

INBRIEF

Federal Judicial FJAA Assistants Association

OFFICERS 2013-2014

**STEPHANIE LAWLEY
PRESIDENT**

c/o Hon. Timothy Burgess
U.S. Courthouse
222 West 7th Avenue, Box 33
Anchorage, AK 99513-9513
Phone: 907-677-6203

**GUDRUN M. SWOBODA
PRESIDENT-ELECT**

c/o Hon. William H. Baughman, Jr.
Carl B. Stokes U.S. Courthouse
801 W. Superior Avenue, 10A
Cleveland, OH 44113
Phone: 216-357-7220

**CATHY B. GRAY
VICE PRESIDENT**

c/o Hon. Jon P. McCalla
Clifford Davis and Odell Horton
Federal Building
167 North Main Street, Room 1157
Memphis, TN 38103
Phone: 901-495-1291

**REBECCA BAERTSCH
SECRETARY**

c/o Hon. Donovan W. Frank
Warren E. Burger Federal Building
316 North Robert Street, Room 724
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-848-1290

**SUSAN GARNER
TREASURER**

c/o Chief Judge Julie E. Carnes
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
and U.S. Courthouse
75 Spring St., SW, Room 2167
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: 404-215-1511

**CYNTHIA P. HUBBARD
PAST PRESIDENT**

c/o Hon. Patrick Michael Duffy
Hollings Judicial Center Annex
81 Meeting Street, 3rd Floor
Charleston, SC 29401
Phone: 843-579-1460

**CYNTHIA CHAPMAN
PARLIAMENTARIAN**

c/o Hon. Henry F. Floyd
U.S. Courthouse, 2nd Fl.
201 Magnolia Street
Spartanburg, SC 29306
Phone: 864-591-5300

Dear FJAA Members and Judicial Assistants,

Happy New Year! As we ring in a new year, we make resolutions that we hope will bring about positive changes in 2014. My hope is that one of your new year's resolutions will be to say yes—and this is the year to say YES to joining the Federal Judicial Assistant's Association. The FJAA is turning 40 this year! As we celebrate our 40th Anniversary, I hope you will help commemorate the accomplishments of the Judicial Assistants who have gone before us and celebrate our collective achievements as an organization.



There are currently 839 Judicial Assistants in the United States who serve Article III and Magistrate Judges. There were 55 of you newly hired in 2013. This is exciting! You realize that you are a member of an elite club who serve judges in this capacity. The mission statement of the FJAA says: "To promote the general welfare, continuing education and professional development of its members." I encourage you all to join the FJAA today! Please take a moment to read the Biography of your Circuit Representative. The FJAA Executive Board and Circuit Reps are here to answer your questions and help resolve issues that may affect us all. There is strength in numbers and the collective voice we have will be stronger with you!

Unfortunately, due to the deferred status of the chambers training funds in FY14, the FJAA Executive Board has made the decision to cancel the 2014 FJAA Annual Conference that was set for April in Minneapolis. This difficult decision was made after careful consultation with past FJAA presidents. The Executive Board is working diligently with the Conference Planning Committee to decide how to move forward with planning our next FJAA Conference.

I share with you all one of my favorite quotes, "Say Yes" from Eric Schmidt, Executive Chairman at Google:

"Find a way to say yes to things. Say yes to invitations to a new country, say yes to meet new friends, say yes to learn something new. Yes is how you get your first job, and your next job, and your spouse, and even your kids. Even if it's a bit edgy, a bit out of your comfort zone, saying yes means that you will do something new, meet someone new, and make a difference. Yes lets you stand out in a crowd, be the optimist, see the glass full, be the one everyone comes to. Yes is what keeps us all young."

My hope for you in 2014 is that your year is filled with hope, prosperity and possibility. Make this your first "yes" - by joining the FJAA and becoming a member of our exclusive group of professionals. The possibilities for 2014 are exciting. None of us knows what this New Year may bring for the judiciary - but the FJAA promises to keep you all informed and work together to continue the professional development of all its members. Join me in saying "Yes" today to the FJAA!

All Best in 2014,

Stephanie Lawley
FJAA President

CIRCUIT NEWS



First Circuit
Joan Ausman

Senate Confirms NH's First Woman Federal Judge

New Hampshire, a state with women in top leadership positions, now has its first woman federal judge. The U.S. Senate recently confirmed federal Magistrate Judge Landya McCafferty to the U.S. District Court bench, succeeding Judge Steven McAuliffe, who took senior status in April. Judge McCafferty has been a magistrate since 2010 and previously served as a law clerk for the federal courts in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Her judicial assistant is Gail Adams, who now also assumes the role of JA to Sr. Judge Joseph DiClerico on the retirement of Linda Tsiatsios. Gail



was previously secretary to First Circuit Judge Hugh Bownes from 1988-1992 and JA to District Judge Joseph DiClerico from 1992-2006. From 2006 to 2010, Gail served as CM/ECF Administrator for the district court. She has been Magistrate Judge McCafferty's judicial assistant since June 2010. We wish Judge McCafferty and her staff all the best in their new positions!

Linda Tsiatsios Retires

Our friend and colleague, Linda Tsiatsios, retired on December 27th after 45 years of government service. Linda began her career working for the SBA in 1965, and worked for several other agencies before coming to the U.S. Courts in June 1988, working for Clerk of Court James Starr. In 1990, Linda became secretary to the Honorable Norman H. Stahl when he was appointed District Judge in the District of New Hampshire. Linda stayed with Judge Stahl when he was appointed to the First Circuit Court of Appeals in 1992, first working in Concord, NH, and later commuting to Boston when Judge Stahl relocated his chambers. After commuting for several years, Linda decided to work closer to home and in 2006, she accepted the position of Judicial Assistant to Senior District Judge Joseph DiClerico, Jr. in the District of New Hampshire. Linda has attended several FJAA Conferences and in 2009, she helped plan and host the Portland, ME conference.

Throughout her working life, Linda has become accustomed to change - transitioning to new agencies and buildings, learning new and ever evolving equipment and procedures. Now she faces another life change to retirement, which offers her more time to travel with her husband and spend time with their grandchildren in California and Seattle. Linda also looks forward to renewing her creative energies in her painting, sewing, and gardening.

Though we will truly miss her, we congratulate Linda and wish her all the best for a long and happy retirement!

NH Clerk of Court James R. Starr Retires

James R. Starr, Clerk of Court for the District of New Hampshire, retired on January 10, 2014, after providing over 35 years of service in the state and federal court systems in New Hampshire. He began his legal career as a law clerk in the NH Superior Court in 1978, where he worked closely with Retired Associate Justice David H. Souter, who was then a member of the NH Superior Court bench. After his clerkship, the

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Superior Court judges recruited Jim to a career in court administration, where he was quickly elevated to the position of Clerk of Court in Merrimack County Superior Court. In 1984, Jim was selected to become the Clerk of Court in the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire, where he has served for nearly 30 years.

When Jim started with the federal court, courtroom minutes were written in longhand and the court's docket was maintained using docket cards, paper folders, and typewriters. He began the process of ushering in the automation era in the court and clerk's office by purchasing a single Wang computer in 1985 and immediately began serving on numerous state and national committees responsible for developing new courtroom technologies and automated systems for docketing and financial management. In short, Jim participated with others to move the federal court system from pens and typewriters, to electronic case filing, to remote computing from smart phones and iPads, to Voice Over IP and seemingly everything technology related in between.

He recently received the 2013 Distinguished Service to the Legal Profession Award from the NH Bar, having been cited for his exemplary career as court administrator and extraordinary leader. Jim may be most well known for his contributions to the construction of the Warren B. Rudman Courthouse from 1995 to 1998, for which he was awarded the Director's Award for Outstanding Leadership in 1999.

Jim and his family have traveled extensively over the years, documenting each trip with detailed photo albums which he generously shared with court employees (so we could vicariously experience the trips!). He and his wife look forward to more travel adventures in the years ahead.

Dan Lynch Named Clerk of Court

On January 13, 2014, Daniel J. Lynch was appointed Clerk of Court for the District of New Hampshire, following Jim Starr's retirement. Dan received his bachelors degree from Michigan State University, his law degree from Wayne State University, and his master's certificate in judicial administration from Michigan State University.

After completing a clerkship in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Dan practiced law as a commercial litigator in New Hampshire. He began his career in court administration in the New Hampshire Superior Court in 1995, where he worked until he was appointed to the Chief Deputy Clerk position in New Hampshire in 2002. The court approved Dan to serve as a Clerk/U.S. Magistrate Judge in 2010, and he will continue to serve in that capacity after assuming his new role as Clerk of Court. Congratulations to Dan on this new appointment!

New Chief Deputy Clerk

Pamela E. Phalen, Esq., who joined the court in May, formally succeeded Dan Lynch as Chief Deputy Clerk in January 2014. Pam graduated cum laude from Creighton University School of Law in 1993 and began her legal career serving as a law clerk to Justice White at the Nebraska Supreme Court. She later moved to New Hampshire and worked as a bankruptcy and civil business litigator for twelve years at Orr & Reno. Pam subsequently worked for the NH Public Defender's Office for over five years doing appellate and trial work. She also served on the Bankruptcy Court's Advisory Rules Committee and the CM/ECF Attorney Implementation Committee as well as the District Court's ECF Rules Committee.

New Director of IT

On January 6, the district welcomed Dana Bauer (relocating from Nevada) as the court's new Director of Information Technology. Dana comes to the court with over 23 years of experience working in the federal judiciary technology field including positions such as a Systems and Network Administrator, Web Administrator/Programmer, CM/ECF System Analyst/Programmer, and PC Systems Administrator. She also brings over four years of information technology experience from the private sector.



Second Circuit
Janet Hansen

News from the Second Circuit Court of Appeals:

On December 11, 2013, a Special Ceremonial Session of the Court of Appeals was held in honor of the late Judge Joseph M. McLaughlin. Judge McLaughlin's family and friends from all facets of his life attended. Stories from Judge McLaughlin's well-lived life were touched upon by Professor John D. Feerick, a fellow teaching colleague at Fordham University School of Law, New York, NY; by T. Edward Tighe, Esq., a former law clerk to Judge McLaughlin and now General Counsel of the National Football League; by Judge Jose A. Cabranes, Judge McLaughlin's colleague on the Court of Appeals at the time of his passing, and by his son, Joseph M. McLaughlin, Jr., Esq. Judge McLaughlin (or "JMCL" as he was known by his colleagues) was most remembered for his wit, his humor, his wise counsel, and his friendship. He will certainly be missed by all! We send our condolences to the McLaughlin family.

The Court of Appeals held an Employee Recognition Ceremony on December 12, 2013, at the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse, New York, NY, to recognize and salute Court staff receiving special years of service awards in 2013. Four Judicial Assistants in the Court of Appeals, along with several other loyal Court of Appeals staff members, received government service awards presented to them by Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann during the ceremony. Kimberly Gay, Judicial Assistant to Judge Jon O. Newman, received a five year pin. Ann Pisacano, Judicial Assistant to Judge Robert D. Sack, and Mary Wieczorek, Judicial Assistant to Judge Chester J. Straub, each received 15 year pins. Dominique Welch, Judicial Assistant to Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann, received a 20 year pin. Congratulations to all!



Second from right, next to Circuit Executive Karen Greve Milton, is Ann Pisacano; third from right is Mary Wieczorek; and ninth from right is Dominique Welch. Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann is standing next to Dominique Welch.

We extend a hearty welcome to Chris R. Corcoran, the new Judicial Assistant to Judge Reena Raggi. Judge Raggi's chambers are located in Brooklyn, NY. Chris comes to the Court with a diverse corporate background, most recently from Weight Watchers International where she was the Director of Marketing for their B2B division, helping to bring the weight-loss program to corporations as a health benefit for their employees. Born and raised at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines, Chris came to the U.S. at age 17 to attend college at Indiana State University. She resides in Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, with her husband Paul, an attorney, and has two grown children. She enjoys cooking, and traveling just about anywhere, but especially to South Carolina where she has family. Welcome Chris!

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News from the Western District of New York:

On December 30, 2013, at a ceremony officiated by Chief United States District Judge William M. Skretny in Rochester, Elizabeth A. Wolford was sworn in as the very first female United States District Judge for the Western District of New York. Judge Wolford, previously a partner in an eight-attorney law firm with her father and brother in Rochester, succeeds Senior United States District Judge Charles J. Siragusa. Judge Siragusa assumed senior status on December 15, 2012. The Western District wholeheartedly congratulates Judge Wolford on this monumental and historic achievement. We also look forward to meeting her new staff and welcoming them into the Western District court family as well.

As the Western District extends its heartfelt welcome to Judge Wolford, we also bid a fond farewell to two of our fellow Judicial Assistants, Judy Baker and Rita Onyan, who will be retiring soon. Judy Baker, who has served for 25 years as Judicial Assistant to District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara in Buffalo, will retire on January 31. Judy also served as assistant to Judge Arcara when he was U.S. Attorney and Erie County District Attorney. Additionally, Rita Onyan, who has served for 17 years as Judicial Assistant to Magistrate Judge Jonathan W. Feldman in Rochester, will retire on March 31. Rita also served in several other capacities for the federal government before she became Judicial Assistant to Judge Feldman. We understand that both Judy and Rita will be leaving the snow behind for sunny Florida shortly. We wish them good health and happiness in their retirement years!

Submitted by Janet Curry, Judicial Assistant to Judge John T. Curtin, WDNY

District of Connecticut:

On May 18, 2013, the Honorable Ellen Bree Burns marked her 35th anniversary as a United States District Judge. Judge Burns was the first woman appointed to the federal bench in Connecticut, and was the first woman to serve as chief judge from 1988-1992. The Clerk's Office helped Judge Burns celebrate another milestone on December 13, 2013 -- a surprise 90th birthday party! Cheers to Judge Burns!

Submitted by Robin Tabora, Clerk, U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut



With best wishes to all for a healthy, happy 2014!

Janet F. Hansen

U.S. Court of International Trade

We send a hearty welcome to Fidelis Basile, who is the new Judicial Executive Assistant to The Honorable Mark A. Barnett at the U.S. Court of International Trade, located at One Federal Plaza in New York City. Judge Barnett was confirmed to the Court of International Trade on May 28, 2013. Fidelis joined Judge Barnett's chambers on September 3, 2013. She comes to this Court with over 20 years of Bankruptcy and District Court experience. Welcome Fidelis, and we hope you enjoy your new position at the Court of International Trade!

For those not familiar with the Court of International Trade, below is a little information to enlighten you:

The President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints nine judges who constitute the United States Court of International Trade, which is a national court established under Article III of the Constitution.

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The judges, who are appointed for life, may be designated and assigned temporarily by the Chief Justice of the United States to perform judicial duties in a United States Court of Appeals or a United States District Court.

The geographical jurisdiction of the United States Court of International Trade extends throughout the United States. The court hears and decides cases which arise anywhere in the nation. The court also is authorized to hold hearings in foreign countries.

The different types of cases the court is authorized to decide—that is, its subject matter jurisdiction—are limited and defined by the Constitution and specific laws enacted by the Congress.

The subject matter jurisdiction of the court was greatly expanded by the Customs Courts Act of 1980. Under this law, in addition to certain specified types of subject matter jurisdiction, the court has a residual grant of exclusive jurisdictional authority to decide any civil action against the United States, its officers, or its agencies arising out of any law pertaining to international trade.

This broad grant of subject matter jurisdiction is complemented by another provision in the Customs Courts Act of 1980 which makes it clear that the United States Court of International Trade has complete powers in law and equity of, or as conferred by statute, upon other Article III courts of the United States. Under this provision, the court may grant any relief appropriate to the particular case before it, including, but not limited to, money judgments, writs of mandamus, and preliminary or permanent injunctions.

In addition to these lawsuits against the United States, the court also has exclusive subject matter jurisdiction of certain civil actions brought by the United States under the laws governing import transactions, as well as counterclaims, cross-claims, and third-party actions relating to actions pending in the court.

Janet Hansen

THIRD Circuit

Iris Liriano



On November 20, 2013, the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit had the pleasure and honor of having Justice Sandra Day O'Connor sit on a panel with Judges Thomas L. Ambro and D. Brooks Smith. When Justice O'Connor sits with a Circuit, Her Honor borrows a robe from a Circuit Judge. Her practice is to bring a few jabots to compliment the black robe. Justice O'Connor has been quoted as calling a jabot "a white judicial collar." She wore one of her own jabots during the sitting. As for a robe, Justice O'Connor has previously borrowed the robes of Judges Maryanne Trump Barry and Marjorie O. Rendell. There was consideration that Justice O'Connor would again borrow Judge Rendell's robe but Judge Rendell was going to be using it. In looking for another robe, the Clerk's Office came upon the robe of Judge Patty Shwartz, who is the newest member of the Circuit. She was asked if Justice O'Connor could borrow her robe. She was thrilled to hear of this request, honored, and, of course, said yes. We hear that the robe was a perfect fit! Of course, Justice O'Connor made it her own with her jabot.

On November 19, 2013, Justice O'Connor had a question and answer session with the staff and law clerks and joined the Circuit Judges for an administrative meeting where she gave some remarks. She expressed how much

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she enjoys sitting in our Circuit and also talked about the iCivics national program founded by Her Honor, which consists of civics education. In the evening, the Circuit Judges and Justice O'Connor went out to dinner in Philadelphia. Subsequent to the sitting, Justice O'Connor met with former Pennsylvania governor Ed Rendell at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia, PA, to discuss iCivics education.

In total, Justice O'Connor has sat with the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit on three occasions. The first sitting was with Judges Marianne Trump Barry and Anthony J. Scirica. The second sitting was with Judge Dolores K. Sloviter and Chief Judge Theodore A. McKee. Her latest sitting was with Judge Smith and Judge Ambro. Justice O'Connor really enjoys the friendliness and collegiality in the Third Circuit.



Justice O'Connor with staff members from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.



Judge Christine Gravelle and her JA, Marlene Young

And now onto other news. Marleen Young, (3d Cir, Bankruptcy Court - Trenton, NJ) reports that her former Judge (Raymond Lyons, USBJ) retired as of June 30, 2013, after 14 years on the bench and has been replaced by Judge Christine M. Gravelle, USBJ (formerly of Markowitz Gravelle, LLC, Lawrenceville, NJ). Judge Gravelle was privately sworn in on July 1, 2013, with a public ceremony and reception in the Trenton Federal Courthouse on August 22nd. Marleen is very pleased to report that she will be staying on as Judge Gravelle's Judicial Assistant. Marleen worked for two District Court Judges (Hon. John C. Lifland, USDJ 1988-91 and Hon. Mary L. Cooper, USDJ 1991-1998) prior to transferring to the Bankruptcy Court.

An organized group of Italian State Police officers, both active and retired, from all over Italy have formed the tradition, in recent years, of visiting various New York and New Jersey destinations during the period of the Columbus Day celebration. They march in parades and, in uniform, proudly represent their Force. This group visited our Trenton, New Jersey, courthouse the morning of October 15, 2013. The approximately 25 Italian State Police high-ranking uniformed officers were hosted by Senior District Judge Anne Thompson and Magistrate Judge Douglas Arpert. The Judges welcomed the visitors in Judge Arpert's courtroom. The Italian Police officers presented the judges with tokens of appreciation from



Judge Anne Thompson and Magistrate Judge Douglas Arpert with the Italian State Police

their country, photos were taken, and refreshments were served.



JA Ann Dello Iacono poses with State Police Official, General Director Sergio Tinti. Ann helped translate during the visit since she is fluent in Italian!

I would like to thank Marlene Young and Ann Dello Iacono for their contribution to the newsletter!



Fifth Circuit

Hope Taormina

Greetings from New Orleans, Louisiana. I am honored to be addressing you as the FJAA's Fifth Circuit Representative. We have had some unusually cold weather here and are ready for winter to move out and Mardi Gras Season to move in. As Fifth Circuit Representative, my two major responsibilities are to encourage people to join or renew their membership with the FJAA and to share news and happenings within the Fifth Circuit. I am asking all JA's/Judicial Secretaries to please consider joining or renewing as soon as possible. If you have never been a member of the FJAA, you are really missing out as it is a great way to share ideas, information and knowledge with our colleagues across the country. Staying informed is essential to our judges. Perhaps one of the best benefits of the FJAA is the wonderful, lifelong friendships that you will make.

If you have not already done so, get out your checkbooks and forward your dues to me in the amount of \$30 payable to the FJAA, along with a completed 2014 FJAA Membership Application attached to this newsletter. My mailing address is Hope Taormina, c/o Hon. Daniel E. Knowles, III, U.S. District Court, 500 Poydras Street, Room B335, New Orleans, LA 70130. If you are new to the judiciary (within the last year), welcome! We offer all new JA's/Secretaries a one year free membership. Please contact me for further information. I look forward to working with all of you over the next year and keeping you informed of the happenings in the Fifth Circuit.

In Loving Memory of Glenda Signal - 1946-2013

Former Fifth Circuit Representative Glenda Signal lost her battle with cancer on December 14, 2013, at the age of 67. Glenda was the mother of two beautiful daughters, Sloane and Celeste, and grandmother to Holland.

Glenda worked for more than 25 years in the federal court system serving in both the Federal Public Defender's Office and most recently as secretary to Magistrate Judge Alma L. Chasez. Prior to his retirement in 2012, Glenda was Magistrate Judge Moore's assistant for 23 years.

The Eastern District of Louisiana and the FJAA will sorely miss Glenda's kindness and bright smile.



Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals:

Linda Henshaw Catalano, Secretary/Judicial Assistant to Judge Eugene Davis (5th Circuit Court of Appeals) was recently honored for 35 years of service to the federal judiciary. Linda began her judicial career as a deputy clerk for the federal district court in May of 1978. In September of that year she moved to the position of Associate Secretary for Chief Judge Nauman S. Scott in Alexandria, Louisiana. Then, in January of 1984, she became the Assistant Secretary for Judge Davis in Lafayette, Louisiana, until January 1999 when she took over the lead secretary position, where she remains today. Congratulations Linda!

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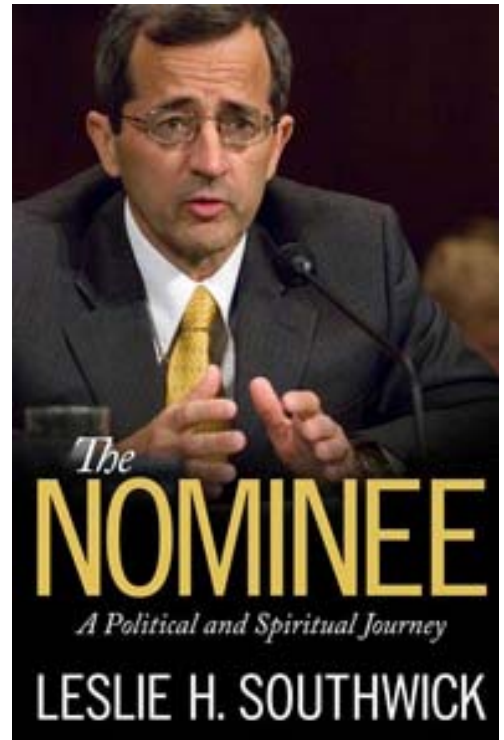
The Nominee: A Political and Spiritual Journey

President George W. Bush nominated Leslie Southwick in 2007 to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Initially, Southwick seemed a consensus nominee. Just days before his hearing, though, a progressive advocacy group distributed the results of research it had conducted on opinions of the state court on which he had served for twelve years. Two opinions Southwick had signed off on but not written became the center of the debate over the next five months. Apparent bipartisan agreement for a quick confirmation turned into a long set of battles in the Judiciary Committee, on the floor of the Senate, and in the media.

In early August, Senator Dianne Feinstein stunned her Judiciary Committee colleagues by supporting Southwick. Hers was the one Democratic vote needed to move the nomination to the full Senate. Then in late October, by a two-vote margin, he received the votes needed to end a filibuster. Confirmation followed.

Southwick recounts the four years he spent at the Department of Justice, the twelve years on a state court, and his military service in Iraq while deployed with a Mississippi National Guard Brigade. During the nomination inferno Southwick maintained a diary of the many events, the conversations and emails, the joys and despairs, and quite often, the prayers and sense of peace his faith gave him—his memoir bears significant spiritual content. Throughout the struggle, Southwick learned that perspective and growth are important to all of us when making decisions, and he grew to accept his critics, regardless of outcome. In *The Nominee* there is no rancor, and instead the book expresses the understanding that the difficult road to success was the most helpful one for him, both as a man and as a judge.

Published by University Press of Mississippi, Nov. 2013. Available from the publisher, Amazon.com, and other on-line sites.



The Northern District of Mississippi welcomes the Honorable Debra M. Brown, who was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on November 5, 2013, as our newest federal judge. On May 16, 2013, President Barack Obama nominated Judge Brown to fill the vacancy that was created after the passing of Judge Allen Pepper in January 2012. Her confirmation makes her the first African American female to be confirmed to a federal judgeship in Mississippi. Judge Brown attended Mississippi State University, graduating with a B.A. in architecture in 1987. She worked for ten years as an architect in the D.C. area. She went on to attend University of Mississippi School of Law, earning her J.D. in 1997. Judge Brown was with the Jackson firm of Phelps Dunbar LLP, first as a summer associate in 1995 and 1996, then to associate, partner, and counsel. She remained there for more than 14 years. In 2012, she became a shareholder at the law firm of Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway, P.A., in Jackson.

Judge Brown was sworn in by Chief Judge Michael Mills on December 18, 2013. Her official duty station will be the Greenville Division.



SIXTH Circuit

Kelly Kopf



Honorable J. Daniel Breen - New Chief United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee

Effective, August 26, 2013 the Honorable J. Daniel Breen assumed the position of chief judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee when United States District Judge Jon P. McCalla elected to retire from active status and took senior status.

Chief Judge Breen began his judiciary career in 1991 as a United States Magistrate Judge in the Western District of Tennessee serving in both the Eastern (Jackson) and Western (Memphis) divisional offices. Chief Judge Breen was nominated by President George W. Bush to a seat on the district court bench and received his commission on March 14, 2003.

Chief Judge Breen maintains his Chambers in Jackson, Tennessee, the Eastern Division of the Western District of Tennessee.

(Note: This submission was received just after the last issue went to press.)

Cathy Gray, Vice President of the FJAA and JA from the Sixth Circuit, went on a cruise at the end of October, 2013. The departure port was New Orleans, Louisiana. While in NOLA, Flay Sambrone-Metoyer and Hope Joia McDonald (Fifth Circuit JAs) met Cathy for coffee and then led her on a tour of their courthouse and chambers. A fun time was had by all!

While on the cruise, Cathy connected, quite by chance (neither had met before), with retired JA Shirley Cobb (Sixth Circuit) and her husband. Shirley had recently retired after working for many years for Judge Walter Rice in Dayton, Ohio. Unfortunately, Cathy and Shirley were having so much fun cruising that they didn't have time for a photo op. However, Cathy can report that Shirley is enjoying her retirement. Cathy also commented that being a member of FJAA has allowed her to meet and connect with many wonderful JAs.



Flay (sitting), Hope (standing right), Cathy (standing left)

RETIREMENT UPDATE

Sherryne M. Evans

Ah-h-h, Retirement! The word - "retire." Will Retire. Did Retire. Am Retired. For a good portion of my life I never thought I would use those words to describe anything about me, yet here I am. Effective January 3, 2013, 41 years, 7 months and 23 days of government service later, I am retired. More accurately, I am retired and writing this while sitting on the balcony of my apartment overlooking the Pacific Ocean in Puerto Lopez, Ecuador. My new home.

My last service was to the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio, duty station in Cleveland, where I had been the Relief Judicial Assistant since 1989, providing service to active and senior district judges and, occasionally, a magistrate judge.

I was selected from the Civil Service roster, where I was number two on the list, for employment in the Office of the United States Attorney, Department of Justice, Executive Branch, in the District of Kansas at
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Topeka. After clearing the FBI background investigation and receiving my security clearance (back then, all Justice employees had to have a security clearance), and waiting out an employment freeze, I began my service on Pearl Harbor Day - December 7, 1971.



In December, 1976, I transferred from the Executive Branch to the Judicial Branch and became secretary to Bankruptcy Judge James A. Pusateri, where I remained until moving to Ohio in 1988. After arriving in Ohio, as a result of my experience on Chapter 11s, I worked with the Bankruptcy Court in Akron on the newly filed Revco Drug Store Chapter 11 case for one year. Then, in October, 1989, I was hired by the District Court into the position from which I retired.

Service with the federal government has been a good career and one which I am proud to have had. It has provided me with opportunities I might not have otherwise had, such as meeting people and participating in organizations. From a personal standpoint, the ability to work in a career that is never boring has been quite possibly the best part. Think about it - you get to work in a field you enjoy and you get paid for it, too! That suited my personality perfectly. During my tenure, I have seen many changes in the government, from paychecks that looked like IBM card stock to required direct deposit, to the creation of FERS, and many more things that I cannot even remember.

Professionally connected positions I have occupied outside the government have included: President of Topeka Assn. of Legal Secretaries, during which time Washburn Univ., having worked with our organization, set the curriculum and first offered an AA degree in Paralegalism; Recording Secretary and 2nd Vice President of Kansas Assn. of Legal Secretaries; served on several Governor's Conferences sponsored by the Black Legislative Caucus and chaired one Conference under Governor John Carlin; one of the founding members of what is now known as the Association of Bankruptcy Judicial Assistants together with Velma Smith, District of Kansas, and Marge Sullivan, WD Missouri, among others. I moved to Ohio in 1988 before the organization's debut in 1989.

I have always seen things a little bit differently than others and have never been afraid to conduct my life in a way that others might not choose, and try things that might not be the same choices others might make. I am the youngest child of seven. My first sibling died Christmas Eve of 1984. In 1994 I lost my oldest sister and youngest brother on the same day. They were not physically together, only died on the same day. My personal reassessment after that helped me to get divorced, something I should have done years before. I began to believe I would never be able to financially afford to retire and had resigned myself to probably expiring in the Federal Courthouse. Then another brother, the travel agent who had traveled the world, died in 2008. We had always discussed life elsewhere and that sort of thing, the difference being, of course, that he had actually been to some of these places while I had not. I finally began to think of the possibility of retiring. Then my last sister died in 2010 and that sealed it. For me it was no longer can I afford to retire, but where can I afford to live when I retire. Something caught my eye while online one day and it was about Ecuador. From there I read everything I could.

When my sister passed in December, 2010, I came down to Ecuador to look around and decide if I thought I could live here, and I planned to retire and move in September, 2012. Things happened to delay me, but I didn't stop, and I finally got here November 1, 2013. I look out my apartment window and see the ocean. I hear the Mighty Pacific all day long, whenever I am home. I love that sound. The sound of the power and majesty of the Pacific as the tide rolls in. Me and my 116 lb. Italian Mastiff, Makeda. Life is good. Everything is peaceful.

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I am loving it!! I encourage anyone to do what they want to do. Do NOT talk yourself out of it!! Anyone who says anything negative about you and your plans is not someone you want in your life anyway. At least, that's what I believe. Feel free to email me at sherryne.evans@gmail.com. Come visit! More news will follow via Kelly!!



Seventh Circuit

Melissa Hardin

Greetings from the Seventh Circuit.

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. This year, besides updating what is happening in our courts, I'd also like to share with you a "best" or "favorite" practice from one of our courts for each newsletter.

Favorite Practice - TripIt app for iPad and iPhone. As many judges embrace technology, this app makes it easy for you to coordinate your judge's travel. Specifically, it lets you copy & paste itineraries or activities; link to Gmail or work email and will automatically drop confirmation emails to TripIt; and the JA can go to TripIt.com and log into the judge's account to fill in information, which the judge can access from their iPad.

Western Wisconsin – Senior Judge Barbara Crabb spoke at a patent law conference in London, England. Hosted by UCL Faculty of Laws in London, the conference combined commentary from key industry and legal experts, including experts from the UK, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, and the U.S. on patents and FRAND standards.

Northern Illinois – We send our good wishes to FJAA member, Linda Winstead, who retired on January 31st after 25 years of service in the Rockford Division. Linda first worked for U.S. District Court Judge Stanley J. Roszkowski (for whom the new U.S. Courthouse in Rockford is named) and since 1992 worked for Magistrate Judge P. Michael Mahoney. It has been a wonderful career and she feels blessed to work with all the wonderful people we have in our court family. Also, the Northern District recently held the Investiture of Zachary T. Fardon as new U.S. Attorney on November 25, 2013. Senators Durbin and Kirk attended.

Central Illinois – In the Peoria Division of the CDIL, U.S. Magistrate Judge John Gorman will be retiring on February 28, 2014. He has been with the District Court for 14 years. Jeanne Ballor, his career law clerk, will also be retiring. Mrs. Ballor has been with the District Court for 17 years. Jonathan Hawley has been selected to succeed Judge Gorman. Judge Hawley is currently the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of Illinois, and (best news of all) Judge Hawley will retain FJAA member Whitney Willett as his Judicial Assistant. Whitney had worked with Judge Gorman for 10 years and was with the U.S. District Clerk's office for six years prior to that. Whitney is very much looking forward to working with Judge Hawley.

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Southern Illinois – A tornado damaged central/southern Illinois around Peoria and Washington on November 17th, many of the court family's homes sustained damage, some quite heavy.

Southern Indiana – The Indiana State Bar Association's Federal Judiciary Committee sponsored a CLE during this year's Annual Meeting in French Lick, Indiana. The Honorable Jon DeGuilio (Northern District of Indiana), Honorable Jane Magnus-Stinson, and Honorable Tanya Walton Pratt (both of the Southern District of Indiana) conducted a panel discussion on The Dos and Don'ts of Federal Practice. Judge DeGuilio offered insight into the unique practices and procedures in the Northern District, and all three jurists offered helpful tips and sound advice for practicing in federal court such as "be fully familiar with the Local Rules," "carefully prepare your case," and "do not ever be afraid to ask an experienced federal practitioner for help."

Also during the Annual Meeting, the Federal Judiciary Committee awarded the first annual Henry Hurst Judicial Assistance Award to Laura Briggs, Clerk of the Courts for the Southern District of Indiana. The Hurst Award is named in honor of Henry Hurst, the first federal Clerk of the Court for the District Courts in Indiana from 1817 to 1835. The award will be presented by the Committee each year at the Annual Meeting and honors a non-jurist federal judicial staff member who is *"an outstanding individual who serves the federal judiciary and the public with distinction, high moral character and ethical standards, dedication and professionalism."* Laura joined the court as a Pro Se Law Clerk in 1995 and was formally appointed as Clerk on July 22, 1998. Upon learning about Laura's receipt of the award, Chief Judge Young, said, "The judges of the Southern District are incredibly proud that Laura is receiving the Hurst Award. She is a shining example of an individual who serves the judiciary with the sole aim of promoting justice. She is intelligent, humble, dedicated, and we are fortunate to have her as our Clerk of Court." Laura herself has indicated that she feels this award is more a reflection of the excellent work of the entire Clerk's Office staff, rather than an individual achievement. Please join us in congratulating Laura on this honor! Next year's award recipient will be chosen from Indiana's Northern District.



Laura Briggs, Clerk of Court

Judge Walton Pratt chairs the Federal Judiciary Committee, Judges Magnus-Stinson and DeGuilio serve as members. The Committee monitors all activities which affect the federal court system and federal court judges and reports on these issues to the ISBA Board of Governors.

ALERT! Calls from "809," "649," "284" Area Codes - HIGH IMPORTANCE - Phone Calls from Unknown Area Codes

UPS Global Network Systems (GNS) Mobile Services has received notification of multiple incidents of a long distance phone scam being deployed throughout the United States. Users who call back missed calls or numbers that appear on their cell phone are especially vulnerable. **UPS GNS Mobile Services recommends that users only call back numbers that you recognize or if you are familiar with the area code.**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has recently learned that an old long distance phone scam that leads consumers to incur high charges on their phone bills may now affect wireless consumers. In the past, consumers have been fooled into making expensive international calls by scam artists who leave messages on consumers' answering machines or their email accounts. The messages urge consumers to call a number with an "809," "284," "876," or some other area code to collect a prize, find out about a sick relative, engage in inappropriate conversation, or asks to "please hold for an operator."

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Wireless consumers are now receiving similar calls from phone numbers with three-digit area codes that appear to be U.S.-based, but are actually associated with international pay-per-call phone numbers. While wireless companies are working to block suspicious numbers on their networks, some consumers may become victims of this scam.

The Scam Works Like This:

Your wireless phone rings once or twice and then disconnects the call. When the number appears in your wireless phone log as a missed call, it appears to be a typical U.S. telephone number starting with a “649” area code; *or* you get an email or voicemail (on your residential wired telephone) telling you to call a phone number with an “809,” “284,” “876,” or some other three-digit international area code.

When you return the call, you assume you are making a U.S.-based long distance call—as “649,” “809,” “284,” “876,” and other area codes involved in this scam, appear to be typical three-digit U.S. area codes.

When you dial the three-digit area code plus the number, however, you are connected to a phone number outside the United States, often in Canada or the Caribbean, and are charged expensive international call rates, and may be charged for pay-per-call services as well. (In this case, “649” is the Turks and Caicos, “809” is the Dominican Republic, “284” is the British Virgin Islands, and “876” is Jamaica.)

You will not find out about the higher international call rates until you receive your phone bill.

If you believe that you have been the subject of such a scam, please contact your cell provider to have these third-party charges removed.

Betty Wilson
Judicial Assistant to Judge Kanne

EIGHTH CIRCUIT

Susan Sandridge



Hello, my name is Susan Sandridge and I am happy to be the next Eighth Circuit Representative. I work for Senior District Judge Scott O. Wright in Kansas City, Missouri, and have been with Judge Wright for 4½ years. I have known Judge Wright for over 20 years and am pleased that I now have the opportunity to work with him. I was born and raised in Kansas City and have worked at several law firms and for some wonderful attorneys over the years. In 1995, I moved to Orlando, Florida, and while there worked at the FPD office. In 2008, I returned to Kansas City to be close to my parents and in early 2009 I was fortunate to get the Judicial Assistant position working for Judge Wright.

I bought a fixer-upper house in 2010 and one of my favorite things to do is get a project going. Right now I’m adding a bathroom in the basement and it is close to being finished. I have rehabbed the kitchen and the master bath, added a deck on the back, have a new concrete driveway, porch, sidewalk and lower patio, to name a few projects. This is the third house I’ve bought to renovate and, although it is a lot of work, it is very gratifying to me.

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I'm single and have no children, but I do have my steadfast companion, Lola dog. We lost my Mother two years ago and it is just Dad and me now, so I am glad that I am here. I enjoy traveling when I can and usually go to Florida to see my friends. I do miss the sunny days in Florida, but I am where I need to be right now.

January 31, 2014 will mark a sad day at the courthouse in Jefferson City, Missouri. That is the day that Judicial Assistants Fran Smith and Kay Bode are retiring. Fran has worked with Senior District Judge Nanette Laughrey for 13 years. Fran began working for Judge Laughrey in 2000, after having worked at a law firm for 25 years. After retirement, Fran plans to spend more time with her grandchildren. Also, Fran and her husband Randy plan to travel and their first stop will be Paris, France – oo la la!



Fran and Randy

Kay Bode has been with the court for 28 years. She started out on January 2, 1986 with Magistrate Judge Bill Knox and, upon Judge Knox's retirement in 2010, began working with Magistrate Judge Matt Whitworth. Prior to working at the Court, Kay worked for a local law firm in Jefferson City for 20 years as a secretary and office manager. Kay plans to spend more time with her husband and grandchildren after retiring. She also has a fun trip planned with two girlfriends to travel to Santa Fe next May—three wild women on the loose in the Southwest!

Unfortunately, both Fran and Kay will be replaced with law clerks.

We will sure miss Fran and Kay and wish them all the best.

Susan

NINTH CIRCUIT

Julie Lemm



Construction Wraps Up on John Roll Courthouse

Major construction is complete on the John M. Roll United States Courthouse, and the Yuma, AZ, building opened for judicial business in mid-December.



Plans for the \$25 million, two-courtroom structure were signed off on by Judge Roll shortly before he was shot to death in January 2011, during a gunman's attack in Tuscon that also severely wounded then-U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. Nineteen people were shot, six fatally. According to the General Services Administration, which is overseeing construction, some remaining interior construction is expected to be finished by early December.

The two-story, 57,000-square-foot building was named after Judge Roll through legislation introduced by U.S. Sens. John McCain and Jon Kyl (both R-Ariz.). Its distinguishing features include a sandstone exterior drawn from local sources, and a 10,000-square-foot canopy at the building's façade. In addition to providing shade, the canopy contains solar panels that will generate up to one-fourth of the building's electricity needs.

Sundt Construction Co., which built the courthouse, said it is seeking LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

A dedication ceremony has not yet been scheduled.

TENTH CIRCUIT***Lynda Brown*****NEW MEXICO NEWS:**

From Theresa Hall, Judicial Assistant to Judge Gonzales:

Judge Ken Gonzales was sworn in by Chief District Judge M. Christina Armijo as United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico on October 18, 2013, in Albuquerque. The District of New Mexico is one of the busiest in the federal judicial system.

**UTAH NEWS:**

From Christine (Chris) Ford, Case Administrator for the Honorable Tena Campbell, United States District Court, District of Utah:

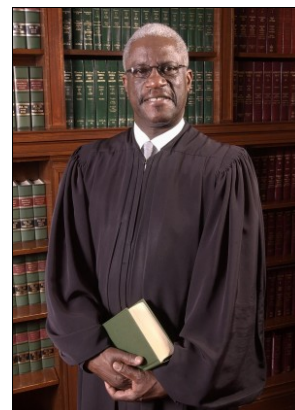
We are rapidly approaching our April move-in date for our beautiful new courthouse. The next page is a recent update of construction which might be of interest to the FJAA members. Happy Holidays to everyone!

Norrine Gardner wanted everyone to know that Lael Noble died in October, 2013 at her home in Pocatello, Idaho, after suffering for many years with a rare condition called spinal cerebellar degeneration. Lael had been secretary to Judge J. Thomas Greene, District Judge for the District of Utah. She was a member of FJSA for all of her career, beginning when Judge Greene was appointed to the bench in 1982, and served as President for a year—perhaps in the late 1980s or early 1990s. Norrine is not sure how many FJAA members will remember her, but the old-timers undoubtedly will. She doesn't think Lael ever missed a conference until her health failed and she was forced to retire. One of her last conferences was the second one hosted in Salt Lake City in 2002, and Lael was the 'star' of our famous "Rap" performance. Norrine still gets comments about that from members who attended 11 years ago.

WYOMING NEWS:

From Debbie McVeigh, Judicial Assistant to Judge Phillips:

Surrounded by family, friends, and colleagues at Little America Resort in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the investiture of the Honorable Gregory A. Phillips took place on Friday, October 11, 2013. Formerly Attorney General for the State of Wyoming, Judge Phillips was nominated by President Barack Obama on January 31, 2013, and confirmed unanimously by the Senate on July 8, 2013. Judge Phillips was honored with remarks by Wyoming Senator Mike Enzi; Governor of Wyoming, Matt Mead; Former Governor and former U.S. Attorney for the District of Wyoming, Dave Freudenthal; and the Honorable Kelly H. Rankin, Chief Magistrate Judge for the District of Wyoming. The Honorable Terrence L. O'Brien presented Judge Phillips with his Presidential Commission, and Chief Judge Mary Beck Briscoe administered the Oath of Office. A reception followed at the Governor's Residence.





New United States Courthouse for the District of Utah

The new courthouse is located at 351 South West Temple Street in downtown Salt Lake City, behind the existing Frank E. Moss Federal Courthouse. It will rest on a raised landscaped plaza, surrounded by trees, and will include an informal public garden and gathering space between the two buildings. The building (rendering at left) is ten stories tall, and has two restricted parking and building service levels below.

Building plans include ten District and Magistrate courtrooms and support spaces; Office of the Clerk of Court; U.S. Probation Office; U.S. Marshals Service; two Grand Jury Suites; Alternate Dispute Resolution Rooms; large Jury Assembly area; 10th Circuit Branch Library; and a Cafeteria. Construction began on January 19, 2011, and is scheduled to finish by the end of March, 2014. Nearly all exterior work is nearing completion now, with only a small amount of granite plaza paving left to finish at the west side of the new building.

On-site landscaping includes large expanses of new lawn with many “Shademaster Honeylocust” trees; tree grates along surrounding streets are planted with “Triumph Elms” per Salt Lake City standards.

Workers are busy installing the main courthouse entrance doors at the West Temple side of the new building, and installation of extruded aluminum sunshades over the full exterior of the building is moving closer to completion at the east elevation. Work inside the building is also rapidly approaching a finished state, with the punch list for upper floors already prepared and being addressed.

Courtroom technology systems are currently being installed and tested; these will provide attorneys and the court with an environment suitable for courtroom activities, and are a significant improvement over comparable systems used at the Moss Courthouse.

After the court has moved into the new building, crews will complete work along the easternmost fifty feet of the project, where the plaza will extend to the back side of the Moss Courthouse and where a granite through-block walkway will be provided.



DC CIRCUIT*Sharon Deare*

D. C. Circuit Courthouse

United States Court of Appeals DC Circuit

On February 28, 2014, at 4:30 p.m., the Court of Appeals will convene in a special session in the Ceremonial Courtroom to mark the investiture of Judge Patricia Ann Millett. Ms. Millett is a attorney with Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. She held various positions in the Justice Department during Democratic and Republican administrations. She has argued 32 cases before the Supreme Court.



A date has not yet been set for soon to be Judge Nina Pillard's investiture ceremony. The Senate voted to confirm her on December 12, 2013. Ms. Pillard is currently a law professor at Georgetown University. She has served as deputy assistant attorney general, and as an assistant solicitor general.

United States District Court for the District of Maryland

Judge Alexander Williams, Jr., retired on January 3, 2014 after 19+ years on the bench. Judge Williams was confirmed by the United States Senate on August 17, 1994, and received his commission on August 18, 1994. He took senior status on May 8, 2013.

**United States Court of Appeals Federal Circuit**

The Honorable Todd M. Hughes became the newest member of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on Monday, September 30, 2013. His swearing-in ceremony was held in the chambers of Chief Judge Randall R. Rader. The Chief Judge administered the oath of office while Judge Hughes placed his hand on the historic Lincoln Bible that was held by his mother, Barbara.

United States Court of Federal Claims

On September 19, 2013, Chief Judge Emily C. Hewitt of the United States Court of Federal Claims (USCFC) announced Special Master Denise K. Vowell to the position of Chief Special Master of the National Vaccine Injury Compensation.

President Obama designated Judge Patricia E. Campbell-Smith to serve as Chief Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims (USCFC). Judge Campbell-Smith was already serving on the USCFC when she was tapped to assume the role of Chief Judge. She also served as a Special Master with the USCFC from 2005 to 2011, and as Chief Special Master from 2011 to 2013. In that role, she presided over litigation pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.





FJAA TREASURER'S REPORT
July 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013
By
Susan T. Garner



BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Chase Business Classic Checking	15,157.89
Chase Business Savings	15,028.52
Wells Fargo Conference Account	<u>0.00</u>

TOTAL ASSETS **\$30,186.41**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Unrestricted Net Assets	31,894.95
Net Income	<u>(1,708.54)</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **\$30,186.41**

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

INCOME

Interest-Savings	7.62
Membership Dues	300.00
Other Income-Wells Fargo Conference Acct. (closed)	3,165.72

TOTAL INCOME **\$3,473.34**

EXPENSES

Business Expenses:

Scholarships	750.00
Business Expenses-Other	202.50

Contract Services:

Accounting Fees	725.00
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Operations:

Postage, Mailing Service	49.48
Supplies	241.24
Internet, Phone & Telecommunications	47.94

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$2,016.16**

NET INCOME **(\$1,708.54)**



1ST CIRCUIT

JOAN AUSMAN

Joan Ausman is Judicial Assistant to Judge Paul Barbadoro of the District of New Hampshire. In 1992 she came to the court with the judge from the law firm of Rath & Young in Concord, NH, where she had worked with him since 1988. Prior to that she was a legal secretary in various law firms in NH and MA.

Joan has been a member of the FJAA for several years, and in 2009 she served on the Portland, ME FJAA Conference Committee. From 2005-2007, she was the JSAG representative for the First Circuit and assisted with the Jumpstart Workshop for Judicial Assistants and Secretaries in August 2006. She has also served as a subject matter expert for the AO's Court Compensation Study, reviewing benchmark job descriptions for chambers staff. In 2013 she began serving as the FJAA's First Circuit Rep., replacing Mari Rosa Jorge from Puerto Rico.

Joan has been married to Dave for 30 years and they have two children-a daughter who is a social worker and a son who lives in Cordova, AK and is employed by the US Forest Service. Joan and Dave enjoy traveling and planning for their next adventures.

2ND CIRCUIT

JANET F. HANSEN

Janet is the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable José A. Cabranes, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, in New Haven, CT. She joined Judge Cabranes' chambers when he was elevated to the Court of Appeals in 1994. Prior to this, she worked as a paralegal for six years at the law firm of Garcia & Associates in New Haven, CT. Janet also worked for many years at the Social Security Administration in New Brunswick, NJ, and in Perth Amboy, NJ. She received her paralegal certificate from the University of New Haven, CT. Janet lives in Branford, CT, with her fiancé Jim Balsamo, their two cats and two cockatiels. She has two grown sons, and three grandsons. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, gardening and doting on her grandsons!

3RD CIRCUIT

IRIS N. LIRIANO

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 nine years. During her tenure there, Iris worked as a Legal Secretary for two years, as a Deputy Chief Secretary for less than a year and promoted to a Supervisory Legal Secretary for six years. Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Iris worked for the Drug Enforcement Administration for approximately four years as a clerk-typist and was 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

KRYSTINA LUDLOW-JONES

Born in Montana, Krystina Ludlow-Jones was raised in Montana for the first 8 years of her life. By age nine Ms. Ludlow-Jones moved to Manhattan, KS with her family, where she continued to grow up until she moved to South Carolina. Ms. Ludlow-Jones received her Bachelor of Science degree May 18, 2002 from Kansas State University, with majors in Social Science/Sociology with an Emphasis in the Criminal Justice System, with dual minors in American Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies. In December 2003, she completed her Master's in Foundations, Adult and Continuing Education (Higher Ed) with an Emphasis in Sociology and Criminology from Kansas State University.

In June 2004, Ms. Ludlow-Jones moved from Manhattan, KS, to Mauldin, SC. From September 2004 until September 2007 Ms. Ludlow-Jones worked at the 13th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office; Pre-Trial Intervention Program as a PTI Counselor of adult criminal offenders. Ms. Ludlow-Jones then was chosen to work at the South Carolina Bar; Law Related Education Division ("LRE") from October 2007 until April 2009. Ms. Ludlow-Jones worked primarily with programs relating to Youth Courts, Supreme Court Institute, and supported Mock Trials and oversaw the LRE grants for schools across the state. In April 2009, Ms. Ludlow-Jones had the privilege of working at the South Carolina Judicial Department for the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Richland and Kershaw Counties; for The Honorable J. Michelle Childs, Chief Administrative Circuit Court Judge. Then in August 20, 2010, Ms. Ludlow-Jones had the honor of following Judge Childs to the federal bench when Judge Childs was appointed by President Barack Obama to the position of United States District Court Judge for the District of South Carolina. Ms. Ludlow-Jones has been involved in youth services and the judicial system for almost 15 years, working with agencies such as the Kansas State Upward Bound Program, Manhattan High School, Flint Hills Job Corps, Light House Care Facility (DSS), and National Association of Youth Courts.

Ms. Ludlow-Jones has been playing sports since the age of six starting with AAU track and field. Since the early age of 6 up until her freshman year in college Mrs. Ludlow-Jones was an athlete on various competitive middle/high school; t-ball (short-stop), softball (short-stop), soccer (Central midfielder/defensive midfielder), basketball (point guard(2)), track and field (100/200sprints, 4x100, 4x200, 1600 sprint medley relay, and 400 meter hurdles). Upon her freshman year of college, Mrs. Ludlow-Jones only participated in rec league sports, playing on basketball, volleyball and football (powder puff) teams. In Ms. Ludlow-Jones' spare time she is very involved in her 15-year-old and 2-year-old sons' lives, and she can be found on the football field, basketball court or track field as a volunteer coach for three different teams, as she loves to stay involved in sports. Ms. Ludlow-Jones stays active in her local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and loves to travel with her husband and sons.

5TH CIRCUIT

HOPE P. TAORMINA

Hope has served as the Judicial Assistant to Magistrate Judge Daniel E. Knowles, III beginning in January 2003, when he was appointed to the bench in the Eastern District of Louisiana. She has been a member of the (FJSA) FJAA since 2003. Hope has served as Chairman of the Professional Development & Continuing Education Committee (FJSA Scholarship Program) from 2004-2008 and has co-chaired the Nominations and Election Committee and the Ways & Means Committee and has served as the Fifth Circuit Representative for the past year.

Her prior legal experience includes working as a Legal Assistant for a managing partner at a New Orleans law firm for over 16 years. Hope has also served as State and Local President and Board Member of the Louisiana Legal Secretaries Association and the New Orleans Legal Secretaries Association.

Hope has been happily married for 25 years to her husband, Manny. They enjoy traveling, boating, fishing, cooking, and spending time with friends and family.

6TH CIRCUIT

KELLY A. KOPF

Kelly has been a Judicial Assistant to Michael R. Merz, Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, since August 2008. In 2011, she assumed a dual role for Judge Merz as his Judicial Assistant and Courtroom Deputy. Kelly began her career with the court system as a case administrator in the district court clerk's office in 2005 before finding her permanent home with Judge Merz. Prior to coming to federal court, Kelly worked in the legal field for more than twenty-five years, most recently as a paralegal. She has an Associates Paralegal Degree from Sinclair College in Dayton, Ohio. Kelly is married and a proud step-mom to three children and four grandchildren who keep her busy.

7TH CIRCUIT

MELISSA HARDIN

Melissa has been a judicial assistant since 1998, first with the state courts in Wisconsin, then joining the 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 the FJAA since 2003 and the Seventh Circuit Representative for the past three years.

Melissa and her fiancé, Bob, love to travel the world and have visited six of the seven continents; their next trip takes them back to Jolly Old England (eighth time) and Paris (fourth time) with her Dad and nephew in tow. They try to do different things each time, this year Bob will be riding his bicycle from London to Edinburgh and back, while Melissa, Dad, and nephew explore the Yorkshire Dales. While in Paris, they will take a day-trip out to visit the D-Day beaches with a private guide. They also have two very spoiled cats, Jumah and Rami, both named after favorite tour guides (Kenya and Egypt respectively). Melissa is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point and has served on its Alumni Board of Directors since 2005.

8TH CIRCUIT

SUSAN SANDRIDGE

I was born and raised in Kansas City, MO. In 1979, I got a job in a small law firm typing up documents (my mother told me to learn to type and I could always find a job - and of course she was right!). I found that I really enjoyed working in the legal field and have worked in many different areas of the law since then. I have been very fortunate to work for some wonderful attorneys. I worked for several firms here in Kansas City and then for an attorney who represented members of Cosa Nostra (who were all really nice to me). I also worked for a well known Kansas City criminal defense attorney. I ran his office and assisted him at trial. At that time, we held a charity golf tournament which local judges and attorneys attended. It was at the golf tournament that I met the Honorary Chairman for the tournament, Judge Scott Wright, and we hit it off right away. I moved away to Orlando and lived there for 14 years and while there I was able to work at the Federal Public Defender's office for the Middle District of Florida.

I moved back to Kansas City in 2008 to be near my family as my mother's health was poor. I told Judge Wright I was back in town. Soon after I returned to KC Judy Morse, Judge Wright's former JA, decided to retire. Judge Wright called me and didn't really ask me to come to work for him, but rather ordered me to come to work for him! And who can deny an order from a federal judge? So I have now been with Judge Wright for four years and have enjoyed every day working with him. I have also enjoyed getting to know the court family and have met so many wonderful people here at the courthouse. I have also been fortunate to attend several conferences in Washington, DC and have met some great people from all over the country. I wouldn't trade this job for anything!

I'm single, own my home and live close to my Dad (we lost my Mom in 2011). I also have a wonderful companion in my dog Lola, who has been with me since 2005. I enjoy working on my house and yard and have done quite a bit of remodeling since I bought the house in 2010. I also enjoy traveling, especially to Florida to see my friends, however I'm game to go just about anywhere.

9TH CIRCUIT

JULIE V. LEMM

Julie has been Judge Robert J. Bryan's Judicial Assistant in the Western District of Washington at the Tacoma Union Station Courthouse since March 2003. She began her federal service working for Magistrate Judge John L. Weinberg at the Seattle Courthouse in 1998. Prior to working for the federal judiciary, she worked in both Divisions I and II of the Washington State Court of Appeals from 1990 to 1998. Julie is originally from the Black Hills of South Dakota and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business from Black Hills State University in 1989, and also earned a Certificate of Paralegal Studies from the University of Washington Extension Program in 1998. Judge Bryan volunteers as a Visiting Judge as necessary within the Ninth Circuit, and he and Julie have traveled together to work in the Districts of Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Central District of California, and the Northern Marianas Islands. In her spare time, Julie likes to hike, kayak, camp, read, and travel (especially to Hawaii).

10TH CIRCUIT

LYNDA BROWN

Lynda is the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Bobby R. Baldock of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, Roswell, New Mexico. She received an Associate Degree in Secretarial Science from New Mexico State University in 1975. Lynda first worked for Judge Baldock from 1988 to 1991. She then left to work for seven years at a school her children attended. Her work experience also includes working for law offices for approximately ten years (1975-1985) and the Fifth Judicial District Court for the State of New Mexico for over nine years. She rejoined Judge Baldock's Chambers in December of 2006.

Lynda has been a member of the FJAA since 2007. She has two sons who are married and four grandchildren (three grandsons and one granddaughter) and loves being a "mimi!!!" Lynda enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, family, and friends. In her extra time she likes to walk, participate in church activities, travel, and garden.

11TH CIRCUIT

BARBARA LAY

Barbara has been Executive Administrator to the Honorable Gerald Bard Tjoflat for almost 19 years. Before being employed by Judge Tjoflat, Barbara was a secretary in the US Attorney's Office, Middle District of Florida, assisting the Senior Litigation Attorney and the Drug Enforcement Task Force in that office. Barbara traveled extensively with her husband and two children during his Air Force career throughout the Pacific and Europe. They lived in several different countries throughout this time. Barbara worked in Germany for the US Army in the Base Commander's Office, while her husband was on assignment there, which is where she started her government career. After her husband's retirement from the Air Force, they settled in Jacksonville, Florida, where Barbara has worked for Judge Tjoflat for over 20 years, and just recently celebrated her 30-year mark of government service. Her career spans over 20 years as an executive secretary in the corporate world and the US Military. She attended American River Junior College in Sacramento, California. Barbara enjoys spending time with her four beautiful grandchildren, traveling, and most of all fishing.

FEDERAL & DC CIRCUIT

SHARON DEARE

I am currently working as the JA to Sr. Judge Douglas Ginsburg at the United States Courts of the District of Columbia Circuit. I previously worked for six years as the JA to Sr. Judge Loren Smith at the United States Federal Claims Court. I have reared three children on my own for the last twelve years. I am truly blessed at how well they have all turned out. The oldest two have graduated from college with advanced degrees and are working in their professions. The youngest is still in college working towards a degree. I am an avid animal lover. I have volunteered for local rescues to the point of having a basement full of puppies on and off for several years. However, this impeded on my social life as well as time with my own three rescued dogs. Presently, I help out on an occasion for severe cases. I have also volunteered at Habitat for Humanity until my own house needed work! Prior to coming to work at the Court, I was an executive assistant for CEO's and CFO's in the information technology sector. I enjoy reading, boating, traveling, and bicycling.


2014 FJAA Annual Conference--CANCELLED

Unfortunately, due to the deferred status of the Chambers Training Funds for FY14, the FJAA Executive Board has made the decision to cancel the 2014 FJAA Annual Conference in Minneapolis. An ad hoc committee was formed to advise the FJAA Executive Board on how best to move forward given the commitment we had to the hotel in Minneapolis and the low number of rooms that had been reserved in the room block by November, 2013. After reviewing surveys of attendees at the last FJAA Conference, the current state of chambers training funds, and the low number of rooms reserved for the 2014 Conference, the ad hoc committee advised the Executive Board to cancel the 2014 Conference.

The FJAA Executive Board considered the ad hoc committee's recommendation and immediately began working with the Minneapolis Marriott to cancel the contract. It is unknown at this time whether the next FJAA Annual Conference will be held in Minneapolis or another city.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Conference Planning Committee in Minneapolis. Rebecca Baertsch, Gerri Rishel, Jackie Phipps, Sheryl Gilchrist, and Dianne Hillman worked tirelessly over the past year recruiting speakers, developing registration forms and investigating options for our optional Friday night event. The members of the planning committee developed an Agenda that was exciting, educational, and informative. We hope to utilize some of the speakers and sessions that were planned for the 2014 Conference at the next FJAA Conference. I hope you all join me in applauding their outstanding work. I share your collective disappointment that they will not get to see their hard work rewarded in April.

The cancellation decision was based solely on the lack of Chambers Training Funding. The FJAA Executive Board is confident that Judicial Assistants will understand that this decision was the result of careful consultation and consideration. Our hope is that you will all remain FJAA members and stay tuned for information on the next FJAA Conference!



It is time to renew your FJAA membership, and if you're not already a member (membership is **FREE** for the first year to first-time Judicial Assistants), we'd love to have you join us. Remember, if you renew your membership by **March 1, 2014** you will be included in the Early Bird Drawing to win **\$100**.

TOP FIVE REASONS TO JOIN FJAA:

1. **Education** - The FJAA is committed to promoting the continuing education and professional development of its members.
2. **Scholarship** - The FJAA administers a scholarship program to enable and assist members to pursue their educational goals by taking courses and attending seminars and workshops to enhance their job performance.
3. **Networking** - The exchange of ideas and practical information relating to judicial support is an important benefit of joining the FJAA. Making connections with other federal judicial assistants across the nation is a valuable resource.
4. **Newsletter** - A quarterly newsletter is published by the FJAA for its membership to provide news especially for federal judicial assistants.
5. **Website** - A comprehensive website (www.fjaa.net) is maintained and updated for use by FJAA members.

Other reasons to join are: the monetary support that the FJAA contributed to the FCCA and other organizations to aid in the legal fight to pass the FERS sick leave credit legislation; the charitable donations that the FJAA has made to the Red Cross following several natural disasters including tornadoes in Joplin, Missouri, and hurricane Katrina; and the opportunity for leave sharing among members.

Cathy Gray



CURRENT FJAA MEMBERS:

Please adopt a new
hire and mentor her
or him!

Nina Harrison, JA to Judge Ojetta Rogeriee Thompson, Providence, RI
Patricia Vernier, Secretary to Judge Nathaniel Gorton, Boston, MA
Diane Gray, JA to Magistrate Judge Andrew Peck, New York, NY
Chris Corcoran, JA to Judge Reena Raggi, Brooklyn, NY
Kelly Lamantia, Secretary to Judge D. Michael Fisher, Pittsburg, PA
Susan Williams, JA to Magistrate Judge D. Dwight Goains, Alpine, TX
Nicole Peavy, JA to Magistrate Judge Caroline Craven, Texarkana, TX
Antoinette Leard, JA to Judge Eldon Fallon, New Orleans, LA
Janet Pawlik, Judicial Secretary to Judge Sara Lee Ellis, Chicago, IL
Kim Daniels, Assistant Secretary to Senior Circuit Judge Kenneth Ripple, South Bend, IN
Carolee Kurta, Secretary to Judge Christina Snyder, Los Angeles, CA
Laura Reyes, Secretary to Judge Susan Watters, Atlanta, GA
Jane Shoultz, Admin. Assistant to Judge Emmett Ripley Cox, Mobile, AL
Kimberly Mixon, JA to Chief Judge Lisa Godbey Wood, Brunswick, GA
Agnes Prelow, JA to Judge Brian Davis, Jacksonville, FL
Rada Stojanovich-Hayes, Admin. Assistant to Judge Evan Wallach, Washington, DC
Patricia Hagenmaier, Secretary to Magistrate Judge Sidney Schenkier, Chicago, IL
Jo Ann Mingo, JA to Judge John Roberts, Anchorage, AK
Denine Downs, JA to Judge Daniel Collins, Phoenix, AZ
Adriana Bowen, Secretary to Judge Patricia Ann Millett, Washington, DC

Greetings, fellow J.A.s! I was given a dreaded travel agent job to do recently (I hate to fly!) and came across a wonderful web site that I wanted to share with you. I needed to find a hotel in the Washington, DC area, far enough away for the group of 26 to pay a reasonable rate, but close enough to get to the Supreme Court in a reasonable time. Oh, and the hotel had to be near a mass transit station! If you need to compare hotels in a certain area before you book, check out www.hotelplanner.com. I worked with Pamela Bartlett (contact info below) who provided a running chart with each hotel, the amenities, prices, etc. You'll be given log on information and regular updates on the hotels as pricing and availability change over time. I wound up putting the information about the hotels on a map so that the two judges could make a very informed decision. I would definitely use this service again. I was not aware of any charges for this service (I was not the one who originally set it up) so please ask if you contact them. Safe travels!

Pamela Bartlett | Regional Product Manager - Wash DC
 Ph: 1-800-898-1347 x275 | Main: 1-800-898-1347
HotelPlanner.com | Meetings.com | Pamela.Bartlett@HotelPlanner.com



Susan Eckert Pinkowski
 Newsletter Editor



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.

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

Stephanie_Lawley@akd.uscourts.gov

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION MONTHS

January
 April
 July
 October



A free one-year membership for the year 2013-2014 is available to all new JAs that are/were hired between September 1, 2013—September 1, 2014. This free one-year membership is available only to first-time FJAA members.

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CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES

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

1ST CIRCUIT JOAN AUSMAN

c/o Hon. Paul J. Barbadoro
Warren B. Rudman United States Courthouse
55 Pleasant Street, Room 110
Concord, NH 03301 Ph: 603-226-7303

2ND CIRCUIT & COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE JANET F. HANSEN

c/o Hon. Jose A. Cabranes
U.S. Courthouse, #CH-133
141 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510 Ph: 203-867-8782

3RD CIRCUIT IRIS LIRIANO

c/o Hon. Patty Shwartz
United States Post Office and Courthouse
Two Federal Square, Room 477
Newark, NJ 07102 Ph: 973-645-6596

4TH CIRCUIT KRYSTINA LUDLOW-JONES

c/o Hon. J. Michelle Childs
C. F. Haynsworth Federal Bldg. & Courthouse
300 E. Washington St., Room 116
Greenville, SC 29601 Ph: 864-241-2190

5TH CIRCUIT HOPE TAORMINA

c/o Hon. Daniel Knowles, III
Hale Boggs Federal Building, Room B335
500 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130 Ph: 504-589-7575

6TH CIRCUIT KELLY A. KOPF

c/o Hon. Michael R. Merz
U.S. Courthouse
200 West Second Street, Room 501
Dayton, OH 45402 Ph: 937-512-1550

7TH CIRCUIT MELISSA HARDIN

c/o Hon. William M. Conley
U.S. Courthouse
120 North Henry Street, #560
Madison, WI 53703 Ph: 608-261-5718

8TH CIRCUIT SUSAN SANDRIDGE

c/o Hon. Scott O. Wright
Charles Evans Whittaker U.S. Courthouse
400 E. Ninth St., Room 8662
Kansas City, MO 64106 Ph: 816-512-5700

9TH CIRCUIT JULIE LEMM

c/o Hon. Robert J. Bryan
U.S. Courthouse
1717 Pacific Ave., Room 4427
Tacoma, WA 98402 Ph: 253-882-3872

10TH CIRCUIT LYNDA BROWN

c/o Hon. Bobby R. Baldock
Joe Skeen Federal Building
500 N. Richardson Ave., Rm 167
Roswell, NM 88202 Ph: 575-625-2388

11TH CIRCUIT BARBARA LAY

c/o Hon. Gerald B. Tjoflat
Byron Simpson U.S. Courthouse
300 North Hogan St., Ste 14-200
Jacksonville, FL 32202 Ph: 904-301-5670

FEDERAL/DC CIRCUITS SHARON DEARE

c/o Hon. Douglas H. Ginsberg
E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Courthouse
333 Constitution Ave., N.W. Room 5128
Washington, D.C. 20001 Ph: 202-216-7191

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 the 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.

The 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.

