

Retirement & Portrait Ceremony in Honor of Judge May

On December 4, 2017, over 200 people, including the Judges and court staff of the Bankruptcy Court, members of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association, District and Magistrate Judges and other dignitaries, as well as attorneys from around the state of Florida gathered to honor the Honorable K. Rodney May on the occasion of his retirement. The retirement and portrait unveiling ceremony was held in the 17th Floor Ceremonial Courtroom in the Sam M. Gibbons United States Courthouse in Tampa. Judge May's family, many friends, and retired chambers staff were also in attendance.

The ceremony, presided over by Hon. Michael G. Williamson, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida, began with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Judge May's daughter, Lauren, followed by the Invocation given by Judge May's son, Andrew. Remarks followed from Hon. Steven D. Merryday, Chief Judge, United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida; Lee Ann Bennett, Deputy Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and former Clerk of Court of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida; Scott A. Stichter, Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association President; attorneys Mark J. Wolfson, Jeffrey W. Warren, and Leonard H. Gilbert; and attorney and former law clerk to Judge May, Barbara A. Hart. This was followed by the unveiling of the portrait by Judge May and his wife, Charo. After closing remarks by Judge May, the attendees adjourned to a reception at the University Club where a video of recorded tributes to Judge May by his fellow judges, attorneys, and court staff was featured.

The portrait was commissioned by members of the bar and was painted by Jon Houghton, one of the most accomplished portrait artists in the country. It now hangs in Courtroom 9A, the courtroom in which Judge May presided for 14 years.

