

FJAA

OFFICERS

2015 - 2016

IN BRIEF

**FEDERAL JUDICIAL
ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION**

**October
2016
FJAA
Volume 6**

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Letter from the President

Mary Ellen Druckenbrod



Dear FJAA Members:

During the opening of our FJAA Conference in Minneapolis, I mentioned that there are three parts to every goal or plan: Anticipation, Realization, and Memory! Those three simple nouns carry us throughout life. It is hard for me to believe that it's been a year since I took the gavel and volunteered to be your president. My time for anticipation was very short! The realization part gave me a year filled with opportunities to learn, cultivate friendships, manage circumstances, process ideas, and persevere. It was also a year to contemplate and realize change. I learned a tremendous amount about our organization, and how it operates, and gained great respect for those who came before me. Times are clearly changing, and my hope is that we evolve with the times and grow our association.

For those of you who were unable to attend, our conference in Minneapolis was fabulous! The conference committee absolutely outdid themselves! The speakers were dynamic, their topics were relevant and interesting, and they captured our full attention! Minneapolis was an absolutely beautiful venue and we certainly enjoyed the "Back to the Sixties" theme!!!

To all those involved in the planning and the daily workings of the conference, you have my heartfelt thanks and admiration!!!!

Thank You

To All of the

Volunteers !!



Your next president, Melissa Hardin, is an absolute joy! She will take the reins and work hard for all of you. It's been a delight to work in concert with the executive board and I appreciate all their efforts this year! Our circuit representatives are outstanding and I thank them for their service! Please remember to contact your circuit rep with news from your districts and educational tidbits we can all utilize in our newsletter! My thanks to our many committee members and for their willingness to serve!!! Please note that we have openings that need to be filled. We need your help! Please volunteer! Openings are listed on the back of this newsletter and we hope you will decide to serve!

On November 1st, my year of service as your president will be a memory. It has been my absolute pleasure and privilege to serve you! I look forward to continuing to serve the FJAA as past president and in helping to plan our 2017 FJAA Conference in San Francisco September 7- 9.

All the best,

Mary Ellen

WANTED

***** A HOST CITY FOR THE FJAA 2018 CONFERENCE *****

**PLEASE CONSIDER HAVING OUR
CONFERENCE IN YOUR CITY!**

We are happy to help in the planning! Let us know soon!

Please contact Mary Ellen Druckenbrod.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Notes from Gerri Rishel on our Minneapolis Conference

Many thanks to all those who attended the 2016 Federal Judicial Assistants Association educational conference in Minneapolis! Though our numbers were low this year, we believe the conference was a huge success. Our “Back to the Sixties” theme was met with flying colors (literally), as most of our attendees, including the very groovy Judge Frank, wore their tie-died apparel for the opening reception! There were also quite a few pillbox hats and plenty of pearls worn in honor Jackie Kennedy at the closing banquet! Those who attended the Friday night optional events (the Twins game at Target Field and the scavenger hunt at the Mall of America) had a blast!

The conference agenda was full and varied. Our presenters included our very own Chief Judge John R. Tunheim, who spoke to us about his experience serving as chair of the JFK U.S. Assassination Records Review Board, which was a captivating presentation; Chief Judge Timothy Burgess from the District of Alaska spoke to us about iPads for Judges, and no doubt everyone took something back to their chambers from his presentation. We also enjoyed presentations by Wanda Rubianes from the AO, who discussed international travel for our judges and security while traveling abroad. Her presentation was insightful and eye opening to all of us! In conjunction with international travel, our own Senior Judge Paul A. Magnuson talked about his work on rule of law matters in Russia, Mongolia, Albania, and Rwanda. Senior Judge Michael J. Davis spoke about his involvement with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (or some may know it as the Spy Court), and he also touched briefly on his Somali terrorism trials. Laura Simon from the AO spoke to us about OSCAR. The presentation on active shooting training from our U.S. Marshal Sharon Lubinski and Deputy Marshal Matt Palmer was riveting! There were two panel discussions: NextGen and our very successful Pro Se Project with the District of Minnesota and the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Kathleen McMahon-Walford and Susie Chilton did a fantastic job on their district’s Courtrooms as Classrooms presentation, discussing how they provide civics education programs for citizens. Chris Duncan, a representative from Thomson Reuters, spoke to us about WestCheck, and our district librarian, Andrea Wambach, hosted a fun game involving Groovy Tech Tips! Last, but certainly not least, Lou Gil presented us with valuable tips for working in a multigenerational workplace. All our presenters did a fantastic job, and there was never a dull moment!

During the general membership meeting there was an emotionally charged discussion about the membership survey. Our president, Mary Ellen Druckenbrod, relayed the results of the survey and, shared the various viewpoints. Based on the results, the bylaws committee will begin work this next year with proposed revisions to our bylaws, which should be up for membership vote in June of 2017. Our Treasurer, Judith Stoyko, spoke to us about the financial aspects of hosting a conference. She opened our eyes to what’s involved financially, and how rushing to book a hotel room “just in case” you think you might go to a conference then cancelling at the last minute creates a financial nightmare. This year the FJAA was left to pay for unused hotel rooms at a cost to the association of over \$2,100. Therefore, in the future, our members must pay their registration fee first, and then be given a code that the hotel will require BEFORE a room can be booked.

In closing, we cannot thank our attendees enough for coming to our beautiful state and participating in a great conference. We look forward to seeing you all next year in San Francisco!!!

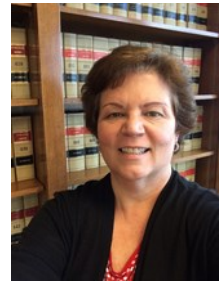
(Gerri Rishel is the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Michael J. Davis)



FJAA Treasurer's Report
Judy Stoyko

Judicial Assistant to Hon. Charles R. Breyer
Northern District of California, San Francisco

**THE FJAA ANNUAL
EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
AND THE BUDGET IMPACT
OF LAST-MINUTE CANCELLATIONS**



The annual FJAA conference provides education, camaraderie—and fun! Yet many conference attendees are unaware of the cost and contractual obligations associated with a conference and the impact of last-minute cancellations on our budget. It is my goal to inform you with this article.

When a hotel contract is entered, a block of sleeping rooms is reserved and a food budget is set. If the room block is filled and the food budget is met, then the hotel does not charge for the use of meeting and banquet rooms during the conference.

A common misconception is that a "room block" is a certain number of sleeping rooms held for a particular group (e.g., 75 rooms), but it is more complicated than that. It is a guarantee that a group will occupy the hotel for a certain number of "room nights." For example, if a conference runs from Friday through Sunday and attendees are expected to book 75 rooms for an average of 2 nights each, that group might guarantee 150 room nights. If the group fails to fill at least 80 percent of the guaranteed room nights, the group must pay the hotel the contracted rate for the unused rooms.

The FJAA guaranteed 330 room nights for the Minneapolis conference; 80 percent of that is 264. Unfortunately, we occupied only 248 room nights, leaving the FJAA obligated to pay the Marriott Hotel \$135 for each of the 16 unused room nights. That's a total of \$2,160, which is a serious hit to our budget!

How did this happen? A number of FJAA members booked hotel rooms but did not register for the conference. Apparently they were undecided if they would attend but wanted to hold a room "just in case." Therefore, it appeared that our room block was full. Then, a short time before the conference, many of these members decided not to attend and cancelled their hotel reservations, leaving the association in a very uncomfortable financial predicament.

How will we avoid this scenario at future conferences? FJAA members will be required to pay the conference registration fee before booking a hotel room. Upon registration, members will be issued a code that must be given to the hotel in order to reserve a room. There will be a penalty for last-minute cancellations. The board will discuss the matter and determine an appropriate penalty. [Example: If a cancellation occurs within 14 days of the conference, one night's lodging may be charged and/or a certain percentage of the conference registration fee may be non-refundable.]

The FJAA is a small non-profit organization whose main source of income is annual dues. Typically we have about 220 members; at \$40 each (the new rate for 2017), dues income for the year is anticipated to be \$8,800. It's not hard to see that an unexpected expense of \$2,100—nearly one-quarter of our annual income!—is problematic.

Given this explanation, I'm sure you understand why controls must be put in place at future conferences. And speaking of future conferences, I hope all of you will mark your calendars now for September 7-9, 2017, and plan to attend the next FJAA conference in beautiful San Francisco!

FJAA 2016 Conference

Opening Remarks By Tara Norgard, MN FBA President

My name is Tara Norgard and I am the president of the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. I bring greetings from over 900 members of our organization, which includes judges and lawyers who practice in our federal district court. I am deeply honored to welcome each and every one of you to Minnesota.

When Becky Baertsch asked me to welcome you all in this opening session, I was humbled—and terrified. She told me about the theme of “60 Tips and Tricks” and suggested that I could perhaps offer a tip or two.

You have to understand: lawyers are the last people in the world who should be giving “tips and tricks” to you, the engines of our federal judicial system. It seems almost sacrilegious. It is each of you who hold the book of wisdom that every lawyer would love to read. You know when things are going to happen—and how. You know what works in your courtrooms—and what doesn’t. You have insights that practicing attorneys could only dream of.

In short, am keenly aware that I come before you—completely void of any useful advice. What I do have to offer are these two messages: (1) we are grateful for your work and (2) we are honored to share in your mission.

We Are Grateful for Your Work

In my day job I am an intellectual property litigator and I appear in these courtrooms on a regular basis. And in that process, I have had the privilege of getting to know the real power behind the Court: the judicial assistants. Both in this district and in your home districts, trust me when I tell you that the lawyers who practice in your courts thank you for everything that you do, day in and day out.

Every single one of us owes a debt of gratitude to every single one of you. You are the engine that makes our federal courts run. Your commitment to your profession and our Courts are integral to the commitment of our entire federal community to the principle that is engraved in our atrium: Equal Justice Under Law. Not only do each one of you do what you do with unparalleled excellence—you do it with the highest standards of professionalism. Then you tie it all together with genuine collegiality and friendliness.

Although I no longer qualify as a young lawyer, there are some things about being a young lawyer that none of us ever forget. And maybe never change. For example, dialing chambers is not something any of us do lightly. We know how busy you are. We don’t want to bother you. And when we call—we do not want to seem this way—but we are more often than not completely clueless and looking for whatever guidance that you may be able to offer: How much time might the judge have on his or her calendar for this argument? Do you want three copies of the hundreds of pages of documents I just filed on ECF? The list of questions goes on and on – you could all probably write quite a humorous book about our calls.

FJAA 2016 Conference

Opening Remarks By Tara Norgard, MN FBA President

Remarks continued....

But it takes one call to realize why you—the professionals who work both on the front lines and behind the scenes—are second to none. After that first call or meeting with any one of you, lawyers recognize that you are our colleagues, partners and our friends. And that although we all have different roles to play, we join every day to ensure our universal commitment to Equal Justice Under Law.

When we come to your house—this courthouse and those just like it across the country—you welcome lawyers like me into the federal family. And it is a family that we are so very proud to be a part of.

We Share in Your Mission

In preparation for coming here, I have done some research on your organization. I try not to come to Court unprepared—that would be especially true in coming to speak to an audience like this one. As I was reading your Constitution and Mission Statement, I could not help but notice the remarkable similarities between the FJAA and the FBA. Our shared goals include:

- advancing education and professional development about the practice and administration of law in the federal courts
- upholding high professional standards inside and outside of our Courts
- promoting inclusion in the legal community, regardless of gender, race, disability or other identity
- and encouraging collegiality in our professions

And it seems to me we share these principles because in the end, we are all unified in our commitment to Equal Justice Under the Law. To a federal judicial system that is fair and just for everyone who comes to court.

On behalf of the 900 members of the Minnesota federal bar, I thank you for working with us hand in hand to achieve those goals every day. We are honored to be your colleagues and your friends in this work.

FJAA 2016 CONFERENCE PHOTO GALLERY



Pres. Mary Ellen and Incoming Pres. Melissa



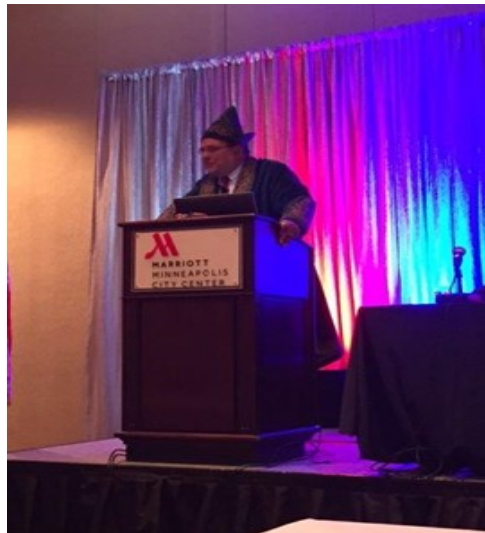
Judge Donovan Frank and members
Opening Night—



Conference Scavenger Hunt Dinner at
Mall of America

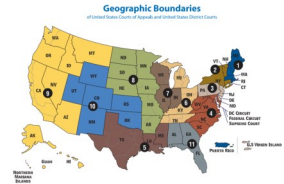


Saturday night dinner



Conference Judge Magnuson

CIRCUIT NEWS



FIRST CIRCUIT—JOAN AUSMAN



After a long, hot, steamy summer, we are all ready to welcome the cool fall temperatures and changing leaves that come with the new season. It was a busy spring/summer for our family, as my husband and I sold our home of 31 years and relocated to a duplex apartment near the law school in Concord. I didn't realize how challenging it would be living amidst many young people, all with different schedules and habits - fortunately it will be short-lived as our plan to retire to Arizona closes in on two years. The process of selling our home was very educational as it was our first experience. The biggest plus, of course, was the unburdening of accumulated "stuff," most of which we now realize we didn't need anyway. Perhaps moving every few years isn't such a bad thing!

Two weeks after we moved, we traveled to Alaska to spend 10 days with our son Mike, who is a forestry biologist with the US Forest Service. He was able to get time off and served as our tour guide to the Kenai peninsula (Moose Pass, Homer, Seward), then on to the north to Talkeetna and Denali. The scenery is just beautiful and we were fortunate to become members of the Denali 10% club - those who are blessed to see the mountain on a completely clear day sans clouds covering the peak! I can't resist sharing this beautiful scenery with you.



The sea otters and puffins stole my heart as well. I encourage you to visit this awesome state if you have the opportunity. I had hoped to connect with Stephanie Lawley, however our time in Anchorage was short and we did not have an opportunity to get to the courthouse. Next time!

I was sorry to miss the Minneapolis conference and have the chance to connect with old friends (and make new ones), but unfortunately, with new law clerks starting two days before the conference, my ability to attend was not possible. Now, as I step down as First Circuit rep, I am happy to introduce Christie Clifford (D. Me) as your new representative. I do hope to see you all again at future conferences.

Thank you Christie for stepping forward and I wish you all the best!



First Circuit...continued

Hello, I am Christie Clifford. I am the Judicial Assistant to Hon. Jon D. Levy. First, let me say, did we tell Joan that we do not want her to retire and we are going to miss her! I hope she teaches me everything she knows before she goes. There is still time.

The Judge and I started working for the District of Maine in May 2014, and I still feel pretty new. I seem to learn something new every day, which I truly enjoy. I have worked with Judge Levy since July 2005 when we were at the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in Portland, Maine (literally next door to the federal courthouse we are located in now) I have been fortunate enough to be able to attend the Chambers Staff Administrative Workshop in August 2014 in Washington, D.C. and I would encourage anyone that is able to please attend. I met some wonderful people and learned a lot.

I have also have been able to attend the 2015 Annual FJAA Educational Conference in Charleston, South Carolina last September, and this September the 2016 conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These opportunities would never have been possible in the State of Maine Judicial branch, so I am very appreciative for all of these training opportunities that we are able to receive in the federal court system.

I am enclosing a picture of the Minnesota Courtroom we visited on our first morning in which The Honorable Michael J. Davis spoke to us. The judges, people, and programs were all fantastic. I cannot emphasize enough that if you also have the fortunate opportunity to attend one of these conferences, you really should.

Christie Clifford, D. ME



JUDGE DICLERICO RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

ON MARCH 4TH, AT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION'S 2016 MIDYEAR MEETING, BAR PRESIDENT MARY TENN PRESENTED JUDGE JOSEPH A. DICLERICO, JR., WITH THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC AWARD. THE AWARD IS PRESENTED EACH YEAR TO THE NOMINEE WHO BEST EXHIBITS SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC ON BEHALF OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE. MANY USDC-NH EMPLOYEES WERE IN ATTENDANCE TO CONGRATULATE JUDGE DICLERICO.



First Circuit News Continued.....

JUDGE BARBADORO APPOINTED CHAIR OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On April 27, 2016, Chief Justice John G. Roberts appointed Judge Paul J. Barbadoro to serve as chair of the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, which serves as the senior executive arm of the Judicial Conference. Judge Barbadoro has been a member of the executive committee since October of 2013 and his appointment as chair took effect on July 9, 2016.



2016 Kenison Award
Judge Paul Barbadoro

US District Court Bar Foundation Awards

Frank Rowe Kenison Award

Judge Barbadoro was presented with the 2016 Frank Rowe Kenison Award at the Bar Foundation's Annual Dinner on September 21st.

2016 Kenison Award
Judge Paul Barbadoro

US District Court Bar Foundation Awards

Frank Rowe Kenison Award

The Kenison Award was established by the Bar Foundation to recognize an individual (or individuals) who makes substantial contributions to the betterment of New Hampshire citizens through the administration of justice, the legal profession, or the advancement of legal thought. The award is made annually, selected by vote of the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Bar Foundation. Recipients need not be members of the New Hampshire Bar Association, but are carefully chosen to honor individuals who meet the criteria for the award in its broadest sense.

Frank Rowe Kenison (1907-1980) was a member of the New Hampshire Bar Association for 48 years, and served as Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court from 1952 to 1977. He was an exquisite legal thinker who committed his life to the legal system, education about the law, and the promise of equal justice for all.

News from Around the Second Circuit:

Greetings all,

I would like to thank everyone who worked on the FJAA Conference held in Minneapolis, MN in September. It was a wonderful, informative conference and a great time was had by all! Although only three of us were able to attend this year from the Second Circuit (Elena Suero, Christine Stewart and me), we loved learning about your beautiful city and enjoyed exploring it in our free time. We visited the Mall of America, the new Vikings football stadium (first game not even played there yet!), learned our way around on the Light Rail System, explored the historic Mill Museum, viewed the waterfall and St. Paul from a distance, and ate at some local favorite restaurants! We also had a great time at the Minnesota Twins baseball outing too. I'm still in awe of the skyways and wish there was a system like that in NYC! Of course, I would never make it to work—all those shops would be too enticing! I hope more members will be able to attend the conference next year—they truly missed out on a good one this time!

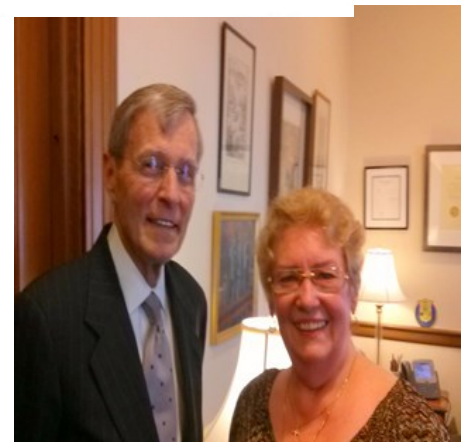
Thanks again to all!



Photo s
from
Mary Wiczorek
Retirement

Congrats

Mary



Court of Appeals:

Mary A. Wieczorek, Judicial Assistant to Hon. Chester J. Straub, will be retiring at the end of November. Mary came to the Court of Appeals with Judge Straub when he was appointed in 1998, having worked with him at Willkie Farr & Gallagher since 1972. Mary worked at several jobs including at Barnard College, Publishers Hall Syndicate (handling newspaper features as Ann Landers), and the New York Foundling Hospital, but they were all inconsequential compared to what came next. Mary first met Judge Straub in 1968 when he was serving his first term in the NYS Assembly representing her district. She approached him with a community problem and was so impressed, she volunteered in his reelection campaign. She pushed door bells, handed out flyers, made phone calls, followed him with a camera at local appearances, drafted speeches, and attended community meetings. She stayed on as his part-time district secretary to meet with constituents, draft letters, and keep an eye on things locally while he was in session in Albany. From 1973 to 1975, he served as NYS Senator so Mary changed desks in the district office. After he became a partner, Judge Straub invited Mary to come work with him at the law firm. She told him she had a very short span of interest, but would stay as long as she was interested. The rest, as they say, is history.

Mary will never forget standing with Judge Straub on 9/11 watching the second plane hit, evacuating the courthouse and seeing the first tower fall. She then walked home to Brooklyn in 3 ½ hours, all the while watching the horror and like everyone else, not really believing what she was witnessing.

On a happier note, while with the Courts, Mary has served as

a member of JSAG, including participation in the AO's Jumpstart program. For several years, she served as our FJAA Second Circuit Representative. Mary has become everyone's unofficial Big Sister here in the Second Circuit. She's helped with orientation for new JAs, answered our questions, and shared her knowledge and assistance whenever called upon. Mary will be sorely missed at the Courthouse.

When asked about plans for her retirement, Mary says she'll hibernate for 6 months, then decide what to do. We who know her guarantee she'll be busy long before that using her varied and considerable talents in whatever way will present itself.

On Thursday, September 29, in Mary's honor, the Court of Appeals Judicial Assistants hosted a surprise luncheon at Peking Duck Restaurant in New York City. The luncheon was followed by cake and champagne at the Courthouse with members of the Clerk's Office, Circuit Executive's Office, and Judges.



Western District of New York:

The information below is from newly-retired Judicial Assistant Janet Curry—soon to be in a movie theatre near you! I hope you enjoy this—I sure did!

FROM REAL COURTROOM DRAMA—TO REAL HOLLYWOOD DRAMA!

The very first week of my retirement as J.A. to U.S. District Judge John T. Curtin, a story on the local news caught my eye. A movie of the life of Thurgood Marshall starring Chadwick Boseman, Kate Hudson, Josh Gad, and James Cromwell was going to be filmed in Buffalo at the old federal courthouse where I worked for 33 years--and they were looking for extras for the movie! I was indeed so very excited! I began working for Judge Curtin in that old courthouse when I was 20 years old, and to return to that building would be like "coming home" to me! I immediately sent in the required application, including a plea expressing how much it would mean to me to return to that cherished building as an extra for the movie.

Several weeks later, I was so delighted to hear the news that my dream had come true, and I was chosen! After some "twists and turns" in the process, I was selected to be a spectator at the criminal trial of Joseph Spell, an African-American defendant whom Thurgood Marshall defended. I was so thrilled to find out that the directors had picked Judge Curtin's former courtroom for the trial, and so it was indeed "coming home" for me! Judge Curtin's chambers was "off limits" because it was only for the

FROM REAL COURTROOM DRAMA— TO REAL HOLLYWOOD DRAMA! (continued)

producers and directors, but I did peek in to see where my desk once was! Our circuit court library was the setting for wardrobe, makeup, and hair and our catered meals were eaten in the lobby on the first floor. It certainly was surreal to walk into the courtroom and see cameras, film directors and movie stars in the place of Judge Curtin, his courtroom deputy, law clerks and me! I will also never forget waiting in line in the ladies' room I used for all of those years and reminiscing about it.

If you go to see the movie (entitled *Marshall*), please look for me in the second and third rows of the spectator seats behind the prosecution table or in the first row behind the defense table, because that is where I spent all of my seven days. It was the experience of a lifetime!

I am now a believer of the statement that, "When one door closes, another one will open," because it certainly happened to me!

I'm happy to report that Janet is now an adjunct Professor at a small, private college in Buffalo called Medaille College. She is teaching two sections of Business and Professional Writing, and is also working part-time editing for Thomson Reuters (Westlaw). There is life after retirement as a J.A.! We send Janet our best wishes in her new adventures, and hope to see her at the next conference!

Eastern District of New York:

District of Connecticut:

Attorney James J. Trancredi was appointed a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge and assumed his duties on September 1, 2016. Judge Tancredi fills the vacancy created by retired CT Bankruptcy Judge Alan H.W. Shiff, who served for nearly 40 years! Judge Trancredi's chambers are located in U.S. Courthouse, Hartford, CT.

Judge Tancredi practiced law for 37 years and was a partner at Day Pitney LLP when he was appointed to the bench. He is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and the University of Connecticut School of Law. Congratulations to Judge Trancredi on his appointment!

Happy Fall to all!

Janet F. Hansen

Judicial Assistant to Judge Jose A. Cabranes



THIRD CIRCUIT—IRIS LIRIANO

In my last Newsletter, I submitted an article about our summer intern/law clerk program which was hosted by Magistrate Judge Andrew Dickson. On June 27, 2016 Governor McGreevy was the guest speaker at the program. He talked about the Re-Entry Program which assist inmates who are released from prison and are in need of finding a home and employment. He was a fantastic speaker who was very engaging and passionate about making a difference. Gov. McGreevy shared statistics about the recidivism rate in this country which is 2/3 of the inmates released are incarcerated again. The reentry program helps deter a former inmate from being reincarcerated, assists with housing, job placement or education, and medical insurance. Alongside Gov. McGreevy was the Hon. Madeline Cox-Arleo who spoke of the team of people who collaborately work together to successfully run this program. The team consists of the Hon. Madeline Cox-Arleo, U.S. Magistrate Judge, Hon. Michael Hammer, U.S. Magistrate Judge, Hon. Paul Fishman, U.S. Attorney, the Federal Public Defender and Probation.

The participants of the ReEntry Program report to the Martin Luther King Jr. Courthouse in Newark, NJ before the Hon. Madeline Cox-Arleo to update the Judge on what they are doing to successfully work or seek an education or trade.

Special Awards

On June, 2016, the New Jersey Law Journal presented Hon. Morton I. Greenberg with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Judge Greenberg is a United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit since 1987. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, attended University of Pennsylvania and thereafter Yale Law School. Upon graduating law school, Judge Greenberg worked at the Attorney General's Office. In 1960, he would enter private practice and in 1971 he returned to the Attorney General's Office. In 1973, his career as a judge would commence with the Superior Court of New Jersey. He remained there until 1987, when President Ronald Reagan nominated him with the Third Circuit Court. We congratulate Judge Greenberg in receiving this most distinguished award.

INVESTITURE FOR JUDGE RESTREPO

On June 17, 2016, the Hon. Luis Felipe Restrepo held his investiture ceremony with around 500 family members, friends and colleagues at the James A. Byrne U.S. Courthouse in Philadelphia, PA. Prior to joining the U.S. Court of Appeals, Judge Restrepo was a U.S. District Judge in the very same courthouse he now presides as a Circuit Judge. President Obama nominated Judge Restrepo on November 27, 2012. Shortly thereafter, Judge Restrepo would be nominated again by President Obama on January 7, 2015. Judge Restrepo attended the University of Pennsylvania and received his Bachelor of Arts in 1981. He further pursue his education by attending Tulane Law School where he received his Juris Doctor in 1986. Judge Restrepo commenced his career at the American Civil Liberties Union National Prison Project.

He then went on to work with the Defender Association of Philadelphia as an Assistant Defender. In 1993 to 2006, Judge Restrepo was a partner with the law firm Krasner & Restrepo. He commenced his career as a Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 2006. We congratulate Judge Restrepo in joining the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Retirements:

Sarah Beal, Judicial Assistant, to Judge Van Antwerpen will retire on September 30, 2016. Sarah has worked with the government for 40 years which includes 12 years with the Court of Appeals. We would like to wish Sarah a very, Happy Retirement!

Iris

Death in the Court Family:

On July 25, 2016, the Hon. Franklin S. Van Antwerpen passed away. Judge Van Antwerpen was a Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit. He was nominated by President George W. Bush on November 21, 2003. Judge Van Antwerpen took office on May 24, 2004, took senior status on October 23, 2006 and remained in this position until his death on July 25, 2016. Judge Van Antwerpen attended the University of Maine and later attended Temple University Beasley School of Law. He entered private practice in Easton, Pennsylvania and also worked for Hazeltine Corporation and the Northampton County Legal Aid Society as counsel. In 1987, President Ronald Reagan appointed Judge Van Antwerpen to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania where he served from 1987 until 2004. Judge Van Antwerpen enjoyed classical music and played the pipe organ. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, who were married for 45 years and his three children and grandchildren.

FOURTH CIRCUIT - Barbara Barry



District of Maryland

District Judge Paula Xinis's investiture ceremony was held on September 23, 2016 in Baltimore, Maryland. Judge Xinis received her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and her J.D. from Yale Law School. After a clerkship with the Honorable Diana Gribbon Motz on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Judge Xinis joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland. In 2011 she entered private practice with a Baltimore firm as a Senior Trial attorney. Judge Xinis is joined by her Judicial Assistant Tasha Brown.

*Winter is an
etching, Spring
a watercolor,
Summer an oil
painting and
Autumn a
mosiac of
them all.*

Starley Horowitz



inspirationlane.tumblr.com

FIFTH CIRCUIT—PENNY STAUTBERG

What a marvelous conference we had in Minneapolis. It was well run, and one of the most interesting I have been to, covering active shooter training, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and Somali Terrorism Trials; International Travel Tips, a Lou Gil presentation (he's an honorary FJAA member), and a dinner presentation by Chief Judge John R. Tunheim on the President John F. Kennedy U.S. Assassination Record Review Board (of which he was a member). Optional events included a scavenger hunt at the Mall of America or attending the Minnesota Twins v. Cleveland Indians baseball game).



A first time attendee was Marilyn Myers from Chief Judge Carl Stewart's JA. I had the feeling that she had a great time and took back a lot of information for Chief Judge Stewart. She and Carla Baker (JA to U.S. Magistrate Judge Karen Wells Roby in New Orleans) made a tennis connection. Marilyn's husband is a tennis coach, and Carla is the latest winner of the Women's 60 Singles Championship and the National Tennis Association's Doubles Championship. Her husband also brought home some trophies. And to think that Carla didn't even start playing tennis until her late 30's. That's how she met her husband, and they compete all around the United States.

Next year's conference is slated for San Francisco, so save some days and money to either come in early or stay a few days later. These conferences are fun, informative, and you make a renew friendships that will last a lifetime.

Group picture taken from dinner



Court of Appeals

Chief Appellate Conference Attorney Joseph L.S. St. Amant retiring on October 2.

Conference attorney Vikram Chandhok was selected as the new Chief Appellate Conference Attorney.

ELA

Mag. Judge Sally Shushan retired on July 31, 2016.

Mag. Judge Janis van Meerveld was sworn in on August 1, 2016.

District Judge Helen Berrigan assumed senior status on August 23, 2016.

NMS

Mag. Judge S. Allen Alexander to retire on September 30, 2016 and will be replaced by Mag. Judge Roy Percy

Bankruptcy Clerk David Puddister retires on September 30, 2016 and will be replaced by Shallanda "Che" Clay

NTX

Mag. Judge Hal R. Ray, Jr. appointed in Wichita Falls on June 24, 2016

Mag. Judge Nancy M. Koenig retired on July 31, 2016

New Mag. Judge Gordon Bryant sworn in on August 1, 2016

ETX

Mag. Judge Don Bush retired on August 31, 2016

Mag. Judge Kimberly C. Priest Johnson was sworn in on September 1, 2016

District Judge Michael H. Schneider retires on October 1, 2016

WTX

District Judge Walter Smith retired on September 14, 2016

Thanks to Tammy Hoefeld in the CE's office for all that information.



SIXTH CIRCUIT—SUZANNE GAMMON

Hello from Michigan

Say goodbye to the dog days of summer and start the adjustment to cool days and shortened hours of sunlight. Fall is upon us.

In September four Judicial Assistants in the Michigan Eastern District, myself included, travelled to Minnesota to attend the annual conference. The mood was upbeat, the program ambitious and very well executed. From the opening reception to the closing banquet we felt the energy of interesting and dedicated individuals. The president of the Minnesota Federal Bar Association, Tara Norgard, gave a rousing welcome that encapsulated the very essence of who we are as a profession. Never have I felt as validated as I did that morning. And the conference only improved from there. A big shout out and thank you to the conference committee and our hosts in Minnesota.



**Pictured from left to right
Donna Vinson, Charlene Gill,
Tracy Young and Suzanne Gammon**

Shopping and Dining at Mall of America

This article is my last act as your Sixth Circuit Representative as I will be handing off those responsibilities to Debby Sawyer and assuming my new position as vice president. This year has been an eye-opening experience. I did not fully appreciate the work our leadership performed behind the scenes on our behalf. Next year I hope to make a contribution toward assuring our continued relevance as contributing staff members to the judiciary.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

HILLEBRAND SALUTE !!!

Congratulations to Karen Hillebrand!

Although we are sad to see Karen depart our ranks, we celebrate her new position as Operations Information Management Specialist with our Court. Karen started her career with the United States District Court, Michigan Eastern District in 1992 serving as judicial assistant to the Honorable Nancy G. Edmunds, where she continued until 2013. During that time, Karen served as Sixth Circuit Representative for the Judicial Secretaries Advisory Group from 2008 through 2011. Additionally she joined the Federal Judicial Assistants Association 2008 and continued in various positions within our Association until accepting her new position this Fall. To say Karen worked tirelessly to improve the quality of any work process of our Court would be a vast understatement. Throughout her career she volunteered at the local and national levels to assist in the testing and development of a better means to perform our function within the Court. We treated her to lunch at Townhouse restaurant in downtown Detroit.



*Also pictured is our friend, guest and frequent monthly meeting attendee, Marsha Heinonen. Marsha joined the Michigan Eastern District's United States Bankruptcy Court some twenty years ago and is following her Judge, Walter Shapero, into retirement. Thank you for your many years of service and enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

CONGRATULATIONS MARSHA!

ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT!!

In The News from Western District of Tennessee

Carol Ray Kronquist, Judicial Assistant to Chief Magistrate Judge Diane K. Vescovo, in the Western District of Tennessee at Memphis, retired September 30, 2016, after 41 years of government service. Carol started her career in January, 1974 as a clerk stenographer with the IRS. In August, 1975, she began her career in the judiciary as a clerk stenographer with the WDTN Probation Office, as well as various positions in the WDTN Clerk's Office. From August, 1984 to August, 1994, she served as the Judicial Assistant to District Judge Robert M. McRae, Jr. and for the past 21 years she has been the Judicial Assistant to Chief Magistrate Judge Vescovo. Carol describes her years with Judge Vescovo as "Heaven on Earth!"

Carol has been a member of FJAA since 1985 and attended her first FJAA conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

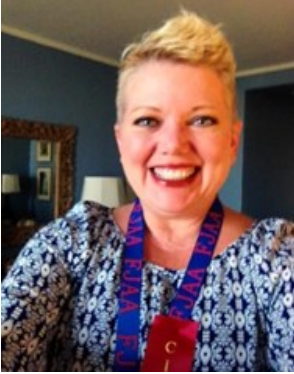
Carol was honored for her years of service at a reception on September 29. Chief Magistrate Judge Vescovo presented a beautiful crystal clock inscribed to Carol. The judicial assistants presented her with a statue of Lady Justice (Carol has long admired a similar statue in Judge Vescovo's chambers), as well as a gift certificate to one of her favorite places to shop – Jo-Ann Fabrics. Various other agencies made presentations and remarks.

Carol plans to continue one of her favorite pastimes – sewing doll clothes, as well as spending time at the family lake house with husband, Charlie; son, Robby; daughter-in-law, Krista, and especially with her twin grandchildren, Viviann and Micah.

Carol has been a mentor to so many of us, as well as a great friend. She will be greatly missed but we wish her many happy days of retirement.



EIGHT CIRCUIT— LYNN MAGEE



Lynn Magee – Eighth Circuit FJAA Representative

There is no easy way to begin, but I would like to share something very personal. My husband was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer on June 20, 2016. Since his/our diagnosis a lot has happened: 1. We have been enrolled in a clinical research program with a protocol of chemotherapy, radiation, and nutrition classes; 2. We have had a lot of hard conversations as husband and wife, as dad and mom, as friends and pastors; and 3. We have learned a lot about support systems. I have taken time off from work on nearly a weekly basis to accompany my husband to appointments, and/or to try to find some semblance of order in our life—mental health days if you will.

As I am sure it is with a great deal of you, our chamber staff is a small team. When a teammate is out, one of two things happens: The rest of the team pulls together; or it is every person for himself and things begin to stack up or get lost in the mix. This article is intended to help motivate your thinking about building a strong team in your chambers. Research shows that 85% of the reasons that teams of people succeed or struggle has more to do with interpersonal issues than technical competence. Both are needed for effective teamwork.

Here is an outline that may be helpful.



Clear Roles and Responsibilities—Do you believe that each member of your team, including you, have clear roles and responsibilities, and are they written down or just simply assumed and understood? Might there be value to writing them down?

Information Sharing – Do you look to your teammates for guidance and, likewise, do they look to you? What information and resources do you have on hand that could help equip them for tasks?

Valuing Diversity – Do you believe “your” way is the only way? Are you open to change? In what area is there absolutely no room for change or compromise?

Creative Problem Solving – Can you readily recall a recent example of creative problem solving?

Flexibility – Are you flexible in the eyes of your teammates? How do you know?

Conflict Resolution – Can you list a recent example of conflict resolution? How did you feel?

Good Morale – How do you feel the overall morale in your chambers is? Are you leading the way with a positive attitude and good energy?

I am grateful for my teammates and for the time we have taken to invest in one another both personally and professionally. I encourage you to do what it takes to be a healthy leader and to keep building and supporting your healthy teams.

NINTH CIRCUIT—JULIE LEMM



Happy Fall to all Ninth Circuit FJAA members!

Next year our 2017 National Educational Conference will be held in San Francisco, the “heart” of the Ninth Circuit! I’ve volunteered to be on the Conference Committee, and I hope we can all help make this conference the best ever. Treasurer Judy Stoyko (our colleague with the inspiration to secure San Francisco as our next location) has asked me to be responsible for collecting the conference registration forms and checks, and I have gladly accepted.

I hope each of you will be able to join us in San Francisco! I’ll be in touch with more conference information and Ninth Circuit news – and as always, I appreciate any news tips you think are worthy of including in this newsletter.

I truly enjoyed personally meeting more of our Ninth Circuit members who were able to attend in Minneapolis, and thank you all for being members of the FJAA!

Julie Lemm

TENTH CIRCUIT—LYNDA BROWN



Sadly I was not able to make it to the conference in Minneapolis, but heard it was fantastic! Three ladies from the Tenth Circuit who attended the conference shared their wonderful pictures.

NEW MEXICO:

Martha Garcia, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable William P. Johnson, Albuquerque, New Mexico, said it was such a pleasure to meet new members and to see the ones who have been around as long as she has. The presentations were very informative and the whole conference was organized and very well planned. Martha appreciated the

hard work of the Minnesota group and their hospitality. Minneapolis is a beautiful and friendly city. She is looking forward to seeing everyone in San Francisco next year!

One of the highlights of the trip was watching the Twins-Indians baseball game with Michelle Mejia and Becky Ruiz.

Pictured from left to right: Michelle Mejia (JA to the Hon. Frank R. Zapata, Tucson, AZ), Becky Ruiz (U.S. District Court Clerk's Office in Tucson, AZ), and Martha Garcia (JA to the Hon. William P. Johnson, Albuquerque, NM.)



Thank you Martha Garcia for submitting the pictures and information!!

TENTH CIRCUIT—LYNDA BROWN



OKLAHOMA:

Stephanie Stewart, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable John E. Dowdell, Tulsa, Oklahoma, really enjoyed the conference. The presentation given by the ladies from California about the different community outreach programs they have going and also the pro se panel project presentation were especially interesting. Stephanie enjoys hearing what the other districts are doing and it gives ideas of what might work for her district.

Pictured from left to right: Martha Garcia (JA to the Hon. William P. Johnson, Albuquerque, NM) and Stephanie Stewart (JA to the Hon. John E. Dowdell, Tulsa, OK.)



Thank you Stephanie Stewart for submitting your highlights and pictures!!

TENTH CIRCUIT—LYNDA BROWN

COLORADO:

Deanne Bader, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Raymond P. Moore, Denver, Colorado, said the organizers of the conference did a great job and the accommodations were wonderful.

Pictured from left to right: Deanne Bader (JA to the Hon. Raymond P. Moore, Denver, CO) and Valeri Barnes (Courtroom Deputy Clerk, Denver, CO.)



Pictured from left to right: Valeri Barnes (Courtroom Deputy Clerk, Denver, CO) and Armida Gonzales (JA to the Hon. G. Murray Snow, Phoenix, AZ.)

Chief Judge's Courtroom in Minneapolis.



Thank you Deanne for submitting the pictures!!

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT—BARBARA LAY

From Barbara Lay, 11th Circuit Representative:

I just wanted you all to know that I have been out on sick leave for several months now because of some serious back issues. I have been working with some wonderful Brooks rehab folks that have taught me some great strengthening exercises. I also visit pain management on a regular basis. This will hopefully put off the surgery for a long, long time. I have, however, submitted my retirement papers and will be retiring at the end of this year, December 31. It's probably about time anyway after 35+ years and 23 of those with Judge Tjoflat. In the meanwhile I continue to be out on sick leave, although I miss being at work, the Judge and the law clerks, and of course the contact with all the wonderful JAs and secretaries that I have grown to know fondly. I just found that I could not keep up the pace of a very busy chambers life. I always said that I would not last as long as Judge Tjoflat! And sure enough unfortunately that prediction has come to pass.

I am enjoying spending more time with my family, my wonderful grandchildren and friends. This is a whole different life -- one I think I can get used to however!

Ya'll take care and remember every day is a gift.

Barbara Lay

RESULTS OF THE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY FROM OUR PRESIDENT

For those of you who were unable to attend our conference in Minneapolis, here are the results of the survey sent to all membership on July 15, 2016:

A total of **97** members responded to the survey. Four of the 97 commented, but did not make a choice. Therefore, we had a total of **93** responses to the survey, and 36 comments.

67 checked individual membership, which would entitle law clerks, hired to perform the duties of a judicial assistant, to have the privilege of voting and holding elective or appointed office.

26 checked associate membership, which would entitle law clerks, hired to perform the duties of a judicial assistant, all the privileges of membership, except those of voting or holding elective or appointed office.

Here are some random comments:

*“Our association is best served by including law clerks who serve in an administrative capacity.”
“By opening this avenue, we will allow our membership to grow, and I believe different perspectives will enrich our organization.”*

“While the increasing number of judges electing to hire a law clerk rather than a JA is disturbing, I don’t feel they should be penalized for the judge’s choice by restricting their membership.” “If they are doing the work of a judicial assistant, they should be allowed to participate, and it seems that having their legal minds on board would be a benefit to the association.” “They bring a different perspective.”

“This is an association created by judicial assistants for judicial assistants. “ “I believe law clerks should join as associate members so that the board remains judicial assistants.” “I am for ALL being included in the educational programs.”

“I support extending membership to any chamber’s staffer who provides administrative assistance of the like, kind and description that a judicial assistant provides a judge, regardless of the applicant’s employment title.” “Let us continue to promote the judicial assistant’s existence, whatever the individual job title may be, as a contributing member of chambers staff.”

“No matter what job title someone has, if that person is performing administrative duties and the FJAA can assist in the performance of those duties, the person should have the option of becoming an individual member.”

“While as a taxpayer and a JA, I am not in favor of the practice many judges have elected to follow of hiring lawyers to perform clerical and administrative tasks, I acknowledge that my

preference is not the issue.” “Even among traditional JAs, the level of education (which is really the main distinction) varies from little or no college education to Bachelor degrees to additional paralegal certifications.” “Therefore, adding persons with a law degree is not much of a stretch.” “The focus should be on providing all the people who do the job of a JA with the most training and support that can be offered so that the judiciary continues to operate at its highest level.”

“Unfortunately, there isn’t a choice for “none of the above,” because that is my preference. Letting law clerks in the association is the equivalent of waving the white flag and saying we’re okay with you taking our jobs. Personally, I’m not okay with that!”

“As the judicial assistant position changes, so should the association.” “It gives us all an opportunity to learn from each other and move forward as a group.”

“Still not happy about this, but understand many judges are not hiring JAs.”

“Times are changing.” “Why wouldn’t we grant a law clerk doing the administrative duties of a judicial assistant full membership.” “Seems to me, fear is the only reason we wouldn’t.” “It does not change what our educational conferences are about, or who we are.” “It does say we are a welcoming association, and it may help us grow.”

Many thanks to all those who participated in the survey and for expressing your opinions. Our next president will appoint a bylaws committee that will be tasked with addressing the issues, and proposing changes to our bylaws. After board approval, our general membership will have the opportunity to cast their ballots accordingly.

COMMITTEE OPENINGS

COMMITTEE OPENINGS:

FJAA NEEDS YOU!

Annual Conference

Legislative

Long-Range Planning

Nominations & Elections

Professional Development

Ways & Means

If interested, please send an e-mail to
Mary_Ellen_Druckenbrod@azd.uscourts.gov

BECOME A MEMBER

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A free one-year membership is available to Judicial Assistants that become members within their first year of hire.





FROM MY DESK TO YOURS

TIPS FOR THE OFFICE

Turn Out the Lights

The Party's Over - What Are You Gonna Do Now???

By Debby Sawyer, ACP

Another amazing FJAA Conference has come and gone, and now we all have to “turn out the lights” and get back to the reality of our lives and responsibilities. Yes, the county music legend Willie Nelson wrote those lyrics, but I don’t agree with Mr. Nelson’s lyrics, because he’s never been to a FJAA Conference!!!!

So now that you are back to work, how are you going to keep the “party” going? In short, “What Are You Gonna Do Now???” Here’s a few tips on how to keep the lights shining and the party going:

ATTITUDE

Have you given any thought to how the special attitudes generated during the conference could be promoted by FJAA members throughout the rest of the year? I believe the positive outlooks that blossom during the conference could be promoted in much the same way that we promote new ideas and programs. There are steps you can take to keep the positive momentum going long after you’ve returned. Consider why the conference was so inspiring. I’m sure you can come up with a number of reasons, but the number one was that you were inundated with positive, pumped up, energetic colleagues who shared the same goal. Attitudes are contagious!!! That excitement and inspiration doesn’t have to leave just because you came home. Take steps to maintain some of that pumped up feeling and pass it on to your fellow FJAA members and office staff every chance you get!!!

BE PROACTIVE

You have to be proactive to continually develop yourself and keep our association relevant and successful. Share your experience with your fellow members. Write a summary of what you did, who you met, what you learned, and what positive experiences you had and submit it for the newsletter. Share your photographs and motivate your fellow members to begin thinking about attending FJAA’s next conference in San Francisco!! Start planning how you can be more participative at the next conference and consider running for office or being on a committee. You returned full of enthusiasm and motivation. Be proactive and pass that on. Not only will you get others motivated, it will keep your motivation going as well. Zig Ziglar said that motivation doesn’t last, but neither does bathing, that’s why it’s recommended daily. Keep that in mind and pay it forward by passing on what you obtained at the conference.

COMMUNICATION:

I can never stress how important communication is for successful relationships. Thriving relationships require a commitment of your time. Just as you commit time for your family, friends, and social activities, you must also commit your time to your professional relationships or they will dissipate. Put your communication hat on and let us hear from you!! Communicate and cultivate those friendships you made during all the networking at the conference. Stay in touch with your contacts. Send them an email just to say hello, friend them on Facebook, or pick up the telephone just to see what’s new. The key is communication, keep it going!!

“Turn out the lights the party's over - they say that all good things must end.” Now is your time to rewrite that verse by not letting the good things end. If you keep the good things going, great things will happen in return!!!

I look forward to serving FJAA and its members as the 2016-2017 Sixth Circuit Representative, and I’m looking forward to hearing about all the great things you are accomplishing!!!

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

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A Very Big THANKS to our Past Circuits Representatives !!!

Joan Ausman (1st)
Suzanne Gammon (6th)
Anne Wolf (7th)
Lynn Magee (8th)
Barbara Lay (11th)

Thanks for your dedication and service to FJAA !

A free one-year membership is available to Judicial Assistants that become members within their first year of hire.

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