



**Investiture of the Honorable Jacob A.  
Brown September 23, 2022**  
**By: Hon. Caryl E. Delano, Chief Judge**

On November 4, 2021, The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals appointed Bankruptcy **Judge Jacob A. (“Jay”) Brown** to the Jacksonville Division of the Middle District of Florida. Judge Brown filled the position “vacated” by **Judge Jerry Funk’s** retirement on November 3, 2021. (The Eleventh Circuit approved Judge Funk’s continued service to our Court as a recall judge.)

On September 23, 2022, the bankruptcy judges of the Middle District and I presided at Judge Brown’s formal investiture in the ceremonial courtroom of Jacksonville’s Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse. **Chief Judge Timothy J. Corrigan** of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida administered the oath of office to Judge Brown. Other distinguished guests included **Eleventh Circuit Judge Susan Black**, United States District Court Judges and Magistrate Judges, state court judges and other dignitaries, and Judge Brown’s family and friends. Also attending was Bankruptcy Judge Denise Barnett, formerly with the U.S. Trustee’s program in Tampa, and now presiding in the Western District of Tennessee, who traveled from Memphis for the ceremony.

Attorney **Michael Chesal** presented the invocation, followed by presentations by the Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association (Amy Leitch, President), the Jacksonville Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (Laura Renstrom, President), the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association (Kimberly Woods, President-Elect), International Women’s Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation, Florida Network (Leanne Prendergast, Immediate Past Chair), the Jacksonville Beaches Bar Association (Katheryn Hancock, Vice President), and the Business Law Section of

The Florida Bar (Douglas Bates, Chair). Attorney Christian George emceed the bar associations' presentations.

Judge Brown's former law partner, **Andrea Hartley**, reflected on her experiences working with Judge Brown as an attorney at Akerman, LLP. Judge Jerry Funk, Judge Brown's predecessor on the bench, spoke warmly about Judge Brown's service as his law clerk. Judge Brown's own remarks demonstrated his commitment to the legal profession and service to the public.

Following the benediction by Attorney **Gregory Atwater**, the attendees adjourned to a reception at MOCA – Jacksonville.

Please join me in officially welcoming Judge Jay Brown to the bench!