



*Judge Wilson, Chief Judge Delano, and Judge Williamson*

## **Judge Delano Re-Ups for Second 14-Year Term of Public Service**

**By: Hon. Cathy Peek McEwen and Laura Stevenson**

Toasts were in order in the late afternoon of June 15, 2022. Why? Chief Judge Caryl Emerson Delano had been “re-sworn-in” earlier in the day. You see, when a bankruptcy judge nears completion of his or her initial term of 14 years, he or she may request reappointment. Luckily for us, Judge Delano did, and the Eleventh Circuit, which appoints bankruptcy judges, agreed.

Circuit Judge Charles R. Wilson administered the Oath of Office. Judge Delano’s Tampa colleagues Judge Mike Williamson and wife Linda, Judge Cathy McEwen, Judge Roberta Colton, and retired judge Fr. Tim Corcoran joined Chambers Team Delano – Lisa Mills (courtroom deputy), Laura Stevenson (judicial assistant), and Cindy Turner (career law clerk) – to witness this special event. (No doubt chambers staff were pleased at the prospect of job security, too.) They all beamed as Judge Delano placed her left hand on the Bible (held by Judge Williamson), raised her right hand, and took the oath. In doing so, she committed to continue serving the public for years to come.

Beforehand, Judge Wilson made complimentary remarks about Judge Delano’s good service to date, and Father Tim’s invocation called upon the Lord to “renew and strengthen within her your gifts that have allowed her to successfully serve you and the people of the Middle District of Florida in her first term of office, especially your gifts of wisdom, understanding, courage, and patience.”

**Court Connection**  
**Volume No. 11 – Issue No. 3**  
**July 2022**

Judge Delano was appointed to her first 14-year term as a judicial officer on June 25, 2008, to fill the duty station left open by Judge Paul M. “Bill” Glenn’s relocation to the Jacksonville Division. Her term ended on June 24, 2022. Her new 14-year term began the next day, so the Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida has her until June 2036 (and, who knows, maybe more if she asks for a third term!). This also means she can continue to serve as Chief Judge of the district.

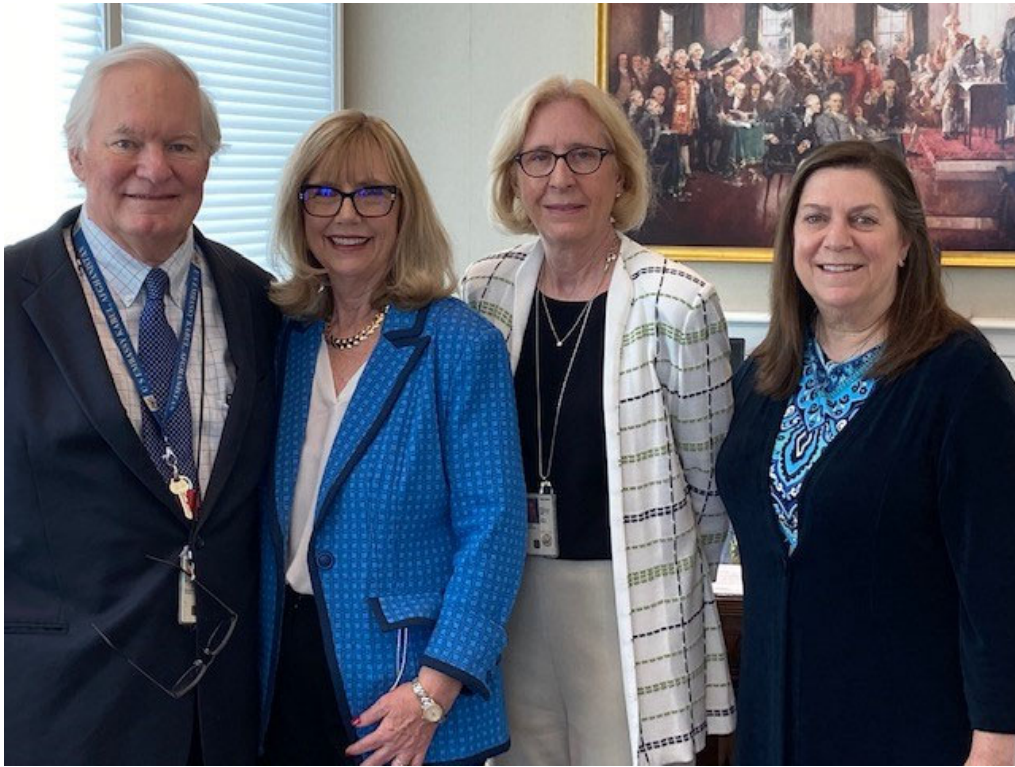
Since her initial appointment, Judge Delano has presided over more than 50,000 bankruptcy cases. In July 2012, she became the presiding judge of the Fort Myers Division and began traveling to Fort Myers once a month to hear cases. In 2017, the Southwest Florida Bankruptcy Professionals Association honored her with its Alexander L. Paskay Professionalism Award.

In October 2019, Judge Delano was the unanimous choice of her colleagues to become Chief Judge. Since then, she has faced unprecedented challenges: the pandemic, extraordinary budget cuts, the retirement of three judges, the appointment and onboarding of four judges, and the list goes on. Yet, through all these ups and downs, she has served as Chief Judge with composure, grace, and good humor.

Judge Delano was the judicial chair of the Local Rules Lawyers’ Advisory Committee for the Middle District from 2011 to 2020. She currently serves on the Middle District of Florida Bench Bar Fund Committee and Space and Facilities Committee and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. She has been actively involved over the years in The Florida Bar Business Law Section and its Executive Committee, CLE Committee, and Bankruptcy/UCC Committee. She also participates in continuing education programs for local bar associations, The Florida Bar, and judges’ education programs for federal judges through the Federal Judicial Center. She served as the judicial chair of the Alexander L. Paskay Memorial Bankruptcy Seminar from 2015 to 2018.

At the end of her re-swearing-in day, Judge Delano convened a convivial non-court session with judicial colleagues, former law clerks, and her sister Clare Emerson Robbins for a champagne toast at a nearby venue. Thusly armed with wind-in-her-sails thanks and congratulations, Judge Delano has embarked on her next tour of duty.

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*Chief Judge Delano and Fr. Tim*



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*Left to right: Laura Stevenson, Dana Robbins (former law clerk), Clare Emerson Robbins (sister of Judge Delano, no relation to Dana), Judge Delano, Phil Nodhturft (former law clerk), Judge McEwen, Fr. Tim.*