

FDIC News

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Employee Newsletter

JULY 2020

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A Voyage Through Racially-Charged Waters: An African-American Officer and His Courageous Navy

By MARIAM S. MOSAVIZAHED
Financial Analyst, Division of Insurance and Research. Mariam previously served as a Commissioned Risk Examiner in the Jackson, Mississippi Field Office

Judge Wingate's Yale years, were parallel with the height of the Vietnam War. In 1969, while in law school, Wingate had been moved to join the Navy, more specifically, its Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps. He was the only African-American applicant accepted into a special program that only allowed 90 people from across the nation. The program had permitted him to attend and complete law school, as an inactive naval officer. However, he became active for 10 weeks during the summer of his second school year. From 1969 until his completion of law school in 1972, Wingate earned time towards promotion



U.S. District Judge Henry T. Wingate delivering his presentations.

and retirement, even though he had no continuous duty to drill, or requirement to wear a uniform.

Wingate's military days were bittersweet, as he met some of the finest military persons possessing exceptional ability and integrity. Unfortunately, he experienced piercing events of undis-

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The *FDIC News* is published monthly by the Office of Communications of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550 17th Street N.W., Room 7102 Washington, DC 20429

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A VOYAGE THROUGH RACIALLY-CHARGED WATERS...

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guised racism and discrimination. For example, one evening Lieutenant Wingate (O-3) was threatened with imprisonment and court martial, for routinely walking from his legal office to base housing in an area designated as “Officer’s Country”, which was located less than one-fourth of a mile away. Wingate was a naval officer, whose home was situated in “Officer’s Country.” Moreover, Wingate wore his full naval uniform that showed his rank and lawyer status. Subsequently, Wingate was unwarrantedly arrested by base police headquarters, and the police kept him in custody until his Caucasian supervisor protested his arrest. The next day, Wingate and his supervisor informed the Base Commander, who held the rank of Captain, or O-6, in hopes that the Base Commander would rectify the situation. To Wingate’s surprise, the Base Commander berated him for being in “Officer’s Country”, and stated that his presence would “frighten” the non-minority females in the area. The Base Commander ordered Wingate to walk a route that would be double the normal distance, in order to not step into “Officer’s Country.”

During this time period Wingate was a naval trial lawyer that was subjected to harassment, alienation, and embarrassment. This abusive situation was followed by a number of others. The local newspaper depicted Wingate as the “trouble-maker” on the base, even though Wingate was simply requesting the same treatment and privileges that were given to all other non-minority officers. Eventually, Wingate appealed to the highest Naval authority in Washington, D.C.



Attendees of the Jackson CDAC event.

Months passed before Lieutenant Wingate was vindicated. Both the Caucasian Base Commander and Admiral (O-7), were severely reprimanded for their acts of racism. The Base Commander was ejected from the Navy, and the Admiral was forced to resign. The above serious events were just one example of the many challenges that confronted Wingate and his wife, who until his vindication, was not able to gain employment in Norfolk, Virginia, despite her Master’s degree in Education.

Despite these societal ills, Wingate yet persevered. As a Mississippian, who had fought racism and segregation, it was no surprise that Wingate even marched alongside civil rights activist Medgar Evers at a non-violent demonstration that resulted in him being imprisoned, causing physical and mental wounds. Lieutenant Wingate was also the only African-American Navy JAG, or naval lawyer, for most of his service. He was assigned the most difficult and publicized criminal and administrative cases on the east coast of the U.S.

His reputation as a top trial lawyer was not questioned, since he regularly

won controversial and landmark cases. As an incentive for Wingate to remain in the service, the Navy offered him the opportunity to select any two or three-year duty station in the world. Wingate was to take command of a large JAG office at the duty station of his choice, then be assigned to the Pentagon to earn his Navy star as an O-7, Admiral. He was already up for O-4, Lieutenant Commander, and promised early selection to O-5, Commander, and O-6, Captain. He declined the offers to return to Mississippi. Wingate joined the Naval Reserves and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander while continuing to pursue his dream of being a federal judge, which he accomplished in a short eight years later. Additionally, he answered to the calls of his President and the Secretary of the Navy when they required his special services.

The attendees of the CDAC event were fascinated by Judge Wingate’s presentation and conveyed extremely positive feedback. I believe that Judge Wingate is an American hero. He is a visionary leader and a very distinctive person. His life experiences are an example on how to be a champion for diversity and inclusion. •

CROSS-DIVISIONAL COLLABORATION

Cross-Divisional Collaboration Leads to Success in Major SIMS Update

This spring, the FDIC launched a major update to the Structure Information Management System (SIMS), the system of record for non-financial bank data on every FDIC-insured financial institution and branch office. The launch represents a years-long effort and strong collaboration across the agency, between DIR, CIOO, DOF, and the Acquisitions Services Branch (ASB).

The successful SIMS update is a huge win for the FDIC — improving how the agency operates and the quality of the data shared with the public.

SIMS directly supports the FDIC's ability to fulfill its core mission of maintaining stability and public confidence in the nation's financial system by providing timely access to accurate bank structure information to both internal and external stakeholders. For example, SIMS data is used to populate the FDIC's popular BankFind tool.

The launch is part of a larger SIMS Redesign Program that aims to modernize the platform and automate the way FDIC receives, processes, and validates bank structure data by automating the ingestion and processing of information the FDIC receives. The program is already paying dividends for the FDIC, improving the timeliness of data, making the intake and review process of data much more efficient, and reducing transcription errors because the process is now automated.

These changes have proven especially beneficial for staff during the pandemic, because it supports analysts' ability to process structure changes without needing to be in the office to process paper.

Not only did the SIMS team deliver a major system improvement, it also created lasting partnerships across the agency.

"This was such a true partnership between the business and CIOO," ex-

plained Rachel Cloud, DIR SIMS Program Manager. "We have been together for so long that we have evolved to become a high-performing team. We know each other really well. Everyone on the cross-functional team really understands the business needs, goals, and objectives."

"The team is really dedicated and has a strong work ethic," said CIOO Program Manager Raymond Lee. As with all major IT endeavors, the release had challenges. "Ultimately, we were able to deliver, but we have lots of lessons learned," Lee explained. For example, as the team prepares for the next release, it will plan for incremental delivery of business value every three to six months.

The strong partnership was critical to the success of the SIMS Redesign Program and epitomizes the type of collaborative relationship between business and IT that is needed as the agency continues to modernize its legacy applications. •

MOVING ON

Name: John Carlisle

Most recent position: Supervisory Counsel, eDiscovery Group

Division: Legal

Location: Virginia Square

When and where joined the FDIC: I joined the FDIC in October 1988 in Midland, Texas. I also worked in the Orlando, Florida Consolidated Field Office, Atlanta Regional Office, and the Dallas Regional Office before coming to Virginia Square.

Career highlights: I never in my wildest dreams would have pictured my career with the FDIC because I started out as an admiralty attorney in Houston, Texas some 43 years ago. But, the FDIC became my professional home and I am proud to claim an association with such a professional and compassionate organization. Where else could I have handled in-house litigation throughout the state of Texas while based in Midland, TX; co-counseled a case where a survivor of a self-inflicted gunshot to the head sued

the FDIC under Florida's worker's compensation statute; helped create an in-house ADR program with the inimitable Cathy Costantino; represented a number of receiverships within the supervisory goodwill series of litigation (and introduce, albeit indirectly, Jim Anderson to the wonderful world of the FDIC while he was with DOJ)? I also returned to the FDIC as an anchor attorney assisting with post-closing efforts at institutions such as Franklin Bank, Colonial Bank, AmTrust Bank, Doral Bank, and First State Bank of Camargo (population: 107, and where the bank's phone was on a party line) and supervised a great group of anchor attorneys, including the handling of a wildlife preserve in Oklahoma (yes, we inherited a zoo). My final assignment led me to VASQ to lead the preeminent electronic discovery (eDiscovery) team within the federal government. To quote the great bard of the 60's and 70's, Jerry Garcia, "What a long, strange trip it's been."



Retirement Date: July 11, 2020

Plans for retirement: I preface this with the admonition that, "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." I plan to devote most of my time in service as a Roman Catholic Deacon within the Diocese of Dallas

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MOVING ON

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at a parish to be determined. Once the pandemic is under control, my wife and

I also plan to spend time with our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in between. Who knows, I may even start writing again.

Comments and thoughts: I wouldn't have traded my experience at the FDIC for the world. •

Name: Joan Jorgenson

Most recent position: Human Capital Program Manager

Division: Division of Administration

Location: Human Resources Branch – Performance Management and Compensation

When and where joined the FDIC: 2007 – Arlington, VA

Career highlights: I began my federal service as a Presidential Management Intern after graduating with an MPA from the American University. Over my 30-year career, I served two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras, in the early 1990s, nine years at OPM, six years at the Department of Commerce, and 13 years with the FDIC. Highlights of my federal service include collaborating on sustainable development projects with villagers in rural Honduras; a detail to Vice President Gore's Re-inventing Government Initiative; another detail to the U.S. House of Representatives Oversight Committee, serving as Director of Policy and Programs in the Office of the Secretary at Commerce; and working at the FDIC on human capital initiatives designed to support the FDIC mission and its workforce.

Retirement Date: July 31, 2020

Plans for retirement: My retirement plans have been a tad derailed because of COVID-19. I was grappling with whether to retire during this time, at all. However, I decided that I shouldn't let COVID control my future. I am retiring from the federal government, which does not mean I am retiring from life. Until the COVID storm passes and we are given the green light to travel overseas, I am embracing new challenges and opportunities (masked and at 6-foot distances) closer to home. I plan to immerse myself as a campaign volunteer in this very important election, help my teenage son navigate the choppy seas of distance learning, support my 94-year-old mother living 2,844 miles away, and explore with my husband, family, and friends—all the local activities DC-Virginia-MD and the Atlantic Seaboard have to offer within driving range.

Comments and thoughts: I have enjoyed my federal career and especially my time at the FDIC. It is a very respectful and well-resourced agency, filled with employees devoted to the FDIC's important mission. The FDIC workforce is spread out across the nation – living in small towns, large cities, and touching the lives of rural Ameri-



ca through community banking, while helping the underbanked acquire access to financial tools so that our economic engines can thrive in all communities. It doesn't matter in which state you reside, whether it's rural or urban, we are all working together at the FDIC for one America – and one FDIC mission. The FDIC serves as a beacon that has kept this country's economy stable and growing in all parts of the country. This is what I have really loved about the FDIC. •

Name: Joseph "Joe" Norris

Most recent position: Senior Franchise Marketing Specialist

Division: DRR

Location: Dallas, TX

When and where joined the FDIC: I joined the FDIC in January 1978. My first duty station was the Hannibal, Missouri Field Office

Career highlights: During my 42-year career, I worked through a lot of interesting times in banking. I was also blessed to work with so many great people during challenging times, where I was able to see the best of our team in action.

Retirement Date: August 1, 2020

Plans for retirement: Relaxation by reading, golfing, horse handicapping and enjoying good friends

Comments and thoughts: The biggest secret is to find your passion within in the Corporation and work your way to that career path and enjoy your career to the fullest. Too many avenues are available to ensure you do the best for yourself in the long run. It is not the grade or position that matters most, but instead what makes you happy and fulfilled that will make your FDIC (job) career the most satisfying and rewarding. •



IN MEMORIAM

Marcia C. Carrigan

*Former Managing Liquidator
FDIC's Omaha Consolidated Office*

Marcia C. Carrigan, former Senior Manager/Managing Liquidator, died on July 7, 2020. She was 101 years old.

Carrigan had a 30-year career with the FDIC. Carrigan worked for a private-sector company near St. Louis, Missouri, before joining the FDIC in the late 1960s as a temporary secretary at a closed bank in Gray Summit, Missouri. From those modest beginnings followed a successful career in bank liquidation.

Marcia was the former Managing Liquidator for the FDIC's Omaha Consolidated Office during the Ag crises of the 1980's. After the crises ended in 1989, she went to work for the RTC in Kansas City where she worked until her retirement. Marcia Carrigan, was a trailblazer who served in senior management roles at the FDIC. The FDIC News celebrated Marcia's major milestone: her 100th birthday.

Andy Basel, former DRR Assistant Director

"Marcia was a wonderful person. She was one of those rare people who never had anything negative to say about anyone or anything, and who was always willing and ready to help anyone with anything. She rose from secretary to manager and worked in many locations during the days when we used to set up a permanent liquidation office for every bank closing."

"Her greatest skill was dealing with people. I worked with her for several years in Puerto Rico, where she was detailed because of her exceptional people skills. She was able to resolve people's work issues and their personal office issues. She was one of the nicest, kindest people anyone ever met."

Mitchell Glassman, former DRR Director

"Marcia was the very definition of a kind, thoughtful, and positive individual who worked in the Division of Liquidation for over 30-years. She started her career as a secretary at the Bank of Grey Summit receivership in 1966 and worked her way up the ladder to one of FDIC's most essential and difficult leadership positions in the field. You can say Marcia was an early pioneer at the FDIC for breaking the "glass ceiling" for women." "For many of

Marcia's benefactors, which there were many, there was always time to share her experiences or tell a funny story about her twin sister Marcella. She was smart and progressive in how she dealt with difficult situations and always promoted the mission of the FDIC to her employees and the public. I will be forever grateful for her mentorship during my early FDIC career and, in particular, for her warm, down-to-earth friendship."

Gregory Coyle, former Manager of DRR's Government/Public Relations Department in Dallas

"Marcia Carrigan was a very effective leader who commanded the respect of all those who she worked with, both up and down the chain of command. In many respects, her attributes mirrored those of Robert F. Longworth (deceased) who was one of the finest examples of Leaders to ever work at the FDIC. In fact, an award is given out in his name annually under the Chairman's Award Program. Both Marcia and Robert were excellent listeners and communicators believing that if you don't take the time to get to know your staff, you have a hard time accessing their capabilities and learning the characteristics that can take them from Good employees to Great employees. It's such a simple concept but not one that is practiced to the extent it should be."

"I can assure you that all the comments regarding Marcia's kindness, warmth and genuine caring for her fellow workers are an understatement as she had the most exceptional ability in this regard as is humanly possible. This attribute certainly carried over to her management skills where the loyalty and dedication of her managers and staff always allowed her office to meet all goals and objectives."

"My wife and I were able to visit her at home a few years ago and she was adamant that she was going to live to 101. Well she made it and the world won't be the same without her."

Pat McFarlin Selensky, retiree, Omaha

"I first met Marcia at the Penn Square Bank Receivership in July 1982. I later served under her supervision in the Omaha Consolidated Office from July 1985-September 1987. Marcia was a dedicated and admirable leader and led by example. All of the employees of the Omaha Office en-



joyed working under her leadership."

"I joined her in celebrating her 100th birthday, as well as her 101st. She always said she would live to 101 and she met her goal! The only disappointment Marcia had after turning 101 in December 2019, was the failure of the state of Missouri to renew her driver's license and she could no longer drive to Mass."

"Marcia was one of a kind and will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her."

Dennis M. Cavinaw, former Assistant Regional Director of DRR in Chicago

"I can assure you that all the comments regarding Marcia's kindness, warmth and genuine caring for her fellow workers are an understatement as she had the most exceptional ability in this regard as is humanly possible. This attribute certainly carried over to her management skills where the loyalty and dedication of her managers and staff always allowed her office to meet all goals and objectives."

"We had many a discussion on the best way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and I'll always remember her calling me at 8am on the 17th when she got to work via "Happy Cab" after having her Irish breakfast with Irish Coffee."

"My wife and I were able to visit her at home a few years ago and she was adamant that she was going to live to 101. Well she made it and the world won't be the same without her."

Marcia Carrigan was the twin sister of the late Marcella C. (the late Robert E.) Hoeflinger and the late Charles M. (the late Viola) Carrigan. •