

INBRIEF

Federal Judicial FJAA Assistants Association

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Jenny Rudolph, President

Not to sound like a typical cliché, but where has the time gone? It seems like we just started planning our conference in San Diego and a year has already flown by. This also means that it has been a year since I became your president - the year has come and gone quicker than I imagined.

Our conference committee has done an excellent job of organizing our annual educational conference in beautiful San Diego. We will have a record number of attendees this year. Do you think it's the exciting agenda or perhaps the gorgeous location? Either way, it will be a wonderful conference!

Raffle tickets for our annual fund-raiser have been sent to your Circuit Representative, please contact them to buy yours. Don't forget to purchase your tickets, especially if you are not able to attend this year. As usual, our Ways and Means Committee has done a great job of purchasing fantastic prizes to win. Let's make this fund-raiser the best one ever.

Finally, I would like to close this final article with a heartfelt "thank you". Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on the conference committee. Thank you to the incredible executive board members who serve FJAA and give so freely of their time. And thank you to the circuit representatives, committee chairs and members for your dedication and loyalty to FJAA and for keeping our Association thriving. There is no way I could have done it without you. Most importantly, thank you to you, our members, without whom we would not exist. And last, but certainly not least, thank you for allowing me to serve as your president. It has been a pleasure and an honor.

By the time you receive this newsletter we will be opening our conference in a few days. I look forward to seeing many of you in sunny San Diego.

Jenny

CIRCUIT NEWS



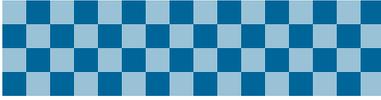
First Circuit

District of New Hampshire

Chief Judge Sandra L. Lynch of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit announced on September 6 that Bruce A. Harwood has been selected to fill the upcoming vacancy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Hampshire created by the announced retirement of Judge J. Michael Deasy. Mr. Harwood will be appointed to the bankruptcy bench in early 2013, upon FBI clearance. He will sit in Manchester, New Hampshire. Mr. Harwood received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern University and his J.D. degree from Washington University Law School. Mr. Harwood is presently a director and shareholder in the firm of Sheehan, Phinney, Bass and Green in Manchester, where he practices primarily in the areas of bankruptcy and insolvency work. He has a wealth of experience handling all manner of bankruptcy and liquidation issues including representing government agencies, commercial lenders and borrowers, serving as debtor's and creditor's counsel in Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganizations, appearing in Chapter 7 cases as a trustee and on behalf of secured and unsecured creditors, and representing consumer debtors in Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 cases. Mr. Harwood has provided *pro bono* representation to consumers in need of bankruptcy relief under the auspices of the New Hampshire Bar Association and has been named to the Bar Association's *pro bono* honor roll. He is an elected Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and is a director of the American Bankruptcy Institute. Mr. Harwood has authored and published numerous publications in the field of bankruptcy law and has presented many continuing legal education programs. Chief Judge Lynch stated that "the court is extremely pleased that a bankruptcy practitioner of Mr. Harwood's stature will fill this important judgeship. The District of New Hampshire will benefit greatly from Mr. Harwood's knowledge and experience."

I have no additional news to report at this time. As I anticipate ending my representation of the First Circuit this year, please receive my heartfelt gratitude for all your assistance during these years, and know that I will always be around to help in any way I can. Unfortunately, I will not be able to join you at the San Diego Conference. I am sure it will be an interesting, educational and fun experience, and I wish the planning committee and the Board much success. I will miss you all!!

Mari Rosa



Second Circuit

Janet Hansen



News from around the Second Circuit:

We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer! Summer is a busy time for everyone and subsequently, there is not a lot of news to report - but a few newsworthy items do follow:

September 11, 2012:

Events were held throughout the tri-state area to commemorate 9/11. In New York City, a solemn service was held at the reflecting pools at Ground Zero. Moments of silence were held and bells tolled for each specific time that a plane hit the World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon and the field in PA. All of the names of the victims were read aloud by family members and friends. At sunset, the Manhattan skyline was illuminated by twin towers of light - the annual "Tribute in Light," which debuted six months after the attacks and has become a September 11 tradition. Although years have passed, this particular day is always filled with memories of those lost. I hope the families and friends of victims find comfort in knowing that the entire nation feels their pain and that even though years have passed, we have not forgotten!

The attached pictures were recently taken from the 41st floor room of a hotel across the street from Ground Zero. As you can see, progress is literally coming up out of the ground! The reflecting pools are operational with the names of all victims etched into the marble surrounding the pools. Trees are planted and thriving. The One World Trade Center building can now be seen from as far away as central NJ, and is on its way to becoming the tallest building in America! The new transportation hub (for subway and PATH trains) is taking shape. The entire downtown area is robust and filled with life again. It is a testament to our unwavering spirit - we were not defeated, and we are coming back stronger than ever!



Court of Appeals:

On May 1, 2012, the Federal Bar Council held its annual Law Day Dinner. At the dinner, the Learned Hand Medal for Excellence in Federal Jurisprudence was presented to the Honorable Robert A. Katzmann, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. In his remarks, Judge Katzmann expressed his gratitude to the Federal Bar Council for their support of the Study Group on Immigrant Representation, which Judge Katzmann started in 2008. The Study Group consists of fifty lawyers from a range of firms, non-profit groups, bar associations, law schools, and federal, state, and local governments. Their primary goals have been to increase the *pro bono* activity of firms, improve mechanisms of legal service delivery, and improve the quality of representation available to noncitizens. The Study Group is an ongoing project and Judge Katzmann encouraged all in attendance to become involved in their efforts. We send our congratulations to Judge Katzmann upon receiving this award and wish him continued success with The Study Group!

(continued on next page)

With much regret, I report that Shirley Hicks, Judicial Assistant to the late Judge Roger J. Miner, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, will be retiring in December after 30 years of federal service! (As reported previously, Judge Miner passed away in February 2012). Shirley began working as an Intake Clerk with the United States District Court Clerk's Office in Albany, NY, in December 1982. At the time, Judge Miner was the District Judge who interviewed her for the Intake Clerk position. As part of her Clerk's Office duties, she was doing various courtroom work during Judge Miner's motion/ calendar days. Shortly after she began employment in the Clerk's Office, a position for Judicial Secretary opened in his chambers and he offered her the job. The rest is, as they say, history! Shirley was honored to have worked for Judge Miner for nearly 30 years. She is busy now archiving 30 years of Judge Miner's files and sending them to the New York Law School. Shirley is looking forward to spending more time with her family (her husband, three daughters, three sons-in-law and five grandchildren!) and may even become a snowbird and head south during the winter months! Although she will be missed, we wish Shirley all the best in her retirement! Enjoy good health, fun and sun, and very happy times with your family!!!

On September 4, 2012, Mrs. Kathryn H. Winter, wife of Judge Ralph K. Winter, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, passed away peacefully in her sleep. Judge and Mrs. Winter enjoyed 50 years of marriage! Mrs. Winter was known for her gregarious nature and wicked sense of humor. There was a beautiful service held for her on September 10 - attended by many judges from throughout the Circuit, as well as many friends and admirers from all walks of life. Mrs. Winter was a very special person and she will surely be missed by all who had the good fortune to know her. We send our sincerest condolences to the Winter family.

Western District of New York:

The Honorable John T. Curtin, Senior U.S. District Judge, celebrated his 91st birthday on August 24; he and his wife celebrated 60 years of marriage on August 9, and he will be celebrating 45 years of dedicated service on the bench in December, 2012! Happy Birthday Judge Curtin!!! And congratulations on both your 60th wedding anniversary, and your 45th anniversary of federal service on the bench! We wish you all the best!!



District of Connecticut:

Magistrate Judge William I. Garfinkel was sworn in for his third term on August 13, 2012. Congratulations Judge Garfinkel!

Well, that's about all the news we have for now. My colleagues and I are looking forward to seeing you all in San Diego!

Safe travels, and be well!

Janet

THIRD Circuit



Roseanna Lambiase

Hi Everyone.

September 11, 2012 was a very emotional day for me as I'm sure it was for many Americans. I could not avoid remembering, over and over again and very vividly, the collapse of the first of the buildings as I was driving along the Passaic River looking east on a crystal clear morning. I could not believe what I was seeing. Millions of people had fond memories of their experiences in and around the towers. The view from up there was breathtaking. I also remember a relative, a high-rise ironworker, recounting the many days and years working on its construction. My own favorite memory occurred early one morning as we were taking off from Newark Airport, flying through the thick fog, and then suddenly seeing just the tops of these two huge buildings sitting on a bed of pink clouds as the sun rose behind them. It was so beautiful. The New York Skyline was forever changed that day, as were our very lives. God Bless America and Americans.

On a happier note, we have a new District Judge. Kevin McNulty will fill the seat vacated by Judge Garrett Brown, Jr. On December 16, 2011, President Obama nominated Judge McNulty to the Federal Judiciary and following the Senate's confirmation, he was commissioned on July 18, 2012. Judge McNulty earned his bachelor's degree from Yale University and his law degree from New York University School of Law. After law school, he served as a law clerk for Judge Frederick B. Lacey of the U.S. District Court in Newark. He then worked in the private sector for three years before joining the U.S. Attorney's office where he served as an Assistant United States Attorney for over a decade. While in the U.S. Attorney's office, he served as deputy chief of the Criminal Division from 1992 to 1995 and chief of the Appeals Division from 1995 to 1998. In 1998, Judge McNulty returned to private legal practice, serving as a partner in the Newark law firm Gibbons P.C. until joining our Court.

Just this past week, Steven Mannion was nominated by our District Judges to fill the magistrate judge position created by the elevation of Michael Shipp to District Judge. We're expecting that Mr. Mannion will be sworn in as our new magistrate judge in Newark in a few months. More on this in our next newsletter.

This is my last letter to the Association. Iris Liriano will be sworn in as Third Circuit Representative at our conference in San Diego. Iris is Magistrate Judge Patty Shwartz's judicial assistant, having previously served as her secretary at the U.S. Attorney's Office for many years. Iris is dynamic with a great personality and will be a fantastic circuit representative. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Third Circuit members for allowing me to serve as their representative and for their continued support of our Association. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as representative and I've enjoyed telling everyone about New Jersey. It has truly been a wonderful and rewarding experience and it has been my honor to work with these great ladies. I appreciate you all, and I especially enjoyed attending the conferences and reconnecting with friends. I may no longer be a rep, but I'll always be a member.

Roseanna





Fourth Circuit
Dianne Hillman

Finally, I have collected the last registration form and check for our upcoming FJAA Conference in San Diego. We will have a great crowd of 142 judicial assistants attending this year. I have met quite a few of you by phone or email over the course of the past two months, and I hope to meet you in person at the conference. Kathleen McMahon-Walford and I have coordinated our lists and worked closely to ensure all your information - opening reception, optional event, banquet meals and guests - are all accurate. Our work will have been well worth it when we hear you all had great time in San Diego.

Mary Geiger Lewis, nominated by President Barack Obama, is a newly appointed district judge in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Judge Lewis is a graduate of Clemson University and the University of South Carolina School of Law. At the time of her nomination, Lewis was a partner with Lewis & Griffin in Columbia, South Carolina. We welcome back to the court Vickie Hearn as Judge Lewis's judicial assistant. Vickie had previously worked for Magistrate Bruce Howe Hendricks. Although working in a district chambers is a new experience for Vickie, she has participated in orientation training and also attended the Workshop. Career law clerk Rita Secreast-Doll and law clerk Allison Ford complete the chambers staff.

Please excuse the short article for this quarter, but I promise to catch you up on all the news next time. Happy Fall,

Dianne



Fifth Circuit
Hope Taormina

Hello everyone, I'm your new representative for the Fifth Circuit. I am happy to accept this position and look forward to meeting all of you. I am Judicial Assistant to U.S. Magistrate Judge Daniel E. Knowles, III, in the Eastern District of Louisiana located in New Orleans. I have worked for the Judge for almost ten years. Prior to coming to federal court, I worked as a legal assistant for more than twenty-six years. I'm hoping to be able to keep everyone up-to-date on 5th Circuit happenings and would appreciate your assistance. Please contact me if you have information from your court to share with us.

As you may know, Glenda Signal, Secretary to U.S. Magistrate Judge Louis Moore, Jr., retired on August 31, 2012. Thank you, Glenda, for a job well done. (More congrats on next page.)



Article submitted by Gwen Hunter:

Congratulations are in order for Glenda Signal on her recent retirement from the Eastern District of Louisiana court. After her employment with the Federal Public Defender's Office from March, 1990 until December, 1993, Glenda became secretary to Magistrate Judge Louis Moore, Jr., on December 6, 1993 and continued until Judge Moore's retirement on June 5, 2012. Glenda has been a member of the Association since the start of her career beginning with FMJSA which merged with FJSA, now known as Federal Judicial Assistants Association "FJAA". She was one of the original members who traveled from state to state to attend the yearly conferences long before any funding for such travel was made available. Glenda will certainly be missed at this year's annual conference as she is expecting her first grandchild this October. We certainly look forward to Glenda joining us for future conferences. The judicial assistants of the Eastern District of Louisiana will celebrate Glenda's retirement in late September by hosting a tea in her honor.

Around the 5th Circuit:

Linda D. Mizell, Judicial Assistant to Hon. Sam Sparks, Western District of Texas, is happy to report that she celebrated 20 years with the court on January 2, 2012. We wish her many more successful years.

Eastern District of Louisiana:

After over 27 years of service as a U.S. Magistrate Judge, the Honorable Louis Moore, Jr., left the bench for the last time on June 5, 2012. The court family already knew Louis Moore, Jr., as an Assistant Federal Public Defender and an Assistant United States Attorney when he became a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana in May of 1985. The entire court family gathered to celebrate his retirement and wish him well. Judge Moore humbly accepted the well wishes of the numerous friends he made over his years of service. His booming voice and gentle demeanor will be greatly missed by all.

Article submitted by Pamela Angelette:

On August 29, 2012, all eyes were watching New Orleans - again. It was the 7th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and we were anticipating the arrival of Hurricane Isaac. Other cities were in the cone of probability, but the nation was watching New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina had a serious effect on the nation's economy. The Mississippi River transports 60% of the nation's grains. The price of gas is largely dependent on the production of our rigs, pipelines and refineries. And, if you weren't aware of that, then you were simply shocked to see a major city underwater and uninhabitable.

But, primarily all eyes were on New Orleans because everyone loves New Orleans. Whether it's the people, the music, the food, the cocktails, the history or the mystery - everyone loves New Orleans.

But Hurricane Isaac was not a Category 5 storm that covered the entire Gulf of Mexico. Hurricane Isaac was an ill-defined Category 1. So as to not disappoint the rest of the nation that was watching, we stayed put and planned our hurricane parties. After the bars closed, the first places to reopen were the coffee shops.

Most of us city dwellers were fine except for the power outages. However, we never will get used to the heat and humidity. I went six days without electricity! Lower Plaquemines Parish and St. John's Parish had flooding up to the rooftops. The north shore of the lake had flooding from the storm surge. The Court reopened two days later. We would have returned to work the next day except there was a tree blocking the road.

Our greeting for the next week was, "So, how'd you make out?"

That's why everyone loves New Orleans.

(Fifth Circuit continued on next page)



BE SURE TO GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS!

You can purchase raffle tickets from your 5th Circuit Rep, or by mailing a check to Marie Firmin, Judicial Assistant to Magistrate Judge Sally Shushan, 500 Poydras St., Room B-345, New Orleans, LA 70130. Your ticket stubs will be mailed to you. Winner does not need to be at the conference to collect the prize; the prize will be sent to you.

Door Prize Reminder: Any Judicial Assistant wanting to donate a door prize from their Court can mail it to Marie Firmin, bring it with you or send it with someone attending the conference. Thank you!

0313	NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ PHONE _____	0313
FEDERAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL RAFFLE - 2012		
DRAWING: Saturday, October 6, 2012, San Diego, CA		
GRAND PRIZE - \$200.00 VISA Gift Card Jewelry, Totes, Wallets, Watches and much more!		
<i>\$10.00 Book of (12) Tickets or \$1.00 per ticket</i> <small>Winner Need Not Be Present</small>		

SIXTH Circuit



Kelly Kopf

Judge John T. Fowlkes, Jr., Sworn in as United States District Judge

The United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee is pleased to announce that Judge John T. Fowlkes, Jr., was sworn in on Thursday, August 2, 2012, by United States District Judge Samuel H. Mays, Jr. Judge Fowlkes assumed the bench on Monday, August 6, 2012. Joining his staff are Mrs. Phyllis Buchanan, his Judicial Assistant for the past two years, and Lorri Fentress, who will serve as his Case Manager. Judge Fowlkes received his law degree from the University of Denver, School of Law, 1977, and his Bachelors of Arts in History from Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, 1975. Judge Fowlkes joins the Court after serving for five years as Shelby County, TN Criminal Court Judge of Division VI. Previously, Judge Fowlkes served as Chief Administrative Officer for former Shelby County Mayor A C Wharton. For thir-

teen years, Judge Fowlkes was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of Tennessee rising to First Assistant United States Attorney. Nationally, Judge Fowlkes was an instructor in the area of trial advocacy and an evaluator with the Department of Justice Executive Office for United States Attorneys. Judge Fowlkes has been married to Mrs. Michelle Fowlkes for forty years. They have two sons and three grandchildren and have lived in Memphis, TN since 1977.

Phyllis Buchanan kindly introduces herself to us: I am married to Buck Buchanan, a fine and respectable man. I have three children, ten grandchildren. (If you count yours, mine and ours, I have five children and 16 grandchildren.) I have worked in the judicial system for the last 20 plus years. I worked in the freelance world of court reporting prior to joining the forces at Criminal Court in Memphis. I worked for the State of Tennessee in the capacity of court reporter for 18 years. A position of Judicial Assistant became available for Judge Fowlkes and Judge Lammey in 2011 so I applied. I got the job and held that position for one and a half years before having the privilege of moving to District Court with Judge Fowlkes in August of this year. My fellow coworkers at the District Court are very kind and ready to lend a helping hand whenever I call. I feel honored and blessed to be a part of such a fine group of people here.

WDTN



Beverly Gerken, Judicial Secretary to Magistrate Judge Tu M. Pham, celebrated the wedding of her daughter Tari to William Harrell on June 9th in Ripley, TN. She has one granddaughter Mickaela and has now gained a grandson Jonathan. Congratulations to all.



FJAA Secretary Cathy Gray and husband, Danny celebrated the marriage of their daughter Sarah to Jacob White on June 2, 2012 at the National Ornamental Metal Museum in Memphis. Sarah traveled with her mother to the FJAA Conference in Seattle last year and attended several FJAA events.



The Northern District of Ohio Judicial Assistants are delighted to welcome new Judicial Assistant Dawn Serna-Gensch. Dawn joined newly-appointed District Judge Jeffrey J. Helmick's chambers in July 2012. He was sworn in in June 2012. Prior to coming to the District Court, Dawn worked in the Northern District of Ohio Bankruptcy Court for eight years as a case administrator and ECRO for Judge Richard L. Speer. At that time, Dawn was a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks (NCBC).



Dawn has a 10 year old daughter who is very active in sports, specifically soccer and softball. Most of Dawn's time is "spent just being a mom," which brings her great joy, and she loves going to soccer games. Dawn's favorite sports are baseball, hockey, and soccer. She is a huge Detroit Tigers fan and enjoys vacationing and spending time with family and friends.

Seventh Circuit



Melissa Hardin

We have a new JA to welcome to the Central District of Illinois, Peoria Division. Kimberly Rittthaler has joined the court family as Judicial Assistant to Senior District Judge Michael M. Mihm. Kim comes from the local Assistant U.S. Attorney's office where she worked for 15 years. Before that, she spent 15 years with the NLRB (National Labor Relations Board). Her 30 years of federal knowledge is a great asset to Judge Mihm's chambers as well as the Peoria Division as a whole. Kim lives in German Town Hills with her husband Darrell and loves to spend time with her 10 grandchildren. (continued)

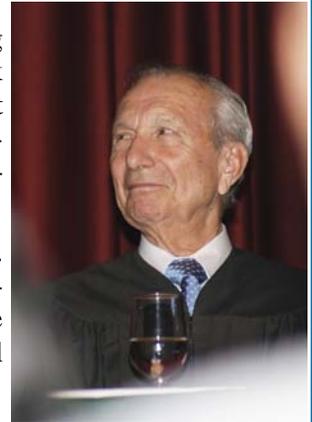
The Northern District of Illinois is making the transition from WordPerfect to Word. How appropriate that one of our conference's topics is precisely that! ILND is also having a Healthy Initiative Kick-Off. Besides starting a court walking group, they will have a few speakers talk about the benefits of physical activity.

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals has a new phone system (Cisco). They, along with all our courts, are very busy with exiting clerks, incoming clerks and the whole law clerk application time again. While OSCAR is very good at helping us sort out the applicants, it does seem to encourage people to apply to every judge in the country. Personally, I remember we used to get around 100 applications in the mail each year, much less than the 390 received this year with OSCAR.

In the Western District of Wisconsin, Senior Judge John Shabaz died on August 31. Judge Shabaz was the first federal judge I worked for when I joined chambers. He had a reputation as an irascible judge who didn't like attorneys, but that certainly made it easy for me to get calls returned - no one wanted to keep Judge Shabaz waiting! I always got along well with the judge, as did our career law clerks; he was one of a kind and we'll miss him.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in San Diego!

Melissa



On June 9, 2012, Leonard T. Strand took office as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Iowa. He fills the vacancy left by U.S. Magistrate Judge Paul A. Zoss, who retired in June 2012. His chambers is located in Sioux City, Iowa, where he was born and raised.

He received his undergraduate degree with high honors from the University of Iowa in 1987 and received his law degree from the University of Iowa, College of Law in 1990, where he graduated first in his class with Highest Distinction and Order of the Coif honors. In addition to his studies, he was a member of the Journal of Corporation Law.

From 1990, until his appointment, he practiced law with the firm of Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. His practice focused on commercial law, employment law, and products liability.

Welcome, Judge Strand!

Leslie

EIGHTH CIRCUIT



Leslie Walker



NINTH CIRCUIT

Gail Morgan

Hello Ninth Circuit FJAA Members?

Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, visited Anchorage on September 5, 2012, to promote her iCivic program.

iCivics is an interactive online program that Justice O'Connor founded to promote civic education around the country because she is concerned that young people do not seem to understand how our government works. iCivic includes programs for the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of the government, and is designed primarily for a middle school audience. While here, she visited Anchorage's Central Middle School and West High School. A reception for the public at large was held at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center where Justice O'Connor presented remarks on Revitalizing Civic Education in America.

Farewell to Erma Smith, who retired on June 30, 2012, as Judicial Assistant to Senior Judge Thelton Henderson in San Francisco. Erma worked as Judge Henderson's Judicial Assistant for 22 years, with a total of 26 years of federal service. Erma also worked for Circuit Judge Cecil Poole and as a relief secretary for the court. She worked 20 years in the private sector as a legal secretary prior to joining the court family. Our best wishes to Erma Smith for a well-deserved retirement!

Also, farewell to Frances Robles, known to many as "Frances from Fresno." After 19 years, 3 months, and 3 weeks with the court and Judge Snyder, Frances retired on August 24, 2012 to start a new career! Frances obtained a position with the Federal Defender's Office in Fresno as a Case Management Specialist and Assistant CJA Panel Administrator beginning August 27, 2012. Frances truly enjoyed being a member of the FJAA, serving on committees in the early days, and attending a few of the annual conferences before her daughters were born in 2004 and 2008. Best wishes to Frances as she starts her new career.

I'm hoping to see many of you at the conference in San Diego. Raffle tickets are available for purchase at this time. If you are unable to attend and would like to have a chance to win one of the prizes [top prize is a \$200 Visa gift card], please let me know as you may purchase the tickets from me. A book of 12 tickets is \$10; a single ticket can be purchased for \$1.

Gail

GREETINGS FROM TENTH CIRCUIT!

Fall is in the air! The trees are starting to change colors and are beautiful. Here is the news from the Tenth Circuit:

TENTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS NEWS:

Several of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals Judicial Assistants took part in training in Denver, Colorado in July.

Seated, left to right: Joan Swope, JA to Hon. Stephanie K. Seymour, Tulsa, OK; Stephanie Morelee, JA to Hon. Carlos F. Lucero, Denver, CO; Rita Gallegos, JA to Hon. Paul J. Kelly, Jr., Santa Fe, NM; Joann Omer, JA to Hon. Michael R. Murphy, Salt Lake City, UT.

Standing, left to right: Curt Thompson, Application Support Specialist, Denver, CO; Carolyn Dennis, JA to Hon. Monroe G. McKay, Salt Lake City, UT; Jana Dillingham, JA to Hon. David M. Ebel, Denver, CO; Pearl Donder, JA to Hon. Timothy M. Tymkovich, Denver, CO; Claudette Romero, J.A. to Hon. Harris L. Hartz, Albuquerque, NM; Mary Stricklin, JA to Hon. Jerome A. Holmes, Oklahoma City, OK; Nancy Hughes, JA to Hon. Stephen H. Anderson, Salt Lake City, UT; Lynda Brown, JA to Hon. Bobby R. Baldock, Roswell, NM; Holly Cody, JA to Hon. Neil M. Gorsuch, Denver, CO; Debbie Birge, JA to Hon. Terrence L. O'Brien, Cheyenne, WY; Ana Khan, JA to Hon. Scott M. Matheson, Jr., Salt Lake City, UT.



TENTH CIRCUIT



Lynda Brown

NEW MEXICO NEWS

On July 18, 2012, a retirement party was held in Las Cruces, New Mexico, honoring Ann Neff and Chief Judge Bruce Black.

Ann Neff, Administrative Judicial Assistant to Chief Judge Bruce Black, recently retired after almost 49 years of service to the federal government. Ann began her career with the United States Probation Office in 1963 and then transferred to the Clerk's Office on December 4, 1972. She performed many tasks there, including being the criminal docketing clerk. In 1980, Ann was appointed as Secretary to the Honorable Juan Burciaga, United States District Judge, who also was Chief Judge during his tenure. After Judge Burciaga passed away in March 1995, Ann was appointed in May 1995 as Secretary to the Honorable Robert DeGiacomo, a recalled retired United States Magistrate Judge. Finally, Ann was appointed on January 18, 1996 to the Honorable Bruce Black as his Secretary.

Chief Judge Black will be taking inactive senior status. Chief Judge Black was appointed by President Clinton in 1995. Judge Black began his judgeship with the District of New Mexico on January 18, 1996 and was sworn in by Judge Parker in Santa Fe. Judge Black has been instrumental in many areas of the judicial system throughout his career. Between previous judicial positions, honors, committees, and publications, Judge Black is respected by his colleagues and community. Judge Black's legal ability has often been described as extraordinary. It's been commented that his professionalism, decorum, demeanor, and fairness in the courtroom is excellent and consistent.

The F.J.A.A. Conference is right around the corner!! Have a fantastic time in San Diego!!



ELEVENTH CIRCUIT



Barbara Lay
Executive Administrator

I would like to thank all the loyal FJAA members of the 11th Circuit, and to say that the FJAA organization appreciates your continued support. I and some of the 11th Circuit gang are looking forward to being in San Diego at the FJAA Conference.

(continued)

An Observation

By Barbara Lay

As I sit down to the computer today, I'm about to send via email, an 85-page document to my Judge for his review. He is temporarily staying in another city 100 miles away from his chambers until his new home is renovated. As I was busy assisting him with his laptop set up and getting his mi-fi working across the lines, it dawned on me what great leaps have been made in the electronic mail arena since I first sat down at my computer back in the early 1980s to receive one of the first emails ever sent. Thinking back a little over 25 years ago, I can remember sitting before a giant computer about as big as the chair I'm sitting in now, and receiving my very first email. At the time I was secretary to the Air Force Base Commander at Tinker A.F.B., in Oklahoma City. We had been asked to test and receive the very first email to be transmitted on the base. The screen was small and had a green glow like something you might see on an old science fiction movie on the syfy channel today. The screen flickered a few times and faded out and back in again. Then all of sudden there it was! The message: "The meeting will start today at 2 PM. Please don't be late, as there is a lot of material to cover in a short time. Thank you." Wow! Those of us gathered around my computer hollered and cheered! Then I sent back a response: "The Commander will be at the meeting today at 2 PM." It was amazing! Heck, today there probably wouldn't even be a meeting! Just back and forth emails and near instant communication! What a long way we've come indeed. Gone are the days of me trudging back and forth from one office to another (in my high-heeled shoes) carrying papers to be processed from one department head to another. At my age today, I can't even WEAR high-heeled shoes, much less walk as far as I did back then in those shoes. I still have those pretty red high-heeled shoes in the back of my closet. I've told my family I want to be buried in them.

I just recently completed some banking business with my bank. After the papers were complete, I asked the girl over the phone if I needed to come into the bank and sign the papers. She said, "Oh no, Mrs. Lay, I'll email them to you and you can electronically sign them in the places indicated." Sure enough, she sent the papers, and as I went through them on my computer, there was the little yellow sticky signature post-it, "sign here" indicating the places for me to sign. I even got to choose the font for my signature to make it look like a real signature. Can you imagine?!! I signed in all the designated spots and returned the papers via email and fax machine and I never even got out of my pajamas or brushed my hair. Amazing!

And speaking of banking, one day this week I was able to take a photo of a check to be deposited in my account. I sent the check to my bank via my iPhone. It was deposited and showed up in my account within hours.

Today I have read that there are about 600 million emails sent per day – I think sometimes it seems as though I get that much just in spam! Anyway, this technology is all very amazing to me. However, one thing is sure: in this high speed, work-a-day world, we must not lose sight of where we've come from and to be sure to take time to "smell the roses" as the saying goes. So, as the micro chips, emails, blogs, etc., go out over the air waves and fly around us, let's be sure to take time to slow down and go out there and smell some roses!

Barbara

D.C. Circuit Federal circuit

UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS*Sharon Deare*

Mr. Bill Barto has joined the Clerk's office at the Court of Federal Claims as the Chief Deputy Clerk for Administrative Services. Before joining the Court, Bill served many years in the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) and, most recently, as a senior attorney in the Article III Judges Division at the Administrative Office of the US Courts. Many of you may know Bill as he has managed the Chambers Staff Administrative Workshop (formerly known as "Jumpstart") at the AO for the past four years and helped staff the Judges' Secretaries Advisory Group. (cont'd)



UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE D.C. CIRCUIT

A portrait ceremony for Senior Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg will be held on September 28, 2012, as well as for Senior Judge A. Raymond Randolph to be held on November 2, 2012. Chief Judge David B. Sentelle will have his portrait ceremony on April 5, 2013.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT

The Honorable Richard Linn will retire from regular service and assume senior status on November 1, 2012. Judge Linn has served on the Court for over twelve years. He was nominated to the Court by President Clinton and took the oath of office on January 1, 2000. Judge Linn is a long time patent attorney and began his patent law career as an examiner at the United States Patent & Trademark Office. In recent years, Judge Linn has been instrumental in developing an alliance of intellectual property focused inns of court known as the "Linn Inn Alliance."

The Honorable Arthur J. Gajarsa retired from the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on June 30, 2012. Judge Gajarsa led a distinguished judicial career during which he served the judiciary and his nation with honor and excellence.

Judge Gajarsa's parting message to the Court was the following:

"It has been indeed an honor and privilege to have worked with all of you during the past 15 years. You made my work at the Court easy to perform and a pleasure to undertake. My success and the success of the Court are attributable not only to my judicial colleagues, but also to the fine members of the court team. I shall miss all of you and I look forward to observing the continued fine work of the Court in the future. I am looking forward to retirement as of June 30, not as the end of my career, but the beginning of a new one."

The Historic United States - China Intellectual Properties Adjudication Conference took place in Beijing, China on May 28, 2012. It was attended by prominent jurists, government officials, lawyers, academics and business leaders from the United States and China. The purpose of this three-day event was to discuss the adjudication of intellectual property disputes. There were over 1,200 attendees, including seven Circuit Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, seven judges from the Intellectual Property Rights Tribunal of the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China and nearly 300 other judges from the Chinese judiciary. Over 100 American lawyers, law school professors, corporate counsel and United States State Department and Patent Trademark Office officials also attended. Many lawyers from the China Law Society and over 100 law students from Renmin University also participated in the event. This was the first time that leading American and Chinese jurists, lawyers, academicians and high government officials have met in a public forum to discuss and share common intellectual property issues.

Speakers from the United States included Judge Randall R. Rader, Judge Raymond C. Clevenger, III, Judge Richard Linn, Judge Timothy B. Dyk, Judge Sharon Prost, Judge Kimberly A. Moore and Judge Jimmie V. Reyna. Other speakers were the United States Ambassador to China, Gary Locke, Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, David Kappos, and President of the Federal Circuit Bar Association, Steven C. Lambert. The three-day US-China IP Adjudication Conference was deemed a great success. Issues of common interest in the three major areas of intellectual property law, patent, trademark and copyright were reviewed and discussed as well as matters of mutual interest. All those who participated in the Conference recognized the historical importance and merit derived from this unique event.

Sharon

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

I have now finished the paralegal program!!!! My last class was a course entitled "Litigation Technologies."

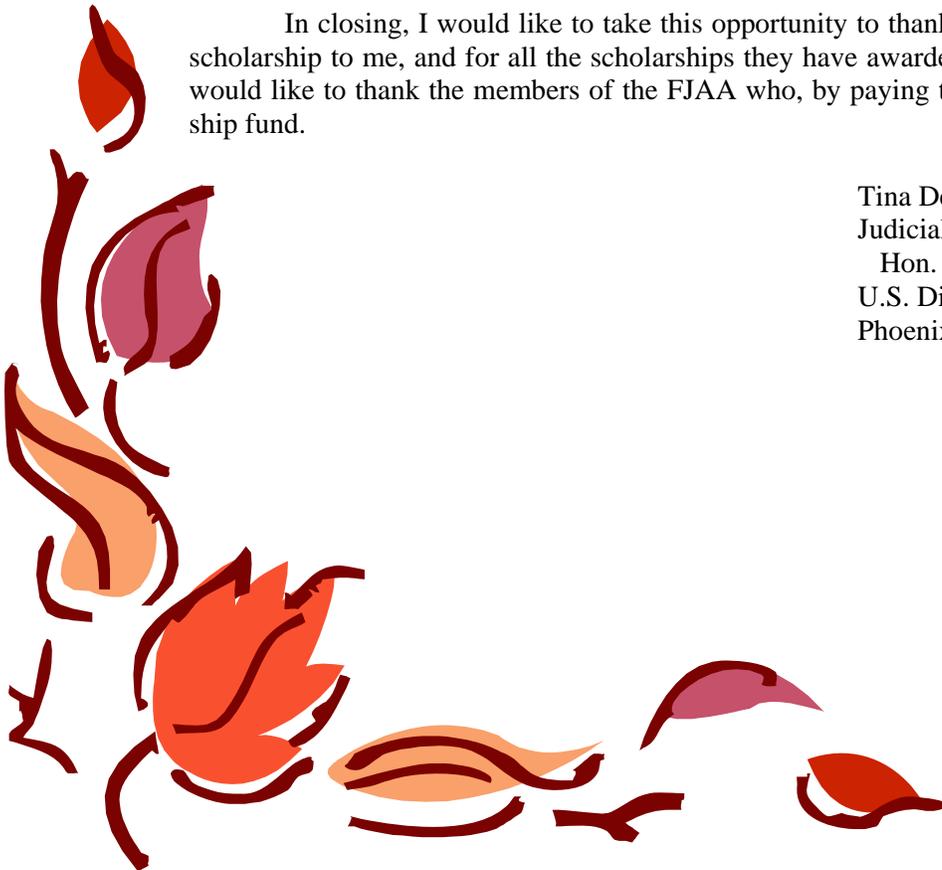
One of the objectives of this class was to learn about various electronic software packages in order to develop a working knowledge of technology as it relates to today's law office. In that connection, we worked with several interactive tutorials and gained hands-on experience with several of the electronic software packages. These software packages included PowerPoint (presentation software); Tabs3 (timekeeping and billing software); AbacusLaw (case management, docketing, and calendaring software); CT Summation iBLAZE (litigation support software); LexisNexis Case Map (knowledge management and litigation support analytical software); Time Map (litigation support software that creates visual timelines and time maps); and Trial Director (electronic trial presentation software).

In addition, we discussed ethical issues as they relate to paralegals. A few of those issues included keeping electronic client information confidential; keeping e-mails secured from unauthorized interceptions; maintaining appropriate password protections on computers and documents; maintaining appropriate firewall and antivirus protections on computers; maintaining appropriate theft protection for laptops and flash drives; deleting metadata from documents before they are sent out; and making sure all client documents contain the correct information for that particular client.

I thoroughly enjoyed this class!

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FJAA Board for awarding this scholarship to me, and for all the scholarships they have awarded me throughout the years. Also, I would like to thank the members of the FJAA who, by paying their dues, contribute to the scholarship fund.

Tina DeMonaco
Judicial Assistant to the
Hon. Paul G. Rosenblatt
U.S. District Judge
Phoenix, AZ



Professional Development and Continuing Education Committee

FJAA Scholarship Program

By: Sheryl Gilchrist, PP, PLS

The Committee disbursed scholarship awards for the first half of 2012 to Tina DeMonaco in the amount of \$248.00, Tracy Diaz received \$120.00 and Marcy Gatell received \$382.00 for a total of \$750.00 out of the \$1500.00 budgeted for scholarships this year. There were no applications received for the second half of the year.

When making an application for a scholarship, please remember to provide the **exact** amount that you are requesting and documentation to support the request. The deadlines for applying for a scholarship are **May 31 and August 31**. If applications are sent by mail, they must bear dates no later than these dates as the postmarked date. No extensions will be granted. Applications are accepted through email, regular mail and fax to the chair of the committee. Applications postmarked after May 31st or August 31st will not be considered.

I would encourage all members to take advantage of this wonderful program to enhance your skills and personal growth. The more diversified a person is, the better chance of keeping our jobs in the uncertain future for Judicial Assistants. This does not cost a member anything, other than the time it takes to fill out the application.

Below is some additional information on the scholarship program:

The FJAA Scholarship Program is administered by the Professional Development & Continuing Education Committee (PDCEC) to enable and assist members in good standing to pursue their educational goals and professional development by taking courses and attending seminars and workshops to provide additional knowledge and skills to enhance job performance.

Unless otherwise approved by the Executive Committee, the minimum amount allocated for the Scholarship Program per calendar year shall be \$500.00. Any monies not awarded in a calendar year will not be carried over to the next year.

The amount awarded per individual scholarship may vary as determined by the PDCEC, depending upon the available funds at the time of the application process. A member may apply for funding for more than one course/program, however, priority will be given to members who have not previously received a scholarship.

The course or training program for which the scholarship is used does not have to be applied toward a degree, but must be work or career-related so that the courts as well as the individual recipient benefit.

Upon completion of the course, seminar or workshop, the scholarship recipient shall write a brief article for the FJAA Newsletter ("*In Brief*") and provide proof of successful completion of the program to the PDCEC.

If the scholarship recipient does not successfully complete the program for which funds were provided, the recipient will be required to return the funds to the Scholarship Program.

The approval of applications and a decision as to the awards shall be made by PDCEC no later than July 15th and September 30th respectively.

The applicants will be notified by phone or e-mail by July 15th and September 30th respectively.

Should one of the members of the PDCEC be an applicant, the President or someone appointed by the President, shall substitute for the PDCEC member in reviewing the applications.

For other questions or inquiries, please contact:

Sheryl A. Gilchrist, PP, PLS
Chair, Professional Development & Continuing Education Committee
United States District Court
444 Southeast Quincy Street, Suite 475
Topeka, Kansas 66683
785-338-5485
sheryl_gilchrist@ksd.uscourts.gov



TREASURER'S REPORT*
July 1, 2011 - August 31, 2012
 by Carla Gibson Baker



BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Chase Business Classic Checking	\$12,356.60
Chase Business Savings	15,008.56
Wells Fargo Conference Account	<u>35,741.85</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

\$63,107.01

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Unrestricted Net Assets	35,631.20
Net Income	<u>27,475.81</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

\$63,107.01

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

INCOME

Interest-Savings	2.58
Membership Dues	565.00
Conference Registration Fees	<u>29,235.00</u>

TOTAL INCOME

\$29,802.58

EXPENSES

Scholarships	750.00
Special Events Expense	1,228.38
Outside Contract Services	100.00
Postage & Supplies	50.04
Travel, Meetings, & Special Events	198.35

TOTAL EXPENSES

2,326.77

NET INCOME

\$27,475.81



FJAA
TREASURER'S REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDING
June 30, 2012
by Carla Gibson Baker



BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Chase Business Classic Checking	14,118.37
Chase Business Savings	15,005.98
Wells Fargo Conference Account	<u>6,506.85</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

\$35,631.20

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Unrestricted Net Assets	33,104.01
Net Income	<u>2,527.19</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

\$35,631.20

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

INCOME

Interest-Savings	14.93
Membership Dues	8,750.00
Miscellaneous Income	1,110.26
Special Events Income	2,217.00
Conference Registration Fees	<u>47,023.47</u>

TOTAL INCOME

\$59,115.66

EXPENSES

Accounting Fees	701.25
Outside Contract Services	200.00
Special Events Expense	100.00
Postage & Supplies	397.55
Other Costs & Operations	4,118.27
Conference Refunds	1,460.00
Conference, Convention, Meeting	47,214.35
Travel, Meetings, & Special Events	300.00
Ask our Accountant	2,097.05

TOTAL EXPENSES

56,588.47

NET INCOME

\$2,527.19

2013 FJAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Enclosed is my check for \$30 payable to the **Federal Judicial Assistants Association** for membership year January 1 through December 31, 2013. (Retired members only: \$25 annually or \$100 lifetime membership.)

Name: _____ Title: _____

Judge: _____ Court: _____

Judge Type: _____ Circuit: _____

Mailing Address: _____
(court address if active, home address if retired)

Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Birthday (mm/dd): _____

Check if you are retired: _____ Renewal
New Member

Date of Retirement: _____ Date of Hire as JA: _____

STANDING COMMITTEES:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Annual Conference | Audit | Budget and Finance |
| By-Laws | History and Archives | Legislative |
| Long-Range Planning | Membership | Nominations/Elections |
| Public Relations/Newsletter | Ways and Means | Professional Development/Continuing Education |

I am interested in working on the committee(s) selected above.

I am interested in being a Circuit Representative for my Circuit.

**PLEASE SEND THIS FORM AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE TO YOUR CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVE.
The Representative for your Circuit is:**

To obtain additional information about the Federal Judicial Assistants Association, please visit our website at <http://www.fjaa.net/FJAA/FJAA.html>

Membership renewals are due during the month of January.
Keep our Association strong!

Please pay your dues promptly.

Your active membership will ensure access to the "Members Section" of our website and to the FJAA Newsletter.

Greetings from the Editor! I'm just going to squeeze myself into this miscellaneous page instead of adding an entire page so its short and sweet. For the new JAs, if you haven't yet attended the training offered by the AO, make every effort to get to DC next August. There's also lots of training online at Skillport (<http://jou.skillport.com>), in various places on the J-Net (<http://jnet.ao.dcn>), the FJC Online (<http://cwn.fjc.dcn/fjconline/home.nsf/UserNewColPage?openform&UG=CtStaff>), and even some IT training (<http://training.sdsd.ao.dcn/>). I tried, but failed, to make all of these hyperlinks, so please just cut and paste!



Susan Eckert Pinkowski
Newsletter Editor

Another interesting learning experience is the District Operational Forum held in DC every August. While the main focus is on CM-ECF, there are many other sessions that relate to chambers and are informative. In fact, on the first day, the audience is asked to suggest

topics which will be sessions that day or the next! I attended sessions on Chambers Relations with USMS, COOP, Best iPad Apps, Converting from Word Perfect to Microsoft Word, Chambers Issues, Pro Se Pleadings Received in U.S. Mail, iPad Usage, and listened to Judge Thomas Hogan, the new Director of the AO, discuss how they have been saving millions by various methods. There were many magistrate judges in attendance, as well as IT folks, law clerks, CRDs, JAs, librarians - over 700 in all. The best part is that all of the sessions are audio taped and available online at <http://156.132.11.118/default.aspx>. Previous years are there as well. Enjoy!
Susan

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

jenny_rudolph@laed.uscourts.gov

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DATES

October 1, 2012
January 15, 2013
April 15, 2013
July 15, 2013



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

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



CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES

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

1ST CIRCUIT MARI ROSA JORGE

c/o Hon. José Antonio Fusté
U.S. Courthouse, #CH-133
150 Carlos Chardon Avenue
San Juan, PR 00918-1754 Ph: 787-772-3121

2ND CIRCUIT 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 ROSEANNA LAMBIASE

c/o Hon. Dennis Cavanaugh
451 U.S. Post Office & Court House Bldg
Newark, NJ 07101-0999 Ph: 973-645-3574

4TH CIRCUIT DIANNE HILLMAN

c/o Hon. Matthew J. Perry, Jr.
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901 Richland Street
Columbia, SC 29201 Ph: 803-765-5067

5TH CIRCUIT HOPE TAORMINA

c/o Hon. Daniel Knowles, III
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Room B335
500 Poydras Street
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6TH CIRCUIT KELLY A. KOPF

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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: 608-264-5087

8TH CIRCUIT LESLIE WALKER

c/o Hon. Paul A. Zoss
U.S. Courthouse
320 Sixth Street, Room 104
Sioux City, IA 51101 Ph: 712-233-3921

9TH CIRCUIT GAIL MORGAN

c/o Hon. John W. Sedwick
United States District Court
222 W. 7th Ave., Room 263B
Anchorage, AK 99513
Ph: 907-677-6291

10TH CIRCUIT LYNDA BROWN

c/o Hon. Bobby R. Baldock
Joe Skeen Federal Building
500 N. Richardson Ave., Rm 167
Roswell, NM 88201 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: 404-335-6334

FEDERAL & DC CIRCUITS SHARON DEARE

c/o Hon. Loren A. Smith
U.S. Courthouse,
717 Madison Place, N.W., #328
Washington, D.C. 20439 Ph: 202-357-6637

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

FJAA MEMBERS NEEDED

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

Have you been with the government for 30 years?

Please share your story with us.

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

