



**United States Bankruptcy Court**  
Middle District of Florida  
Sam M. Gibbons United States Courthouse  
801 North Florida Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33602

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **WILLIAMSON TO BECOME MIDDLE DISTRICT'S CHIEF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE**

TAMPA—United States Bankruptcy Judge Michael G. Williamson has been named Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida effective October 1, 2015, announced Judge Anne C. Conway, the Middle District's Chief Judge of the District Court. Judge Williamson succeeds Bankruptcy Judge Karen S. Jennemann, who will end her term as chief judge of the bankruptcy bench on September 30, 2015.

The District Court's appointment of Judge Williamson is for a four-year term, renewable at the option of the district court. The chief bankruptcy judge is responsible for the effective execution of court business and, therefore, facilitates and oversees numerous administrative matters.

Judge Williamson sits in the Tampa Division of the Middle District's bankruptcy court. He was appointed a judicial officer by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in 2000 for a 14-year term and was reappointed to a second 14-year term in 2014. He graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in 1976 and before that received his undergraduate degree from Duke University magna cum laude in 1973.

The Middle District Bankruptcy Court has nine bankruptcy judges presiding over four divisions, Fort Myers, Jacksonville, Orlando, and Tampa. The Middle District Bankruptcy Court is the third busiest bankruptcy court in the nation in total case filings, second busiest for business cases, first in unrepresented "pro se" filings per judgeship and second busiest in total number of cases with "pro se" filers. Due to the volume of its filings, the Middle District has advertised one new judicial officer position opening, with an application close date of June 15, 2015.

Judge Jennemann informed the bankruptcy court's staff of the upcoming change by stating, "I am thrilled that Judge Williamson will become our next chief judge." She added, "Judge Williamson brings years of experience, management skills, and a deep and abiding love of this Court that will take us further along our way to excellence. I am so thankful that he has agreed to serve."

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