

FOURTH CIRCUIT— LENA D. TAPSCOTT

From the Fourth Circuit.....

The Fourth Circuit's "About Us"

In an effort to get to know our members, some of the questions presented were:

What are your hobbies and/or what do you like to do for fun outside of work?

I have many hobbies that I indulge in after work. I enjoy shooting and have a concealed carry license, so I try to get to the local gun range to get in some target practice when possible. My sister and I actually both enjoy doing this, so it is something that we can do together.

If you could acquire one thing for chambers, what would it be?

Wifi access! Sometimes it is just easier to have it. We found, especially when we were trying to learn how to work from home when COVID first became a "thing", that it was incredibly difficult to do a dry run of going through all of the steps it was going to take to log onto the system from home without wifi access, and just having IT talk us through wasn't the easiest way to remember!

Both Submitted by Sheila Cox

Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Henry L Herlong, Jr.; Greenville, SC

4th Circuit Birthdays

The Current Quarter.....

Deb Reynolds	September 25 th
Vickie Hearn	October 5 th
Dena Strickland	November 19 th
Jacinta DeJesus	December 26 th

"Our hope this year, for you my dear, is a year of happiness and joy. May the coming year bring all you dream of and more!" *Catherine Pulsifer*

FOURTH CIRCUIT— LENA D. TAPSCOTT

Where was is your favorite trip/vacation to and why?

Submitted by Deb Reynolds

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

Travel is one of my very favorite things! Thankfully, I was blessed to enjoy many trips with my husband before he passed away - from South Carolina to California, Alaska to Hawaii, Canada to Mexico, and numerous places in between. I thought there were no greater things in store for me.

But in 2019, I took my first foreign mission trip to Nicaragua. My church sponsored the trip and 14 of us worked with a group called Chosen Children Ministries.

What an eye opener a third-world country is! Nicaragua is one of the places you see on television with the hungry-looking children in front of a broken down hut. And you think they are staged to get your sympathy. I have seen it first-hand and it is real. While they lack so many things we take for granted, the people are kind, hard-working, and happy. They decorate stick and plastic sheeting homes with colorful blooms. Some only have sheets or newspapers held in place by wire to protect them. Multi-colored houses are speckled across the barrios, since they paint as much as the paint they have will go, and add another color when they get more. The well-heeled of the barrios have cement block homes of a room or two, with plastic covered porches or patios held up by sticks. The very well-heeled have latrines. They train wild birds which bring them joy and beautiful songs, and their clothing is as colorful as can possibly be. They walk or ride bicycles sometimes as much as two miles each way for water if they do not have a rain barrel. Returning home, I became the water police to family and friends about wasting an extra drop of water. No running the faucet while brushing your teeth at my house now!



We worked in neighborhood churches, and as our bus came down the road, the children as well as adults formed large crowds to greet us like we were superstars as we stepped off. They cherished every little trinket they were given or made in classes. We served lunch each day, and often older children would only eat the crusts of their sandwiches so they could take food home to share with family members.

In the afternoons, we worked in the barrios building a house or repairing one. Most days a flavored ice vendor on a bicycle would wheel down the road, and we would buy the cold treats for the neighborhood. You can't imagine how many hugs, smiles and pure joy we received from this simple gesture. Of course we shared our faith with them, and their hearts were very receptive.

At home, I belong to our local Lions Club, which provides eyeglasses, exams, and sight prevention, and supports other local and international charities. On this particular trip, it was meant to be that the last house I visited on our last day out, I met a young man named Christian. He was 14 and one of his eyes had been injured several years before. His cornea was completely occluded and he no longer has vision in that eye. Yet he makes beautiful stringed bracelets and sells them to help his family. Chosen Children offers the opportunity to sponsor native children. While I met many I would have loved to sponsor, it was this young man who was meant to be my sponsored child. As I told the pastor on that last day that this was the one for me, Christian came out of his house with one of his bracelets and tied it on my wrist, where it remains today. With the help of my local Lions Club, Christian now has glasses to help him see better and preserve the vision in his left eye. He wants to be an engineer and help others in his village.

So, yes to travel - I love a beautiful beach in the moonlight or a clear cold ride over Mount McKinley to see the moon at noon. But nothing surpasses that one memorable trip where the least of these stole my heart.

FIFTH CIRCUIT — Barbara Alcon

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

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

Friday, September 17, 2021

On September 17, 2021, Chief Judge Shelly D. Dick issued [Administrative Order 2021-7](#) requiring District Court, Bankruptcy Court, Probation and Pretrial Services, and Defender Services employees seeking to enter the Russell B. Long Federal Building and United States Courthouse and the United States Bankruptcy Court (“courthouses”) to be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus (unless the Court has granted an exemption from this vaccination mandate on medical or religious grounds) effective October 29, 2021. Review the full [Administrative Order 2021-7](#) for additional information. The vaccination mandate does not apply to attorneys at this time, but attorneys are encouraged to establish their vaccination status with the Middle District of Louisiana in advance of in-person court proceedings. Attestation forms are available under **Visitor Information (below)** for this purpose.

In response to the dramatic spike in the spread of COVID-19 in our local communities, on July 22, 2021 Chief Judge Shelly D. Dick issued [Administrative Order 2021-5](#). Effective immediately all visitors to District Court and Bankruptcy Court will now be required to wear a mask and social distance while in the courthouse buildings, regardless of vaccination status.

Administrative Order 2021-4, which extends the CARES Act authorization to conduct court proceedings via video or telephone conferencing at the discretion of the presiding judge.

LAMD Suspends All Deadlines in Response to Hurricane Ida

Thursday, September 2, 2021

In response to the impact of Hurricane Ida, Chief Judge Shelly D. Dick issued [General Order 2021-7](#) suspending all deadlines and excluding all pending criminal cases from the time requirements of the Speedy Trial Act for thirty (30) days commencing on August 26, 2021.



Barbara Alcon, Circuit Representative

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FEDERAL RULES AND FORMS

Monday, August 16, 2021

The Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure has approved publication for public comment of the following proposed amendments to existing rules and forms, as well as several new rules and forms:

- Appellate Rules 2 and 4
- Bankruptcy Restyled Rules Parts III-VI; Rules 3002.1, 3011, and 8003; and new Rule 9038
- Official Bankruptcy Forms 101, 309E1, 309E2, and 417A; and new Official Bankruptcy Forms 410C13-1N, 410C13-1R, 410C13-10C, 410C13-10NC, and 410C13-10R
- Civil Rules 15, 72, and new Rule 87
- New Criminal Rule 62

Evidence Rules 106, 615, and 702

The proposals include rules for declared emergencies as directed by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (Mar. 27, 2020). The emergency rules are reflected in the proposed amendments to Appellate Rules 2 and 4, and proposed new Bankruptcy Rule 9038, Civil Rule 87, and Criminal Rule 62.

The proposals and supporting materials are posted on the Judiciary’s website at: <http://www.uscourts.gov/rules-policies/proposed-amendments-published-public-comment>

The public comment period opened on August 6, 2021 and closes on February 16, 2022.

FIFTH CIRCUIT, Cont.

Court Information

[Middle District of Louisiana | Baton Rouge](#)

Russell B. Long Federal Building and United States Courthouse
777 Florida Street
Suite 139
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

[Hours, Directions & Parking Information](#)

Clerk's Office General Info:

(225) 389-3500 Phone
(225) 389-3501 Fax

Electronic Case Filing HelpDesk:

1-866-558-6631 or (225) 389-3552

[Email the CM/ECF HelpDesk](#)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

Considering the catastrophic damage that Hurricane Ida caused in the state of Louisiana and other matters outlined therein, Chief Judge Brown has [issued General Order No. 21-14](#) on September 10, 2021.

1. All civil and criminal jury trials are suspended until November 1, 2021 and will be reset by each presiding judge. Attorneys should contact the presiding judges regarding any other deadlines that might be affected by this order.

2. With regard to criminal trials, this order extends criminal trial deadlines previously addressed in General Orders 21-11 and 21-12. Due to the Court's reduced ability to safely obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of Hurricane Ida and the recent surge of COVID-19 cases on the ability of counsel and Court staff to be safely present in the courtroom, the time period of the postponements implemented by this general order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the postponements outweigh the best interest of the public and any defendant's right to a speedy trial, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Further, Chief Judge Brown has [issued General Order No. 21-12](#) on September 4, 2021.

1. All deadlines and delays, including prescriptive and preemptive

periods, in cases pending or to be filed in this Court are hereby suspended for thirty (30) days commencing from August 26, 2021.

2. All criminal trials are excluded from the time requirements of the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161, beginning on August 26, 2021 and continuing for thirty (30) days thereafter.

3. All grand jury proceedings in this district are suspended beginning on August 26, 2021 and continuing for thirty (30) days thereafter, subject to change upon motion from the government and further orders of the Court.

4. With regard to criminal matters, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of Hurricane Ida on the ability of counsel and Court staff to be safely present in the courtroom, the time period of the postponements implemented by this general order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the postponements outweigh the best interest of the public and any defendant's right to a speedy trial, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Court operations which had been suspended until September 7, 2021, will resume on September 7, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. The Clerk's Office staff will be available between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm on site and remotely until 5:00 pm.

Litigants may continue to file documents electronically through the District Court's CM/ECF system. Unrepresented persons may send filings electronically to the District Court at prosedocs@laed.uscourts.gov, by facsimile at (504) 310-8159, or by U.S. Mail to The Clerk's Office, U.S. District Court, 500 Poydras Street, Room C-151, New Orleans, LA 70130.

Please click [here](#) for the latest information regarding the Court's Orders and Notices related to the coronavirus (COVID-19)

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

Susan Barrios, Retired	Marilyn Myers
Tonia Carruth	Brandy Route
Wanda Dorsey	Penny Stautberg
Lynda Dupre	Hope Taormina
Sandra Flores	Adria Wallace
Gretchen Heldner	Donna Wisecarver

SIXTH CIRCUIT— JENNIFER HODGE

Tennessee Western District Luncheon



The Tennessee Western District Judicial Assistants and Chambers Paralegals in both Memphis and Jackson attended a luncheon/meeting at noon on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. Attendees from each division met together in a conference room and connected virtually to the other division. The meeting was coordinated and conducted by Wendy Oliver, Chief Deputy Clerk of Court, and included introductions and updates about case processing, as well as a description of the brief seating configuration for en banc proceedings.

The meeting was very successful. With COVID restrictions, it was a great way to connect and to welcome aboard the recently hired J/A's. Thanks to all participants and the positive feedback.



Happy Birthday Sixth Circuit Members!!!

Third Quarter Birthdays:

July

Anna Seymore July 5th
Debbie Baker July 7th

August

Mary Gruber August 14th
Cindy Migliore August 14th
Charlene Gill August 8th

September

Michelle Howard September 8th
Jill Jenkins September 18th

SIXTH CIRCUIT, CONT.

Retirement of the Honorable James D. Todd and Staff



The Honorable James D. Todd served as an Article III Judge in the Western District of Tennessee for 36 years. He and his staff all retired together and the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2021. His staff included his Judicial Assistant, Jackie Logue, of 36 years and his Law Clerk, Lois Cruze, of 33 years.

A reception was held at the Blacksmith restaurant honoring over 100 years of their combined service to the Court.

SIXTH CIRCUIT, CONT.

TNWD JA's



Pictured from left to right:

Bernita Henley - FJAA Vice President; **Cathy Gray** - FJAA Current Past President and Former Board Member; **Jackie Logue** – Former Board Member and Former Past President; **Jennifer Hodge** – Sixth Circuit Rep.; **Carol Kronquist** – retired Lifetime FJAA member, Former Sixth Circuit Rep., and Former Board Member; and **Emily Smith** – FJAA Scholarship Chair.)

Some of the Tennessee Western District JA's are pictured with Jackie Logue and Cathy Gray on their last day with the Court. Jackie has been with the Court and worked for the Honorable James D. Todd for 36 years. She has served on the FJAA board, including Past President. Cathy has been with the Court for 16 years. She worked for the Honorable Jon P. McCalla for 9 years and for the Honorable Sheryl H, Lipman for the last 7 years. She has served on the FJAA board and is the Past President.

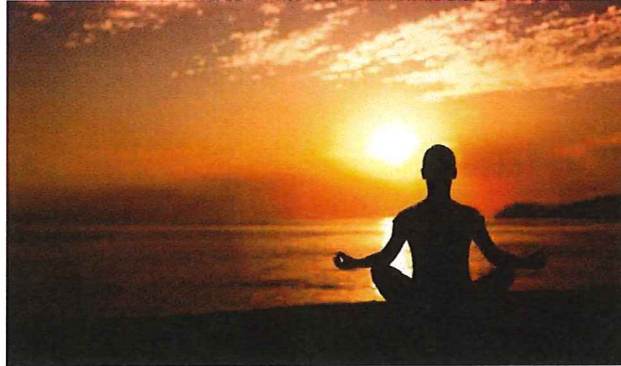
The TNWD has always been active in the FJAA and much of it is owed to these three retired ladies who have been part of the heart and soul of the association and served the FJAA in numerous capacities. They have been great mentors and friends not just to the Tennessee Western District but also to the FJAA. Thanks to each of them for their years of service in the Court and for their many roles in the FJAA.

SIXTH CIRCUIT, CONT.

It's Time to Zen Out!

By Michelle Howard (JA – MIED)

September 29, 2021



I know this will not be the first time you hear, 2020 was QUITE the year and as such, the judiciary faced some unique challenges! How do we keep the wheels of justice turning in a global pandemic? Between learning the new Microsoft Teams platform, navigating Zoom hearings, many a phone conference and the like, navigating a novel coronavirus, juggling home schooling and remote work life can wear you down! So, with the pandemic raging on, I sought out tools to simply chill out! :-)

It has truly changed my life!

So, I wanted to share with you all some of my new favorite ways to channel my inner Zen, ease anxiety, and reduce stress:

➤ meditation

(“Headspace” app/channels on YouTube/Netflix)

➤ journaling

- calming music/apps (Apple Music “wellness”, “Saged” spirituality/wellness app)
- guided sleep meditations to fight insomnia (YouTube, Netflix, Apple Music “sleep”)
- crystal healing (e.g. crystals I love = amethyst, rose quartz, tiger’s eye, selenite)
 - energy cleansing (burn sage, candles, incense, palo santo etc.)
 - daily affirmations (e.g. I am awesome! Today will be a great day!)

*Be gentle
with yourself.
you're doing
the best
you can.*

If anyone is interested in specific recommendations, please email or IM me!

SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Cathy Geier



NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS INAUGURAL CLERKS OFFICE AND CHAMBERS MEETING

On August 11, 2021, the Central District of Illinois held its first ever district wide staff meeting. The meeting was held at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. The event was organized through a joint collaboration of chambers and clerk's office committees.

The day started with some delicious refreshments which included fresh fruit, granola, yogurt, assorted breads and, of course, coffee. Prior to taking seats assigned per division, attendees had an opportunity to visit with others from outside their division and put a face to many we interact with, but never see. Attendees were also given "swag bags" with the court logo which contained a stress ball provided by EAP, as well as a small journal also stamped with the court logo.

The event was led off with opening remarks from Chief Judge Darrow followed by a presentation by Lou Gil, a training specialist formerly with the Administrative Office, who gave a presentation on the Myths and Realities of Teamwork.

A member of the IT staff then gave a presentation regarding the Central District's new Sharepoint Intranet site, while simultaneous to this, chambers staff had the opportunity to attend the IT presentation or one of two breakout sessions.

Lunch was served with option of a salad and sandwich bar or a taco bar, complete with cookies and choice of tea, water or lemonade. After lunch we also received some very delicious sugar cookies with the Central District logo on them.

The day was wrapped up with team trivia presented by Twin City Trivia.

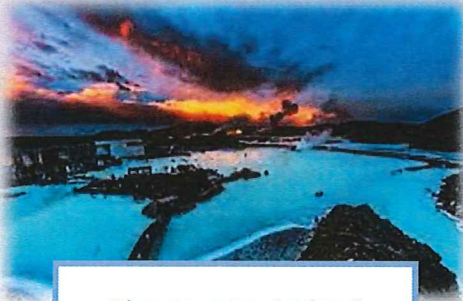


SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Cathy Geier, Cont.

NEWS FROM THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

Submitted by Melissa Hardin

Our district has Fort McCoy in it, which received 13,000 Afghan refugees. We have our first 2 criminal indictments from the Camp – one for wife assault (which my judge got) and the other for child sexual assault. Both parties said they do not want motions practice and asked for a quick trial date, so our case is going to trial in 5½ weeks (Nov. 1). We're hopeful the parties will work out a deal, given the possible immigration consequences. Otherwise life is slowly returning to normal, with more people in the courthouse and criminal hearings happening in person again. We've also gone back to having more than one trial happening at a time. Our district mandates the wearing of a mask when you are away from your workspace, and we treat the courtrooms like an airplane – mask required unless speaking.



Blue Lagoon, Iceland

On a personal note – I took my first international trip since August of 2019 when I & my husband went to Iceland for a week to see the active volcano. It was a lovely time, and Iceland has over 90% vaccination rate, with everyone wearing a mask when inside (unless eating) so we felt very safe. We were fortunate to see the lava flowing and were able to feel the intense heat of it. We also got out into the countryside to see a couple beautiful waterfalls, soaked in a thermal hot spring at the Blue Lagoon, and had fun exploring Reykjavik. Three weeks after we got back, our Magistrate Judge & his wife did the same tour we did. I also just got back from a week with my Dad on our annual Father/Daughter trip – this year we went to Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Yellowstone, another fun trip!