

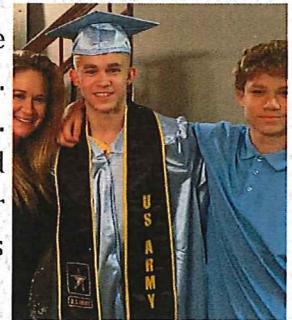
EIGHTH CIRCUIT— DONNA O’KROY

Meet your new Circuit Representative Donna O’Kroy



I have been a Judicial Assistant to Judge David S. Doty for the United States District Court of Minnesota for 6 years. I began my career as a Judicial Assistant with Judge Norman C. Roettger for the United States District Court of the Southern District of Florida where I worked for him until his death in 2003. After Judge Roettger’s passing I worked with Judge Ursula Ungaro-Benages for the Southern District of Florida until 2004.

My husband and I moved to Wisconsin in 2012 from Florida. We both have daughters. One lives in Virginia and the other daughter lives in Washington. We have two grandsons, Talon is 15 and Logan is 18 who live in Virginia. Logan just graduated from high school and is following in his dad’s steps and pursuing a career in the Army. Logan will start basic training in October for 22 weeks. We will miss him terribly. I can’t forget to mention we have 2 dogs Sweetie and Tripp. Tripp lives up to his name, trust me!



I look forward to serving you as the Eight Circuit Representative to the FJAA! Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sara Floyd

Trisha Stahlmann



8th Circuit

Birthdays

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

Nancy Harris	Oct. 2
Marylynn Shawyer	Oct. 6
Maura McNally-Cavanagh	Nov. 29
Tanya Langton	Dec. 11
Donna O’Kroy	Dec. 30

EIGHTH CIRCUIT—DONNA O’KROY, CONT.

More news from the 8th Circuit . . .



JUDGE SUSAN NELSON TO TAKE SENIOR STATUS

Judge Susan Richard Nelson advised President Biden that she will take senior status effective December 31, 2021. Congratulations to Judge Nelson! She has been an outstanding judge and has served our Court as a Magistrate Judge and a District Judge so well for over 21 years.

Susan Richard Nelson was appointed by President Barack Obama and took the oath of office on December 21, 2010. She was the thirty-fourth federal judge selected for Minnesota, succeeding retired Judge James M. Rosenbaum. Judge Nelson was born in Buffalo, New York and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1978. Judge Nelson previously served as a United States Magistrate Judge in the District of Minnesota for 10 years. Prior to her service on the bench, Judge Nelson was in private practice for 17 years with the Minneapolis law firm, Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi, litigating complex civil matters in state and federal court. From 1994 to 1998, she served on the trial team representing the State of Minnesota and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota against the tobacco industry. Judge Nelson is a former president of Minnesota Women Lawyers and currently serves on their Advisory Board.



United States Magistrate Judge Kate Menendez Nominated

President Biden has nominated Magistrate Judge Kate Menendez to succeed Judge Joan Ericksen on the District Court bench! Congratulations to Judge Menendez!

Kate Menendez was appointed United States Magistrate Judge and took the bench in April of 2016. She spent the previous 18 and a half years in the Office of the Federal Defender. Her work while in the Defender’s Office included all levels of practice, from initial appearances through trial and appeal. The second half of her career there involved a focus on training younger attorneys, handling appeals and overseeing complex special projects. During her time as a public defender she had the privilege of representing detainees at Guantanamo Bay and a man on the federal death row. She was also lead counsel for Sam Johnson and argued twice to the Supreme Court in *Johnson v. United States*. Throughout her time in both the Defender’s Office and on the bench, Magistrate Judge Menendez has been a frequent trainer and presenter at seminars, both locally and nationally, and has taught at all three of the Twin Cities’ law schools. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of Minnesota, where she co-teaches Federal Habeas Corpus. Magistrate Judge Menendez earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Chicago and went to law school at NYU, where she was a Root Tilden Public Interest Scholar. She then clerked for a year for the late (and wonderful) Hon. Sam. J. Ervin III on the Fourth Circuit.

EIGHTH CIRCUIT— DONNA O'KROY, CONT.



I would love to share a favorite recipe of mine! Pumpkin pancakes:

Directions:

Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons brown sugar 1 tablespoon white sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder 1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup pumpkin puree
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon ½ teaspoon ground ginger ½ teaspoon ground allspice
1 egg
1 ½ cups of milk
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 teaspoons grated lemon zest
1 teaspoon vegetable oil

Step 1 - Combine flour, brown sugar, white sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a large mixing bowl, and whisk together for two minutes to aerate.

Step2 - In a separate bowl, combine pumpkin puree, cinnamon, ginger, allspice, egg, milk, 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil, lemon juice, and lemon zest. Mix in the flour mixture, and stir just until moistened. (Do not overmix.)

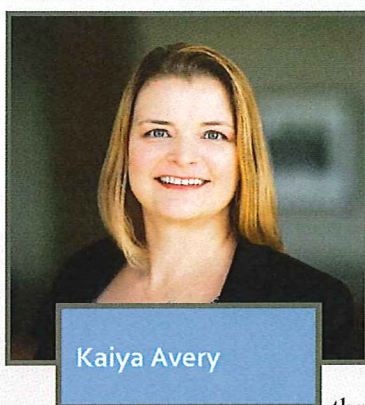
Step3 - Coat skillet with 1 teaspoon vegetable oil over medium heat.

Step4 - Pour batter into skillet 1/4 cup at a time, and cook the pancakes until golden brown, about 3 minutes on each side.

NINTH CIRCUIT— SUZANNE LOFTON



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Kaiya Avery

Kaiya Avery is the judicial assistant for the Honorable John W. Holcomb in the Central District of California, Eastern Division, Riverside. Kaiya worked with Judge Holcomb as his legal assistant for eleven years at Knobbe Martens in Irvine, California, prior to joining the management team of the firm for two years. In September 2020, when Judge Holcomb took the bench, she left management and followed Judge Holcomb back to her hometown of Riverside. Kaiya is



thrilled to be helping raise her nephew and niece,

Cooper (5) and Zoey (4), with her sister and their parents (who all live next door). Kaiya loves to travel, spending time with family and friends, hobbies (such as painting and quilting), and the new challenges of her job. Kaiya is thankful to be back working for such a great boss as Judge Holcomb. Welcome, Kaiya!



Christine Boucher

Christine is the Judicial Assistant to Senior Judge David G. Campbell. She recently transitioned to the position of Judicial Assistant to the Honorable David G. Campbell after 15 years with the Clerk’s Office in the District of Arizona. Christine was hired in 2006 as a Generalist to the magistrate and district judges. She previously served as Courtroom Deputy to Judge Roslyn O. Silver, Judge Steven P. Logan, and Judge David G. Campbell. Christine was born and raised in Southern California and moved to Arizona to attend The University of Arizona (Bear Down!). She graduated in 2003 with her Bachelor of Science in Public Administration with a double major in Public Management and Criminal Justice. In her spare time, Christine can be found at Orangetheory or enjoying time with her terrier (“terror”) puppy Lucky. She is looking forward to this new chapter in her career and meeting new faces amongst the FJAA! Welcome, Christine!

NINTH CIRCUIT— SUZANNE LOFTON, CONT.



SUSAN Y. SOONG will be the new Circuit Executive for the Ninth Circuit as of October 2021. Since 2015, she has been the Clerk of Court for the Northern District of California. From 2009-2015, she served as Chief Deputy of Operations for the Ninth Circuit. Prior to that she worked as a supervising staff attorney in the Ninth Circuit for 15 years. Sue earned her bachelor's degree in Human Biology at Stanford University and her law degree at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Outside of work, Sue enjoys playing the violin and viola in chamber music groups throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Appoints New Bankruptcy Judge for District of Oregon

SAN FRANCISCO — Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have appointed Teresa H. Pearson as the next bankruptcy judge on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Oregon. Her 14-year term will begin on Oct. 4, 2021, when Chief Bankruptcy Judge Thomas M. Renn administers her oath of office. She will succeed the Honorable Trish M. Brown who will retire on Oct. 2, 2021. Pearson will maintain chambers in Portland.

Pearson has been a partner at Miller, Nash, Graham & Dunn LLP (formerly known as Miller Nash LLP) since 2005 and was an associate at the firm from 2001 to 2004. Her practice focused primarily on insolvency, reorganization and creditor's rights. She represented lenders, trade creditors, creditors' committees, trustees, receivers, debtors, and other clients in all forums where debtor-creditor issues appear out of bankruptcy court, state and federal trial courts. Her practice covered civil litigation and business transactional work. In civil litigation, Pearson managed cases from initial pleading through discovery, motion practice and trial. For business transaction, Pearson negotiated and documented sales of tangible and intangible personal property and real property, loans and settlements.

Pearson received a Bachelor of Arts in political science, Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1992 and a Juris Doctor, with honors, from Duke University School of Law in 1995.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Oregon received 6,636 bankruptcy filings in calendar year 2020 ending December 31. The court is authorized five permanent judgeships.

Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have statutory responsibility for selecting and appointing bankruptcy judges in the nine western states that comprise the Ninth Circuit. The court uses a comprehensive merit selection process for the initial appointment and for reappointments. Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year renewable term and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

NINTH CIRCUIT— SUZANNE LOFTON, CONT.

Senate Confirms New Judge for U.S. District Court for Western District of Washington

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today voted 54-41 to confirm President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.’s, nomination of Washington Superior Court Judge David G. Estudillo to serve as a U.S. district judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Judge Estudillo was nominated for the judgeship on April 29, 2021, and had his hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 9, 2021. The Senate Judiciary Committee reported Judge Estudillo’s nomination to the Senate Floor on July 15, 2021. He fills a judgeship vacant since Feb. 28, 2019, when District Judge Ronald B. Leighton assumed senior status. Judge Estudillo will maintain chambers in Tacoma.

Judge Estudillo has served as the presiding judge of the Grant County Superior Court in Ephrata, Washington. He was appointed to the Superior Court by Washington State Governor Jay Inslee in 2015 and subsequently elected to his position by the voters of Grant County in 2016 and 2020. Prior to his appointment to the Superior Court, from 2005 to 2015, Judge Estudillo owned and operated Estudillo Law Firm, PLLC, where he focused on immigration law and general civil litigation. From 2002 to 2005, Judge Estudillo also practiced at the Seattle law firm of Scheer and Zehnder LLP, where he focused on complex, multiparty civil litigation. He began his legal career at the Wenatchee law firm of Jeffers, Danielson, Sonn & Aylward, P.S. Judge Estudillo received his Juris Doctor from the University of Washington School of Law in 1999 and his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington in 1996.

Judge Estudillo was born in Sunnyside, Washington, and is the ninth child of immigrants from Mexico. His parents arrived in the United States via the Bracero Program. Being fluent in Spanish, Judge Estudillo often provided pro bono representation as an attorney to Spanish speaking immigrants in removal proceedings before the Seattle and Tacoma Immigration Court. He assisted with the filing and presentation of claims for asylum, withholding of removal, Convention Against Torture Act and cancellation of removal. He also volunteered at Citizenship

Day Clinics where he assisted immigrants in preparing applications for naturalization and frequently presented information on immigration law at community forums.

At the time of his Senate confirmation vote, Judge Estudillo was serving as the president of the Washington State Superior Court Judges’ Association. He also was an active member of the Association’s Ethics Committee and Legislative Committee and was chair of its Rural Courts Committee. Judge Estudillo also was serving as a member of the Washington State Board for Judicial Administration and its Court Recovery Task Force.

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington had 3,626 new case filings in calendar year 2020 ending December 31. The court is authorized seven judgeships, four of which are currently vacant.

Appointed under Article III of the U.S. Constitution, federal district court judges are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior.

TENTH CIRCUIT— KAREN BACA



TERRI QUINTOS – FEDERAL/D.C. CIRCUIT

During a private ceremony held in chambers this month at the National Courts Building in Washington, D.C., Tiffany P. Cunningham was sworn in as United States Judge for the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Chief Judge Kimberly A. Moore administered the oath of office to Judge Cunningham, which was witnessed by several of the court's judges, as well as personal guests of Judge Cunningham.



Chief Judge Kimberly A. Moore swears-in Judge Cunningham on the Lincoln Bible, which was held by Muneera Kapadia, MD.

Judge Cunningham was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden on April 19, 2021, and the United States Senate confirmed her nomination on July 19, 2021. She received her judicial commission on August 6, 2021. She is the first African-American woman to serve on the Federal Circuit bench.

Prior to her appointment, she served as trial and appellate counsel for companies and individuals in complex patent and trade secret disputes. From 2014 to 2021, Judge Cunningham served as a partner at Perkins Coie LLP in Chicago, Illinois. She also was a member of the Executive Committee of Perkins Coie LLP from 2020 to 2021. She served as a partner at the Chicago office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP from 2007 to 2014 and as an associate at the same office from 2002 to 2007. During her time in private practice, she was recognized on The Best Lawyers in America, Super Lawyers, and Leading Lawyers lists. Judge Cunningham clerked from 2001 to 2002 for the Honorable Timothy B. Dyk, Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Judge Cunningham received her S.B. in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1998, and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2001. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi honor societies.

Please join me in welcoming her to the bench!



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• 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.
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• 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.
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The goals of FJAA are:

- To promote the general welfare of its members,
- To encourage the highest ethical standards of conduct among its members,
- To promote continuing education and professional development of its members,
- To further the exchange of ideas and practical information relating to judicial support, and
- To foster among its 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
MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022
THANK YOU!**



CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES

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

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4TH CIRCUIT

LENA TAPSCOTT

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