



IN MEMORIAM

THE HONORABLE PAUL M. GLENN, JR.
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
February 25, 1945 – July 7, 2019

By: Hon. Caryl E. Delano

The bench and bar of the Middle District of Florida mourn the passing of Judge Paul M. (“Bill”) Glenn. On July 13, 2019, Judge Glenn’s life was celebrated at a memorial service in Jacksonville, attended by judges, Court staff, practitioners, family, and friends. He is survived by his wife, Karen, his children, Claire, Catherine, Jill, Christopher, and Kevin, and four grandsons.

Judge Glenn received his undergraduate degree *cum laude* from Florida State University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Although he had been accepted at Harvard University, Judge Glenn chose to attend FSU in order to play basketball on a basketball scholarship. In his senior year, he was selected as the Most Valuable Player of the varsity basketball team. Judge Glenn’s team was described by Pat Conroy in the bestselling autobiographical novel, *My Losing Season*. Judge Glenn graduated from Duke University School of Law in 1970, where he was president of the Law School’s student body.

During the 1970’s Judge Glenn practiced corporate, commercial, banking, and insurance law in Jacksonville and Miami. In the 1980’s he served as the chief executive and chief administrative officer of two insurance companies, and in the early 1990’s he returned to private practice. In 1993, Judge Glenn was appointed as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division.

In June 2008, Judge Glenn transferred from the Tampa Division to the Jacksonville Division. From March 2003 to September 2011, he served as Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida. Judge Glenn presided over many notable cases including Celotex Corporation, Amelia Island Plantation, and Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa. In 2013, Judge Glenn was appointed to the Committee on the Budget of the Judicial Conference of the United States, on which he served until 2017.

Judge Glenn was active in local, state, and national bar and professional activities, including the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. He served as the NCBJ's Director of the Endowment for Education, and as member of the Finance Committee, the Budget Policy Committee, the By-Laws Committee, the Outreach Committee, and the Next Generation Planning Committee.

In March 2005, Judge Glenn was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, and in May 2007, he was honored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association with the Robert W. Patton Outstanding Jurist Award.

Judge Glenn was also active in the American Inns of Court. He served as President of the Ferguson-White American Inn of Court in Tampa and of the Chester Bedell American Inn of Court in Jacksonville. In 2010, Judge Glenn was elected to the National Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation. In 2014, Judge Glenn received the Distinguished Service Award from the Bankruptcy Inn Alliance of the American Inns of Court at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges.

Judge Glenn's numerous accomplishments and honors are overshadowed by his contributions to our Court. He set an example for judicial professionalism, scholarship, and integrity that his colleagues strive to emulate.

Upon learning of Judge Glenn's passing, **Chief United States District Judge Steven Merryday** commented that "Bill's friendship was one of the singular rewards I have had during my term of service on the Court." Judge Merryday also noted that "during his 25 years of distinguished service, Judge Glenn brought to the Court kindness, enduring tranquility, and studied intelligence, for which both the Court and the community are grateful."

Chief Judge Michael Williamson described Judge Glenn as a "a kind and gracious person. In the 25 years I knew him, from my days as an attorney appearing before him to my days as a colleague on the bench, I never heard him utter an unkind word about anyone. Not surprisingly, when he became chief in 2003, he led us into a new era of civility and collegiality that has endured. His soft manner belied his ability to make difficult decisions—typically in rulings from the bench immediately following the close of evidence—which he would work up on his legal pad while we all looked on waiting in anticipation for an answer to the issues presented to him. And answer he

did—in so many cases ruling immediately from the bench—explaining his rulings in a fashion that, while some may not have achieved their objectives, all understood the well-reasoned analysis that supported his rulings.”

Judge Karen Jennemann recalls that she, Judge Glenn, and Judge Jerry Funk were all appointed as bankruptcy judges at the same time. In fact, they shared an investiture ceremony. Judge Jennemann commented that “Judge Glenn’s passing truly is the end of an era for me. When we were appointed in 1994, I was a ‘kid,’ but Bill was our moral compass and ‘patriarch.’”

Just a few weeks ago, **Judge Jerry Funk** and Judge Glenn celebrated their combined 50 years on the bench with Jacksonville Court staff. Judge Funk, who worked with Judge Glenn in Jacksonville for the past 11 years, says that Judge Glenn was a wonderful colleague and that his calming influence will be greatly missed.

Judge Glenn’s family asked **Judge Catherine McEwen** to speak at his memorial service. Her moving tribute included the following:

A decade ago, I sent Judge Glenn an email telling him that I consider him to be the “Real Renaissance Man” and that that would be the title of my speech about him when he retired.

Bill had considerable, considerable gifts —

the gifts of a keen intellect; curiosity; unparalleled patience; gentleness; generosity of his time, talent, and treasure; perception and focus; a mathematical mind that loved to reconcile statistics and predict trends;

the gifts of a responsible work ethic; compassionate leadership; a playful sense of humor; storytelling; the ability to teach and mentor;

the gifts of love of the arts — from classical or even country music to timeless poetry; the ability to play the piano; the ability to take the stage in musical theater; the ability to speak fluent French;

the gifts of a love of history; a love of books; the ability to recite from memory classic literature, a favorite Scripture, or even show tunes;

the gifts of the ability to fly an airplane well; superb athleticism — and not just confined to the hoops he loved to play in college; and,

maybe his best gift, a magnificent ability to demonstrate other-centeredness as opposed to self-centeredness. In particular, he was quick to compliment and promote his friends.

Judge Caryl Delano fondly recalls Judge Glenn both as a colleague and in her appearances before him as a practicing attorney. She says, “I first appeared as a lawyer before Judge Glenn in 1995. He was the kind of judge before whom lawyers loved to appear. He was always prepared, listened carefully, and treated everyone with respect. Win or lose, everyone who appeared before him, especially the parties themselves, felt that they had had their day in court. He never failed to compliment the attorneys on their work. The attorneys appreciated it, but I think these compliments meant even more to the clients. Once when I left his courtroom, the attorneys remarked that a hearing with Judge Glenn was like a neck massage. Whether you won or lost, you felt good afterwards.”

Cindy Turner, Judge Glenn’s long-time law clerk, reported that “Judge Glenn entered 1,057 written opinions during his judicial career. All of the opinions are focused solely on the law and its application. Judge Glenn would never have written or signed an opinion that contained any personal remarks or views about either the litigants or the lawyers. The opinions cover a range of cases, of course, but he never thought that any issue was unimportant.”

Kristyn Leedekerken also served as Judge Glenn’s law clerk. She shares that “Judge Glenn would most want to be remembered not for the countless accolades he received during his career, but for the personal impact he made upon those he encountered. Remember his wisdom in knowing how one’s actions may deeply affect others and choose to have a positive impact on the lives around you, by celebrating strengths and seeing the good. The best way for those who admired and respected Judge Glenn to honor his memory, is in a moment where you may typically lose your patience or temper, think of him, take a deep breath, and try to handle the situation as you think he may have.”

Barry Clark, who served as Judge Glenn’s courtroom deputy for his entire judicial career, stated that “Judge Glenn handled each case as if it were his first and only case on the docket. He complimented all who appeared before him, never raised his voice, never besmirched anyone, and made sure everyone knew and understood the reason for the ruling he made. Judge Glenn was my boss and my friend.”

Judge Glenn’s other staff members included judicial assistants **Paula Luce** and **Laura Stevenson**, law clerks **Alana Williams** and **Joyce Stephens**, and court reporters **Kim Johnson** and **Leisa Gebhard**. Paula, Laura, Joyce, and Kim were able to attend Judge Glenn’s memorial service, along with Barry, Kristyn, and Cindy.

Judge Glenn’s passing has left a hole in the heart of the Middle District. No doubt, each of the attorneys who appeared before him appreciated his intellectual and kind judicial demeanor. He will be missed.