



Court Bids Farewell to Faithful Employees

By: Kathryn M. Sullivan, Human Resources Administrator

Since July of this year, nine Court employees have retired. Although we miss them daily, they assure us they are enjoying retirement and living their best lives! Here is just a little bit about each of these extraordinary individuals:

Jacksonville Division:



CATHY MULLIKIN, Case Administrator III (*retired July 2022*)
21 years of U.S. Courts service with FLMB

Cathy joined our Jacksonville Division in 2001 as an Intake Clerk. Given her impressive ability to learn quickly, Cathy's expert-level knowledge led to a series of promotions. She spent the next 16 years as a Senior Case Administrator, Team Leader, and Supervisor. Cathy was an integral member of the IT Testing Committee and the Procedures Drafting Committee, but, most importantly, Cathy was a friend to us all.



SUSAN BALDWIN, Case Manager (*retired August 2022*)
30 years of U.S. Courts service with FLMB

Susan joined our Jacksonville Division in 1992 as a Generalist Clerk. Setting an impressive precedent, she was quickly promoted to Case Manager and spent many years as a Senior Case Administrator and Team Leader. Most notably, Susan was a Training Lead during the Court's initial CM/ECF conversion in the early 2000s. Susan was a dedicated and well-recognized member of the Procedures Committee; she will be remembered for always going above and beyond to help her manager, peers, and the Bar.

Orlando Division:



DIANNA VALENCIA, Case Manager (*retired September 2022*)
19 years U.S. Courts service with FLMB

Dianna joined our Tampa Division in 2003 as a Case Manager. If you had the pleasure of working with Dianna, especially in the Sam M. Gibbons Courthouse, you know what a vital and vivacious member of the Tampa Outreach Committee she was. Dianna loved being involved with the Court and always volunteered to coordinate Health Fairs and Off-Site events. She was also an essential member of the Training Committee. Dianna transferred to the Orlando Division in 2021 to be closer to her family during the pandemic.



NOEL RODRIGUEZ, A/V Specialist (*retired September 2022*)
20 years of U.S. Courts service
5 years with FLMB

Transferring from the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, Noel joined our Court in 2017 as the A/V Specialist. Although primarily stationed in the Orlando Division, Noel successfully upgraded the A/V technology in ALL our FLMB courtrooms. Noel was consistently recognized for his work on the Website Committee and overall Outstanding Performance. We will miss his eternally optimistic and cheerful attitude and willingness to lend a helping hand.

Tampa Division:



NITA BALAMES, Case Manager (*retired September 2022*)
23 years of U.S. Courts service with FLMB

Nita joined our Tampa Division in 1999 as a Case Manager. Anyone fortunate enough to spend time with Nita knows that her bubbly personality and warm smile were welcome throughout the Tampa courthouse and are what made her a vital member of the Tampa Outreach Committee. Nita was quick to offer her assistance with Health Fairs and Off-Site events, and she was also an essential member of the Training Committee. Nita deeply

cared for everyone, as we cared for her, and was happy to provide aid and support to her peers, manager, and the Bar.



DEANNA BERRIER, Case Manager (*retired September 2022*)
34 years of Federal Service
30 years of U.S. Courts service with FLMB

Deanna, a U.S. Air Force veteran, joined our Tampa Division in 1992 as a Case Manager. For 30 years, Deanna has been consistently recognized for her Outstanding and Sustained Superior Performance. In 1997, she was recognized by members of the Bar for her work on the Lykes Bros. Steamship Co. Chapter 11 mega case. Deanna worked as a backup courtroom deputy and was an active member of the Court's IT Testing and Noticing Committees. Despite moving to North Carolina in 2014, Deanna continued to provide the exceptional level of service for which she was known – just virtually.



DANA BUGAY, Case Manager (*retired September 2022*)
33 years of U.S. Courts service
25 years with FLMB

Dana treasured our Court just as much as we treasured Dana. She began her U.S. Courts career in our Tampa Division in 1989 as a Case Manager. However, in 1994 Dana transferred to the U.S. District Court in California, where she held the following positions: Generalist Clerk, Financial Specialist, Case Manager, and Courtroom Clerk. But, proving that Florida truly is the best state, Dana returned to our Tampa Division in 2002 and resumed her position as Case Manager. Based on her expert knowledge and excellent work product, Dana was chosen to be one of our CM/ECF NextGen testers during the conversion and was a long-time member of the Procedures Committee.



BERNIE LEWIS, Case Manager (*retired September 2022*)
42 years of Federal Service
39 years spent with U.S. Courts
35 years with FLMB

Another U.S. Air Force veteran, Bernadette (Bernie), came to our Tampa Division in 1987 after transferring from USBC in Los Angeles, CA, where she was a docket clerk. Bernie shined as a Case Manager, and her positive attitude and exceptional work ethic made her the obvious choice to mentor new Case Managers. Bernie was an integral member of the

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IT Testing and Website Committees. With over 42 years of public service, Bernie's scope of knowledge and unique voice will be deeply missed – but she has undoubtedly earned a relaxing retirement!



CHRIS THOMAS, Case Manager (*retired September 2022*)
31 years of U.S. Courts service with FLMB

Chris joined our Tampa Division in 1991 as a Case Manager. A vital and dependable member of the Tampa Outreach Committee, Chris shared her kindness and infectious smile with everyone she met. Chris was a staple at the Health Fair and Off-Site events and was essential in creating the District-Wide Procedures Manual. Good-natured and a true team player, Chris often volunteered to sit with new staff, law clerks, and interns. It is no wonder Chris was consistently recognized for her Outstanding Performance.