Box located in the public area of the Clerk of Court's office. Any filing fee associated with the filing should be made by money order and mailed to the Clerk of Court at the above address within 10 days of placing the pleading in the Drop Box.
- Fines and restitution should be mailed in but may also be paid using the LAMD Criminal Debt link located on the Court's website.
- The CMECF system will be fully functional and help desk support will be available.

Online resources are available at www.lamd.uscourts.gov, via email at cmecfhelpdesk@lamd.uscourts.gov or via telephone at (225) 389-3552. The public is encouraged to use online court resources or contact the Court by telephone.



VISITORS: All persons having business at District Court in the Russell B. Long Courthouse and Federal Building shall be required to wear masks when in any public space in the buildings, shall observe social distancing, and shall observe all posted signs and placards. Should a visitor show symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the visit, the visitor must notify the building occupant. Visitors to District Court or the Clerk's Office should report the following details to the Clerk of Court's Office at 225-389-3500: date, time frame and nature of visit.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO VIDEO OR TELEPHONIC HEARINGS

The public may be permitted to access **via audio (listen only mode)**, to the fullest extent possible considering technological restraints, video or telephonic hearings by submitting a request to the chambers of the presiding judge. Contact information for District Court is available at <http://www.lamd.uscourts.gov/directories>.

- Members of the public and the media are strictly prohibited from recording or broadcasting any hearing, in whole or in part, in any fashion.
-

PARTY ACCESS TO VIDEO HEARINGS

[Zoom for Video Hearings](#) (*Guidance on participating in Video Hearings conducted via Zoom*)

FIFTH CIRCUIT, Cont.

RE-ENTRY COURT "RISE" (Rehabilitating Individuals through Strategic Encounters) Graduation Ceremony

R.I.S.E. Court Team Members

Honorable Shelly D. Dick
Chief U.S. District Judge

Honorable Erin Wilder-Doomes
U.S. Magistrate Judge

Clarence Rambo
Chief U.S. Probation Officer

Erica Hives Johnson
Supervisory U.S. Probation Officer

Jessica Darbonne Soileau
U.S. Probation Officer

Christopher Martinez
U.S. Probation Officer

Tammi Bellazaire
Treatment Provider

Barbara Alcon
Courtroom Deputy

Jamie Flowers
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Mark Upton
Assistant Federal Public Defender

U.S. District Court for the Middle
District of Louisiana



Graduation Ceremony for
R.I.S.E.

Rehabilitating Individuals

through

Strategic Encounters

Class V

January 20, 2021

12:00 p.m.

FIFTH CIRCUIT, Cont.

Three participants graduated from the Middle District’s Re-Entry Court Program surrounded virtually by the team members and family and friends. Despite the obstacles presented by 2020, these individuals overcame the odds, reached their goals, and successfully met the requirements of the program.

PROGRAM

Call to Order Barbara Alcon
Courtroom Deputy

Pledge of Allegiance Barbara Alcon
Courtroom Deputy

Welcome Honorable Shelly D. Dick
Chief United States District Judge

Description of RISE Christopher Martinez
United States Probation Officer

RISE Alumni Update NAME

Video Presentation

Introduction of Graduates..... Erica Hives Johnson
Supervisory U.S. Probation Officer

Video Presentation

Presentation of Certificates Honorable Shelly D. Dick
Chief United States District Judge
Honorable Erin Wilder-Doomes
United States Magistrate Judge

Participant Remarks Graduates, Class V

Closing Remarks.....Honorable Erin Wilder-Doomes
United States Magistrate Judge
 RISE Team Members

Adjournment Honorable Shelly D. Dick
Chief United States District Judge

CLASS V GRADUATES

Gregory Cato



Louis James



Alvin Miller



CONGRATULATIONS

FIFTH CIRCUIT, Cont.

UPCOMING ANNOUNCEMENTS TO NOTE:

The Middle District of Louisiana will be releasing a new General Order addressing the filing of Highly Sensitive Documents as a result of the recent SolarWinds data breach.

The Middle District of Louisiana has been running a limited skeleton crew since the week after Thanksgiving, with most employees teleworking, due to the dramatic spike in COVID cases and the increasing transmission rates in our community.

In light of the continued COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the Middle District is considering the implementation of virtual Civil Bench and Jury Trials via Zoom.

SIXTH CIRCUIT— JENNIFER HODGE



Santa's Sleight

Although it is not red, this picture depicts Santa's Sleight filled with gifts headed to local foster children in Jackson, Tennessee. Senior Judge James D. Todd along with prior and current staff, collect gifts and necessities every year for these children through the local Department of Human Services. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, these gracious donors added more children to their list this year because DHS was struggling more than usual for donations. Additionally, the group donated duffle bags and backpacks to replace the trash



bags that many children use to keep and transport their belongings. Judge Todd's JA of 35 years, Jackie Logue, is among this generous group. She was on the Nashville, Tennessee, conference committee and is also a Past President of the FJAA.

Nashville, Tennessee Christmas Day Bombing

Finally, please keep Nashville in your thoughts and prayers following the suicide bombing that took place in the early hours of Christmas morning and included parts of Second Avenue in downtown. While some were treated at local hospitals for injuries, thankfully, there were no other fatalities. My heart continues to go out to Nashville as six months after our last FJAA Annual Conference in September of 2019, deadly tornados struck the downtown area.



SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Cathy Geier



News from the Central District of Illinois

Submitted by Cathy Geier

As we close the door 2020 and welcome 2021 with open arms and renewed optimism, I want to give thanks for the blessings I have been given. First and foremost, I am thankful for the guidance from our Chief Judge, Sara Darrow, who has done an outstanding job in her role as Chief Judge navigating the difficulties presented by a global pandemic. She not only kept us informed, but also initiated district-wide video hangouts and holiday celebrations. These lunchtime events were widely attended across our district and kept us all engaged and gave us an opportunity to socialize with co-workers from other divisions.

Next, I would be remiss if I didn't thank my boss, Judge James Shadid, for guiding our chambers through such a tumultuous year. I feel truly blessed at the opportunity I have been given to serve the judiciary through his guidance.

Lastly, I would like to give a huge shout out to all staff from the Central District, but specifically our Clerk of Court, Shig Yasunaga, Deputy Clerk, Denise Koester, and the IT staff led by Dustin Henry. I am sure you all have similar stories, but I am so thankful and proud of the district I serve and how the leadership of our district met the challenges we faced head-on and tirelessly worked to overcome the issues 2020 presented.

In closing, while last year will forever be one of the busiest and hectic of my 19 year career with the judiciary, it was also the year where I came to truly and completely appreciate my job, and the people with whom I work. The year where I came to miss the little things that have been the norm for so many years, like greeting the cleaning staff in the morning, chatting with a CSO, lunch with co-workers, and all of the other things we take for granted by the simple act of physically going to the office! My co-workers are my extended family, and I will never again take that for granted. I look forward to resuming that routine at some point during 2021 and will greet the opportunity like an old friend.

Update from the Western District of Wisconsin

Submitted by Melissa Hardin

In December, we held a 3-day zoom civil court trial in a major case involving around a dozen attorneys and several witnesses. Aside from one hitch showing a slide show during opening arguments (where it took about 10 minutes before counsel could share it), everything went smoothly. While our judges and judicial assistants have been coming into the courthouse daily, our law clerks and most of the clerk's office have been working remotely. In December, our law clerks started coming in one day a week (not all on the same day). It has been nice to see them in person after several months of instant messaging.

NINTH CIRCUIT— SUZANNE LOFTON

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou (Happy New Year) FJAA Members !!

Hope you are all healthy and happy and that you and your families had a safe and blessed holiday. We held our first jury trial since the pandemic shut everything down during the week of November 16. Huge adjustments were made. We took careful precautions for jury selection, witness testimonies, questioning from podium, bench conferences and jury deliberations. During trial, our jurors sat in the gallery to ensure social distancing and physical copies of lengthy exhibits as well as jury instructions for use during deliberations were placed in binders with page protectors that were wiped down prior to being distributed. We are using one courtroom as the main courtroom for trials during this pandemic. More to share in our next issue.

May 2021 be a better year for all of us. Stay safe and blessings to all. Sharing my sunrise photo below. It was a peaceful and perfect morning.

Just the way I dreamed of.

Suzanne Lofton, 9th Circuit Rep

United States District Court of Hawaii



Christmas morning sunrise, Bellows Beach Park - Honolulu, Hawaii

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Francisco, San Jose, and Oakland Courthouses



Richard Seeborg



Phyllis Hamilton

The Honorable Richard Seeborg will be sworn in as Chief Judge for the Northern District of California on February 1, 2021, replacing Phyllis Hamilton who has held the position since 2014.

Born in Landstuhl, Germany, Judge Seeborg was nominated to the federal bench by President Obama and received his commission on January 4, 2010. He served as a magistrate judge for the Northern District of California from 2001 to 2009, and as Assistant United States Attorney in the district from 1991 to 1998.

NINTH CIRCUIT— SUZANNE LOFTON CONT...



Pictured: the donations from Flagstaff Courthouse family- Article submitted by Jodie Cantor

HOPI RELIEF FUND

Hopi Relief is a grass roots effort created by a brother and sister duo, members of Isswungwa (Coyote Clan) from the village of Hotevilla. The group's mission is to offer assistance to members of the people of the Hopi villages during the current COVID-19 crisis. This holiday season, the organization is looking for ways to help keep kids safe, healthy, and active.

The 9th circuit joined together to support the Hopi Reservation by participating in the Holiday Giving Drive to benefit Hopi Relief! With all of the amazing donations of new and unused cold-weather gear for kids, puzzles and snow sleds for the families, our mission to provide them with a little bit of relief this holiday season was a success!



Photo of Jodie Cantor and her dog Teddy taken on 1/19/21 – Look at Teddy!! and the SNOW!

CHOCOLATE CAKE WITH DOBASH FROSTING

Ingredients:

Chocolate Cake:

- 1 pkg (18.5 oz) devil's food cake mix
- 1 pkg (3 3/4 oz) instant chocolate pudding and pie filling
- 1 can (12 oz) lemon lime soda
- 1/2 cup salad oil
- 3 eggs

Dobash Frosting:

- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups water
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 cup sweetened cocoa powder



Directions:

Chocolate Cake: Preheat electric oven to 350°F. Grease 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking pan. In large bowl of electric mixer, combine cake mix, pudding, soda, oil, and eggs. Mix following package directions. Pour batter evenly into prepared pan. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes. Cool and frost with Dobash Frosting. Makes 24 servings.

Dobash Frosting: In a saucepan, combine sugar, 1 1/2 cups of the water, butter, and salt; bring to a boil. In a small bowl, combine the cornstarch, the remaining 1/2 cup water, and cocoa. Stir until smooth; add to hot mixture. Cook on medium heat, stirring constantly, until smooth and thick. Remove from heat and continue stirring until cool. Frost cake.

TENTH CIRCUIT— KAREN BACA

Hello everyone from the Tenth Circuit. I can't believe that the virus that started almost a year ago is still going on. No one in their wildest dreams would have thought that this would still be going on, but I am hopeful with all of the vaccines rolling out. New Mexico is in Phase IB which is the second phase. Phase 1A went smoothly.

Trying to find encouraging things to write about should be easier but rather than trying to find words, Rachel Tutor came up with a great idea to showcase pets from our courts. Starting with this newsletter we will showcase a pet or pets for all of you to enjoy. Best to everyone. Keep Healthy and Be Happy!!!



Judge Joel M. Carson III is a circuit judge for the United States Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. His chambers are located in Roswell, New Mexico.

Please meet Judge Carson's ranch dog Molly, but in his chambers she is much more than a pet. She is honorary law clerk, security officer and friend. She faithfully accompanies Judge Carson to work daily and is showered with belly rubs and bacon treats. She holds guard at his office door and has even attended a court hearing; albeit telephonic. Molly is so beloved that a portrait was created in her honor which hangs in Judge Carson's office.



-
-
-
-
- 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!



SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO YOUR CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVE BY MARCH 26, 2021

THANK YOU!



CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES

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

1ST CIRCUIT

CHRISTIE PICHE

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

2ND CIRCUIT &

Court of International Trade

SAMANTHA GENCARELLO

c/o Hon. Daniel Patrick Moynihan
U.S. Courthouse
500 Pearl Street Room 2220
New York, NY 10007 Ph: 212-805-4848

3RD 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

4TH CIRCUIT

LENA TAPSCOTT

c/o Hon. Richard Mark Gergel
United States District Court
J. Waties Waring Judicial Center
83 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29401 Ph: 843-579-2610

5TH CIRCUIT

BARBARA ALCON

c/o Hon. Shelly D. Dick
Louisiana Middle District Court
Russell B. Long Federal Building
777 Florida Street, Room 301
Baton Rouge, LA 70801 Ph: 225-389-3500

6TH CIRCUIT

JENNIFER HODGE

c/o Hon. J. Daniel Breen
U.S. Courthouse
111 S. Highland Ave Suite 417
Jackson, TN 38301 Ph: 731-421-9252

7TH CIRCUIT

CATHY GEIER

c/o Hon. James E. Shadid
U.S. District Court
100 N.E. Monroe, Suite 204
Peoria, IL 61602 Ph: 309-671-4227

8TH CIRCUIT

JUDITH KIRBY

c/o District of Minnesota
Warren E. Burger Federal Building
316 North Robert Street Room 772
St. Paul, MN 55101 Ph: 651-848-1900

9TH CIRCUIT

SUZANNE LOFTON

c/o Hon. Derrick Kahala Watson
Prince Kuhio Federal Building
300 Ala Moana Blvd Room C-461
Honolulu, HI 96850 808-541-1470

10TH CIRCUIT

KAREN BACA

c/o Hon. Harris L. Hartz
Frank Carlson Federal Bldg. &
US Courthouse
444 Southeast Quincy St Room 420
Topeka, KS 66683 Ph: 505-843-6196

11TH CIRCUIT

GAIL SHAFER

c/o Hon. J. Randal Hall
U.S. District Court
600 James Brown Blvd.
Augusta, GA Ph: 706-823-6460

FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS

CONNIE ROY

c/o Hon. Elaine Kaplan
U.S. Court of Federal Claims
Howard T. Markey National Courts Building
717 Madison Place, N.W. Room 705
Washington, DC 20439 Ph: 202-357-6604

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Gabriela (Gaby) Ma (Chairman) – gabriela_ma@azd.uscourts.gov

Katherine Kassel (1st, 2nd, 3rd) – katherine_kassel@ohnd.uscourts.gov

Jonna Anderson (4th, 5th, 6th) – jonna_anderson@ca7.uscourts.gov

Cathy Geier (7th, 8th, 9th) – cathy_geier@ilcd.uscourts.gov

Rachel Tutor (10th, 11th, Federal/DC) – rachel_tutor@ca10.uscourts.gov

WEBSITE MANAGER AND WHO'S WHO DIRECTORY

Melissa Hardin / WI Western District - Melissa_hardin@wiwd.uscourts.gov