

EIGHTH CIRCUIT— Judith Kirby

Greetings to all!

Back to the regular routine after attending the FJAA Educational Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. I always get so much out of the conferences – the opportunity to meet and re-meet colleagues from all over the country, hear about things happening in other courts, and hear what is new or will be coming in the days to come as we move through an ever-changing world. A special thank you to the organizing committee in Grand Rapids for all of your hard work.



There are lots of changes going on in the 8th Circuit. Here in Minnesota, we have had one Magistrate Judge reappointed and one Magistrate Judge retire. Leo Brisbois, our Magistrate Judge in Duluth, MN, was reappointed in July. Franklin Noel, our longest serving Magistrate Judge, retired at the end of August and Elizabeth Cowan Wright, his replacement, was sworn in on September 4th. We have had two new District Judges confirmed by the Senate. Eric Tostrud will be sworn in on September 14th and Nancy Brasel will hopefully take the oath in the very near future.

Theresa Anderson, Judge Noel's Courtroom Deputy, will work with Magistrate Judge Wright. Kristine Wegner, Courtroom Deputy for Senior District Judge Michael J. Davis, will become Courtroom Deputy for Judge Brasel, and Gerri Rishel, Judge Davis's current Judicial Assistant, will be taking on the Courtroom Deputy responsibilities as well. And Judge Tostrud will be accompanied by his long-time assistant when he comes on the bench, so hopefully we will have a new FJAA member next year.

In the Western District of Missouri, Magistrate Judge Sarah W. Hays retired September 1st and Lajuana M. Counts was sworn in as her replacement. And Tim Garrison was recently sworn in as the new United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri. In the Northern District of Iowa, Charles J. Williams was confirmed by the Senate to replace District Judge Linda Reade. And there are currently three open District Judge positions in the Circuit, one each in North Dakota, Nebraska, and the Eastern District of Arkansas. And, Judge Roger Wollman has taken Senior Status on the 8th Circuit bench and his replacement is awaiting confirmation.

Finally, this has been a year of real challenges for many of our members around the country as they have faced major environmental issues (storms, fires, flooding and the like). As we were leaving the conference, our colleagues from Hawaii weren't sure when they would get home because of a tropical storm. Our colleagues in the western states have faced wildfires all summer and as I write this, we have received the notice about the closing of the courthouses in Virginia, and North and South Carolina due to Hurricane Florence. And our friends in Puerto Rico have truly suffered after all the damage of last year's storms. I hope all of you affected by these events know that we are all thinking of you and if there is anything any of us can do to support you, please don't hesitate to contact us. That's why organizations such as this one exist!

Judge Brisbois re-appointed

By [Duluth News Tribune](#), July 20, 2018

The only federal judge chambered in Duluth was re-appointed Thursday to another to 8-year term on the United States District Court, District of Minnesota. Magistrate Judge Leo I. Brisbois, who grew up in Hibbing and is a member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, has held that position since August 2010. "We are thrilled to have Judge Brisbois with us for another eight years. His knowledge, work ethic and commitment to the community benefit not only our court, but the state of Minnesota, and we look forward to his continued leadership in our Duluth and Fergus Falls courthouses," Chief Judge John R. Tunheim said in a statement. Prior to his appointment, Brisbois was a partner at the law firm of Stich, Angell, Kreidler, Dodge and Unke, PA in Minneapolis and served in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the U.S. Army. Brisbois is a graduate of Hibbing High School and earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Hamline University.



Retirement: Judge Franklin L. Noel

U.S. Magistrate Judge Franklin L. Noel of the District of Minnesota will retire on August 31, 2018, after nearly 29 years on the federal bench.

Franklin Noel was born in 1951 and grew up in the suburbs of New York City. He received his bachelor's degree from State University of New York at Binghamton in 1974 and his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., in 1977. Following graduation, he worked with the law firm of Arnold & Porter in D.C. for two years. Determining that the best path to becoming a criminal defense attorney was to be a prosecutor, he sought a position as Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia. After four years in that office, he moved to Minneapolis in 1983 because of his wife's new job. That same year he was appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota. For six years AUSA Noel specialized in white collar crime.

In 1989, Noel was appointed as U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of Minnesota. Judge Noel served as chief magistrate judge from 1995 to 2002.

He revised local rules with the Federal Practice Committee in the District of Minnesota since the early 1990s and served for six years on the Committee on Criminal Law of the Judicial Conference of the United States. He also advocated for diversity in the hiring of federal law clerks.

Judge Noel taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Law School. He headed the Open Doors to Federal Courts program, where lawyers and judges volunteer to visit area high schools and engage students in realistic legal dilemmas. Judge Noel also served as court liaison to the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association's Pro Se Project to increase access to justice for civil pro se litigants in federal court.

Congratulations, Judge Noel! 🎉

Source: 8th Circuit Library Newsletter, August 2018, Vol. 2018, Issue No. 8

Retirement: Judge Sarah W. Hays



U.S. Magistrate Judge Sarah W. Hays of the Western District of Missouri is retiring September 1, 2018. She is the first woman appointed as a magistrate judge in the Western District and the first woman to serve as the district's chief magistrate judge.

Sarah Hays was born in 1953, the daughter of a judge in Salina, Kansas. She attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, graduating with her bachelor's degree in 1975 and her law degree in 1977. She was a member of the Law Review and Order of the Coif, and following graduation, she served as law clerk to Western District of Missouri's U.S. District Judge Russell G. Clark from 1977 to 1980. She then worked in private practice with the law firms of Gage & Tucker (now Lathrop Gage) as an associate from 1980 to 1986 and as a partner with Morrison & Hecker (now Stinson Leonard Street) from 1986 to 1992.

Judge Hays was appointed as full-time magistrate judge in Kansas City in 1992, entering duty on February 3. She served as chief magistrate judge from January 1, 2014, succeeding Judge Robert E. Larsen, until December 31, 2017.

Congratulations, Judge Hays! 🎉

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New Magistrate Judge for Western

District of Missouri: Lajuana M. Counts

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri has selected Lajuana M. Counts for the position of United States Magistrate Judge in Kansas City. She fills the vacancy left by Judge Sarah W. Hays, who retires on September 1.

Judge Counts was born in Jackson, Tennessee. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri at Columbia in 1982 and her law degree from University of Missouri at Kansas City in 1988.

She began her legal career as a law clerk for then Missouri Court of Appeals Judge, Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr. In 1989 she became an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, where she has served until this appointment. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, she served in the General Crimes Unit and in the Narcotics Unit. Most recently, she served as Chief of the Appellate Unit and has argued over 400 cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

In addition to her work for the U.S. Attorney's Office, she served as vice-president of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's board of governors and president of the University of Missouri at Kansas City Law Foundation. She has also served on the Missouri Supreme Court Disciplinary Hearing Panel and the Missouri Bar Gender and Justice Committee.

In 2013 she was named Public Service Practitioner by Missouri Lawyers Media Women's Justice Awards.

In 2016 the Missouri Bar Foundation honored her with a Spurgeon Smithson Award, which recognizes judges, lawyers, and teachers of law who have "rendered outstanding service toward the increase and diffusion of justice."

Welcome, Judge Counts! 🎉

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NINTH CIRCUIT—Suzanne Lofton



Aloha from Hawaii to all!

I would like to start off first in expressing our gratitude to Julie Lemm for being an amazing Ninth Circuit Representative and for her diligence and hard work for the past five years !



My name is Suzanne Lofton and am honored to be the FJAA Ninth Circuit Representative for 2018-2019. I have been in the legal field for 28 years and have truly enjoyed this exciting career path. I am the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Judge Derrick Kahala Watson. I joined the court family in 2013. Prior to joining the U.S. District Court of Hawaii, I worked at the United States Attorney's Office as Judge Watson's legal assistant since 2007. Before joining the federal sector, I worked as a legal secretary for 17 years at the law firm of Burke, McPheeters Bordner & Estes concentrating on medical malpractice defense. I was born and raised on the island of Oahu. My husband Randy and I are the proud parents of son Keenan who is a Freshman at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. I enjoy spending time with my family, am active in church, love outdoor activities such as camping and going to the beach. My passion and love is for hula and I have been dancing most of my life. I have attended just two FJAA conferences thus far -- San Francisco and Grand Rapids --and look forward to attending future conferences in the years to come.



TENTH CIRCUIT— Susan Goodwin

The JA's of the Tenth circuit had a two day training session in Denver August 1-2, 2018. Fourteen of us were able to attend and welcome Rachel Tutor, Judge Carson's J.A., to our group. We spent the first day being updated on changes to CM/ECF by Curt Thompson and Jason Lund, Clerk's office operations by Betsy Shumaker, Chris Wolpert and the Calendar Team, and Staff Counsel operations by Niki Heller and Taye Sanford. It was nice to put faces with names from the various offices that we work with on a daily basis, but some of us had not met. We adjourned to the Libations room and spent time brainstorming about what we had learned, Mike Kopatich even joined us and answered questions. We also caught up with each other's lives and celebrated Joann and Tami's birthdays.

The second day we heard from Jessica Kremheller and Brenda Robles about changes to the HRMIS leave tracking system; Stephen Massing regarding mobile devices and on line security; and from Niki Heller about our Code of Conduct, and reminded us that we need to be asking our clerks about conflicts with cases for each docket. Niki presented several case scenarios and had us decide the correct action. Sometimes we were right and sometimes not! It was a good session!



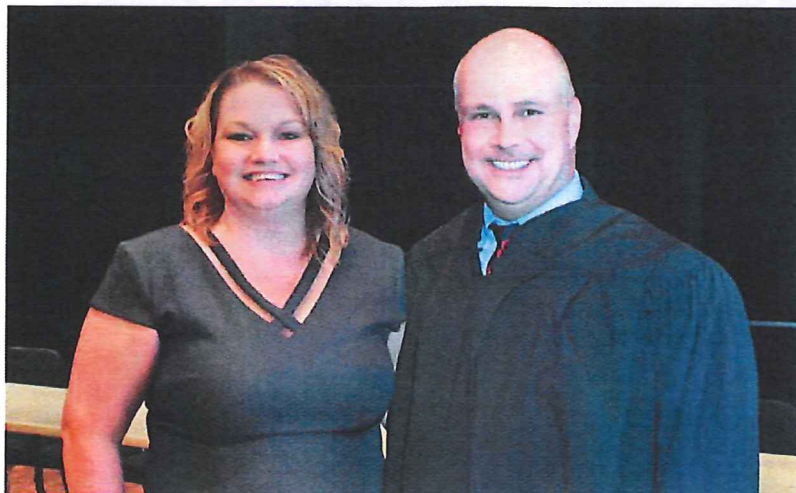
TENTH CIRCUIT— Susan Goodwin

Judge Joel M. Carson III was sworn in as Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit on September 7, 2018 in a heartfelt and spirited ceremony attended by colleagues, friends and family. The Honorable Bobby R. Baldock, Senior United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit administered the oath of office.

After receiving his Juris Doctorate from University of New Mexico School of Law, Judge Carson began his legal career in 1999 as law clerk for Judge Bobby R. Baldock of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. After completing his clerkship, he worked first as an associate and then as a partner for one of New Mexico's most established energy law firms. Judge Carson later served for several years as General Counsel for Mack Energy Corporation, one of New Mexico's largest employers and producers of oil and gas. In 2014, he started his own law firm, Carson Ryan LLC. Beginning in August 2015, he also became a part-time Federal Magistrate for the United States District Court in New Mexico. During this time, Judge Carson continued his private practice which focused on legal issues related to the energy industry.

Judge Carson resides in Roswell, New Mexico with his wife, Dr. Karen Carson and their two sons, J.C. and Chris. Judge Carson competes in National Cutting Horse Association competitions in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Texas. His passion for the western-style equestrian sport is matched only by his wife and two sons, who tend to fair far better in competitions than the Judge!

Judge Carson's Judicial Assistant, Rachel Tutor, is prepared for the challenges of the new position entails. She began working for Judge Carson in 2001 and has transitioned with him throughout his legal career. Rachel celebrated 23 years of marriage with her husband Jeff, a retired Sheriff's deputy. Together, they have five children.



ELEVENTH CIRCUIT—Gail Shafer

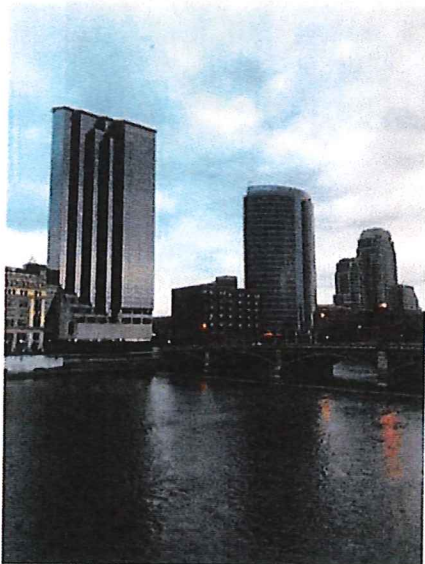
GREETINGS FROM THE 11TH CIRCUIT



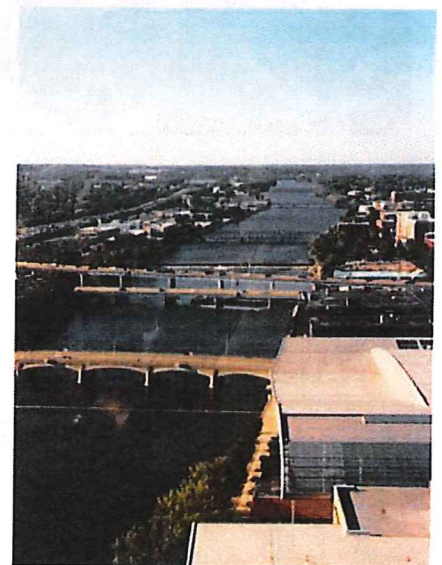
Hello everyone!

Fall is one of my favorite times of year! Really looking forward to cooler weather! I hope you're all doing well and for those who didn't get to attend our conference in Grand Rapids – you really missed a great one. Congratulations to those who worked so hard to make it all come together.

Here are a few pictures I'd like to share from the conference.



Happy
FALL
Y'all! 🍂



ELEVENTH CIRCUIT—Gail Shafer



That's all for now Hoping for good news around the circuit next time!

Early wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving!

