FAVORITE THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

My first slightly flippant answer is the view of the Capitol dome out my office window. I sometimes pause in my day looking at it, thinking how fortunate I am to work where I do. My real answer comes from that musing. Being able to walk into a gorgeous library space every day and knowing that the work we do supports the justices and the court generally is the best thing about my job. Even after 10 years here, I get excited when we approach the start of a new term or when we get crazy busy in the run up to the end of a term. No two days are the same and it’s exciting to see what will happen next.

WHAT MADE YOU FOLLOW THE CAREER PATH YOU ARE ON?

I have always loved libraries and would spend hours in them growing up. So, when I was looking for an alternative career after deciding that practicing law was not for me, it was easy to turn to librarianship. During library school, and as I started my career, I focused on academic law libraries because that is what I knew. I pictured myself moving up to become an academic law library director. But seeing a job posting for a librarian position at the U.S. Supreme Court changed that path in fun and exciting ways. I applied as a way to challenge myself and to learn about a different area of law librarianship. When the position was offered to me, I eagerly accepted, and 10 years later, I know it was absolutely the right choice. It’s an amazing library with fantastic and dedicated colleagues, and I’m lucky to be working with them.

IF YOU COULD HAVE DINNER WITH ONE HISTORICAL FIGURE, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

Julia Child. I have my mother’s copy of *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, which she used all the time and helped me get interested in cooking and baking. It would be great fun to sit down with Julia over a fine meal and just talk all about cooking.

FAVORITE WAY TO UNWIND AFTER A LONG DAY?

Curling up on the sofa with some crossword puzzles and my cats, Jazz and Flash. Add in a nice glass of wine and it’s a perfect way of relaxing before dinner.

ADVICE TO YOUR 20-YEAR-OLD SELF?

Always believe in yourself and don’t be afraid to go after what you really want. Even if you don’t get everything, simply trying can be a learning experience.

KARIN JOHNSRUD

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN FOR RESEARCH SERVICES

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT LIBRARY

WASHINGTON, DC