



Judge Catherine Peek McEwen Sworn in for Second Term

**By: Hon. Caryl E. Delano,
Chief Judge**

On August 14, 2019, Judge Catherine Peek McEwen was sworn in by Eleventh Circuit Judge Charles Wilson for her second 14-year term as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida. Judge McEwen's colleagues, family, and co-workers, including Judges Williamson and Delano, Fr. Tim Corcoran, sister, Rosemary Peek, nephew, George Peek, and her chambers staff, Denise Martin, Dedra Gann, and Lisa Scotten, gathered in Judge Wilson's chambers to witness this milestone event.

The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals first appointed Judge McEwen to the bench on August 22, 2005. Since that time, she has presided over more than 64,000 bankruptcy cases. Judge McEwen spearheaded pro bono initiatives in the Middle District and sponsors a quarterly Young Lawyers' Mentoring Program that provides continuing education programs to young and not so young attorneys alike. In addition, Judge McEwen has elevated the Court's student intern program to a new level, meeting with interns each semester to teach a Bankruptcy Basics class and coordinating pro bono and community service activities for the interns.

In 2017, Judge McEwen was appointed by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. to a two-year term as the non-voting bankruptcy judge Observer at the meetings of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the national policy-making body of the federal courts.

As the bankruptcy judge Observer, Judge McEwen has been the sole representative of the United States Bankruptcy Court at JCUS meetings and has reported on the meetings to the JCUS Committee on Administration of the Bankruptcy System and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. Recently, Judge McEwen was elected as the NCBJ's Circuit Governor for the Eleventh Circuit for a three-year term.

Judge McEwen was elected into the American Law Institute in 2012. Among her other honors are the Stetson University College of Law Distinguished Alumnus Award

(2007), Hillsborough County Bar Association Jimmy Kynes Pro Bono Service Award (2008), the Stetson University College of Law J. Ben Watkins Award (2009), the Florida Association for Women Lawyers Leaders in the Law inaugural class designation (2010), the Tampa Bay Hispanic Bar Association's Luis "Tony" Cabassa Award (2012), the Hillsborough Community College Outstanding Alumnus Award (2012), the George Edgecomb Bar Association's Delano S. Stewart Diversity Award (2015), the inaugural Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice's Distinguished Federal Judicial Service Award (2016), the Stetson Lawyers Alumni Association Ben C. Willard Award (2016), the University of South Florida Distinguished Alumna Award (2016), and the Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. Judge Don Castor Justice Award (2016).

All the judges of the Middle District of Florida congratulate Judge McEwen on completing her first term of office. We look forward to working with her for (at least) the next fourteen years!



The following week, Judge McEwen celebrated the end of her first term by enjoying lunch with current and former chambers staff members.

L to R: Judge McEwen, Mary Morrison, Mary Maddox, Denise Martin, Lisa Scotten, Dedra Gann, and Laura Stevenson