



FJAA Legislative Committee

July 2023 Newsletter Article

Members: Michelle Howard (MIED), Chair

Marjorie Renaud (MIED)

Golda Lawrence (CIT)



When you think of the term “legislative”, what is the first thing that comes to mind? Laws? Rules? As federal judicial assistants, one of our main objectives is to ensure that court rules, federal laws and various policies are followed by attorneys, litigants, court personnel, our judges and many others. The FJAA’s Legislative Committee’s goal and mission is to provide information as rules, laws and policies are often subject to change and to support the organization members in their respective missions nationally.

As we get acclimated with the needs of the organization, we encourage our fellow FJAA members to reach out to legislative committee chair, Michelle Howard, with topic ideas, questions, etc. that you would like us to research and provide information to the members. Please send email your suggestions and requests: **michelle_howard@mied.uscourts.gov** and we will work to include information in the next newsletter and/or the FJAA website. In the meantime, please check out recent topics of interest involving changes to laws and policies that affect the Judiciary.

CARES ACT AUTHORITIES TERMINATED MAY 10, 2023

The President signed into law a Joint Resolution, H.J. Res.7, which provided that “the national emergency declared by the finding of the President on March 13, 2020, in Proclamation 9994... is hereby terminated.” Thus, the Courts no longer have the authority to use **video and teleconferencing technologies** in certain criminal proceedings under § 15002 (b) of the CARES Act.

[Ethics and Financial Disclosures](#)

The Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act or “CETA” was enacted on May 13, 2022, which requires that all financial disclosure reports to be released in a public online database. CETA amends the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to add judicial officers, including bankruptcy judges and magistrate judges, to the list of individuals in Congress and the executive branch already required to file periodic transaction reports. For more information, please go to JNET >> Policy & Guidance >> Ethics & Financial Disclosure Guidance >> Courthouse Ethics & Transparency Act FAQ’s.

[Chambers Staff Training Fund](#)

Did you know that each chamber is allocated \$400 per each chambers staff member for educational and training purposes? Subject to the approval of the Chief Judge in your district, you can use these funds to also attend the FJAA Annual Educational Conference! For more information, please refer to the Guide to Judiciary Policy under Volume 12: Human Resources >> Chapter 11: Learning and Development or check with your Chief and/or Financial Department.

[ADDITIONAL/RELIABLE SOURCES FOR LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION](#)

AO
Federal Judicial Center
JNET
Local Court Rules
Judiciary Guide (on JNET)
Federal Rules of Procedure
Fellow Judicial Assistants
