



1st Circuit

CHRISTIE PICHE

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c/o Chief Judge Lance E. Walker

U.S. District Court, 156 Federal Street, Portland, ME 04101

Biography

Christie is the Judicial Assistant to Chief District Judge Lance E. Walker in Portland, Maine. Prior to working with CJ Walker, Christie worked for Chief Judge Jon D. Levy who retired in May 2024. Judge Levy and Christie both started in the federal court in May 2014. Christie became the FJAA Circuit Representative for the First Circuit in 2014. Christie also worked with Justice Levy as his JA in the Maine Supreme Judicial Court for nine (9) years and the JA to Justice Donald G. Alexander for seven (7) years.

Christie is an identical twin and has fraternal adult twins - a boy and a girl. Christie married her husband Jean in 2019 and together they are traveling and enjoying life as much as they can.



2ND CIRCUIT

MICHELE CZARNECKI

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c/o Hon. William J. Nardini

United States Court of Appeals, 157 Church Street, New Haven, CT 06510

Biography

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. After college, Michele took her first job as a Paralegal, working in the private sector for 32 years. She earned her BA in Political Science & Sociology from Merrimack College and an Associates in an ABA Paralegal Studies Program at the University of Bridgeport. In 2018 Michele 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.

As a lifelong resident of Connecticut, 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.



3rd Circuit

IRIS LIRIANO

Email: iris_liriano@ca3.uscourts.gov

Voice: 973-645-6596

c/o Hon, Patty Shwartz

Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse

50 Walnut Street Room 477

Newark, NJ 07102

Biography

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.



4th Circuit

LENA TAPSCOTT

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c/o Hon. Richard Mark Gergel

J. Waties Waring Judicial Center

83 Meeting Street

Charleston, SC 29401

Biography

Lena has been Judicial Assistant to the U.S. District Judge Richard M. Gergel since he came on the bench in August of 2010. Lena began her career with the District Courts in July 2007 as a Case Manager and then as a Criminal Case Manager to the U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert S. Carr (Retired). Prior to that she worked as a paralegal. Lena received her B.S. in Criminal Justice, and Minors in Human Services Counseling and Political Science from Old Dominion University. She later completed the ABA approved Intensive Paralegal Training Program at Meredith College and received a Paralegal Certificate for the same.

Lena is married to Retired SMSgt Christopher S. Tapscott. They have one son, two daughters, two sons-in-love, four granddaughters, and one grandson. Lena enjoys Zumba, traveling, gardening, spending time outdoors, and spoiling the grands.



5th Circuit

MISSY GUILLOT

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Voice: 504-589-7540

c/o Hon. Darrel Papillion

Hale Boggs Federal Building

U.S. Courthouse 500 Poydras Street Room C-555 New Orleans, LA 70130

Biography

Missy is the Judicial Assistant to District Judge Darrel James Papillion for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Missy was hired as Judge Papillion's legal assistant at his firm in 2015 and came to the Courts with Judge Papillion in 2023. After graduating, she immediately went to work for her father at his private practice, she passed the Louisiana State Notary Exam in 1993, and has worked in the legal field for the past 30 years.

She and her husband, Tim, have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. Missy is enjoying their new phase of life as empty nesters!



6th Circuit

REBECCA SANTORO

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c/o Reports to Christine M. Bono

Potter Stewart U.S. Courthouse

100 East Fifth Street Room 103 Cincinnati, OH 45202

Biography

Rebecca Santoro has been a Judicial Assistant/Courtroom Deputy to the Honorable Timothy S. Black since January 2019. Rebecca began her federal career with the Cincinnati U.S. Probation Office, in the Southern District of Ohio as a probation clerk in October 2001. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati.

Rebecca resides in Harrison, Ohio. She has a son, Victor (age 16), who is a junior at William Henry Harrison High School. She enjoys traveling, reading, kayaking, biking, hiking, listening to music and watching her son play football.



7th Circuit

Whitney Gingrich

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Illinois Central District Court Federal Building
100 N.E. Monroe St. Room 211
Peoria, IL 61602

Biography

Whitney L. Gingrich is Paralegal to U.S. District Judge Jonathan E. Hawley in the Central District of Illinois, Peoria Division. Whitney joined the Judiciary in 1997 as a Docket Clerk in the U.S. District Clerk's Office. She became a JA to U.S. Magistrate Judge John A. Gorman in 2003 and worked with him until his retirement in 2014. Magistrate Judge Gorman was replaced by Magistrate Judge Jonathan E. Hawley and Whitney became his Paralegal when he came on the bench. Magistrate Judge Hawley became U.S. District Judge in November 2024 and Whitney has moved with him to the District Judge Chambers.

Whitney spends her time with her husband Chad remodeling, gardening, and traveling. They have 4 children from ages 28 to 20 and two of the boys are married. In her spare time she enjoys watercolor, quilting, gardening, and reading.



8th Circuit

KAREN MOLDENHAUER

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Voice: 612-664-5080

c/o Hon. John R. Tunheim

U.S. Courthouse 300 South Fourth Street Room 15

Minneapolis, MN 55415

Biography

Karen Moldenhauer has been a Judicial Assistant to the Honorable John R. Tunheim for over 5 years. She started working for Judge Tunheim while he was Chief Judge for the District of Minnesota in January of 2020, just 2 months shy of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Prior to joining the U.S. District Court of Minnesota, she worked as an Executive Assistant at the University of Minnesota and as both an Office Manager and Executive Assistant in the software engineering industry for 10 years.

Karen and her husband Josh live in Shoreview, Minnesota with their 8-year-old son, Oliver, and 3 cats – Greyson, Paws, and Lenny. Karen loves history, art, reading, being in nature, animals, and shopping.



9th Circuit

SUZANNE LOFTON

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c/o Hon. Derrick Watson

U.S. District Court

Prince Kuho Federal Building

300 Ala Moana Blvd Room C-461 Honolulu, HI 96850-0001

Biography

Suzanne Lofton is the Judicial Assistant to Chief U.S. District Court Judge Derrick Kahala Watson for the District Court of Hawaii. Suzanne has worked in the field of law for a total of 35 years. 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 from 2007-2013. Before joining the federal sector, Suzanne was a legal secretary for 18 years at the law firm of Burke, McPheeters Bordner & Estes concentrating on medical malpractice defense. She has been working with Judge Watson now for almost 18 years.

Suzanne and husband Randy are the proud parents of son Keenan. Suzanne enjoys spending time with her family, loves the beach, loves Notre Dame football, is active in her church, and has been dancing the hula since age 5. She is a master of hula even competing in the Merrie Monarch hula festival competition held on the island of Hilo, Hawaii for a span of twenty years. Suzanne has been the FJAA 9th Circuit Representative since 2017.



Federal D.C.- Circuit

Court of Federal Claims & Court of International Trade

ISABEL ARMSTRONG

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c/o Hon. Joseph L. Toth

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

625 Indiana Avenue NW Suite 900

Washington, D.C. 20004

Biography

Isabel (Izzy) Armstrong is the confidential assistant to the Honorable Joseph L. Toth at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims since his appointment in 2017. She's been with the Court since 2012, serving as an Assistant Secretary and Protocol Officer to former Chief Judges Bruce E. Kasold, Lawrence B. Hagel, and Robert N. Davis. Izzy is a graduate from James Madison University and received her Paralegal Certificate from George Mason University in April 2024.

She currently resides in Washington, D.C. with her husband, 3-year-old son, 5-month-old daughter, and 2 dogs and enjoys trying new spots around the city with her family.