



PRESIDENT

Judith Stoyko

In August 2012, Judy was hired as judicial assistant to Senior District Judge Charles Breyer in the Northern District of California (San Francisco). In addition to her JA duties, she is the Executive Director of the Northern District Court Historical Society.

Judy's entire 40-year career has been spent in the legal field in positions including litigation secretary, probate paralegal, and office manager. She has a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Phoenix and a certificate in human resources management from the University of California Berkeley. She stepped in to fill the vacancy in the FJAA treasurer position in October 2014, holding that position for four years. She also chaired the 2017 conference held in San Francisco.

Judy and her husband Rich (both California natives) love animals and have a German shepherd and two cats. They enjoy traveling and, in the five years since their marriage, have cruised the Caribbean and Mexico several times, flown north of the Arctic Circle in Alaska to see the Northern Lights, and visited the Galapagos Islands and Machu Picchu.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Tracy Young

Tracy Young is the Judicial Assistant to Judge Linda V. Parker in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Tracy joined the court family in April 2014 when Judge Parker was appointed to the Federal Court. Tracy has worked with Judge Parker in the Michigan State Court since 2010. Tracy joined the FJAA as soon as she began her journey at the court with strong encouragement and support from the Judicial Assistants in the Eastern District of Michigan.

Tracy is currently the Vice-President of the association and Chair of the Membership Committee which consists of the Circuit Representatives. During her term, she diligently worked with each of the circuit representatives to seek new members and gather renewals of the membership. Tracy would always say to each of the circuit representatives, "You Rock" because they each let their light shine in various ways. She also continued to serve on the FJAA Publication/Newsletter Committee as one of the editors.

Tracy says that serving as the Vice-President and working with the Executive Board has been a great honor and privilege serving the association. Being a part of the Membership committee has been amazing, rewarding and a great way to connect with the Circuit Representatives as well as other members of the FJAA organization.

A native Detroit, she has been married for 33 years and has two amazing adult children. Tracy enjoys planning and hosting family events and baking. She is the secretary of a non-profit organization for teenage girls. She serves on the Greeters Ministry at her church.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Bernita Henley

Bernita Henley has been a Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Charmiane G. Claxton, Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Tennessee – Western Division since June 2009.

Prior to employment with the Federal Judiciary, Bernita's legal career began in 1994 as a Legal Secretary for a sole practitioner. In 1996, she accepted a Legal Secretary position with the City of Memphis' City Attorney's Office where she served in this position for 5 years until she was promoted in 2001 to the Paralegal position. Another opportunity for growth presented itself in 2002 when she was offered a Paralegal position with the newly established in house legal department for Memphis Area Transit Authority. In 2005, Bernita landed a position with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare as a Workers' Compensation Paralegal for the Workers' Compensation Department wherein she stayed until being appointed to her current position.

Bernita received her B.P.S. in Paralegal Studies Magna cum Laude from the University of Memphis in 1999 and an A.A.S in Legal Assistant Technology Magna cum Laude from State Technology Institute of Memphis (now Southwest Tennessee Community College) in 1993. She was a member of Greater Memphis Paralegal Alliance (GMPA), Inc. from 2002 to 2007. She was also a member Mid-South Workers' Compensation Association (MSWCA) and served as Secretary for the 2007 and 2008 terms. She is currently serving in the position of 2018-2019 Secretary for the Federal Judicial Assistant Association.

Bernita has two adult daughters and 4 grandchildren (2 girls and 2 boys) which she affectionately refers to as her "4-Piece Spicy". She is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and when she is not handling SGRho's business, Bernita enjoys dancing, singing, traveling, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.

SECRETARY

Debby Sawyer

Professional Experience:

Employed as a Judicial Assistant to USDC Judge Aleta A. Trauger – Middle District of Tennessee-Nashville
Civil Case Manager/Courtroom Deputy for Chief Judge James C. Dever III – Eastern District of NC – Raleigh (2010-2014)
Litigation Paralegal for 22+ years

Education:

Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Leadership & Management – Regent University, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Paralegal Certificate – Jackson State Community College, Jackson, Tennessee

Current Association Activities:

FJAA – Federal Judicial Assistants Association 2016-Present:

Annual Conference Committee Member 2019
Sixth Circuit Representative – 2016 to 2018
PDC Committee – Scholarship Chair – 2016 to 2018

NALA – The Paralegal Association; Member 2003-Present:

Director At Large (Board of Directors) 2015-Present
Affiliate Associations Director (Board of Directors) 2013-2015
Region II Director (Board of Directors) 2009-2013
Affiliated Associations Secretary 2007-2009
Affiliated Associations Award Recipient 2007
Obtained Certified Paralegal Certification (CP) in 2004
Obtained Advanced Paralegal Certification in Trial Practice (ACP) in 2010

Tennessee Paralegal Association; Member 2014 – Present:

Currently serving as President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Secretary

TREASURER

YVETTE GARCIA

Yvette has served as Judicial Assistant to Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Rateau in the District of Arizona since 2005. Prior to her employment with the U.S. District Court, she worked as a legal assistant at Chandler and Udall, LLP. In addition to serving in the U.S. Air Force under the Secretary of the Air Force, Acquisitions at the Pentagon, Yvette earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Management and an MBA in Global Management both from the University of Phoenix.

Outside of professional interests, she travels widely, reads, dances, runs half-marathons, and plays on a women's amateur soccer team.

An important aspect of her life is family - - her wife (who owns her own document preparation and fiduciary business) and their three beautiful daughters.

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Melissa Hardin

Melissa has been a judicial assistant since 1998, first with the state courts in Wisconsin, then joining the U.S. District Court for Western Wisconsin in 2002 as the administrative assistant to the Clerk of Court. After 10 months, she moved up to chambers as the judicial secretary for Judge John C. Shabaz until he retired. Since March of 2010, Melissa has been the judicial assistant for Judge William Conley. She has been a member of FJAA since 2003, spending four years as the Seventh Circuit Representative and two years as Vice President before becoming President. Melissa is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point and has served on its Alumni Board of Directors since 2005. She also has a legal assisting degree from Columbus State Community College in Columbus, Ohio.

Melissa and her fiancé, Bob, love to travel the world. They have visited 6 out of the 7 continents and have 39 countries on their life list. Favorite places include Egypt, the Galapagos Islands, Machu Picchu, Venice & Rome, London, Angkor Wat, Japan the South Island of New Zealand and the Great Ocean Road in Australia.