



**A MESSAGE FROM  
HON. JACOB A. BROWN**

I am honored to have been selected to serve as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida in the Jacksonville Division and look forward to getting to know the members of the Middle District Bankruptcy Bar better in the coming months. Because there are many of you I have yet to meet, I welcome this opportunity to briefly introduce myself.

My first months on the bench have included training in many forms, adapting to my new role, and incorporating lessons learned from private practice into my judicial career. I am working with my career law clerk, Jodie Hollingsworth, to develop an online procedure manual that will be available on the Court's website. We intend the manual to be an evolving source of information and assistance for practitioners and welcome your feedback on it. You may reach out to Chambers with questions related to the manual. However, we expect practitioners to review the applicable procedural and local rules, the Court's administrative orders, and online resources before contacting Chambers.

As was the case in my private practice, I am committed to supporting strong pro bono programs and pro se clinics. I encourage all lawyers to volunteer at a pro se assistance clinic, take a pro bono case, or find some other means to help those who would benefit from the assistance of counsel but cannot afford it. I hope you will join me in considering how best to use the resources of the Court and members of the Bar to serve pro se litigants and alleviate the attendant strain they place on the judicial system, by sharing your thoughts on improving existing resources and programs.

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Especially amidst the continuing pandemic, we must continue to attend to our mental and physical well-being. The Florida Bar has suggestions for excellent mental health resources should you need them. In the spirit of New Year's resolutions, I encourage each of you to make physical and mental wellness a part of your daily routine. You will serve yourself, your clients, and the Bar better by taking care of mind and body.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to those of you who give your time and talents to bar organizations. You truly make a difference. If you are not already involved, please consider exploring the many opportunities the Florida Bar and its voluntary bar associations offer. My career, friendships, and life are better because of my commitment to these organizations, and I know yours will be as well.

I look forward to seeing and serving you in 2022.