



## OFFICERS

2017 - 2018

# IN BRIEF

## FEDERAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION



## Letter from the President

Lynn L. Magee

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Dear FJAA Members and all Judicial Assistants:

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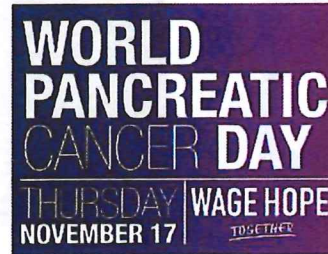
*Thank you for allowing me to serve you as President of the FJAA 2017-2018*

THANK YOU

*Officers, Circuit Representatives, Annual Conference Planning Team*

*And all of the Committee Members and to each of you !!*

Letter from the President  
Lynn Magee



Dear All:

I would like to take this time to say thank you for allowing me to serve you as President of the FJAA. It has been a great year for me, and one that I will look back on fondly. To my fellow officers, thank you for the time you devote to the various tasks associated with your office (records, minutes, finances, membership). Thank you, also, to our amazing Annual Conference planning team!

At the annual conference, I shared a bit about our family journey through the pancreatic cancer diagnosis of my husband, John. John was diagnosed in June 2016, at Stage IIB, and started chemotherapy immediately, followed by radiation. The chemo did its job, and the radiation did its job. More important, however, my husband did his job: He stayed mentally and physically strong through it all.



By January 2017, he was ready for this Whipple procedure. This 10-hour operation was performed at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, and removed the head of his pancreas, part of the small intestine, a portion of the bile duct, and his gallbladder. Our surgeon, Dr. Mark Truty, has devoted his life to pancreatic cancer, and performs this surgery 2-3 times per week. At a 3-month visit to Mayo Clinic, we heard the sweetest words of all: *No Evidence of Disease*. We have continued to hear those words, *No Evidence of Disease*, for the past year and a half, at the six quarterly scans that have followed.

Pancreatic cancer has the lowest survival rate among all major cancers. In nearly every country, pancreatic cancer is the only major cancer with a single-digit five-year survival rate. Those who undergo a successful Whipple procedure may have a five-year survival rate of up to 25%. Sometimes these statistics scare me; other times they serve to remind me that life is precious and amazing.

Through the sleepless nights, learning how to eat for his new digestive system, and having the discussions about having (and keeping) our "house in order," we wage hope. John is part of four clinical studies at Mayo Clinic, and our kids (we have five—one son, four daughters) will be genetically monitored. We will all

continue to serve as vanguards of hope in our Minnesota Pan Can community, as well as the national Project Purple community. There's life to be lived!!



Remember, no matter what, *hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.* (Desmond Tutu)

With deep appreciation for the opportunity to serve, and all humility—*Lynn Magee*

## LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



This is my last article as vice-president and membership chair. I am turning over the reins of membership retention and recruitment to the very capable hands of Tracy Young, sister JA of the Michigan Eastern District. Serving as an officer of the FJAA has provided me with an in depth understanding of the personalities and energy necessary to sustain a vibrant organization that supports such an exceptional collection of civil servants. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. (This snapshot of me and my friend was taken at New Holland Brewery, in Grand Rapids)

I was handed a unique opportunity to work with the History & Archives Committee this year. Our president, Lynn Magee, asked the committee to create a timeline describing the organizational history of our Association. The finished product was displayed at the annual educational conference in Grand Rapids. Because not all members were able to attend the conference, I thought I would share the process and product in the Association newsletter. This is the first installment.

Melissa Hardin organized a couple of teleconferences, the committee came up with a plan, and divided the tasks between Gwen Hunter, Ellen Weber, Melissa Hardin and me. We communicated frequently by email and Sametime. Ultimately a plan came together. The exhibit would consist of five display panels: Panel 1-Early History of Judicial Chambers, Panel 2-Organizational History, Panel 3-Communication with Membership, Panel 4-Past Conferences, and finally Panel 5-Todays Challenges and Benefits of Membership.

I volunteered to work on the early history panel. I visited numerous websites, conversed with representatives of the FJC, the AO, as well as circuit and university librarians, and read multiple publications searching for information on the evolution of the federal judicial chambers staff. The following image is a compilation of that research.

Submitted by Suzanne Gammon, Vice President and Membership Chair

# Judicial Chambers

## AN EARLY HISTORY



Article III of the United States Constitution established the judicial branch of the national government. In 1789, Congress enacted the Federal Judiciary Act, detailing the organization of the judiciary system and authorizing 19 federal judgeships.

At the time Congress believed it was unnecessary to provide the judiciary with clerical support staff. Some Justices hired "private secretaries" and paid them from their own funds. It wasn't until 1885 that Congress authorized the hiring of clerical assistants under the job title "stenographers" but didn't appropriate funding for the position until 1919. The position rarely included legal research or writing responsibilities, but primarily consisted of clerical tasks. Early on male law students and lawyers filled these positions, some were hired away from other governmental agencies. The first known female, non-lawyer, secretary, Jane Smith, was hired in 1926 by Justice Harlan Fiske Stone.



The combination of increased territory, population and federal jurisdiction proportionally increased the number of federal judges and the caseloads of each judge. Today there are 860 authorized federal judgeships.

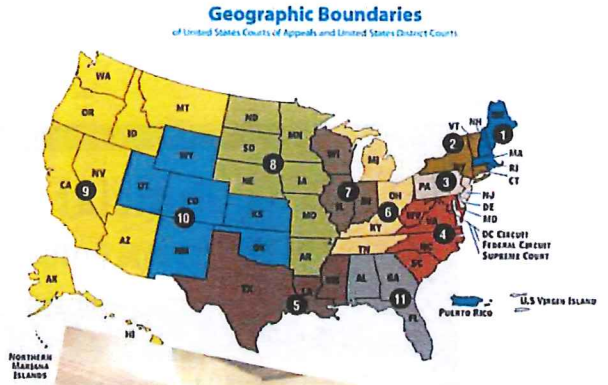
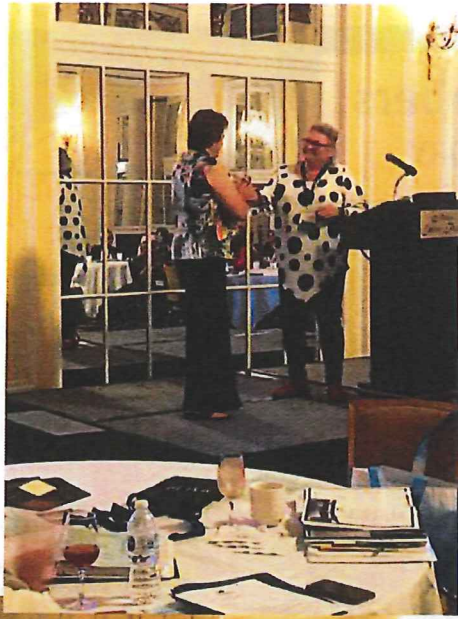
In 1920, Congress saw its way clear to authorize the hiring of an additional clerk, creating a staff of one law clerk and one stenographic clerk for each Supreme Court Justice. Circuit and District Court Judges were appropriated funds for appointment of similar staffing in 1938, followed by Magistrate and finally Bankruptcy Judges. Eventually the term "stenographer" was replaced with "secretary" and later "judicial assistant." Today's chambers staff structure (number of appointees) is limited to "the aggregate salaries of such employees which may be imposed by law" (73 Stat. 452) and is ultimately determined by the individual judge.



From the printing press to the internet, ground-breaking technologies have driven change within judicial chambers. Today's technology requires a tech savvy staff and provides a platform for unified communication, regardless of the physical location of its participants.

# CIRCUIT NEWS

*Grand  
Rapids  
Conference  
2018*



Above right: Passing the Gavel



Middle: Grand Rapids Planning Committee

Bottom: Group Photo at Courthouse



# FIRST CIRCUIT— Christie Clifford

## News from Maine

By Carianne Sawyer – Hon. John Woodcock's JA, Portland, Maine:

I enjoyed a delightful trip to Grand Rapids for the FJAA Educational Conference. As a new FJAA member and first time attendee, I was struck by the camaraderie among the members who clearly have developed great relationships over the years by attending these annual meetings. What a great asset to have in our positions, to have that familiarity with peers across the country who can offer support and insight into issues that might be new to us!

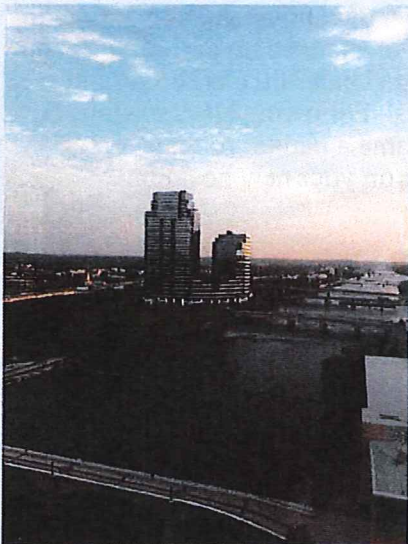
The day-long, in-depth case study on Friday presented all aspects of the progression of a fascinating criminal case. I particularly enjoyed hearing from the detective who investigated the case, as that is a side of the process that we don't get much exposure to.

Saturday's presentations on retirement planning and software updates were quite helpful to me. I should add, we certainly ate well all day too!

Thanks for a great, informative trip! Hope to meet everyone again in Nashville next year!

Deann Harvie, Hon. D. Brock Hornby's JA and Marsha Heath, Hon. George Z. Singal's JA, Portland, Maine also attended the FJAA Conference. Here are a couple of photos of the hotel.

Christie Clifford, Hon. Jon D. Levy's JA, was unable to attend and had to withdraw at the last minute. Christie would like to thank the FJAA for their kindness and thoughtfulness.



Hotel from the Grand River

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

Joan Ausman, D.N.H., former First Circ. FJAA Rep (from November 1, 2013 to October 2016) and long-time member, is retiring on August 17th. She has been a J.A. to District Judge Paul Barbadoro since 1992, and to Magistrate Judge Andrea Johnstone since 2014. After selling their home in Bow, NH two years ago, they have been renting in Concord, NH and look forward to soon moving into their new home which they are building in the Pebblecreek retirement community in Goodyear, AZ.

In retirement, Joan looks forward to lots of play time in the sunny southwest (as opposed to the snowy northeast) – swimming, kayaking (if she can find water!), learning pickle ball, crafts, singing, playing her French horn, and likely lots of other activities she hasn't even thought of yet! Travel will also be prominent in the first few years of retirement, as well as getting together with Ann Sherman, former Arizona District Court J.A. and FJAA member. Joan wishes all of her FJAA friends continued success in their court careers and hopes if you are in the Phoenix area, you'll give her a shout at [jnausman@gmail.com](mailto:jnausman@gmail.com).

Lorraine Temme, who has been J.A. to Sr. District Judge McAuliffe also since 1992, will be replacing Joan and working for Judge Barbadoro and Magistrate Judge Johnstone.

# SECOND CIRCUIT—JANET HANSEN



## **News From Around the Second Circuit:**

First of all, I would like to send a big thank you the Committee who worked on the FJAA Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. Great job and hats off to all! It was a wonderful conference!

### **District of Connecticut:**

Chief Judge Janet C. Hall stepped down as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court , District of Connecticut on August 31, 2018. Judge Hall was appointed to the bench in 1997 and served as Chief Judge of the District of Connecticut from September 9, 2013 until

August 31, 2018. Thank you Judge Hall for your service as Chief Judge!

District Judge Stefan R. Underhill has assumed the role of Chief Judge as of September 1, 2018. Chief Judge Underhill was appointed a U.S. District Judge for the District of Connecticut on July 7, 1999. Judge Underhill received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia in 1978, a second Bachelor of Arts Degree from Oxford University which he attended on a Rhodes Scholarship, and in 1984 received his law degree from Yale Law School. Judge Underhill clerked for the Honorable Jon O. Newman of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Following his clerkship, Judge Underhill joined Day, Berry & Howard LLP and subsequently became a partner of that firm prior to his appointment to the bench. Congratulations Chief Judge Underhill on your new position!

On September 6, 2018, Superior Court Judge Kari Dooley was confirmed by the Senate as a judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. She was nominated to fill a vacancy created when Judge Robert N. Chatigny assumed senior status. Judge Dooley was nominated for the Superior Court by former Governor M. Jodi Rell in 2004. Prior to her appointment to the Superior Court, she was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for 12 years in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Bridgeport, CT. Judge Dooley is a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Connecticut Law School. We send Judge Dooley our congratulations and best wishes for a fruitful career on the federal bench!



## SECOND CIRCUIT NEWS CONTINUED

### Throughout the Second Circuit:

On September 17, 2018, in multiple locations, the Courts of the Second Circuit will be hosting special naturalization ceremonies in honor of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

### Eastern District of New York:

On July 9-13, 2018, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, in partnership with the Eastern District of New York Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (FBA), the Federal Litigation Section of the FBA, and the Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, hosted the Third Annual Eastern District of New York Justice Institute at the Alfonse D'Amato United States Courthouse in Central Islip, New York.

One hundred students from high schools in Nassau and Suffolk County attended this year's Justice Institute. The Institute is a week-long, civics education program developed in 2016 as part of the Courts of the Second Circuit's Civic Education Initiative, Justice For All: Courts and the Community.

The program, created by Judge Joseph Bianco of the Eastern District of New York, is designed to introduce incoming tenth-graders to the workings of the federal courts and the criminal justice system, and to promote an enlightened and responsible citizenry. The Justice Institute, the first of its kind, allows students to learn about the legal system and develop basic advocacy skills in a courthouse setting.

This year, students heard presentations from five federal judges, Suffolk County District Attorney Timothy Sini, FBI agents, a U.S. Secret Service Agent, an ATF Special Agent, Deputy U.S. Marshals, federal prosecutors, and criminal defense

lawyers about their respective roles within the federal court system. Students also had the unique opportunity to observe federal court proceedings, including a Naturalization Ceremony, and were able to discuss what they observed with a federal judge. Finally, students learned basic advocacy skills during several sessions from experienced lawyers and law students from Touro Law Center coached the tenth-graders during a mock trial competition at the end of the week.

The program culminated with an awards luncheon on Friday, July 13, 2018, attended by students and their families. The keynote speaker during the luncheon was Mitsue Salador. Ms. Salador shared her experience as a Japanese-American interned by the government during World War II.

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Note: The EDNY Justice Institute is part of Justice for All: Courts and the Community, a Civic Education initiative of the Federal Courts of the Second Circuit. For additional information, please visit their website: [justiceforall.ca2.uscourts.gov](http://justiceforall.ca2.uscourts.gov)

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That's about all the news for now. Have a very happy and healthy Fall!!

Janet F. Hansen

Judicial Assistant to Judge José A. Cabranes

## THIRD CIRCUIT—IRIS LIRIANO



On September 13, 2018, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey Historical Society hosted a program called “After Selma – Newark, Camden and Beyond.” The panelists included Hon. Joseph H. Rodriguez, U.S. District Judge, Hon. John W. Bissell, U.S. District Judge, Ret., Raymond A. Brown, Jr., Esq., Michael R. Griffinger, Esq., Joseph A. Hayden, Jr., Esq., and Keith J. Miller, Esq., Moderator. This was a very compelling program that touched on the riots that occurred in New Jersey in 1967, specifically Newark and Camden, years after the events in Selma. The panelists spoke on ways they and the communities were affected and how they were involved in the riots at that time. We heard how there were a lot of protests, arrests, and looting. The panelists each shared their version on what had occurred during that time and how they each played a role in trying to assist the City and law enforcement.

Judge Rodriguez who was a young attorney spoke on how there were only 4 Hispanic attorneys in New Jersey at that time. He tried to calm a group of citizens in Camden along with members of his family. Hon. Judge Bissell spoke about the Lilien/Brown reports and read excerpts from it. Raymond A. Brown, Jr. spoke of his father, also an attorney who is now deceased, who drove to different locations throughout the city to quiet down the protesting. Michael Griffinger spoke on how he turned 31 years old the day the riot broke out. He ended up working pro bono for people arrested during the riots. Joseph Hayden and his sister, who is now a Judge, spoke on how he went down to Selma during the riots. He couldn’t believe how the Newark riot was very similar to the Selma one.

## THIRD CIRCUIT CONTINUED -IRIS LIRIANO-

The program was long but the stories were very intriguing yet disturbing. It was fascinating to hear the panelists tell their story with such detail. I was not born during that time period but my mother who migrated from Puerto Rico to Newark, NJ did share with me where she lived during the riot and what had transpired. At the conclusion of the program, all guests gathered to enjoy a small reception of delicious food served by Celebrations.

Days after becoming the longest sitting U.S. District Court Judge in history, Hon. William J. Nealon, Senior Judge, passed away. Judge Nealon was a District Court Judge at the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania in Scranton where he served as a jurist for 55 years. In 1999, the federal courthouse in Scranton renamed the building with Judge Nealon's name and is now called William J. Nealon Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse. Judge Nealon is survived by his wife, children and grandchildren.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual William J. Brennan Award was hosted at the Mayfair Farms on June 14, 2018. This year's recipient is United States Circuit Judge, Hon. Michael A. Chagares. This award is bestowed upon a jurist, attorney or other person for their special contributions to the law. Judge Chagares was presented with the award by his friend and colleague, Hon. Patty Shwartz. Judge Shwartz spoke on the qualities that mirrors Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. for whom the award is named after. We are proud of Judge Chagares for this distinguished honor!



## Fourth Circuit News By, Johnna Oehlsen

FJAA 2018 Conference 4th Circuit Fun from the ladies in the South Carolina District



# FIFTH CIRCUIT—Penny Stautberg



## News In Brief:

Barry Ashe, district judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana was confirmed 8/27/18.

District Judge Robert Summerhays (Western District of Louisiana) was confirmed 9/6/18.

Magistrate Judge Stephen Steve retired 7/31/18.

Magistrate Judge Peter J. Bray was sworn in 8/3/18. He does not have a JA.

The conference in Grand Rapids was outstanding!! I urge all JAs to attend the annual conferences when they can. The conference is vital to our training, seeing old friends, and making new ones. The Fifth Circuit had a good turnout.



## SIXTH CIRCUIT— Debby Sawyer



**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!!!**

This will be my last article as your FJAA Sixth Circuit Representative, and I would like to say thank you to all of the FJAA members for this great opportunity. I have had a wonderful time being involved and meeting so many new JA's from the Sixth Circuit and from all of the other circuits as well. What a great time I have had!!!!

You are in great hands with my predecessor, Jennifer Hodge, who is also a fellow Tennessean. She will be a phenomenal representative and will serve the Sixth Circuit well.

For all of you who were not at the Annual Conference, I hope you have heard by now that the 2019 Conference will be in my hometown of Nashville, TN!!!! Start making plans now to attend, because it will be an experience like no other!!

Thank you again for this humble experience and I will see all of you in Nashville in 2019!!!!



Debby Sawyer

# SEVENTH CIRCUIT— Whitney Gingrich



## News from the Central District of Illinois

(submitted by Whitney Gingrich):

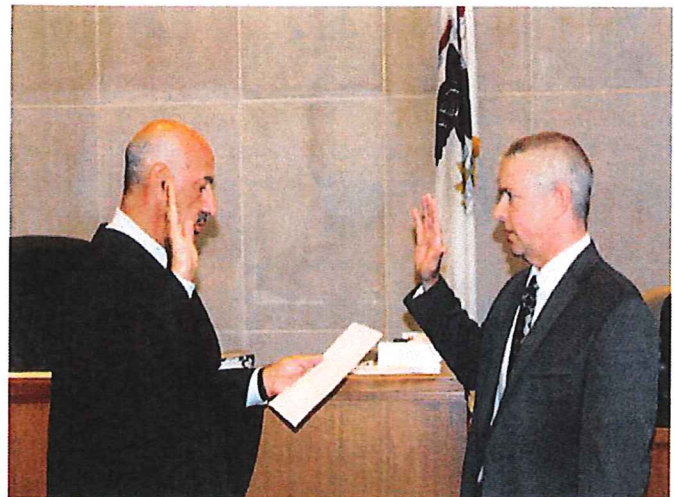
A group of current and retired Judicial Assistants gathered to celebrate the retirement of Debbie Hansen on June 27, 2018. Debbie had been Judicial Assistant to Senior Judge Michael Mihm since September of 2017. Debbie was replaced with a law clerk position and we welcome Melissa Schoenbein to the Central District of Illinois. I hope that she will join us as a new member of the FJAA for 2019.



The Fall of 2018 has brought other staffing changes to the Central District of Illinois. On August 31, 2018, Chief United States Probation and Pretrial Services Officer Doug Heuermann retired from his service to the Central District of Illinois. Chief Heuermann had served this district for 28 years of service with the last ten years as Chief. Michael Martens succeeds Doug Heuermann as the next Chief. Chief Judge James E. Shadid

delivered the oath of office to Chief U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer Martens on August 13, 2018. He began his career with the United States District Court in Rock Island, Illinois on July 6, 1998, and later became a Supervisory United States Probation Officer on March 3, 2008

The changes don't stop with the Probation and Pretrial Services office.



Additionally, the Central District of Illinois had a new Clerk of Court sworn in as of September 4, 2018. Shig Yasunaga comes to the position from his duties as Career Law Clerk for Senior District Judge Michael M. Mihm. Shig has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and Economics, a Masters in Business Administration and a JD from Southern Illinois University School of Law. He has been Judge Mihm's career clerk since 2011. He is well versed in the federal system and the procedures and practices of the Court.

**News from the Western District of Wisconsin**

*(submitted by Melissa Hardin):*

First, I would like to say that the Grand Rapids conference was Great! Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to pull it off!

**The news from WIWD !**

We are in the midst of getting new two law clerks up to speed. We also have three new semester externs for the fall, so we are getting them going on projects . In our court we have our externs actually drafting orders on projects the law clerk's work with them on, then the draft goes to the judge for edits and docketing.

We are also supposed to be getting an updated break room for all the chambers use sometime this fall, but that is dependent upon GSA for the work. Our court has shared HR services between chambers and the clerk's office, bankruptcy and probation.

Our head of HR is retiring the end of September. In a case of round robin, her assistant is moving up to be HR head; the leader of the pro se team in the clerk's office was hired to be the new HR assistant; a member of the pro se team moved up to be team leader; and we're hiring for the opening in the pro se team.

