



Debby Sawyer

President

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c/o Hon. Aleta Arthur Trauger

Estes Kefauver Federal Bldg. & U.S. Courthouse 801 Broadway Suite 825 Nashville, TN
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Biography

Debby J. Sawyer, ACP is employed as a Judicial Assistant for United States District Judge Aleta A. Trauger in the US District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee in Nashville. Prior to this assignment, she was a Civil Case Manager/Courtroom Deputy to Chief Judge James C. Dever III in the US District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Before transitioning to the federal court system in 2010, Debby had over 20 years' experience as a litigation paralegal, working primarily in the field of insurance defense/medical malpractice. Debby currently serves as President-Elect for the FJAA and has held the offices of Secretary and Parliamentarian, as well as 6th Circuit Representative. She also currently serves on the Board of Directors as Secretary for NALA – The Paralegal Association.

Debby received her Bachelor's Degree in Leadership and Management from Regent University and her Paralegal Certificate from Jackson State Community College. Debby enjoys relaxing at the beach, traveling, reading and shopping.



Daphne Rankin

President-Elect

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c/o Hon. Samuel Mays, Jr.

Odell Horton Federal Building 167 North Main Street Memphis, TN 38103

Biography

Daphne E. Rankin brings over three decades of rich legal experience and heartfelt dedication to public service. She currently serves as Chambers Paralegal to Senior United States District Judge Samuel H. Mays, Jr., following impactful roles as Senior Paralegal with the Shelby County Public Defender and as Managing Paralegal in law firms in Memphis, Tennessee and Atlanta, Georgia. Known for her thoroughness, compassion, and leadership, Daphne has helped expunge more than 12,500 criminal charges and restore voting rights to over 350 individuals—work that reflects her deep belief in justice and second chances.

Daphne is on track to complete her Juris Doctor with Honors at Purdue Global Law School in August 2025. A proud Howard University alumna (cum laude), she also holds advanced degrees in religious studies and has pursued additional legal and business studies at Emory University, Georgia State University, and Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. Daphne's longstanding commitment to excellence, mentorship, and professional growth shines through her active engagement in community initiatives and other legal associations.

She is honored to be nominated as President-Elect and looks forward to continuing to serve the Federal Judicial Assistants Association with vision, warmth, and integrity.



Gabriela "Gaby" Ma

Vice President

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**c/o Hon. James Alan Soto
United States District Court Evo A. DeConcini U.S. Courthouse 405 West
Congress St., Suite 6160 Tucson, AZ, 85701**

Biography

Gabriela Ma is the JA to the Honorable James A. Soto, U.S. District Judge in the District of Arizona. Gabriela became a JA when Judge Soto was appointed to the federal bench in 2014. Gabriela graduated with a BA from the University of Arizona in 2011. She worked as a booking clerk for the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office and worked in the Santa Cruz County Superior Court Administration Office. It was there that she met Judge Soto, the presiding judge on the Superior Court bench at the time. In May 2022, Gabriela completed her paralegal certification.

She enjoys crocheting, tending to her desert tortoise, and collecting eggs from her chickens.



**Crystal DeGrange
Nominated FJAA Secretary**

Email: crystal_degrange@cadc.uscourts.gov

c/o Honorable J. Michelle Childs
U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit
333 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

Biography

Crystal is the judicial assistant to the Honorable J. Michelle Childs, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Crystal's journey in the justice system began in 2002, when she joined the United States Army as a police officer. This was the start of her deep love and passion for the justice system. She began her service with the federal judiciary in March 2025, after serving 18+ years in multiple progressive roles within the circuit court in Montgomery County, MD, and Hillsborough County, FL.

Crystal's academic journey is a testament to her commitment to continuous learning and professional development. In 2011, she graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in criminal justice from Southeastern University in Lakeland, FL, with minors in pre-law and religion. Her passion for helping others led her to pursue a master's in human services counseling with a cognate in criminal justice from Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, where she graduated cum laude in 2014. In 2024, she was accepted into Liberty University's strategic media doctoral program, demonstrating her academic prowess and zeal for her field.

Crystal's personal life is as vibrant as her professional one. Born and raised in Maryland's "DMV," she now resides there with her growing family. She is a proud wife and mother of two daughters, two stepchildren, four long-haired chihuahuas, and a home filled with an array of plants. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, CrossFit, Olympic lifting, and hiking, a testament to her active and adventurous spirit.



Amy Beers
Nominated FJAA Secretary

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c/o Hon. David C. Nye
Federal Building and United States Courthouse
801 East Sherman Street, Room 119 Pocatello, ID 83201

Biography

Amy Beers serves as the Judicial Assistant and Paralegal to Chief U.S. District Judge David C. Nye for the District of Idaho. With 30 years of experience in the legal field, Amy began her journey after earning her certificate from Pioneer Pacific College in Oregon.

Her professional path has been closely tied to Judge Nye's career. Twenty years ago, Amy started working alongside him as a Legal Assistant and Paralegal in the private sector. When he was appointed as an Idaho State Court District Judge, she transitioned to serve as his Judicial Assistant. Later, when he was appointed to the Federal Bench, Amy once again followed, taking on her current role in 2017.

Beyond her career, Amy and her husband Bryan share a fulfilling family life with their three sons—Brett, Brandon, and Parker—as well as two beloved grandchildren. In her spare time, she can often be found officiating at Parker's swim meets or diving into her college coursework. Currently, she is pursuing an associate's degree in criminology at Idaho State University.

As a member of the FJAA for nearly three years, Amy is eager to deepen her involvement with this great organization.

Nicole Loveless

Treasurer

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c/o Hon. Michael M. Mihm

Federal Building 100 N.E. Monroe Street, Suite 122 Peoria, IL 61602

Biography

Nicole joined the Federal Judiciary as a Judicial Assistant to Senior District Judge Michael M. Mihm in 2022 and is now JA to both Judge Mihm and to Magistrate Judge Ronald L. Hanna in the Central District of Illinois, Peoria Division. Nicole began working as a legal assistant in 2005 and continued to do so until joining the federal family.

Nicole spends her free time with her husband, Steve, and her three children, Alison, Gavin, and Tanner. You can find her at a baseball diamond, volleyball court, wrestling mat, basketball court or track meet with her kids.