



1ST CIRCUIT

CHRISTIE PICHE

Christie Piche is a Judicial Assistant to District Judge Jon D. Levy in the District of Maine. Christie joined the court family in May 2014 when she and Judge Levy came from the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in Portland, Maine where she had worked for him since 2005. Christie joined the FJAA in 2014 and was fortunate to attend the conference in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015 and Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2016.

Christie is currently the FJAA Circuit Representative for the First Circuit.

Christie has twins that are going to be seniors in college. Her daughter attends Georgetown University in Washington DC and her son attends the University of Maine at Orono and is in the Civil Engineering Program.

2ND CIRCUIT

SAMANTHA GENCARELLO

Samantha Gencarello has been a Judicial Assistant for the United States District Court of the Southern District of New York for 8 years. She began her career as a Judicial Assistant with Judge Leonard B. Sand. When Judge Sand retired from the bench she was chosen by the Chief Judge at the time, Loretta A. Preska, in 2013, with whom she has worked with since.

Prior to being a Judicial Assistant, Samantha worked for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in the IT Department where she ran many successful training courses for court staff in Microsoft Office products. She has attended train-the-trainer programs in San Antonio and is always eager to learn more and share what she learns with chambers and court staff.

Samantha lives in Staten Island with her husband of six years and her four-year-old daughter. She enjoys cooking, reading, spending time with friends and family and showing her daughter a strong, working woman in society.

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 9 years. During her tenure there, Iris worked as a Legal Secretary for 2 years, as a Deputy Chief Secretary for less than a year and promoted to a Supervisory Legal Secretary for 6 years. Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Iris worked for the Drug Enforcement Administration for approximately 4 years as a clerk-typist and later promoted to a Group Secretary.

Iris and her husband, Cristian have two children, Noel and Brian. She enjoys reading, traveling, dancing and boating.

LENA D. TAPSCOTT

Lena Tapscott is the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Richard M. Gergel, District Judge in Charleston Division, South Carolina. Lena began working with Judge Gergel when he came on the bench in August of 2010. Lena first came to work in the District Courts in July 2007 as a Case Manager (Intake) then as a Criminal Case Manager (Prisoner Docket) to the Honorable Magistrate Judge Robert S. Carr (Retired). Prior to that she worked as a Paralegal at Pro Bono Legal Services (Charleston, SC) and as a Paralegal at Wallace, Morris, & Barwick (Kinston, NC).

Lena received her B.S. in Criminal Justice, and Minors in Human Services Counseling and Political Science from Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA). She later completed the ABA approved Intensive Paralegal Training Program at Meredith College (Raleigh, NC) and received a Paralegal Certificate for the same.

Lena is married to Retired SMSgt Christopher S. Tapscott whom in 2018 retired from 26 years of honorable service in the US Air Force. They have one son, two daughters, one son-in-law, two granddaughters, and one grandson. Lena enjoys Zumba, traveling, gardening, spending time outdoors, spoiling the grands, and supporting her 10-year-old granddaughter, Kyleigh, who plays competitive fast-pitch travel softball---Lena never misses a tournament.

5TH CIRCUIT

CHRISTINE ABADIE

Christine Abadie is the Judicial Assistant to Judge W. Eugene Davis of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. In 2017, Judge Davis moved from Lafayette to New Orleans, at which time Christine became his Judicial Assistant. Before accepting the position with Judge Davis, Christine has worked in the legal field as a paralegal and in legal administration for over 35 years. She is thrilled to be part of the Judiciary Family and the FJAA Family.

Christine is a native New Orleanian. She is married with four grown children and is the proud CiCi (grandmother) to Kate, Keller, Avery, Emmeline and Annie. Christine comes from a family where her mother and two aunts married her dad and his two brothers, making every family gathering a large one. Additionally, her husband is the 12th child of 15 children in his family – another large New Orleans family and an even bigger family gathering! Christine's hobbies include spending time with family (while they watch and/or participate in sports, including her husband coaching in the Regionals of the Little League World Series!), chasing grandchildren, and making memories with friends.

Christine also volunteers her time to the **Triumph Over Kid Cancer Foundation** ("TOKC"). TOKC was started in Corpus Christi, Texas, by a 13-year-old boy, James Ragan, who was diagnosed with cancer. James learned firsthand that there was insufficient funding for childhood cancer research. In 2014, James lost his battle, but between the time of his diagnosis and his passing, he selflessly started the foundation and dedicated his life to improving the lives of other children with cancer by raising their spirits, raising the public's awareness, and funding research to improve the treatment and survivability of pediatric cancers. Since 2010, the TOKC Foundation has raised more than \$3,000,000, which has been matched dollar for dollar by M.D. Anderson Cancer Hospital. Christine is passionate about this foundation and hopes to continue assisting in James's dream to find a cure and to improve the lives of children diagnosed with cancer. For more information about this foundation or ways to volunteer or seek assistance, go to www.triumphoverkidcancer.org.

6TH CIRCUIT

JENNIFER HODGE

Jennifer Hodge is the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable J. Daniel Breen in the Western District of Tennessee, Eastern Division in Jackson. She was selected to be his assistant in 2014, while he was serving as Chief Judge for the District. Judge Breen has since taken Senior Status and she continues to serve as his Judicial Assistant.

Jennifer has been employed with the Federal Court in Jackson, Tennessee since 2005, serving as an intake clerk, jury operations clerk and backup courtroom deputy. She graduated from Union University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Leadership. Prior to her Federal Court experience, she spent approximately 15 years working in law firms, which began as part time employment throughout high school and college. Jennifer is married and has a son, who is a senior in high school. She enjoys gardening, photography, restoring antiques and spending time with family.

Jennifer is currently the FJAA Sixth Circuit Representative. She is on the Annual Conference Committee, the Membership Committee, the Nominations and Elections Committee and the Professional Development Committee. Since becoming a member in 2014, she has attended each of the yearly conferences which includes: Charleston, SC; Minneapolis, MN; San Francisco, CA; and Grand Rapids, MI.

7TH CIRCUIT

NEVA KANELOS

Neva Kanelos has worked for the United States Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit since 1986. She is the Judicial Assistant to Judge Daniel A. Manion, but has also worked for Judge Terence T. Evans, Judge Michael S. Kanne, and Collins T. Fitzpatrick, Circuit Executive, all of the same circuit. Prior to working for the federal courts, she worked for a state court judge in Champaign, Illinois. During that time, she was the Legal Education Chairman for the Champaign County Legal Secretaries Association. As chairman, she organized a paralegal course taught by local attorneys at the University of Illinois College of Law. Legal Education for Judicial Assistants holds a particular interest. An article she wrote on Bluebooking was published in the July 2013 FJAA newsletter, and as the Seventh Circuit Representative, she hopes to write more articles and/or share more educational information.

Her outside interests include hosting international students who come to the United States to further their English language skills. She is certified to teach English as a second language and teaches Brazilian students online in exchange for Portuguese lessons. She plays the flute and enjoys writing. She has two adult children, a daughter who is an occupational therapist in Hawaii, and a son who is a pianist in New York City.

8TH CIRCUIT

JUDITH KIRBY

I am the Courtroom Deputy for Magistrate Judge Hildy Bowbeer in the District of Minnesota. I graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth in 1976 and the Institute for Paralegal Training in 1980. I joined the Court in September 2007 after 27 years as a paralegal with a small law firm, a state agency, and a very large national law firm. I worked with Magistrate Judge Jeanne Graham until her retirement in 2014, when I was assigned to work with Judge Bowbeer. In addition, I have been a member of FJAA since shortly after I started. I have met many really talented people during that time and look forward to seeing everyone and meeting new members each year as we gather for our annual conference.

9TH CIRCUIT

SUZANNE L. LOFTON

Suzanne Lofton is the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Judge Derrick Kahala Watson. Suzanne joined the court family in May 2013. Prior to joining the U.S. District Court of Hawaii, she worked at the United States Attorney's Office as Judge Watson's legal assistant since 2007. Before joining the federal sector, Suzanne was a legal secretary for 17 years at the law firm of Burke, McPheeters Bordner & Estes concentrating on medical malpractice defense. Suzanne and husband Randy are the proud parents of son Keenan who is a Freshman attending the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. Suzanne enjoys spending time with her family, loves the beach, is active in her church, and has been dancing the hula since age 5.

10TH CIRCUIT

KAREN BACA

Karen Baca has been the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Harris L Hartz of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in Albuquerque, New Mexico since 2015. Prior to her position with Judge Hartz she was the Judicial Assistant to the Honorable M. Christina Armijo, Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court of New Mexico. Before coming to the Judiciary, she was a paralegal at Sandia National Laboratories working in the legal department with in-house counsel, both in the litigation department as well as assisting the patent area. Her legal career started in 1984, and she has worked at several firms throughout her career.

Karen is a native of New Mexico. She recently celebrated her 30th wedding anniversary with her husband Alfred, a retired engineer from Intel Corporation. They have three children, a boy and two girls, a daughter-in-law, son-in-law, and a grandson expected early July 2019. Karen enjoys, hunting, fishing, swimming and most importantly, being with her family.

11TH CIRCUIT

GAIL SHAFER

I am a Judicial Assistant to Chief District Judge J. Randal Hall in the Southern District of Georgia. I joined the court family in May, 2008, when Judge Hall & I came over from private practice, and have worked for him a total of sixteen years. I have been a member of FJAA since beginning work with the court and have attended all of the conferences since 2008.

I was born and raised in Augusta, Georgia. My husband, Bob, is retired Air Force, so traveling and moving around has always been something I enjoyed. We returned to Augusta when he retired in 1989. We have 3 grown children and 2 granddaughters. I enjoy baseball (even when the Atlanta Braves are at the bottom), college basketball (Duke), reading and crafts. But most of all I love being "Mimi" to Reese and Rylee.

FEDERAL & DC CIRCUIT

CONNIE ROY

Connie Roy was hired in July 2009 as a Judicial Assistant for Senior Judge Lawrence Margolis with the United States Court of Federal Claims. She worked with Judge Margolis until his retirement in 2013. After Judge Margolis' retirement, Connie was hired by incoming Judge, Elaine Kaplan in November 2013, where she is currently employed.

Connie has been in the legal field for 33 years and began her career as a legal assistant. She was also an office manager for a law firm for 5 years. She attended Virginia State University in Petersburg, VA majoring in Business Administration. While in college, Connie enrolled in the Military as a Reservist. She also obtained Certification in Networking and Microsoft. She is a Washington, DC Licensed Notary Public and is currently applying to become a Notary Public in Virginia.

Connie is a Virginia native. She has one son, DeeJay who is 27 years old. She enjoys spending time with her great nephew, Jay, who is also her godson. DeeJay and Jay are the loves of her life. She enjoys traveling, fishing, planning and hosting events and spending time with family.