

IN BRIEF

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Dear FJAA Members and Judicial Assistants,
Happy New Year! I hope you rang in 2015 with something or someone festive and that this year is filled with promise and prosperity. I am convinced that 2015 will be a better year for Judicial Assistants and our organization.

Today there are 814 Judicial Assistants serving across the nation in judge's chambers. There were 82 newly hired Judicial Assistants in 2014. As a member of this elite club of professionals, you are eligible to join the Federal Judicial Assistant's Association (FJAA). As a member of the FJAA you will receive our quarterly newsletter, be able to take advantage of scholarship opportunities for continued professional development, and attend our annual educational conference.

The FJAA was formed over 40 years ago as a professional organization for Judicial Assistants. Our mission statement says: "To promote the general welfare, continuing education and professional development of its members." If you have been a member in the past, I urge you to renew your membership. If you have never been a member, I hope you will consider joining. There is a Membership Form in this newsletter that you can easily complete and send to your Circuit Representative.

Take a moment to find out who your Circuit Representative is and get to know them. Your Circuit Rep is the Judicial Assistant from your circuit who will share news and information and ask you to submit newsworthy items for our quarterly newsletter.

The FJAA Board is excited to announce the 2015 Annual Conference will be held September 10-13, 2015 in beautiful Charleston, South Carolina. Details and registration information will be available to those who join the FJAA. This will be our first conference since we last met in San Diego in 2012. Make plans now to join us in South Carolina next fall for another outstanding educational opportunity tailored exclusively to Judicial Assistants and our unique professional duties.

I hope you take time to read the article on Chambers Staff Training Funds in this edition. As Judicial Assistants, we have an opportunity to educate our peers and judges on this funding source that is only available to chambers staff for training and education. The FY15 Budget has Chambers Staff Training Funds allocated so I expect many of you will take advantage of the funds to attend the annual conference.

The FJAA Board is comprised of seven elected officers who work together to bring you the latest information and developments that affect us individually and as an organization. They are each extremely talented, consummate professionals. I feel honored to serve with them and trust that you will take an opportunity to thank them sometime this year during their term of office. We serve you as a team and hope that you will join us as we all pursue personal and professional development.

All Best, Stephanie



CIRCUIT NEWS



First Circuit
Joan Ausman

Happy New Year! As I write this, we are anticipating THE “monumental” snowstorm of 2015 here in the Northeast. The court is already deemed closed for tomorrow, a rare occurrence. They say we will be telling our grandchildren about this storm. I hope they are wrong - bring on spring I say! I recently sent out an email with the 2015 membership form and am looking forward to hearing from First Circuit JAs prior to the March 31, 2015 deadline so you can be entered in the \$100 drawing. Also, if anyone learns of a new hire in their court, I would appreciate receiving an email notification so we may welcome them and provide information to them about the FJAA. Lastly, please send me your court’s news so we can share it in this newsletter!



Second Circuit
Janet Hansen

Court of Appeals:

On December 17, 2014, an Employee Appreciation Celebration was held at the U.S. Courthouse, 40 Foley Square, New York, NY. Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann presented Court Service awards to employees with various years of service—ranging from five years to thirty-five years! In addition to various Court personnel receiving their awards, the following Judicial Assistants received awards for their years of service as indicated: Cheryl Galsini, J.A. to Judge Gerald E. Lynch, (five years); Jeanette Santos, J.A. to Judge Debra A. Livingston (10 years), Barbara Whelton, J.A. to Peter W. Hall (10 years), Maria Papineau, J.A. to Judge Dennis Jacobs (15 years); Yvonne Croft, J.A. to Judge Barrington D. Parker (20 years), Marjorie Greenblatt, J.A. to Judge Guido Calabresi (20 years), Janet F. Hansen, J.A. to Judge Jose A. Cabranes (20 years); Susan Lucibelli, J.A. to Judge Guido Calabresi (20 years); and Christine Marascalchi, J.A. to Judge Rosemary Pooler (20 years). A lovely reception followed the awards ceremony. Congratulations to all of the recipients! Impressive indeed!

Northern District of New York:

The Honorable Brenda K. Sannes was sworn in as U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of New York on December 4, 2014. Judge Sannes filled the seat vacated by Judge Norman Mordue, who assumed senior status in June, 2013. Her chambers will be located in Syracuse, NY. Judge Sannes is the second female Northern District Judge to be based in Syracuse (the first was Judge Rosemary S. Pooler, now with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit), and is only the third female appointed in the history of the Northern District (Judge Mae D’Agostino, Albany, NY, was the second female appointed)! Judge Sannes received her B.A. from Carleton College and her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. At the time of her appointment, Judge Sannes was serving as an Assistant U.S.

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Attorney for the Northern District of NY, a position she held from 1995-2014. She has also worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California, as an attorney with a firm in Los Angeles, CA, and clerked for the Honorable Joseph Farris of the Ninth Circuit. We send Judge Sannes our congratulations, along with a warm welcome to the Second Circuit!

On January 21, 2015, Clerk of the Court for the Northern District of New York, Lawrence K. Baerman, celebrated 35 years of service with the courts. Mr. Baerman, as they say, “worked his way up through the ranks.” He began his service working in the Clerk’s Office as a clerk, worked as a Courtroom Deputy, and then became Clerk of Court. For those who are not aware, the Northern District of New York encompasses federal courts in Albany, Binghamton, Plattsburgh, Syracuse and Utica, New York. Mr. Baerman’s office is located in Syracuse, NY. We send Mr. Baerman our congratulations on his 35 years of service!

District Court of Connecticut:

On October 30, 2014, the District Court of Connecticut convened in ceremonial session to celebrate the 225th Anniversary of the creation of the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut, and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Richard C. Lee U.S. District Court Courthouse, located at 141 Church Street, New Haven, CT. As guests entered the courthouse, they were welcomed by the University of New Haven Chargers Marching Band, playing various musical selections. Chief Judge Janet C. Hall opened the ceremonial session. Judge José A. Cabranes, Second Circuit Court of Appeals and former Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut, delivered the opening remarks and enlightened all with his history of the Court entitled “On the Mythology of the Mother Court.” Professor John Fabian Witt, of Yale Law School, was the keynote speaker, and delivered his remarks entitled “Transformation or Continuity? Reflection on the Federal District Court for the District of Connecticut on the 100th Anniversary of its New Haven Courthouse.” Prof. Witt’s remarks were accompanied by a wonderful slide show further depicting the architecture and building of the courthouse. The crowd was also treated to musical interludes by the Unity Boys’ Choir, a wonderful choir comprised of boys from communities in and around New Haven. They sang a beautiful “Patriotic Medley” and a touching rendition of “America the Beautiful.” Following the ceremony, a reception was held on the second floor of the courthouse where posters were on display marking historical events in the life of the Court, and everyone was invited to view the recently renovated historic courtroom, which has been in use since 1918. It is stunning! Happy Anniversary to the District Court of Connecticut!

The Honorable Victor A. Bolden was confirmed as U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Connecticut on November 20, 2014, and took the oath of office on January 7, 2015. At the time of his appointment, Judge Bolden was serving as Corporation Counsel for the City of New Haven, CT, a position he held from 2009-2014. Prior to that, he was Assistant Counsel and General Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, and also worked at the law firm of Wiggin & Dana. Judge Bolden succeeded U.S. District Court Judge Janet B. Arterton, who assumed senior status in July. Judge Bolden’s chambers are located in Bridgeport, CT. We send our congratulations, and a warm welcome to Judge Bolden!

On December 19, 2014, the District Judges selected Sarah A. Merriam, Assistant Federal Public Defender, to become a U.S. Magistrate Judge. Magistrate Judge Merriam will replace Magistrate Judge Holly B. Fitzsimmons, who will retire on April 2, 2015. Magistrate Judge Merriam’s chambers will be located in New Haven, CT. We send our congratulations to Magistrate Judge Merriam, and our best wishes to Magistrate Judge Fitzsimmons on her retirement! May you both enjoy your new ventures in life!

On January 9, 2015, Marion Bock, Judicial Assistant to Judge Alvin W. Thompson, retired. Marion has been Judge Thompson’s Judicial Assistant for the past 20 years, and she also worked with him in private practice for seven years. Marion was treated to a lovely farewell tea party attended by her judicial colleagues and her family. Below are a few pictures from the party, courtesy of Ms. Robin D. Tabora, Clerk of the U.S. District Court. We congratulate Marion on her retirement and wish her every happiness in her future endeavors!

We wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year!



Marion Bock

Marion Bock, Chief Judge Janet C. Hall, Corinna Thompson, Court Reporter to Judge Thompson (no relation), Judge Alvin W. Thompson and Judge Christopher F. Droney.



Janet F. Hansen
Judicial Assistant to Judge José A. Cabranes

THIRD Circuit

Iris Liriano



Happy 2015! I hope everyone was able to take time off to unwind from the stress of planning and preparing for the holidays so that it could be wholeheartedly enjoyed with friends and family. I wish you all much success in attaining any goals or resolutions you have set for yourself and, of course, a fabulous New Year!

On October 2, 2014, the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, the oldest undivided federal judicial district, held its 225th Anniversary Gala at the beautiful New Jersey Performing Arts Center. The sold out event was sponsored by the Historical Society of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. Photographs and videos of many memorable court events and an ice sculpture of Lady Justice greeted the attendees. After enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres, the attendees moved to the performance hall. The gala commenced with a musical prelude by the West Point Band United States Military Academy. The Military Honor Guard, Joint Base McGuire – Dix – Lakehurst, then presented the colors, while the Newark Boys Chorus sang the National Anthem. Thomas R. Curtin, Esq., of Graham Curtin and Chairman of the District Court's Advisory Committee, served as the Master of

Ceremonies. The Hon. Jerome B. Simandle, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, and Leda Dunn Wettre, Esq., the President of the USDC Historical Society, gave remarks recounting milestones in the Court's history. The Special Guest Speaker of the evening was the Hon. Samuel A. Alito, Jr., Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States. This monumental occasion was concluded with a beautiful performance by the West Point Band. It was a fitting way to end an event so steeped in history.



Photos provided by Bill Levy

The Court of Appeals welcomes its newest member to the Court, Cheryl Ann Krause. She was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in July, 2014. She obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania, *summa cum laude*, and graduated from Stanford Law School with distinction. After graduation, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Honorable Anthony M. Kennedy of the United States Supreme Court. After her clerkships and before her appointment, Judge Krause was in private practice, served in the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, and was a lecturer at Stanford and Columbia Law Schools. She also taught several courses at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where she founded an appellate litigation externship program.

Judge Krause has served on the boards of many professional, civic, and charitable organizations. In 2011, she founded the Philadelphia Project, a partnership between Dechert LLP and the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia to improve the quality of education for children with disabilities.

On November 21, 2014, the Honorable Madeline Cox Arleo was sworn in as District Judge for the District of New Jersey. Prior to that, she served as a Federal Magistrate Judge in Newark, NJ, for fourteen years. She also serves as presiding judge of the recently established "ReNew" reentry court for the United States District Court, in which she oversees intensive supervision of individuals who are serving terms of supervised release, with the goal of reducing recidivism.

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Judge Krause



Judge Arleo

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Arleo was in private practice, served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Seton Hall University School of Law, and was the Secretary to the District V-A Ethics Committee. Judge Arleo received her undergraduate degree in English and Political Science from Rutgers College, Rutgers University, in New Jersey, and her master's degree from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Seton Hall University School of Law, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review. She was a law clerk to the Honorable Marie L. Garibaldi, New Jersey Supreme Court. Judge Arleo is a Fellow of the American Bar Association, an Advisor to the Historical Society of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey and to the Association of the Federal Bar for the District of New Jersey. She serves on the Paralegal Studies Advisory Board at Montclair State University. She has previously served on the Board of Trustees of her alma mater, St. Dominic Academy, an all-girls high school in Jersey City, New Jersey, and presently is a member of the Board of Trustees of its sister school, Mount St. Dominic Academy in Caldwell, New Jersey.

Lastly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members of the FJAA:

Judy Dressler – JA for Hon. Mark R. Hornak, WD of PA
 Donna Jean Grottini – JA for Hon. Kevin J. Carey, US Bankruptcy Court, DE
 Carey Doris Widman – JA/CD for Hon. Nitzia I. Quinones Alejandro, ED of PA
 Harriett Tyrell – JA for Hon. Peter G. Sheridan, DC, Trenton, NJ
 Kelly LaMantia – JA for Hon. D. Michel Fisher, US COA
 Lillian Nied – JA for Hon. Joseph H. Rodriguez, DC, Camden, NJ

Iris



Fifth Circuit
Hope Taormina

I am your 5th Circuit Representative and will be sending you reminders about dues, upcoming conferences, requests for bulletin information, etc. Many of you have already sent your dues checks and membership applications to me. For those of you who have not, a membership application is included within this newsletter. Please complete it and send it to me, along with your dues, as soon as possible so you can be included in the drawing for \$100 as an incentive for joining by March 31, 2015.

This past year the JAs at the Courthouse in New Orleans hosted monthly brown bag/build your own salad luncheons and had guest speakers from IT to discuss with us upgrades and future software changes we are going to see soon. Through sharing tips and experiences, we learned from the IT Trainers, as well as from each other, ways in which we can be more efficient and productive. These gatherings are truly a blessing, as they provide us with an opportunity to share work experiences and offer support to our fellow JAs. We know our role is to make our judges' jobs easier, and it is wonderful to see how a positive attitude makes an already awesome job even more enjoyable.

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Tulane Law School Hall of Fame

The Honorable W. Eugene Davis was recently elected to the Tulane Law School Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame was created in 2013 as a way of celebrating the remarkable and exceptionally talented individuals who have been connected with Tulane Law School, either as alumni or faculty, during its 168-year history. Elections are made by a selection committee comprised of distinguished alumni and the Dean.

Judge Davis was first appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana in 1976 by President Gerald Ford. In 1983, President Ronald W. Reagan elevated Judge Davis to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, where he serves today.

He is a former member of the Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules of the U.S. Judicial Conference, which he chaired for four years. He is also a member of the American Bar Association, the Maritime Law Association of the United States, and the Louisiana Bar Association. Judge Davis has been actively involved with LSU Law, serving as presiding judge in the final round of the Robert Lee Tullis Moot Court Competition during the 2007–2008 academic year. Judge Davis is a native of Alabama who earned his undergraduate degree from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. He obtained his L.L.B. degree from Tulane University Law School in 1960. Upon graduation, he practiced law with the Phelps Dunbar law firm in New Orleans, and then from 1964–1976 with the firm of Caffery, Duhé and Davis in New Iberia, Louisiana. He and his wife Celia reside in New Iberia.

This year's class will be inducted at the Annual Alumni Luncheon, to be held at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel on Friday, March 27, 2015.

Once again the Eastern District of Louisiana Federal Court in New Orleans collected toys for the Forgotten Angels Party. The event is planned by a local homeless shelter, Ozanam Inn. For one afternoon, 400 children in the most difficult of situations experienced the magic of Christmas. They were given a delicious meal prepared by some of New Orleans' finest chefs, took part in fun activities, received presents from under the Christmas tree, and had a chance to meet Santa.

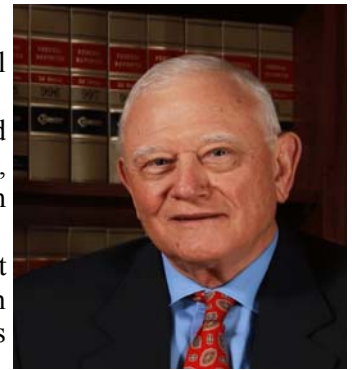
Request for prayers and support for one of our fellow JAs, Alice Gilbert:

Alice has worked for the Appeals Court in Jackson, Mississippi, for 19 years; first for the Hon. Rhesa H. Barksdale from 1996 – 2005, and then for the Hon. E. Grady Jolly. She worked as a legal secretary for 11 years prior to her time with the court.

Alice is on extended medical leave, due to complications associated with psoriatic arthritis and degenerative back disease. She underwent back surgery December 31st in hopes of achieving relief from constant pain.

These medical conditions have hindered Alice from fully performing her JA duties, hence the extended medical leave. Alice regrets that her poor health has also interfered with her duties as Secretary for the FJAA.

Alice's recuperation has been slow, and one can only imagine Alice's physical and emotional challenges. Please keep her in your prayers. Any messages of support may be directed to her court e-address, which she occasionally checks.



Eastern District Healthy Courthouse
 By: Flay Sambrone-Metoyer

Here in New Orleans, where we have so many wonderful restaurants, we talk about eating all the time. During breakfast, we talk about what we would like to eat for lunch. And while eating lunch, we discuss what we are cooking for dinner. New Orleans is on the list of having a high obesity rate. With that said, we decided to take some action. I, Marie Firmin (another Judicial Assistant), and Claire Trimble, (our Jury Administrator) met several times in late summer of 2014 and decided to help ourselves and our court family to get healthier. We kicked off our healthy courthouse event by hosting a “build your own salad bar” luncheon and provided lettuce, spinach, plates, utensils, cups and water. We asked those who were interested to bring an item to add to the salad bar. It was successful beyond belief. We also invited folks from two health insurance providers, Blue Cross and GEHA, who spoke and provided us with healthy lifestyle tips, pedometers, exercise bands, etc. There were sign-up sheets for yoga and Pilates classes as well as a Wednesday walking group. For those who were not familiar with our gym, we gave demonstrations on proper use of the equipment.

We also attacked the vending machines throughout the courthouse – adding healthier items since this is always the first place we go when we “think” we need something to eat.

Our newsletter, Fitness Our Way, is emailed to our court family monthly with healthy tips and a schedule of classes and events.

I can say it has truly been a lot of fun getting everyone together and we will soon be planning another salad bar luncheon in early spring.



SEVENTH Circuit
Anne Wolf

I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2015! I look forward to proudly serving as your Seventh Circuit Representative.

2014 JUDICIAL CONFIRMATIONS - NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS



On Wednesday evening, April 30, 2014, the United States Senate confirmed the nomination of Manish S. Shah as U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Judge-Designate Shah received his B.A. from Stanford in 1994 and his Juris Doctorate from The University of Chicago Law School in 1998. After law school, Shah was an associate at Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe, where he primarily worked on antitrust litigation. From 1999 to 2001, Shah served as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge James B. Zagel in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Shah then joined the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Illinois as an Assistant United States Attorney, where he worked in General Crimes (2001-2003), Narcotics & Gangs (2003-2004), and Public Corruption (2004-2007). He was then promoted to Deputy Chief of General Crimes in 2007 and later of Financial Crimes & Special Prosecutions in 2008. In 2011 he was promoted to Chief of Criminal Appeals. Shah currently serves as Chief of the Criminal Division, a position he has held since 2012.

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On September 19, 2013, President Obama nominated Shah to a seat vacated by Judge Joan Lefkow, who took senior status, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. He received a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on November 13, 2013, and his nomination was reported to the floor of the Senate on January 16, 2014, by voice vote. He was sworn in by Judge Zagel on June 26, 2014.

JUDGE JORGE ALONSO

Jorge Alonso was recommended by U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) to fill the vacancy created when Judge Ronald A. Guzman became a senior judge.

Judge Alonso has served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County since 2003. He currently serves in the Criminal Division and also presides over a specialty court program for women with mental illness in the criminal justice system. He previously worked for over eleven years as an Assistant Public Defender in the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. He is a graduate of the George Washington University Law School. Judge Alonso was sworn in December 19, 2014.

JUDGE JOHN BLAKEY

U.S. Senator Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) applauded the Senate's confirmation of John Blakey, Senator Kirk's recommendation to be a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Blakey is the Chief of the Special Prosecutions Bureau at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and Special Assistant United States Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's office. He was Senator Kirk's recommendation to fill the vacancy created when Judge James F. Holderman became a senior judge at the end of last year. Judge Blakey was sworn in December 30, 2014.

Northern District of Illinois News:

Many milestones to report: Four JAs retired in 2014: Ella Morris (1986-2014), Linda Winstead (1988-2014), Marcia Fischman (2001-2014) and Anita Cosentino (1998-2014) whose position was filled by Rosemarie Gale. Welcome aboard, Rosemarie! Celebrating ten years with the Court are Margaret Winkler and Nancy Moravec, and 15 years is Denise Slappey. Unfortunately, we also have two deaths of long time colleagues to share with you. Wendy Barr, who spent 34 years as Judge Shadur's JA, and Addie Yanow, who was with the court for 28 years, and was JA to Judge Moran, will be missed by all who knew and loved them.

Court of Appeals News (submitted by Sharon Anderson)

Betty Wilson, Judge Kanne's secretary, retired, Theresa Wetzler, Administrative Asst. to Collins Fitzpatrick retired, and Diane Liptak, Asst. Secretary to Judge Flaum also retired. The ladies celebrated with a luncheon at 9 Muses Bar & Grill in Greektown on December 3, 2014.

We welcome to our Court - Michelle Raven, Administrative Support Specialist, Regina Abina, Administrative Asst. to Collins Fitzpatrick, and Laurie Insalaco, Asst. Secretary to Judge Flaum.

Judge Flaum celebrated 40 years as a Federal Judge!!! District Court Judge for the NDIL - serving from January 21, 1975 until elevation to the USCA on June 1, 1983. Our staff hosted a celebration for him in chambers.

Western District of Wisconsin News (submitted by Melissa Hardin)

We had the most excitement in a civil case in over 40 years recently; after filing for a TRO after-hours in a case involving the Securities and Exchange Commission, the following morning the Chicago attorneys showed up in person hoping for a hearing from the judge. While they were in the clerk's office, the defendants' attorney (from Milwaukee) showed up and got into a shouting match with plaintiff's counsel in the clerk's office lobby. Security was called and our Clerk of Court escorted them out of the office.

Our court adopted four families (12 people) at Christmas. This is the 12th year that we have participated in adopting families. It is very heartening to see everyone come together to help those in need.

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Central District of Illinois News (submitted by Whitney Gingrich)

Magistrate Judge David Bernthal will retire after 20 years on the bench as of April 30, 2015. Judge Eric Long will be sworn on May 1, 2015. Judge Long comes to the bench from the U.S. Attorney's office in the Springfield division of the Central District of Illinois. Judge Long has decided to have two law clerks in his chambers rather than employ a judicial assistant. Judge Bernthal's Judicial Assistant, Teresa Cronk, previously took a position within the District Clerk's office in 2013.

Senior District Judge Joe Billy McDade hired Audra Russo as his Judicial Assistant beginning on August 25, 2014 replacing Pat Miller. Audra comes from the Department of Corrections in Rhode Island.

Kateri Hawley, daughter to Magistrate Judge Jonathan E. Hawley, was selected as one of only 30 teens nationwide to be a page in the U.S. Senate this year. She began her new position on January 19th by attending the State of the Union address in person. The Senate Page Program offers a unique opportunity for high school students to get a glimpse into the workings of the United States Senate. She applied to the program through U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and is looking forward to the valuable experience.

EIGHTH CIRCUIT***Susan Sandridge***

Please welcome our three new Eighth Circuit Judicial Assistants:

Melissa Kruger: Melissa is the new JA for Magistrate Judge Becky R. Thorson in St. Paul. Prior to working for Magistrate Judge Thorson, Melissa worked for the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office as an Executive Assistant to Chief U.S. Probation Officer Kevin Lowry. She worked as a litigation paralegal at Oppenheimer, Wolff and Donnelly in Minneapolis. Melissa lived and worked in Denver for a small firm of seven civil litigation attorneys and two white collar criminal defense attorneys until 2009. She is married and has two daughters, ages 11 and 7, and that keeps her busy. She likes to run half-marathons when it is not freezing cold in Minnesota!

Wendi Tilden: Wendi is the new JA for Magistrate Judge Jeffrey J. Keyes in St. Paul. Before joining Magistrate Judge Keyes's chambers, Wendi worked for the Federal Public Defender in Minneapolis for six years, from September 2008 to

September 2014. Wendi's husband had a job transfer in 2008 from Atlanta, Georgia, to Minneapolis. The first winter in Minnesota was quite a shock for them! When in Atlanta, Wendi worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office and prior to that she worked at the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals for over 14 years. She is looking forward to retirement when the time comes. Wendi and her husband have two wonderful sons and a "perfect" two year old grandson who is the light of her life.

Gloria Amos: Gloria is the new JA for District Judge Steven R. Bough in Kansas City. Gloria has worked with Judge Bough since 2006 as a paralegal/legal assistant at the Law Offices of Steven R. Bough. Prior to working with Judge Bough, Gloria was a freelance court reporter. She was born and raised in Orange County, California and moved to Belton, Missouri in 1995. Gloria has a daughter, Kayla, who is 28. Kayla is married and the mother of Gloria's three grandchildren. Gloria also has two sons, Ryan who is 17, and Jacob who is 16. They are both in the A-plus program at Belton High School. Gloria is single and lives with her sons and her six year old Chihuahua named Buster. They all enjoy going to the lake and taking road trips – although not so much in the winter. She is part of a tight-knit group of friends with whom she spends most of her free time. They all enjoy going out to dinner, dancing, having movie nights, game nights, and attending sporting events.

(Picture of Gloria Amos with of two of her grandkids. Camryn is 10, Brady is one.)



Judge Sidney Thomas Takes Ninth Circuit Helm

By MARIA DINZEO

NINTH CIRCUIT

Julie Lemm

SAN FRANCISCO (CN) - Chief Judge Sidney Thomas grasped Judge Alex Kozinski in a bear hug Friday as he took the gavel in a ceremony marking his transition to the job of 11th chief judge of the country's largest appellate circuit.

"I could not be handing it over to a better man, a better person, a better human being," Judge Kozinski said, who leaves the post after a seven-year term.

The 61-year-old Thomas, who lives in Billings, Montana, is the third Montanan to hold the position. He joins Judge James R. Browning, who was chief judge from 1976 to 1988, and Judge Walter Lyndon Pope, who served for one year in 1959. In his remarks, Thomas acknowledged his friend Browning, who died in 2012.

"He befriended me from the moment I was on the court. Seven years ago I sat down here with Judge Browning and as the gavel was passed, he grabbed my arm and said 'I want to be here in seven years when you take the gavel.' He didn't make it, he came a couple of years short. But I hope I can emulate his wisdom and his style."

The modesty and quiet nature for which Judge Thomas is well-known was reflected in his remarks, much of which he spent thanking his family, friends, and colleagues on the court, and paying homage to his beloved Montana.

"I'm privileged to be able to live in Montana and serve in the Ninth circuit, and it reminds me a bit of what Odysseus said to the Phaeacians just before he came back to Ithaca. He talks about Ithaca and says mine is a rugged land but it's a good land for raising sons. I for myself know no sweeter sight on earth than a man's own native country and that's the way I feel about Montana and that's the way I feel about the Ninth Circuit," Thomas said. "When I joined the Ninth Circuit I expected to find brilliance and scholarship, but what I didn't expect to find was some of the best friends I have in life. We have our differences, but our differences are interesting and important. When we finish our cases, we care for each other's families, we care for each other's dogs, we take care of ourselves through joys and sorrows. It is a court family, and I'm proud to be a part of the collegiality of the Ninth Circuit."

The standing-room only audience at the James R. Browning Courthouse in San Francisco included Thomas' wife Martha, sons Oscar and Skeff and his two sisters, as well as Martha's two sisters, and her brother and his wife. "And that's just the immediate family," U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen of Montana said, laughing. He added, "There are over 50 of Sid's former and current law clerks. This is remarkable. I think that speaks so highly of what the people who have worked with Judge Thomas think of him."

Judge Kozinski also noted the packed audience, joking, "I guess word got out that I was stepping down as chief judge." He later joked about his term, saying, "Not everybody gets to serve. I made it by dint of age, years of service and having deftly avoided impeachment."

Senior Judge Michel Daly Hawkins, who spoke at the ceremony, poked fun at Judge Kozinski. "Seven years ago, Alex Kozinski was standing at this podium with a twinkle in his eye, thanking his colleagues for voting for him as chief judge," Hawkins said. "We don't vote for chief judge. If you're young enough and you're on the court long enough, you sort of ascend to the position."

Judge Thomas ascended to the position by virtue of being the most senior active judge under the age of 65, in what Hawkins called "a peaceful transition that can be likened to going from Clint Eastwood to Gregory Peck." He added, "So now a tall Montanan takes the helm. Like Alex, he's young of heart and mind. He's deliberate, with a firm grasp on the long view. What you really get with Sid Thomas is character. It's a character born of a lifetime of living in and understanding the great expanse and uniqueness of the west."

Judge Thomas said he will not move to San Francisco, where the Ninth Circuit is based, but will maintain his chambers in Montana and commute to California.



Source: <http://www.courthousenews.com/2014/12/05/judge-sidney-thomas-takes-9th-circuit-helm.htm>

TENTH CIRCUIT*Lynda Brown***GREETINGS FROM THE TENTH CIRCUIT!**

Happy New Year. I hope 2015 is a blessed year for all of you.

KANSAS NEWS:

Judge Nancy L. Moritz was officially sworn in on July 29, 2014. Judge Moritz was in private practice, served as a U.S. Attorney, a Kansas Court of Appeals Judge, and a Kansas Supreme Court Justice before being appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Her Judicial Assistant, Susan Goodwin, worked with Judge Moritz from 1985 to 1987 in the office of Kansas Supreme Court Justice Harold S. Herd and the two have remained close since that time. Susan is married to Bob Goodwin, a retired Superintendent of Schools. They have four children and one dog. Bob plays competitive tennis and softball, loves to fly fish, play golf, and spend the winter in Florida.

(From left to right: Susan Goodwin, Judicial Assistant, and Honorable Nancy L. Moritz)

NEW MEXICO: The following article was submitted by Annette Ortiz – Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Robert C. Brack – District of New Mexico.

Do You Believe in Miracles?

It has been more than 20 years now since that knock on our door. At 2:00 a.m., our son's girlfriend and her mother drove over to our home to inform us that our son had been shot! "Shot?" "How?" "When?" He was in high school then and had asked to stay overnight with some soccer buddies. We knew the kids and their families too, so we thought it a "safe" choice. We found out later that the group left the home they were staying at to drive into town for something to eat. We also learned they had been drinking, which kids will do, which can add an element of "courage" to situations - and it did in this one too.

The fight began with shouting, challenges, then fighting. A group of soccer buddies against a group of kids they did not know. One of the kids from the other group left and came back with a gun. Our son turned when the shot was fired. Had he not turned, the bullet would have hit the center of his heart. He was shot, however, parallel to his heart – exactly on the opposite side. With no time to waste, his friends drove him to the E.R. The E.R. staff was able to stabilize him – they saved his life. The doctors opted not to remove the bullet, not knowing if the surgery would cause more internal damage. The bullet remains lodged in his chest today.

As we rushed to the hospital to see our son, not knowing the extent of his injuries, I remembered reading somewhere that our children are our gifts, and that we should cherish and nurture these gifts. My mind was telling me that if we had to let him go, we would. That it would be hard, it would hurt, but if we had to let him go, we would. My heart, however, was not ready. A collapsed lung, a chest tube, a week and a half of painful intensive care. I never left his side, reminiscing on the day he was born and all the memories in between - from his birth, to this day. He was only in high school, I thought, he is too young. An extremely bright son, bold, boisterous and strong-willed. I hoped now that these traits would pull him through the pain and that he would be strong enough to survive the shooting. Hoping, praying, and believing.

(continued on next page)

He left the hospital weak, but strong. He fully recovered, continued to play soccer, a goalkeeper, and he *finally* finished high school. He started (but has not finished) college. He worked odd jobs, year after year, never truly finding his niche.

He's married now, to a beautiful and caring wife, the father of two and expecting their third child. Still bright, bold, and strong-willed, carrying the constant reminder of what *could have* happened, His destiny - to become a Deputy U.S. Marshal. He, along with his peers (and a younger brother who is also a U.S. Marshal), protects the Federal Judiciary, our staff, our buildings, transporting prisoners, apprehending fugitives, safeguarding Federal witnesses.

So, to the working mothers and fathers of our Court family - who continually strive to balance our work and home lives; raising our children and grandchildren in a world filled with crime, drugs, guns, and violence, cherish your children, nurture them, be patient with them. They are our greatest gifts. The scar of that day is forever etched on my heart - the scar of the MIRACLE!

Submitted by Annette Ortiz – Judicial Assistant to the
Honorable Robert C. Brack – District of New Mexico

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

Barbara Lay



Hello from the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

My name is Barbara Lay and I am the Circuit Representative. I have been the Representative for the past few years – and have thoroughly enjoyed all of it! I will gladly hand over the reins if anyone else is interested. A little bit about me now. I have been with the federal government for over 35 years. I began working for the government, when my husband was stationed in Germany, as a GS-1 Clerk Typist for the US Army – very interesting position. I typed numbers all day and spoke no German even though all the folks in the office and the warehouse were all German citizens. Somehow we made it work! I traveled a lot while my husband was in the military. We went to Italy and Greece, Korea, and Istanbul, Turkey. All amazing! After a tour in California and one in Oklahoma, we came back home to Florida – where the Sun lives! Once here, I started to work in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Jacksonville, Florida, and ultimately landed a job with my now boss, the

Honorable Gerald Bard Tjoflat – now the best job I ever had! And being a member of the FJAA makes it all even better! I hope to see you all at the next FJAA conference in Charleston. My very first time attending an FJAA conference was in this very city. What a great way it was to start off my membership with the FJAA! I enjoyed it so much and have been attending every one since. I want to remind you all to send in your dues and reach out to other potential members. I have sent you an email with lots of information about the FJAA organization and what benefits are available to members. Ya'll take care until next time.

CHAMBERS STAFF TRAINING FUND

Stephanie Lawley

The Chambers Staff Training Fund (CSTF) is a centrally-held source of funding provided to the courts in the amount of \$400 per chambers staff member. (Example: Judge + Judicial Assistant + 2 Law Clerks = \$1,600.) Each court determines how it will utilize the funds. A court may choose to split the fund evenly among each chambers staff member or a court can use the entirety of their portion of the fund on just a few staff members. The CSTF may be used for any managerial, operational, or administrative training, but cannot be used on legal training. The training can be from a public or private sector provider (i.e. outside of the training provided by the AO, FJC, or other government source).

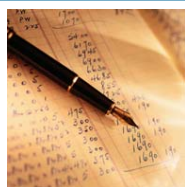
This fund is available for use by Judicial Assistants to pay for travel and training held in conjunction with the private association meetings like the FJAA Annual Educational Conference or the Association of Bankruptcy Judicial Assistants (ABJA) Annual Educational Conference. Some districts “pool” the training funds and permit Judicial Assistants to apply for the funding to cover the cost of their travel, hotel and registration. Other districts allot an equal amount to each Judicial Assistant attending a conference.

The Chief Judge of your district has the authority to approve use of the CSTF. The funds do not “roll over.” If the funds are not used in one year, those funds do not accumulate to the next year. Most training that judges and law clerks attend is funded by the AO or the FJC. Members of the clerk’s office are not eligible to use this funding for training.

This is a real opportunity to educate our judges on CSTF and their availability. Traditionally, the CSTF is underutilized by chambers staff. Please take time to educate yourself and your judges about CSTF. The funding is available for your use in FY15. I encourage you to apply to use the funds to attend the FJAA Annual Educational Conference in September, 2015 in Charleston, South Carolina.



Chuck Diard, Federal Court Clerks Association (FCCA), and Stephanie Lawley, FJAA President, present Judge Robert S. Lasnik, WAWD, with a certificate of appreciation for his tireless work on behalf of clerk's and chambers staff supporting continued training and educational opportunities. The FJAA was invited to attend the FCCA Conference last year in Seattle where members were able to take advantage of professional training and education.



FJAA TREASURER'S REPORT
As of January 28, 2015
By Judy Stoyko
judith_stoyko@cand.uscourts.gov



Chase Checking (as of Sept. 30)	\$ 20,567.20
Income (2015 Dues)	8 70.00
Expenses	<u>(6,096.02)</u>
Chase Checking (as of Jan. 28)	\$ 15,341.18
Chase Savings (as of Sept. 30)	\$ 15,039.61
Income (Interest)	<u>1.75</u>
Chase Savings (as of Jan. 28)	\$ 15,041.36
Total Assets	<u>\$ 30,382.54</u>



SAVE THE DATE!!!

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE 2015 FJAA EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
AND ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN BEAUTIFUL

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

SEPTEMBER 10 - 13

EVERYONE'S FAVORITE
SPEAKER, LOU GIL, HAS
ALREADY

ACCEPTED AN INVITATION
TO SPEAK AT THE
CONFERENCE

GET OUT YOUR
CALENDARS AND START
MAKING PLANS TO

ATTEND.....

YOU WON'T BE
DISAPPOINTED!



2015 FJAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Enclosed is my check for \$30 payable to the **Federal Judicial Assistants Association** for membership year January 1 through December 31, 2015. (Retired members only: \$25 annually or \$100 lifetime membership.)



Name: _____ Title: _____

Judge: _____ Court: _____

Judge Type: _____ Circuit: _____

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

Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Birthday (mm/dd): _____

Check if you are retired: _____ Renewal
New Member

Date of Retirement: _____ Date of Hire as JA: _____

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Annual Conference	Audit	Budget and Finance
By-Laws	History and Archives	Legislative
Long-Range Planning	Membership	Nominations/Elections
Public Relations/Newsletter	Ways and Means	Professional Development/Continuing Education

I am interested in working on the committee(s) selected above.

I am interested in being a Circuit Representative for my Circuit.

**PLEASE SEND THIS FORM AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE TO YOUR CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVE.
The Representative for your Circuit is:**

To obtain additional information about the Federal Judicial Assistants Association, please visit our website at <http://www.fjaa.net/FJAA/FJAA.html>

Membership renewals are due during the month of January.
Keep our Association strong!

Please pay your dues promptly.

Your active membership will ensure access to the "Members Section" of our website and to the FJAA Newsletter.

Grammar Matters

By Judy Stoyko, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Charles R. Breyer
USDC, Northern District of California, San Francisco

Surnames: Plurals and Possessives*

Most surnames are pluralized simply by adding an *s*.

<i>Mr. and Mrs. Romano</i>	<i>the Romanos</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Gray</i>	<i>the Grays</i>

When a surname ends in *s*, *x*, *ch*, *sh*, or *z*, add *es* to form the plural.

<i>Mr. and Mrs. Jones</i>	<i>the Joneses</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Cox</i>	<i>the Coxes</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Welch</i>	<i>the Welches</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Marsh</i>	<i>the Marshes</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Hernandez</i>	<i>the Hernandezes</i>

NOTE: Omit the *es* ending if it makes the name awkward to pronounce:

Mr. and Mrs. Hodges are the Hodges, not the Hodgeses.
Mr. and Mrs. Hastings are the Hastings, not the Hastingses

Showing possession depends on which of the above formats was used.

<i>Mr. and Mrs. Romano's party</i>	<i>the Romanos' party</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Jones's house</i>	<i>the Joneses' house</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Cox's daughter</i>	<i>the Coxes' daughter</i>
<i>Mr. and Mrs. Hernandez's son</i>	<i>the Hernandezes' son</i>

* *The Gregg Reference Manual* by William A. Sabin, published by McGraw-Hill



CURRENT FJAA MEMBERS:

Please adopt a new
hire and mentor her
or him!

Maria Dionne, JA to Chief Bankruptcy Judge Colleen Brown
Trinidad Heim, Secretary to Judge Maryanne Trump Barry
Jill Rhea Simon, JA to Judge Joseph Greenaway, Jr.
Karen Strupczewski, JA to Judge Ashley Chan
Melanie Hallums, JA to Judge Thomas Hardiman
Cathy Barnes, JA to Chief Bankruptcy Judge Stephani Humrickhouse
Shedera Combs, JA to Judge Robert Schroeder
Teresa Wheeler, JA to Judge Suzanne Bauknight
Susan Cooper, JA to Judge Terry Adelman

(continued on next page)

Deborah Monroe, JA to Judge Eileen Willett
 Teresa Gonzalez, JA to Judge J. Clifford Wallace
 Lauren Hamilon, JA to Judge Mark Carman
 Moon Lim Canon, Secretary to Chief Judge Gregory Frizzell
 Michelle Wilson Holly, JA to Judge Laurence Silberman
 Katia Tompkins, Executive Assistant to Judge Nicholas Tsoucalas
 Barbara Wenta, JA to Chief Judge Raner Collins
 William Harmon, Admin. Ass't to Judge Timothy DeGiusti



Susan Pinkowski
 Newsletter Editor

FJAA GOALS

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

Well, folks, I am not sure what's going to happen by the next issue - I am taking the case manager position in my chambers and do not yet know if my judge is going to hire a JA or a third law clerk. We are in the process of moving to another chambers in the building, so everything is up in the air right now! I am also not sure if I am going to be able to continue as the Newsletter Editor since currently I am doing both the case manager and JA jobs (with a lot of help from a special mentor case manager - Julie Owens!). As much as I love to learn new things, I do not want to turn my back on my secretarial history, as it has been my life for over 44 years. Only time will tell what the future holds! Stay tuned!!!!

www.fjaa.net

Please take time to view our FJAA website. There is a members-only section which contains the last four newsletters, a list of current members, and the Treasurer's Report. The members-only section can be accessed with your member PIN number — type in the word "member" as the username. Changes, corrections, and additions will be made quarterly as the newsletter is posted.

If you have anything you would like to have posted on our website, please send it to

Stephanie_Lawley@akd.uscourts.gov



NEWSLETTER
 PUBLICATION
 MONTHS

January
 April
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 October



A free one-year membership for the year 2014-2015 is available to all new JAs who are/were hired between September 1, 2014—September 1, 2015. This free one-year membership is available only to first-time FJAA members.

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CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES

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

1ST CIRCUIT JOAN AUSMAN

c/o Hon. Paul J. Barbadoro
Warren B. Rudman United States Courthouse
55 Pleasant Street, Room 110
Concord, NH 03301 Ph: 603-226-7303

2ND CIRCUIT & COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE JANET F. HANSEN

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

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 KRYSTINA LUDLOW-JONES

c/o Hon. J. Michelle Childs
C. F. Haynsworth Federal Bldg. & Courthouse
300 E. Washington St., Room 116
Greenville, SC 29601 Ph: 864-241-2190

5TH CIRCUIT HOPE TAORMINA

c/o Hon. Daniel Knowles, III
Hale Boggs Federal Building, Room B335
500 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130 Ph: 504-589-7575

6TH CIRCUIT KELLY A. KOPF

c/o Hon. Michael R. Merz
U.S. Courthouse
200 West Second Street, Room 501
Dayton, OH 45402 Ph: 937-512-1550

7TH CIRCUIT ANNE M. WOLF

c/o Hon. James B. Zagel
Everett McKinley Dirksen U.S. Courthouse
219 S. Dearborn, Room 2588
Chicago, IL 60604 Ph: 312-435-5713

8TH CIRCUIT SUSAN SANDRIDGE

c/o Hon. Scott O. Wright
Charles Evans Whittaker U.S. Courthouse
400 E. Ninth St., Room 8662
Kansas City, MO 64106 Ph: 816-512-5700

9TH CIRCUIT JULIE LEMM

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

10TH CIRCUIT LYNDA BROWN

c/o Hon. Bobby R. Baldock
Joe Skeen Federal Building
500 N. Richardson Ave., Rm 167
Roswell, NM 88202 Ph: 575-625-2388

11TH CIRCUIT BARBARA LAY

c/o Hon. Gerald B. Tjoflat
Byron Simpson U.S. Courthouse
300 North Hogan St., Ste 14-200
Jacksonville, FL 32202 Ph: 904-301-5670

FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS SHARON DEARE

c/o Hon. Douglas H. Ginsberg
E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Courthouse
333 Constitution Ave., N.W. Room 5128
Washington, D.C. 20001 Ph: 202-216-7191

Go to www.fjaa.net for a complete list of officers, circuit representatives, committee memberships, and other great information.

FJAA MEMBERS NEEDED

If you have not sent in your renewal membership, or if you have not joined the FJAA, it is never too late - contact your circuit representative listed in this newsletter - guarantee your copy of the Newsletter in your electronic mailbox and an opportunity to participate in the annual educational conference. A listing of circuit representatives is above. Go on-line at www.fjaa.net for more information.

Have you been with the government for 30 years?

Please share your story with us.

The FJAA wants to applaud and feature members who have been with the government 30 years *or* more. If you would like to be recognized in *In Brief*, please contact your circuit representative and send in a short article about the changes you have experienced during your government tenure. Please include a photograph with your submission.

