

INBRIEF

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OFFICERS 2012-2013

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Welcome to spring! I hope the winter storms have come and gone in your neck of the woods!

As the FJAA president, I am also an *ex officio* member of the Judges' Secretaries Advisory Group (JSAG). The yearly JSAG meeting was held April 5-6, 2013, in Washington, D.C. One of the main issues we have been talking about in the monthly JSAG and FJAA conference calls was the proposed three-year moratorium on training funding, which would have severely impacted the FJAA's annual conferences. In a meeting on March 12, 2013, the Committee on Judicial Resources "declined to approve a three-year moratorium on decentralized and centralized funding of travel by court employees to attend learning and development activities provided by private associations." This is great news for the FJAA and means the planning for the 2014 conference in Minneapolis can begin! For more details, please see Stephanie Lawley's update. Please mark your calendars for the 2014 Annual Conference and be sure to reserve your hotel rooms as soon as the information is posted on the FJAA website because they tend to fill up quickly. Please remember to use the FJAA room block and no other rates, as we are required to have a specific number of rooms.

I just completed the Judicial Administration program through Michigan State University. More information is included in the 10th Circuit section about the program, but I want to remind all of the FJAA members to take advantage of the scholarship the FJAA offers. And even if you do not win the scholarship, the Judicial Administration program is very reasonably priced. I especially liked that I was learning about things directly related to my job, or to other departments that affect our chambers daily.

In the next couple of months the Nominations and Elections Committee will begin seeking nominations for the annual FJAA elections. To those of you who have already expressed an interest in becoming involved, please send in a quick email to get on the ballot! Please visit www.fjaa.net for a listing of all positions and standing committees.

Tracy

P. S. Since this letter was written, my judge has elected to have two law clerks so my position has been eliminated. Therefore, I must step down as President. Stephanie Lawley will succeed to the office of President for my unexpired term and the office of President-elect shall remain vacant until the following election. Please consider stepping up to help out our fantastic organization. Election information is also found later in this newsletter.



Tracy Castle-Diaz,
President

CIRCUIT NEWS



First Circuit
Joan Ausman

As I sit here writing this on March 18th, it's hard to believe that they are predicting yet another snow storm for up to 14" tomorrow. It has indeed been a long, hard winter up here in the New England states, but there is hope! The daffodils are beginning to sprout and the days are getting a little longer with a bit more light at each end of the day. Hopefully we will be blessed with an equally long, warm spring/summer season ahead!

Errata for January Newsletter - District of Massachusetts

In the January newsletter, I incorrectly reported that Diane Gianotti, former JA to Judge Richard Stearns, was replacing Dale Berthiaume who recently retired from her position as JA to Judge Joseph Joseph Tauro. The correct information is that Diane began her new position as JA to Judge Edward Harrington on December 17th, replacing Joanne Cull, who recently moved to the Circuit Executive's Office. My apologies for getting the names mixed up.

Replacing Dale Berthiaume is Yvonne Franklin-Jones, the former JA to Judge David Nelson, Judge Mazzone, Magistrate Judge Sorokin, and most recently Yvonne worked for Probation and A.D.R. with Judge Niedermeier. Congratulations to Yvonne and best wishes in your new position with Judge Tauro.

District of Puerto Rico

We send a warm welcome to Rosa A. Hilera-Segura as Judicial Assistant to Senior District Judge Juan M. Perez-Gimenez in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Memberships

To date I have received a handful of membership renewals. To those who sent them in already, thank you! If you have not yet submitted your form/check, please feel free to join or renew at any time. Your support of the FJAA is vital to helping the association continue to support us with educational opportunities and represent us in Washington. And don't forget the free one-year membership available for all newly hired Judicial Assistants - all we need is your membership application to get you registered!



The \$100 winner of the Early Bird Registration is Sandra McCullar, Judicial Assistant to Magistrate Judge Charles R. Pyle, of the 9th Circuit in Tucson!

Congratulations, Sandra!



Greetings from the Second Circuit!

Western District of New York:

On March 22, 2013, Frank Paul Geraci, Jr., was inducted as a U.S. District Judge for the Western District of New York at the U.S. Courthouse in Rochester, NY. At the time of his appointment, Judge Geraci was a Judge for the Monroe County Court and an acting justice for the Monroe County Supreme Court in New York. We send our congratulations to Judge Geraci and a warm welcome to his Judicial Assistant, Susan Travis.



Second Circuit
Janet Hansen

Southern District and Eastern District of New York:

On March 4, 2013, two federal prosecutors were confirmed by the U.S. Senate for District Court judgeships. Pamela Ki Mai Chen was confirmed for an Eastern District of New York judgeship, and Katherine Polk Failla was confirmed for a Southern District of New York judgeship.

Judge Chen was the chief of the civil rights section in the Criminal Division of the Eastern District U.S. Attorney's Office. Judge Chen filled the vacancy created when Judge Raymond Dearie took senior status in April, 2011.

Judge Failla was the chief of the Criminal Appeals unit in the Southern District U.S. Attorney's Office for the past four years and was the unit's deputy chief for four years prior to that. Judge Failla filled the vacancy created when Judge Denise Cote took senior status in December 2011.

We send our congratulations to both Judge Chen and Judge Failla! May you both have long, fulfilling careers on the bench!

District of Connecticut:

The District of Connecticut suffered another personal loss on February 16, 2013, with the untimely death of Judicial Assistant, Sue Hamilton. Sue began her career with the District of Connecticut as Administrative Assistant to the Clerk in April 2008. In November 2010, the late Judge Mark R. Kravitz selected Sue to become his Judicial Assistant (Judge Kravitz passed away last year). Sue was caring and kind, and she brought joy to the office every day. She will surely be missed. We send our condolences to Sue's family.

Court of Appeals:

On March 6, the Court of Appeals was honored to have U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor pay a visit to our newly renovated Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse at Foley Square, New York, NY. Justice Sotomayor kindly offered to sign copies of her new memoir, *My Beloved World*, to all who brought their copy to the Courthouse. For hours, she graciously visited and signed books. Everyone was delighted to meet her, and she left a lasting impression on all! Many thanks to her Judicial Assistant for coordinating the event. (More info on her book later in the newsletter.)

We would like to wish everyone, at long last, a very Happy spring!!!!

Janet F. Hansen

(View from 28th floor of Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse,
courtesy of Ann Pisacano, J.A. to Judge Robert D. Sack)





THIRD Circuit
Iris Liriano

Greetings from your Third Circuit Representative!

Spring has arrived and what a wonderful feeling to know what lies ahead. While there's a chill in the air, the sunshine reminds us that soon we will be packing away our winter gear. I'm looking forward to the beautiful weather to enjoy the great outdoors. There's something magical about this season that makes everything seem and feel brighter. As spring changes to summer and we book our family vacations, I hope that you all explore and venture out to a new place so that we may share in your experiences.

On January 23, 2012, Magistrate Judge Michael A. Shipp was nominated to serve on the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. Judge Shipp has been a magistrate judge sitting in Newark since 2007. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Shipp worked at the state attorney general's office and previously as an associate at the Newark law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.

Our most recent member of the Court, Magistrate Judge Steven C. Mannion, was sworn in on March 15, 2013. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Mannion was a partner at the DeCottis, Fitzpatrick and Cole law firm since 2000.

Congratulations to both Judge Shipp and Judge Mannion!

Iris

And now a few words from our former Third Circuit Representative!

Hi Everyone,

I am pleased to advise that my grandson, Ian, has been accepted into the Navy Jet Training Program, fulfilling his lifelong dream. He will report to the Naval Officers Training School in Rhode Island soon after the holidays and after three months will transfer to Florida for jet training. Ian joins his cousin, Adam, in the military. Adam is in the Army Military Police stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y. I am very proud of my grandsons, but still a bit apprehensive.

What would a letter from me be without some trivia? What do you know about FROGS? Did you know that they breathe and drink through their skin? That frogs eat with their eyes closed? (the eyes help the frog to swallow by lowering into its head and pushing the food down its throat); that frogs can jump 20 times their own length? (like a human leaping over 4 school buses); that frogs recycle? (frogs shed their skin about once a week then eat their skin to reuse the nutrients therein); that it was a tadpole before being a frog? (you already knew that!!). LOL!



Roseann Lambiase





Fourth Circuit
Dianne Hillman

South Carolina

I am thrilled to say that I will be continuing with my position as JA to Chief U.S. District Judge Terry L. Wooten. After working on a temporary basis for three months, I was told that he has decided to hire me as his JA upon seeing the administrative load that a chief judge experiences. He will continue to employ three law clerks for a four-member chambers staff.

Our district's U.S. Bankruptcy Court now has a new chief judge. U.S. Bankruptcy Judge David R. Duncan was elevated on March 1, succeeding U.S. Bankruptcy Judge John E. Waites. Jacque Phillips works as his JA.

On February 13, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. appointed Chief Judge William B. Traxler for the Fourth Circuit as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. In making the appointment, Chief Justice Roberts said: "Judge Traxler assumes this important administrative role at a time when the federal judiciary faces significant financial challenges. I know the Executive Committee and the Judicial Conference will benefit from Bill Traxler's skilled leadership, commitment to cost containment and prudent management. Judge Traxler has been a member of the Committee since 2010 and succeeds Judge David B. Sentelle (DC Circuit), who assumed senior status.

Mary Lee Mowry serves as Circuit Judge Traxler's judicial assistant in Greenville, South Carolina.

Since its inception in November of 2010, South Carolina's first federal drug court, known as the BRIDGE Program, has been flourishing. Eight individuals have graduated from the Program, and we currently are at capacity with fifteen participants. In fact, we have a number of individuals on a waiting list.

February 26, 2013 was a big day for the BRIDGE Program. In conjunction with our first graduation of the year, the Federal Bar Association sponsored a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminar at the courthouse in Charleston, South Carolina. The CLE, "A View of the BRIDGE: How the U.S. District Court Is Addressing Substance Abuse in the Criminal Justice System," was a huge success – approximately 80 attorneys from around the state registered for the event. Magistrate Judge Hendricks, who oversees the BRIDGE Program along with Assistant United States Attorney Nathan Williams, explained the Program's eligibility and operation. Dr. Joshua P. Smith, Assistant Professor at the Center for Drug



Judge William B. Traxler

and Alcohol Programs at the Medical University of South Carolina's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, spoke about substance abuse and mental health issues for attorneys. The CLE seminar also provided attorneys with the opportunity to observe the drug court in operation, and the day selected for the seminar was a special one, as it was also a graduation day for one participant. District Judges David C. Norton, Richard M. Gergel, Senior District Judges Sol Blatt and P. Michael Duffy, and Magistrate Judge Bruce Howe Hendricks all participated and spoke at the graduation, and United States Attorney Bill Nettles delivered the keynote address.

In addition to addressing addiction, the BRIDGE Program aims to help participants succeed in all walks of life. To help BRIDGE participants reach their maximum potential, the Federal Bar Association recently kicked off its sponsorship of a mentoring program. Volunteers will serve as mentors to the BRIDGE participants, helping participants hone skills that will help them obtain a job and earn their GED. The BRIDGE Team also encourages participants to make healthy nutritional choices and to exercise, which can play an integral role in recovering from a drug addiction. In fact, many members of the BRIDGE Team, and several of the Program's participants, plan to participate in the Cooper River Bridge Run on April 6, 2013.

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The BRIDGE Program offers many benefits to the participants and to the community as a whole. The Program helps participants maintain a drug-free lifestyle and, as a result, reduces recidivism; the public also benefits because incarceration costs decrease. For more information, please visit <http://www.scp.uscourts.gov/DrugCourt/default.aspx>.



U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles speaking with Judge Duffy and Judge Blatt looking on.

Submitted by
Allison Rogers

Maryland

Our JSAG Representative for the Fourth Circuit, Donna Cowan, is now working for Magistrate Judge Beth P. Gesner. Norma Taylor retired on January 31 with more than 30 years of government service and Donna replaced her. Bonnie Jacobs has filled Donna's previous position as JA to Magistrate Judge Susan K. Gauvey.



The Fifth Circuit welcomes new member, Carrie King of the District Court, Eastern District of Texas. Carrie joined the court in March of 2012 as a Judicial Assistant to Chief District Judge Leonard Davis.

We are also very thankful for the members who have renewed their membership. As our current members know, the FJAA is a wonderful organization to be involved in - the networking is invaluable, the scholarship program can help you continue your educational development, and the conferences are a wealth of information. If you are aware of any new Judicial Assistants in your court, please let me know and I will add them to my list. You can find a membership application on the FJAA website.

* * * * *

Senior District Judge Frank J. Polozola passed away on February 24, 2013, after a long illness.

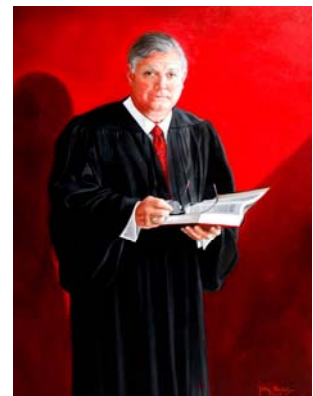
Judge Polozola was sworn in as a United States District Judge on May 29, 1980. He served as Chief Judge of the Middle District of Louisiana from September 1, 1998 to August 31, 2005, and became a Senior Judge on January 15, 2007. Prior to his Presidential appointment, Judge Polozola served as part-time Magistrate Judge from April of 1972 until he was appointed the first full-time Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana in October of 1973. He began his legal career serving as a law clerk to United States District Judge E. Gordon West of Baton Rouge. Following his work with Judge West, he entered private practice and subsequently became a partner in the law firm of Seale, Smith and Phelps in Baton Rouge.

As an undergraduate, Judge Polozola attended Louisiana State University on an athletic scholarship where he was a two-year letterman and was a member of the 1961 Southeastern Conference Champion baseball team. From 1962-65, Judge Polozola attended LSU Law School, where he received his J.D. in 1965. In 1987, he was inducted into the LSU Law School Hall of Fame.

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Fifth Circuit
Hope Taormina



Judge Polozola

As an undergraduate, Judge Polozola attended Louisiana State University on an athletic scholarship where he was a two-year letterman and was a member of the 1961 Southeastern Conference Champion baseball team. From 1962-65, Judge Polozola attended LSU Law School, where he received his J.D. in 1965. In 1987, he was inducted into the LSU Law School Hall of Fame.

He was instrumental in establishing the Louisiana National Guard Youth Challenge Program and Job Challenge Program for at-risk youths at the Gillis W. Long Center in Carville, Louisiana, and supported these two programs and the Job Corps Program which is also at the Gillis W. Long Center throughout his career.

Some of his achievement awards include: 1994 inductee into the LSU Alumni Hall of Distinction; Catholic High School Hall of Fame; Pelican Award by the Louisiana National Guard Youth Challenge Program; 1993 LSU Baseball Alumni of the Year; 2006 President's Award from the Baton Rouge Bar Association; 2006 LSU Athletic Department Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award; Southeastern Conference 75th Anniversary Person of Character Award; 2008 inductee into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame; Louisiana Bar Foundation 2009 Distinguished Jurist; and 2011 National Guard Youth Challenge Champion Award.

Article submitted by Liz Daigle

Farewell to a Great Friend and Member of FJAA

Liz Daigle began her friendship and career with Judge Polozola as his legal secretary in 1970. In 1973, he was appointed as the first full time U. S. Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana, where Liz continued to work for him until 1979 when her husband's job transfer moved their family to south Florida. The Daigles returned to their home town in 1983, and Liz was re-hired by a newly appointed Magistrate Judge who was ultimately replaced by U. S. Magistrate Judge Stephen C. Riedlinger in 1986. Liz enjoyed a long tenure as Magistrate Judge Riedlinger's judicial assistant for almost 20 years. In February of 2005, Jackie Gaudin retired as Judge Polozola's judicial assistant, and Liz was asked to return as Judge Polozola's judicial assistant where she remained until his death.

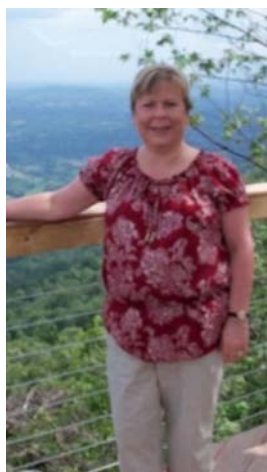


Liz joined the FMJSA in 1995 and has attended 17 FMJSA/FJSA/FJAA conferences over the years. She served as FMJSA President in 2000-2001, was a member of the FJSA/FMJSA Merger Committee in 2001-2002, and served as FJSA President in 2003-2004.

Liz will retire in September with 35 years of service with the court. She is grateful for all of the many memories and friendships developed over the years with so many FJAA members. As a special side note, Liz and her husband are expecting their first grandchild (a girl!) in July.

SIXTH Circuit

Kelly Kopf



Spring has finally sprung but our friends in Denver wouldn't know it! There's always that last blast of winter once spring begins, but that was a bit much. There's not a lot of news to report, so I'm turning the column over to Susan Pinkowski, the editor. I'll catch up with you in the July issue.

Kelly

Hey, folks! Good news - someone wants to help with the newsletter so she and I brainstormed about what her contribution could be and agreed that she (Neva Kanelos, Judge Manion's JA in Chicago) would focus on education so that every issue would have something that we could learn about. She's going to cover bluebooking for the July issue. The more we learn, the more valuable we are to chambers! If there is something that you would like her to report on, please send her an email directly.

Susan



Seventh Circuit

Melissa Hardin



Please see Editor's Column for info on the above pictures.

Greetings from the Seventh Circuit.

Everyone in our circuit is sick of winter hanging on and more than ready for spring! It certainly doesn't help having temperatures in the 30's to 40's when the weatherman tells us every day that "last year at this time, we were in the 80's."

I haven't heard of any court in our circuit implementing furloughs as a response to sequestration, although several other departments (FDOs, U.S. Marshals, and U.S. Attorney's Office) in my district have either already implemented them or will in April.

Central District of Illinois:

The court hosted a reception for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on April 10th as she was in the area to speak at a convocation at Eureka College on April 9th. Magistrate Judge John A. Gorman announced his retirement planned for February 29, 2014. Judge Gorman's career law clerk Jeanne Ballor plans her retirement at the same time. Judicial Assistant Whitney Willett has been with Judge Gorman for nine years and plans to continue with the court. District Judge Mike McCusky announced he will take senior status beginning June 30, 2013; his JA is Michele Babb.

Northern District of Illinois:

The Chicago division had the induction ceremony for new District Judge Thomas M. Durkin on March 15th. Unfortunately, Judge Durkin continues the tradition in that court of not taking a secretary. In other news, the day care center located on the second floor of the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse was formally named "The Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow Day Care Center" on March 8th. The day care center opened in 1989 and has benefited many children and grandchildren of the federal court family.

Western District of Wisconsin:

The court just updated the phone system to the new national program. So far it's gone smoothly. Although several people remarked that the clearness of inter-court calls takes a little getting used to, we've all had fun playing with the different ring tones. The courthouse held its annual Courthouse Cookoff on March 21st. This year's theme was "Sequestration," where your dish had to contain something from the sea. (A probation officer thought up the clever wordplay.) The judge's trophy went to the IT department with a ceviche recipe featuring trout fillets, while the people's choice trophy was claimed by the CSOs with a seafood enchilada recipe. Recipes can be found later in the newsletter.

Some events of note:

Linda Reis, Judicial Assistant to District Judge Daniel Hovland, District of North Dakota, and he both celebrated 10 years with the Court, he in November and she in December.

Judge Michael J. Melloy took senior status on February 1, 2013. His replacement, Jane Kelly, currently an Assistant Federal Public Defender, was officially nominated by President Obama on January 31, 2013.

Judge Melloy's Chambers moved into a beautiful new courthouse in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on October 9, 2012. Previously, they were in a leased space for about 10 years.

Sally Keasler, Judicial Assistant to Judge Shirley Padmore Mensah, celebrated 20 years with the court in 2012. (15 in Missouri and five in Texas.) Sally worked for Judge Mary Ann Medler who retired after 19 years. Sally was with her for 15 years. Sally's current judge (Judge Mensah) lived in Liberia until she was 10 and the war broke out, causing her to come to Delaware where she finished growing up. Judge Mensah and their new law clerk, Jessica Golby, have four little girls between them - ages 16 months to age four. An interesting article about Judge Mensah is found later in this newsletter.



News From The Ninth Circuit

Julie Lemm, Judicial Assistant to Senior District Judge Robert A. Bryan of Tacoma, Washington (below), traveled to Anchorage, Alaska, for three consecutive weeks in February for a trial with her judge. The day before she was supposed to leave Tacoma, Julie broke her foot. Not to be deterred, she used her scooter to navigate the snow and ice outside and the hallways inside. Julie is a terrific example of the dedication shown to her judge by a Judicial Assistant. Best wishes Julie for a full recovery. Hope you're back on both feet soon!



Chief Judge Roslyn Silver, District of Arizona, has finally settled into her role as the first female Chief Judge for the District of Arizona. She was thrust into this role after the devastating murder of her colleague, Chief Judge John Roll, in Tucson in 2011. Chief Judge Silver was profiled recently in the Record Reporter, a Phoenix publication, where she was pictured holding her schnauzer, Schmatta, in her chambers at the Sandra Day O'Connor Courthouse. In the interview Chief Judge Silver talked about the challenges she faced and the hard work she undertook to overcome the challenges. In her courtroom, Chief Judge Silver warns litigants to mind their "P's: No. 1: Professionalism; No. 2: Preparation; No. 3: Punctuality." And lastly, Chief Judge Silver praises her staff as being "the best there is" and the reason she is able to manage all her competing roles.



EIGHTH CIRCUIT
Leslie Walker



NINTH CIRCUIT
Gail Morgan

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The new San Diego Courthouse is open! After many years of planning and \$380 million dollars, the new federal courthouse in San Diego opened in March, 2013. The new courtroom houses six courtrooms, 12 judges, the U.S. Marshal Service, the IRS, GSA and court staff. It is 16 stories tall with room to add more courtrooms. It was built with recycled materials and is LEED environmentally certified. Many of you who attended the San Diego FJAA Conference in October took advantage of the guided tour of the new courthouse before the grand opening. Congratulations to the new occupants of the building!

Just another trial day in Alaska....Our flight left Anchorage at 8:00 a.m. We landed in Juneau, Alaska, an hour and a half later. Our next flight departed from Juneau to Sitka for the 27 minute flight over the mountain. After a brief stop in Sitka we again took off for Ketchikan where we arrived 37 minutes later at 12:30 p.m. Upon arrival in Ketchikan, to get to the mainland from the airport all travelers must take the ferry across the water. The ferry ride takes approximately 15 minutes. The short drive from the ferry depot to the federal courthouse takes you through the quaint town of Ketchikan which claims to be the *First Town in Alaska*. The judge and I arrived at the courthouse about 1:30 p.m. and started our trial at 2:00 p.m. The trip back to Anchorage after the trial required the same ferry trip back to the airport and three more flights. Just an example of how getting to some remote places in the Ninth Circuit takes a little bit more time and different modes of transportation.



(Stephanie and Judge Burgess and a Totem Pole in Ketchikan)

Make New Friends...but Keep the Old! These Judicial Assistants all met attending FJAA Conferences over the years and had dinner in National Harbor, Maryland, while attending the CM/ECF Forum in August, 2012. Just another reason to stay in touch with those we meet at our FJAA Educational Conferences and keep our network strong!



Pictured: Karen Hillebrand, Michigan; Susie Ross, Baton Rouge; Gudrun Swoboda, Ohio; Stephanie Lawley, Alaska; Janet Curry, New York; JoAnn Mingo, Alaska; Flay Sambrone-Metoyer, New Orleans; Gail Morgan, Alaska; Mari Rosa Jorge, Puerto Rico



NETWORKING = NEW FRIENDS FOR LIFE!

GREETINGS FROM THE TENTH CIRCUIT!

TENTH CIRCUIT
Lynda Brown



I hope everyone is enjoying the spring weather!! In New Mexico, the flowers are blooming and the fruit trees are blossoming. Except for our spring winds, the weather here is great! Come visit the Land of Enchantment if you get a chance.

NEW MEXICO NEWS:

Tracy Diaz, our current FJAA president, just completed the Judicial Administration program through Michigan State University. She started the program on January 30, 2008, and submitted her "Capstone" paper on March 1, 2013. The core courses and elective courses were very relevant to the court system, and several related directly to software changes and budgeting concerns that we deal with on a daily basis; for example, the change from WordPerfect to Microsoft Word and changing to a remote server. She said the best part was the interactive discussions with people in all different levels of the court nationwide and the MSU staff was always available to help. An additional bonus was having the last course paid for with an FJAA scholarship! Congratulations Tracy!

For those who might be interested in the program, Judicial Administration at Michigan State University is a community of learners, scholars, and practitioners dedicated to the advancement of the missions, mandates, and purposes of judicial systems across the globe through expert management and timeless, steadfast leadership principles and practices.

Multiple educational options are available for judicial system professionals and those who aspire to have a career in local, state, or federal judicial systems. Distance learners will find the options particularly attractive. Judicial Administration at Michigan State University offers two certificate programs (credit bearing and noncredit bearing) and a criminal justice master's degree specialization.

View the program overview for further information at <http://www.judicialadministration.msu.edu/>

OKLAHOMA NEWS:

Judge Robert E. Bacharach was sworn in as the newest member of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals on March 1, 2013 in a small ceremony attended by colleagues, friends and family. The oath of office was administered by the Honorable William J. Holloway, the Tenth Circuit's longest serving judge, and Judge Bacharach's mentor and personal hero.

Judge Bacharach was nominated in January of 2012 to fill the appeals court vacancy. He received the American Bar Association's highest rating, and at his confirmation hearing in May of 2012, he dazzled the Senate Judiciary Committee with his extraordinary command of the U.S. Constitution. Election year politics stalled the nomination, which did not receive a vote of the full Senate until President Obama began his second term. On February 25, 2013, Judge Bacharach won the unanimous confirmation of the U.S. Senate. He also won the lavish praise of Oklahoma Senators Jim Inhofe and Tom Coburn. Senator Coburn stated that he had "never met anybody who knows the Constitution - its limitations, its intent - better than Judge Bacharach." Coburn, a Republican from Muskogee, Oklahoma, further remarked that "You cannot find a blemish on this man in terms of his personal integrity."

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Judge Bacharach began his legal career clerking for Judge Holloway who was then serving as the Circuit Court's Chief Judge. After completing his clerkship, he entered private practice with Crowe & Dunlevy, one of Oklahoma's largest and most well-respected law firms. He became a federal magistrate in 1999, and has issued more than 1,600 reports and recommendations on a range of legal matters. Judge Bacharach is particularly noted for his expertise in alternative dispute resolution, having presided over more than 400 judicial settlement conferences.

Although the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals sits in Denver, Colorado, Judge Bacharach will maintain his primary office in Oklahoma City, where he resides with his wife, Rhonda, and his four-year-old daughter, Olivia. He will be assisted in his transition by his long-time judicial assistant, Rosene Coleman, who began working for Judge Bacharach while he was in private practice. Having already endured Judge Bacharach's rigorous judicial vetting and a protracted confirmation process, Rosene is well prepared for the challenges her new position will entail.

Rosene grew up in Duncane, Oklahoma, and moved to Oklahoma City in 1970. She started at Crowe & Dunlevy in 1982, and came to the Court with Judge Bacharach when he became a U.S. Magistrate Judge in 1999. She has been married to David for 41 years and has three children and ten grandchildren.

By Jackie Stone



D.C. Circuit Federal circuit



Sharon Deare

United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

The Honorable David B. Sentelle assumed senior status on February 12, 2013. He received his commission to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in October 1987, and served as chief judge from 2008-2013. His portrait ceremony is April 5, 2013.

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland assumed the position of Chief Judge on February 12, 2013. Chief Judge Garland was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals in April, 1997 and he became Chief Judge on February 12, 2013. He graduated from Harvard College (summa cum laude) in 1974 and Harvard Law School (magna cum laude) in 1977. Following graduation, he served as law clerk to Judge Henry J. Friendly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and to U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. From 1979 to 1981, he was Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States. He then joined the law firm of Arnold & Porter, where he was a partner from 1985 to 1989 and from 1992 to 1993. He served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1989 to 1992, and as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice from 1993 to 1994. From 1994 until his appointment as U.S. Circuit Judge, Judge Garland served as Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General, where his responsibilities included the supervision of the Oklahoma City bombing and UNABOM prosecutions. He taught antitrust law at Harvard Law School and has served as co-chair of the administrative law section of the District of Columbia Bar.

(continued on next page)

United States Court of Federal Claims

Chief Special Master Patricia Smith-Campbell has been appointed to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims (USCFC). She will replace Judge Lawrence Baskir, who is retiring.

Chief Judge Emily C. Hewitt of the United States Court of Federal Claims announced on March 4, 2013, the appointment of Lisa Hamilton-Fieldman as Special Master of the Office of Special Masters within the USCFC.

Ms. Elaine D. Kaplan, the General Counsel of The United States Office of Personnel Management, has been appointed to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years. She will replace Judge Christine O. C. Miller, whose fifteen year term has expired.

Chief Judge Emily C. Hewitt of the United States Court of Federal Claims announced on January 14, 2013, the appointment of Nora Beth Dorsey as a Special Master of the Office of Special Masters.

Chief Judge Emily Hewitt's presentation of her formal judicial portrait to the Court took place on April 4, 2013, in the Dolly Madison courthouse.

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

Latino Leaders Magazine (published in June 2011) has recognized the achievements of Judge Jimmie V. Reyna with his inclusion in the List of the Most Influential Leaders in the Latino Community. Judge Reyna is recognized as the first Latino appointed to the Federal Circuit, and for having received the Ohtli Award - the highest honor bestowed by the Mexican Government to a non-Mexican citizen.

On November 14, 2012, Senior Judge Richard Linn received the Fifth Annual PIPLA Award for Outstanding Intellectual Property Achievement at the Annual Judges' Dinner of the Philadelphia Intellectual Property Law Association. The PIPLA dinner was held at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Richard G. Taranto was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit by President Barack H. Obama, confirmed by the Senate on March 11, 2013, and assumed the duties of his office on March 15, 2013. Judge Taranto practiced law with the firm of Farr and Taranto from 1989 to 2013, where he specialized in appellate litigation. From 1986 to 1989, he served as an Assistant to the Solicitor General, representing the United States in the Supreme Court. He was in private practice from 1984 to 1986 with the law firm of Onek, Klein & Farr. Judge Taranto served as a law clerk at all three levels of the federal court system. He clerked for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor from 1983 to 1984; for Judge Robert Bork of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit from 1982 to 1983; and for Judge Abraham Sofaer of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York from 1981 to 1982. Judge Taranto received a J.D. from Yale Law School in 1981 and a B.A. from Pomona College in 1977.



(Judge Richard G. Taranto)

Wishing everyone an enjoyable and lengthy spring!

Sharon Deare



FJAA TREASURER'S REPORT

July 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

by Carla Gibson Baker



BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Chase Business Classic Checking	13,722.13
Chase Business Savings	15,017.17
Wells Fargo Conference Account	<u>3,165.72</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

\$31,905.02

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Unrestricted Net Assets	35,631.20
Net Income	<u>(3,726.18)</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

\$31,905.02

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

INCOME

Interest-Savings	11.19
Special Events Income	2,144.12
Conference Registration Fees	39,970.00
Membership Dues	6,880.00

TOTAL INCOME

\$49,005.31

EXPENSES

Scholarships	750.00
Special Events Expense	1,228.38
Accounting Fees	725.00
Outside Contract Services	400.00
Bank Fees, Postage, Mailing Service	130.68
Supplies	78.83
Internet, Phone & Telecommunications	83.88
Other Costs	500.00
Conference Meetings	2,475.00
Conference Refunds	1,310.00
Conference, Convention, Meeting	45,049.72

TOTAL EXPENSES

52,731.49

NET INCOME

(\$3,726.18)

JSAG REPORT

By Janet Hansen

Judicial Secretaries Advisory Group Meeting:

The Judicial Secretaries Advisory Group ("JSAG") meeting was held at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, in Washington, D.C., on April 4-5, 2013. The meeting was attended by JSAG representatives from every sector of the Federal courts. Various A.O. personnel spoke to us, solicited our opinions on programs being developed, and discussed various current topics. The meeting was very informative and productive. Some of the highlights (or low-lights.....) were as follows:

A Judicial Assistant checklist for a new judge is being prepared for future release. This tool should prove to be very helpful to new judges and their Judicial Assistants.

A new travel program is also being developed which will create travel vouchers utilizing the scanning of receipts via a scanner or smartphone! Also, National Travel charges only \$8 to book travel online, as compared to a \$27.25 charge for booking over the phone. Any changes you make will not incur an additional charge; however, if booked online, changes would be charged the difference between \$27.25 and \$8 for the first time, with no charges thereafter, no matter how many times you call to change flights.

Be mindful that judges travel expense vouchers must be completed within 90 days or there are tax consequences!

The U.S. Courts Libraries would like to learn how their team can better serve us. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let your JSAG representative know. They could potentially be an excellent source for training on software programs, instead of the IT department (which typically concentrates more on hardware).

The latest version of OSCAR went live on Tuesday, April 9, 2013. Some of the new improvements are: There are new system security requirements; *i.e.* new password requirements and answering three security questions. The judge's profile section has been enhanced with new optional fields to complete, and the clerkship term field has also been modified.

There was a discussion of technology and social media in chambers. It was highly recommended that chambers staff use common sense when on social media - especially on Facebook or Twitter. Do not announce locations while in the company of a Judge as this could have potential security risks!

The next release of CM/ECF, which is due in mid-2014, will offer an integrated calendar and the ability to design your workspace to suit your needs.

The Financial Disclosure Reporting System has been redesigned and will no longer require downloading software every year - it will automatically be updated. George Reynolds, Staff Counsel, and Cathy Jackson, Deputy Staff Counsel, of the Committee on Financial Disclosure, offered the attached chart for an easy comparison of what needs to be reported on the Financial Disclosure Report, the Non-Case Related Travel Report, and the Privately-Funded Educational Program Report. Some useful suggestions were, while in tabbed sections in the FDR, click the "key" and helpful hints will appear for that tab. Areas highlighted in blue are "reminders"; areas highlighted in yellow are "errors." Reports are due May 15. Judges may request an extension up to 90 days (until August 13, 2013). There is a \$200 late filing fee.

Judges may request redaction of reports in FiDo. If something reveals a location or is a security concern, request a redaction. Redactions are renewable every year. Request redactions as a separate event - not when filing the report.

(continued on next page)

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF JUDGES' REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
FOR EXPENSE-PAID SEMINARS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

*Except as otherwise noted, assume all events are valued
above \$350.00 and are paid, reimbursed, or provided by event sponsor.*

EVENT	FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE	NON-CASE RELATED TRAVEL	PRIVATELY-FUNDED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
FREE Seminar	Yes	Yes	Yes
FJC Phase I Orientation	No	Yes	No
Medina Seminar	No	Yes	No
Circuit Conference	No	Yes	No
ABA Judicial Div edu	Yes	Yes	No
Subject-matter bar assoc	Yes	Yes	No
Two separate CLE programs from same provider within a calendar yr, each valued \$250	Yes / both	Yes / both	No / neither
FJA Meeting	Yes	Yes	No
Law School Moot Court Comp	Yes	Yes	No
Trip paid for filer and spouse by spouse's employer	Yes, filer only	No	No
Travel abroad to work with Croatian judiciary, funded by Croatian government	No	No	No
Travel to perform wedding ceremony for non-relative	Yes	Yes	No
Travel to meeting as trustee, paid by charitable foundation	Yes	No	No
Trip to Superbowl (trans- portation, meals, lodging, tickets) paid by friend	Yes	No	No

Of course, the budget continues to be a big concern to everyone. The Honorable Thomas F. Hogan, Director of the Administrative Office, explained to us that the financial situation is very dire. Sequestration is not a one-time deal. There will continue to be 5% cuts across the board every year for the next 10 years, if the situation is not resolved. In just three years time, we will be down 29% of our allotment! Most chambers have not been directly affected, but that could potentially change as nothing is off the table at this point. Clerk's Offices, Probation, Bankruptcy, Federal Public Defenders and U.S. Attorney's Offices have all been adversely affected. There will be more attrition and buyouts. There is a cap on grades for law clerks. Courtroom sharing is occurring, and Bankruptcy Courts are moving back into District Court Courthouses. Shared services between divisions is and will continue to be highly encouraged. The Courts have been doing their share of cost containment and will continue to do so.

If you are furloughed, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits. This benefit varies from state to state, so be sure to check with your state officials.

Chambers training funds have been "deferred except for limited programs." Therefore, it remains to be seen what will occur for future programs such as CSAW, or the FJAA meeting. Be sure to check the J-Net for updated information and the Quarterly Newsletter!

We were very fortunate to have a private tour of the Supreme Court from Chief Justice Roberts' Judicial Assistant, Diane Nelson. We toured the Courtroom, the beautiful library, the Robing Room, the Conference Room, and the highest court in the land - the basketball court above the actual Courtroom! Many thanks to Diane for this wonderful tour!!!

(continued on next page)

While we were in DC, the cherry blossoms were beginning to bloom. Here are some pictures taken by Melissa Hardin, Judicial Assistant to Judge William Conley, USDC - Western District of Wisconsin. Thank you for the beautiful pictures, Melissa!

This is just an overview of what we learned—if you have additional questions or comments, please contact your JSAG representative.

Happy spring to all!

Janet Hansen



Your JSAG Team at Work!



Cherry Tree by Supreme Court



If you've never
been in
Washington, D.C.
at cherry blossom time,
enjoy!



Please extend a warm welcome to:

Stacie Countess	4th Circuit
Karen Fish	4th Circuit
Susan Gonzales	9th Circuit
Dianne Gowing	6th Circuit
Carrie King	5th Circuit
Anita Lee	8th Circuit
Krystina Ludlow-Jones	4th Circuit

Carol L. Lutrell	6th Circuit
Anne Masneri	9th Circuit
Anastasia Osborn	Federal Circuit
Stephanie Stewart	10th Circuit
Karen Straub	9th Circuit
Marsha Thompson	10th Circuit
Pamela Thorbs	4th Circuit

HAPPY RETIREMENT!

Congratulations on either "newly retired" or "retired" status to:



Priscilla Collins	1st Circuit
Diane Demers	6th Circuit
Mary D. Dickenson	7th Circuit
Susana Doty	10th Circuit
Barbara J. Elliott	10th Circuit
Norrine Gardner	11th Circuit
Martha A. Gore	9th Circuit
Linda S. Haukedahl	8th Circuit
Gwendolyn E. Horne	2nd Circuit
Julianne Hunt	9th Circuit
Diane M. Markley	7th Circuit
Lynda T. Matson	11th Circuit

Dianne M. McCarty	4th Circuit
Rosemary "Ann" Neff	10th Circuit
Shirley J. Newsome	7th Circuit
Donna Peck	9th Circuit
Lynda W. Powers	3rd Circuit
Charlene Purcell	7th Circuit
Angie Serrano	1st Circuit
Ann Sherman	9th Circuit
Erma F. Smith	9th Circuit
Nancy A. Smith	5th Circuit
Velma J. Smith	10th Circuit
Phyllis Walker	10th Circuit

Save the Date!! 2014 FJAA Annual Educational Conference

Mark your calendars now for the *2014 FJAA Annual Educational Conference* to be held in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, April 24-27, 2014. The Twin Cities of Minneapolis-St. Paul promise to be an adventure in many ways. Hailed as the cultural capital for the arts, as well as renowned for its culinary prowess - home to three consecutive James Beard winners for Best Chef in the Midwest - the entertainment and dining choices during your free time will be first rate. And a visit to Minneapolis-St. Paul wouldn't be complete without a trip to the Mall of America.

The Conference is shaping up to be one of our best! After reviewing comments from attendees of the San Diego Conference, the 2014 Conference Committee is working hard to incorporate your requests for topics and speakers. One of the exciting sessions will coincide with the release of the Next Generation of CM/ECF. With the release of NextGen scheduled for spring 2014, our conference will be a perfect opportunity to learn firsthand about the new and exciting features it offers Judges and Chambers staff.

Please consider attending our 2014 FJAA Educational Conference and see firsthand what a tremendous opportunity it is for you to network and take advantage of the educational opportunities your membership affords you. You may be able to use the chambers training funds. The next FJAA newsletter will have detailed information about registration and booking your hotel. So remember to mark your calendars and make plans to join us for the 2014 FJAA Educational Conference in Minneapolis-St. Paul in April 2014.

HELP WANTED FOR TREASURER'S POSITION

by

**Carla Gibson Baker,
FJAA Treasurer**

Article V, Section 4, Terms of Office, of our Bylaws, dictate that Officers *"shall serve for a term of one year, or until their successors are elected or appointed..."* Article V, Section 2, further dictate the term of office for the Treasurer, *"For purposes of continuity, the Treasurer may be elected for up to four consecutive terms."*

Since 2010, I have humbly served as your Treasurer during the past three administrations - under the leaderships of Gwendolyn Hunter, Jenny Rudolph, and Tracy Castle Diaz. The time is rapidly approaching when my term must end. Membership applications are being reviewed for those of you who have expressed an interest in serving in a financial position. However, out of an abundance of caution, **an appeal is being made via our Newsletter for volunteers to serve as the next Treasurer.**

During my tenure, I have converted our financial records from Microsoft Excel to Intuit QuickBooks generating Balance Sheets, Profit & Loss Statements, Bank Reconciliations, and Check Registers. This has provided for a smooth transition of our financial records to our Certified Public Accountant for the preparation of our tax returns. Additional work is needed to generate budgets, input our membership data, and possibly create membership invoices. QuickBooks online is utilized by our counterpart organization, the Association of Bankruptcy Judicial Assistants (ABJA), to allow for mobile accessibility.

Membership Rosters have been converted from WordPerfect to Microsoft Excel Spreadsheets to allow for a variety of sorting options. Microsoft Workbooks with the membership spreadsheets of all members – paid and non-paid — have been provided to our Vice-President Cathy Gray and the Circuit Representatives. The rosters are being scrutinized by the Circuit Representatives and updates are being provided to the Vice-President. After Membership Applications are received and payments are posted, weekly reports are sent to the Vice-President for review.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to provide accounting and bookkeeping services to our organization. I am often asked how I am able to manage it all. As a judicial assistant to a magistrate judge, along with my personal obligations, I made a commitment to serve. It has not always been easy, but it has been rewarding. I have enjoyed working with the leaders of our organization and the friendships that have developed with the membership are priceless!

Unfortunately, I will be relinquishing my position and am more than willing to assist the next Treasurer in gaining valuable experience in maintaining the books of a non-profit organization.

Our organization is in a great position to move forward in promoting our value as judicial assistants and increasing our membership. However, your help is needed to promote the many positive aspects of joining our ranks and remaining an active involved member.

Your help is needed. Are you willing to serve as our next Treasurer? Can we count on you?

St. Louis Character: Shirley Padmore Mensah
(St. Louis Business Journal)
By Cynthia Vespereny



A military coup in 1980 in her native Liberia forced Shirley Padmore Mensah to flee with her family to the United States. Mensah, who was 10 at the time, and her family settled in Wilmington, Delaware. She went on to major in political science with an emphasis in international relations at the University of Pennsylvania and then earn her J.D. from Washington University School of Law.

After working for what is now Husch Blackwell as a summer clerk, she liked the firm enough to return the following summer as an intern, then joined as an associate in 1995. Mensah spent 17 years as a trial lawyer for Husch Blackwell, concentrating in areas such as commercial, construction, general business and product liability litigation.

Along the way, she was a leader in the firm's recruitment efforts and was active in the community, serving organizations, including Safe Connections, The Links Inc., and the African Refugee Service. She also has been an adjunct professor teaching trial practice and procedure at Washington University School of Law.

Now, Mensah is on the other side of the bench. On Sept. 10, she took her career to yet a higher level when she was sworn in as a magistrate judge with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, currently its youngest magistrate judge at 42.

It's been a long haul to get to that point, but well worth it, said Mensah, who lives in University City with her husband, Paul, and two daughters, ages four and one.

"I enjoy litigation, but this is a much better fit with me," she said. "I know that I made the right choice. Because really, the difference is to just figure out what the right answer is, based on the law, based on the facts, and you are not angling for one side or the other. That's the biggest difference, and I find that it's not hard for me."

What is a magistrate judge?

In the federal system at the trial level you have district judges and then you have magistrate judges. The district judges are called Article III judges because it's a reference to Article III of the Constitution that establishes the federal judiciary. Those are lifetime appointments. They are appointed by the president, normally nominated by the highest-ranking politician in the state, and their positions are Constitutional positions. My position is statutory. Basically the role of the magistrate judges is to assist the district judges in carrying out their duties.

How do you become a magistrate judge?

You apply. There's a merit selection panel of lawyers and a certain number of lay people. They do the initial screening. They pick five out of the applicants and then the district judges interview the five and the district judges make the final selection.

What was it like growing up in Liberia?

When I was there, Liberia had been the most stable country in West Africa. It was never colonized. It was formed by freed slaves from the U.S. who then recruited freed men and women from the British West Indies to come. Looking back, I think it was a very insulated childhood. I had lots of cousins and close family friends, and we spent a lot of time with each other. My grandfather was involved in a lot of different businesses, and my dad helped him run some of them, but my dad is also a lawyer. He had a law practice on the side. Their main business was a company that owned and managed a chain of movie theaters. He was like the movie guy. It was fun.

(continued on next page)

What attracted you to law?

As long as I can remember from when I was a kid, I remember my dad saying, "You'd make a good lawyer. You're inquisitive. You ask good questions." And so almost from the first time I can remember anyone asking me what I wanted to do when I grew up, I said that I wanted to be a lawyer. I don't remember ever giving it any more serious thought than that.

What is your job like?

Criminal is more than 50 percent of what I do now. Magistrate judges assist the district judges, but we are sort of the front line on all criminal matters, so when somebody gets arrested, whether it's on an indictment or a warrant, in the statute it says to bring them before a magistrate judge. We have to process these people, we have to make sure they have lawyers, we have to make sure they understand their rights and then decide whether or not they can get bail, whether they have to be detained. In the federal system the crimes, at least what I've seen, are substantial. In this district, because it does vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, the magistrate judges here tend to handle all the criminal pretrial work for felonies. If it's not a felony, then we can handle the entire thing. For felonies we handle everything leading up to the trial. So, suppression motions, all of the search and seizure issues that come up.

What are some hurdles you faced in your career?

I was one of the few people of color at a large law firm. It was definitely challenging. When I joined the firm there were two female associates and me and an African-American man who was a partner. His name was Charles, and he called us Charlie's Angels. Two people leave and that's 50 percent of your affinity group. I think the hardest thing for most people is developing the relationships with people who can make or break your career, so that they will give you the benefit of a doubt when you mess up. You are drawn naturally to people who you have things in common with. And when you are a young black girl who grew up in Liberia and came to the States but lived in Wilmington for the next 10 years and then moved to St. Louis, a very insular community, it's very hard to find things in common with other people. You know, "Where'd you go to high school?" I went to Wilmington Friends. It's a conversation stopper.

What would your advice be to a young African-American girl with similar ambitions as you?

Don't let anyone ever tell you that you can't do something. That was the advice my parents always gave us.

Do you have a favorite book?

My favorite book is "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen. I love the story. I've read it a lot, probably 25 times in the last three years. It's a beautifully written book.

If you weren't a judge now, what would you be doing?

I would be running a business unit at Husch Blackwell. I was really getting very involved in management of the firm, and I was excited about some of the changes. Not everybody likes change. The firm has been undertaking some restructuring that I think is necessary. They're doing some really interesting and innovative things, and I was really excited about the potential of being a part of that.

What are your hobbies?

Reading, running and creative writing. I used to write a lot of poetry. It's been many, many years. I wrote a lot in high school, a lot in college. I had one or two pieces published. My long-term dream is to write a book of fiction, a fictionalized account of making that transition from growing up in Liberia to coming here and the impact it had on me.

(continued on next page)

What They Say

"Her commitment to public service and being able to serve the community every day is something that definitely influenced her decision to pursue a magistrate judge position. She has a lot of perspective and is able to see both sides of a situation. That's going to make her a very, very good judge."

Urmila Paranjpe Baumann, senior legal counsel, litigation, Express Scripts

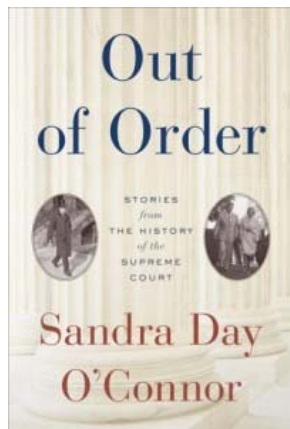
"We were both poor law students. She invited me to her apartment in the Loop. She didn't have much, and I didn't have much, but she shared with me her canned Pillsbury biscuits and jelly for lunch. That was the start of our friendship."

Tasha Brown, managing director, Inside Edge Legal, a Major Lindsey & Africa company, Chicago

"She has a great sense of humor and really enjoys helping people succeed in what they want to do. She is encouraging. She'll help you think through opportunities that may be lost if you don't act."

Tracy Brown, principal owner, Tracy A. Brown PC

Two female Supreme Court Justices on the bestseller list!



Recently I ran across this article from the Washington Post and thought I'd share the info for anyone wanting to add them to their reading list. Joan Ausman

"Out of Order: Stories from the History of the Supreme Court" (Random House), by retired justice Sandra Day O'Connor, is at No. 4. "My Beloved World" (Knopf), a memoir by current Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, is No. 2 on the latest list, which was published on Sunday, March 17. The Post's review of "My Beloved World" said, "Anyone wondering how a child raised in public housing, without speaking English, by an alcoholic father and a largely absent mother could become the first Latina on the Supreme Court will find the answer in these pages."

MY 30 YEARS

By Diana Price

I started my federal employment in 1977 with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Kentucky in Louisville, Kentucky, as a Chapter 13 clerk. At that time, when the bankruptcy petitions were filed, creditors were listed on the petition, and it was the clerk's job to notify all creditors of the pending bankruptcy filing. That meant typing labels with three carbon copies for each and every creditor listed for each and every petition that was filed. When that was typed, a stencil had to be typed and the stencil was run on a rolling ink machine. The original labels were then torn apart and licked on to an envelope and run through a sealing machine. The three copies were put in the file for future mailings. Docket sheets were typed and updated manually.

I worked five years in the Bankruptcy Court and left for two years to work for the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Citizens Fidelity Bank. I took the civil service test in high school, got a federal job interview but was planning on going to college at the University of Louisville; after four weeks, I quit, my dad was very controlling and I couldn't handle the pressure. By the time I quit, there weren't any openings for federal jobs at that time so I took the first opening that came along for an attorney, and liked it. I received several calls for interviews for government jobs but didn't want to quit what job I already had. I found out banking was not my forte. I called up the Clerk in Bankruptcy Court to ask if they had any openings and they did.

After three months, the secretary to one of the United States District Court judges, Charles M. Allen, was retiring, so I applied for that job and got it. I was there thirteen years. He then retired. I sheepishly called the Clerk in the Bankruptcy Court again to inquire of any openings. They had an opening and I was hired there for a third time. Things had really changed since I left there thirteen years ago. There were now computers where the docket sheets could be updated. I worked as an intake clerk, something I had never done before.

After two years as an intake clerk, I got a call from Boyce F. Martin, Jr., the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. His secretary was taking a medical leave of absence. The Bankruptcy Court Clerk let me leave the Bankruptcy Court on a temporary basis. But after a few months, Judge Martin asked me to work for him permanently. I've been with Judge Martin for almost fifteen years.

So, after almost thirty-three years, I'm still going with the federal government. There have been good times and bad times; but the good times outweigh the bad, thankfully. I signed up for Medicare in January. It won't be too long now before this gig will be over. I don't know what I'll do with myself, but like everyone else, I'll survive. That's my story and I'm stickin' to it (probably more than you wanted to know.) Good luck to all of you.



Please see Editor's Column for
info on the above picture.

My Other Life Continues

by Carla Gibson Baker, FJAA Treasurer

In August 2011, I won my first national tennis tournament title in Atlanta, Georgia, as reported in the October 2011, Volume 9, Issue of the FJAA Newsletter.

In August 2012, I was able to successfully defend my American Tennis Association Women's 55 Singles Division in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. It was much easier than the three-hour match I played in Atlanta. My opponent could not take the grueling Florida summer heat and retired before the first set was finished losing 4-0! Needless to say, I was disappointed and felt deprived of the exercise I usually get from playing tennis.

This summer I will again prepare to defend my title for a third time in Fort Lauderdale. My problem is finding the time to practice and focus on my mental and physical preparation. How does one find time to exercise when our jobs are so time consuming and everyone wants "it" now? First, I prioritize my tasks by deadline dates – what absolutely has to be done now and what can wait. Next, I determine how much time and effort it will take to perform the task. Sometimes I find that I have placed unnecessary self-imposed restrictions on myself or lack the ability to use the power of "No." To counteract those feelings, I make an attempt to do what I love, as opposed to feeling the stress of "having to do" something. Finally, I step away and take breaks to avoid that overwhelming feeling. I avoid taking my lunch break in the office (*unless I am scheduled to go on vacation*). Check out the article "Finding Time For Yourself: How and Why You Should Find Time For Yourself" by Elizabeth Scott, M.S. at www.stress.about.com.

By the time you are reading this article, I will have resumed my training after filing my income tax returns! Currently I work out with a personal trainer three times a week and will prepare my aerobic conditioning shortly. As a fitness advocate, I continue to encourage everyone to take time for YOU. Age has a way of "creeping up on us" or "running us over" and the best way to fight back is through movement. I guess sometimes we just have to get out of the way of ourselves!

Remember to take care of your mental and physical health and live your life to the fullest.



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



CALLING ALL FJAA MEMBERS!!!!

As Chairperson of Nominations and Elections Committee this is a reminder that **Elections are just around the corner**. There are many positions available, including Board, Circuit Representatives, and Committees. If you are interested in becoming involved and giving back to the Association with your time, expertise, and skills, please email your nominations to Karen Hillebrand (karen_hillebrand@mied.uscourts.gov) and get your name on the ballot. **Please submit your nominations by May 1, 2013.** If you are nominating someone other than yourself, be sure to check with that individual to confirm their interest in serving in a specific capacity.

Please visit www.fjaa.net for a listing of all positions and standing committees.

Karen Hillebrand

Please see Editor's Column for info on the picture at left.



Is
All
You
Need!

2012 RECIPE WINNERS!

TROUT CEVICHE

1 pound fresh trout fillets, cut to 1" pieces
 Juice of 6 limes
 1/2 red bell pepper, seeded and diced
 1 small onion, diced
 1 small avocado, diced
 1 cup grape tomatoes, halved
 1 jalapeño, seeded, ribbed and minced
 Pinch of oregano
 Handful of cilantro, well torn or chopped (optional)
 Coarse salt



Eric Selje (judges winner with ceviche recipe) with Bob Stechschulte, HR, presenting the award. (notice how cute the starfish is - he's in a waiter uniform with a tea set).

Cover trout in lime juice in non-reactive casserole dish with lid. (Go for a Pyrex, ceramic or plastic container; a Ziploc bag will work too.) Let sit covered in the refrigerator for an hour then stir, making sure all of the fish gets exposed to the acidic lime juice. Refrigerate for three hours, allowing juice to cook fish. Drain and discard juice from fish. Toss all vegetables, oregano and cilantro together. Add fish and mix. Salt to taste. Serve with crackers, tortilla chips or warm tortillas.

Note: While the fish in ceviche appears to be cooked, it may still cause food-born illness. Please forgo this recipe if you have concerns.

SEAFOOD ENCHILADAS

1/4 cup butter
 1/4 cup flour
 2 cups half and half
 2 chicken bouillon cubes
 1/4 tsp pepper
 1 tsp Lawry's salt
 1 tsp garlic powder
 16 oz American or similar cheese (diced/cubed/shredded)*
 16 oz sour cream
 16 oz imitation crab - diced
 16 oz cooked shrimp - diced
 8-10 large flour tortillas



Dave Hansen (winner of people's choice with seafood enchiladas) with Becky Hanson, HR, presenting the award.

In a medium saucepan, bring butter, flour and half & half to a boil. Add chicken bouillon, pepper, Lawry's salt and garlic powder; stir and boil for 2 minutes, then reduce heat. Add cheese, stir until melted, then add sour cream. Remove from heat – separate out half of sauce and set aside for later. Add crab and shrimp to rest of sauce. Roll up meat mixture in tortillas and put in greased 9" x 13" pan. Cover with remaining cheese sauce. Bake uncovered for 25 minutes at 350 degrees.

*I used 8 oz shredded zesty tex-mex and 8 oz Colby jack.

Greetings from the Editor!

I actually took an entire week off work and went somewhere other than “up north” (something folks in Michigan do almost every weekend in the summer). I went to Florida for spring break with my 18-year-old son and my husband... and his parents and brother, and his brother’s wife, youngest daughter and her friend. The photos throughout the newsletter are pictures I took while in Florida and thought you might enjoy them if spring hasn’t hit your area yet. The pelican almost knocked me off the bench I was standing on when he came in for a landing. I must have been too close to the fish he thought were for him!

The photo to the upper right is from our balcony, facing the Gulf of Mexico. Most of the other photos, except for the pelican, were taken at the Florida Botanical Gardens. We were about a fifth of the way down the garden path before we saw the ‘Do Not Feed the Alligators’ sign. From that moment on, my husband must have jumped two feet every time a salamander darted among the leaves. My big protector.

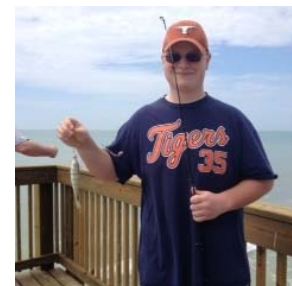
We slept in, laid on the beach, went fishing and out to dinner. . . with about 100,000 other kids! Next year, I’m going Up North!!!



Susan Eckert Pinkowski
Newsletter Editor



My little sweetie-beetie
with his first catch of the
day!



www.fjaa.net

Please take time to view our FJAA website. There is a members-only section which contains the last four newsletters, a list of current members, and the Treasurer’s Report. The members-only section can be accessed with your member PIN number — type in the word “member” as the username. Changes, corrections, and additions will be made quarterly as the newsletter is posted.

If you have anything you would like to have posted on our website, please send it to

Tracy_diaz@nmcourt.fed.us

FJAA GOALS

- To promote the general welfare of its members;
- To encourage the highest ethical standards of conduct among its members;
- To promote continuing education and professional development of its members;
- To further the exchange of ideas and practical information relating to judicial support; and
- To foster among its members a feeling of camaraderie and mutual confidence.

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DATES

January 15, 2013
April 15, 2013
July 15, 2013
October 1, 2013



A free one-year membership for the year 2013 is available to all new JAs that are/were hired between September 1, 2012—September 1, 2013. This free one-year membership is available only to first-time FJAA members.

The purpose of the Federal Judicial Assistants Association (FJAA) is to promote the general welfare of its members: to encourage the highest ethical standards of conduct; to promote continuing education and professional development; to further the exchange of ideas and practical information related to judicial support; and to foster a feeling of camaraderie and mutual confidence among its members. *In Brief* is a non-copyrighted, in-house publication of the FJAA. Circulation includes members and potential members of the FJAA. Opinions recited herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the FJAA.



CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES

Please stay in touch with your circuit representative with newsworthy items for the next issue of the newsletter.

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Go to www.fjaa.net for a complete list of officers, circuit representatives, committee memberships, and other great information.

FJAA MEMBERS NEEDED

If you have not sent in your renewal membership, or if you haven't joined FJAA, it's never too late - contact your circuit representative listed in this newsletter - guarantee your copy of the Newsletter in your electronic mailbox and an opportunity to participate in the annual educational conference. A listing of circuit representatives is above. Go on line at www.fjaa.net for more information.

Have you been with the government for 30 years?

Please share your story with us.

FJAA wants to applaud and feature members who have been with the government 30 years *or* more. If you would like to be recognized in *In Brief*, please contact your circuit representative and send in a short article about the changes you have experienced during your government tenure. Please include a photograph with your submission.

