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Retirement!

Raymond Waguespack Retires After 35 Years of Service in United States Courts By: Hon. Caryl E. Delano, Chief Judge

On June 30, 2021, one of our Court's most valued employees, Raymond Waguespack, the Director of Operations for the Middle District's Clerk of Court, retired after almost 20 years of service with our Court and a total of 35 years of service with the United States Courts.

Raymond is a native of St. James Parish, Louisiana. Raymond's service with the Courts began in June 1986, when he started at the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans as a file clerk, a mail clerk, and a traveling courtroom bailiff. After just a few months, the Fifth Circuit's Clerk of Court recognized Raymond's talents and promoted him to a more responsible position as a generalist clerk.

In 1987, Raymond moved to Atlanta, where he worked as a docket clerk for the Eleventh Circuit of Appeals for four years, and then for the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia for ten years, first as a case administrator and then as a quality control and CM/ECF analyst. So, Raymond was there in the early days of CM/ECF. While Raymond lived in Atlanta, he earned an associate degree in business administration from DeKalb College and a bachelor's degree, cum laude, in History from Georgia State University.

In December 2001, Raymond moved to Tampa, where he started working in the Tampa Division, first as a case manager, and—within 18 months—as the supervisor on Judge Glenn's team. Raymond was actively involved with the Middle District's implementation of CM/ECF.

In July 2008, a week or so after I was appointed to the bench and inherited Judge Glenn's Tampa caseload, Raymond was promoted to the position of Deputy-in-Charge of the Orlando Division. In this role, Raymond was very involved in the George C. Young U.S. Courthouse Renovation Project, and he led the development and implementation of our Automated Data Interface, which is used by the Clerk's Office to automatically enter tens of thousands of docket entries each year.

In April 2012, Raymond was promoted to a districtwide position as the Clerk of Court's Director of Operations. As Director of Operations, Raymond took on what I can attest was a huge responsibility working as the project manager overseeing the Court's mission to become "One Court, One Team" with uniform processes and procedures. Raymond worked on numerous CM/ECF programs, and participated on the Court's Official Forms Update Committee, the District's Steering Committee, the Internal Procedures Manual Committee, and the Local Rules Lawyers' Advisory Committee. In a nutshell, if the Court has a rule, a form, or a procedure, Raymond had a hand in it.

Raymond may be retiring, but somehow, I don't think he will be sitting in a rocking chair. I know that he has many valuable years ahead of him and will energetically bring his talents to whatever the future has in store for him.

On behalf of the judges of the Middle District, I want to thank Raymond for his 20 years of service to our Court and his 35 years of service to the United States Courts.



Pictured: Raymond Waguespack and Chief Judge Caryl E. Delano

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Pictured: Judge Michael G. Williamson and Raymond Waguespack