



## 1<sup>ST</sup> CIRCUIT

### **CHRISTIE PICHE**

Christie Piche is a Judicial Assistant to Chief Judge Jon D. Levy in the District of Maine. Christie joined the Federal Court in May 2014 when Judge Levy was nominated to be an Article III Judge. Christie started working with Judge Levy at the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in Portland in July 2005. Prior to that Christie worked with the Hon. Donald G. Alexander (now retired) at the Maine Supreme Court starting in 1998.

Christie has adult twins – a daughter and a son – and is a step-mother and step-grandmother to her husband's 3 adult daughters and 9 grandchildren.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> CIRCUIT

### **MICHELE CZARNECKI**

Michele joined the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit in December of 2019 and is the Judicial Assistant to the Hon. William J. Nardini. Michele's career started right out of college when she took her first job as a Paralegal and remained working in the private sector as a Paralegal for 32 years. She was a graduate of Merrimack College in North Andover Massachusetts where she earned her BA degree in Political Science & Sociology. After graduation from Merrimack Michele immediately enrolled into the University of Bridgeport located in Bridgeport, Connecticut to undertake achieving an additional Associates Degree in an ABA approved Paralegal Studies Program. In 2018 Michele decided there was a need for a change in her career direction and was hired by the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Haven Connecticut. There she supported Assistant United States Attorneys working in the areas of major crimes and cyber security. In 2019 she joined Judge Nardini in the 2nd Circuit. As a lifelong resident of Connecticut, born and raised, Michele is always happy to tell people that her hometown is not far from the infamous City of New Haven, Connecticut, where the best pizza exists (Frank Pepe Pizzeria, Sally's Apizza and Modern Apizza). Michele has two children and loves spending time with her family. She loves shopping, the beach and anything tropical, and outdoor adventures.

## 3<sup>RD</sup> CIRCUIT

### **IRIS N. LIRIANO**

Iris Liriano has been a Judicial Secretary to the Hon. Patty Shwartz since April 2003. Prior to joining the U.S. District Court, she worked at the United States Attorney's Office as a Legal Secretary for approximately 9 years. During her tenure there, Iris worked as a Legal Secretary for 2 years, as a Deputy Chief Secretary for less than a year and promoted to a Supervisory Legal Secretary for 6 years. Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Iris worked for the Drug Enforcement Administration for approximately 4 years as a clerk-typist and later promoted to a Group Secretary.

Iris and her husband, Cristian have two children, Noel and Brian. She enjoys reading, traveling, dancing and boating.

## **LENA D. TAPSCOTT**

Lena Tapscott is the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Richard M. Gergel, District Judge in Charleston Division, South Carolina. Lena began working with Judge Gergel when he came on the bench in August of 2010. Lena first came to work in the District Courts in July 2007 as a Case Manager (Intake) then as a Criminal Case Manager (Prisoner Docket) to the Honorable Magistrate Judge Robert S. Carr (Retired). Prior to that she worked as a Paralegal at Pro Bono Legal Services (Charleston, SC) and as a Paralegal at Wallace, Morris, & Barwick (Kinston, NC).

Lena received her B.S. in Criminal Justice, and Minors in Human Services Counseling and Political Science from Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA). She later completed the ABA approved Intensive Paralegal Training Program at Meredith College (Raleigh, NC) and received a Paralegal Certificate for the same.

Lena is married to Retired SMSgt Christopher S. Tapscott whom in 2018 retired from 26 years of honorable service in the US Air Force. They have one son, two daughters, one son-in-law, two granddaughters, and one grandson. Lena enjoys Zumba, traveling, gardening, spending time outdoors, spoiling the grands, and supporting her 10-year-old granddaughter, Kyleigh, who plays competitive fast-pitch travel softball---Lena never misses a tournament.

## **5<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT**

### **Pamela Angelette**

Pamela Angelette is Judicial Assistant to District Judge Jay C. Zainey for the Eastern District of Louisiana. She came to the Courts with Judge Zainey from his law office on February 19, 2022. She has been an active member of the FJAA for the past 20 years. She has served on the FJAA Conference Committee and is currently on the Audit Committee. Pamela served on the FJAA Board as Treasurer. She also serves as a board member on the Judicial and Justice Federal Credit Union.

## **6<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT**

### **AMY DUENES TORRES**

Amy Dueñes Torres is Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Andre B. Mathis and formerly to Honorable Bernice B. Donald both on the United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit. Prior to joining the Court of Appeals in August 2016, Amy worked in Bankruptcy at the law firms of Robert S. Coleman, PA; Wilson & Associates, PLLC; and Rainwater, Holt & Sexton, PA, all in Little Rock, AR. Amy received her B.S. in Sociology from Hendrix College in 2007 and her Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law in 2010, where she served as a representative to the Student Bar Association.

Originally from Kennett, MO, Amy moved to Memphis, TN in 2016 to work for Judge Donald.

Amy is married to her husband, Jose, of 2.5 years and they have a two-year old son, Jose – lovingly known as Baby Jose.

## **7<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT**

### **CATHY GRIER**

Cathy is Judicial Assistant to U.S. District Judge James E. Shadid in the Central District of Illinois, Peoria Division. Cathy joined the Judiciary in 2001 as JA to U.S. District Judge Michael M. Mihm. She worked for Judge Mihm until 2011 when he took senior status. Cathy began working as a legal secretary in 1980, working full-time until 1989 when she took a few years off to raise her daughter, returning to work in the legal field when she started kindergarten. Cathy spends her time

with her partner Doug and between them they have two sons, Jarrod and Jacob, one daughter, Roxanne, and 5 grandchildren. In her spare time she enjoys quilting, crocheting and reading.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT

### **DONNA O'KROY**

Donna O'Kroy has been a Judicial Assistant to Judge David S. Doty for the United States District Court of Minnesota for 6 years. She began her career as a Judicial Assistant with Judge Norman C. Roettger for the United States District Court of the Southern District of Florida where she worked for him until his death in 2003. After Judge Roettger's passing she worked with Judge Ursula Ungaro-Benages for the Southern District of Florida until 2004.

Donna and her husband moved to Wisconsin in 2012 from Florida. They both have daughters. One lives in Virginia and the other daughter lives in Washington. They have two grandsons; Talon is 16 and Logan is 19 who live in Virginia. Donna and Joe love spending time with their family.

Donna loves yoga, running, gardening, and beekeeping.

## 9<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT

### **SUZANNE L. LOFTON**

Suzanne Lofton is the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Judge Derrick Kahala Watson. Suzanne joined the court family in May 2013. Prior to joining the U.S. District Court of Hawaii, she worked at the United States Attorney's Office as Judge Watson's legal assistant since 2007. Before joining the federal sector, Suzanne was a legal secretary for 17 years at the law firm of Burke, McPheeters Bordner & Estes concentrating on medical malpractice defense. Suzanne and husband Randy are the proud parents of son Keenan who is a Freshman attending the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. Suzanne enjoys spending time with her family, loves the beach, is active in her church, and has been dancing the hula since age 5.

## 10<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT

### **ASHLEY KITTRELL**

Ashley Kittrell has been the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable William P. Johnson, Chief United States District Judge in Albuquerque, New Mexico since November 2020. Prior to her position with Judge Johnson, she was a Case Administrator for the Albuquerque Magistrate Judge Case Administration Team. Previous to federal court, Ashley provided support to Judge Cosgrove-Aguilar as a Judicial Specialist at the State of New Mexico's Metropolitan Court while completing her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice at Eastern New Mexico University. Ashley has a varied background that includes serving with the Military Police for the Army National Guard, aiding veterans in their educational pursuits through ENMU's Veterans Upward Bound Program, as well as a variety of other administrative and training support positions.

Ashley is a native of New Mexico, although she has lived throughout the southwestern states. She enjoys traveling, hiking, snowboarding, and shopping!

## 11<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT

### **SANDRA DE VARONA**

I am a Judicial Assistant to Chief District Judge J. Randal Hall in the Southern District of Georgia. I joined the court family in May, 2008, when Judge Hall & I came over from private practice, and have worked for him a total of sixteen years. I have been a member of FJAA since beginning work with the court and have attended all of the conferences since 2008.

I was born and raised in Augusta, Georgia. My husband, Bob, is retired Air Force, so traveling and moving around has always been something I enjoyed. We returned to Augusta when he retired in 1989. We have 3 grown children and 2 granddaughters. I enjoy baseball (even when the Atlanta Braves are at the bottom), college basketball (Duke), reading and crafts. But most of all I love being "Mimi" to Reese and Rylee.

## FEDERAL & DC CIRCUIT

### **ELIZABETH DOUGLAS**

Elizabeth Douglas is a Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Armando O. Bonilla. Elizabeth began her service to the Federal Judiciary in 2018 as a Case Administrator for the District and Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Columbia. In May 2020, she accepted a position as an Electronic Court Records Operator (ECRO) with the United States Court of Federal Claims.

Before her service to the Court, Elizabeth served as a Criminal Analyst for the State of Washington's Office of the Insurance Commissioner's Criminal Investigations Unit, Elizabeth has an undergraduate degree from the University of Washington in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Go Huskies!) and a Master's degree from Seattle University in Criminal Justice (MACJ).

Elizabeth is a Pacific Northwesterner and Air Force brat and wife who currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia with her husband and two Pembroke Corgis. Elizabeth enjoys good coffee and spending time with her husband either running or soaking up the sun on a sandy beach. Her current goal is to either earn a Master's degree in Paralegal Studies or transition her MACJ into a MACJ/JD.