



Bankruptcy Court Hosts Formal Investitures of Hon. Jason A. Burgess and Hon. Tiffany P. Geyer

By: Hon. Caryl E. Delano, Chief Judge

Between February 2022 and March 2023, the Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida hosted a record five investiture ceremonies. Most recently, the Court celebrated the investitures of Judge Jason A. Burgess (Jacksonville) and Judge Tiffany P. Geyer (Orlando).

Judge Burgess's investiture was held in the ceremonial courtroom of Jacksonville's Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse. Distinguished guests included Judge Gerald Tjoflat of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, United States District Court Judges and Magistrate Judges, and Judge Burgess's family and friends. Chief Bankruptcy Judge Karen Specie of the Northern District of Florida and Bankruptcy Judge Paul Hyman of the Southern District of Florida also attended the ceremony.

Reverend Thomas Cagle gave the invocation, followed by presentations by the Jacksonville Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (Laura Renstrom, President),

the Jacksonville Beaches Bar Association (Katheryn Hancock, President), the Jacksonville Bar Association (Christian George, Treasurer), International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation, Florida Network (Angela Scott, Secretary), the Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar (Byron "Trey" Wright III, Treasurer), the Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association (Frank Wolff, President), and the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar (Douglas Bates, Chair). Attorney Allan Wulbern emceed the bar associations' presentations.

Attorneys Roy Kobert and Eugene Johnson reflected on their experiences working with Judge Burgess as an attorney. Judge Jerry Funk administered the oath of office and officially welcomed Judge Burgess to the bench. Finally, Judge Burgess delivered a heartfelt and inspiring speech regarding the importance in his life of faith and family and the collegiality of the Jacksonville bankruptcy bar.

Following the benediction by Pastor Nathan Loewen, the attendees adjourned to a reception in the Jury Assembly Room of the Courthouse.

On March 17, 2023, the Middle District celebrated St. Patrick's Day and Judge Geyer's investiture ceremony in the ceremonial courtroom of Orlando's George C. Young Federal Annex Courthouse. Distinguished guests included United States District Court Judges and Magistrate Judges, and Judge Geyer's family and friends. Our former Chief Judge, retired Bankruptcy Judge Karen Jennemann, and Bankruptcy Judge Erik Kimball of the Southern District of Florida also attended the ceremony, as well as Mary Ida Townson, the United States Trustee for Region 21, which includes Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Annette M. Snedaker gave the invocation, followed by presentations by the Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association (Frank Wolff, President), the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association (Barbara Hart, President), the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar (Douglas Bates, Chair), International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (Esther McKean, Immediate Past Chair), the Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association (Amy Leitch, President), and the Orlando Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (Andrew Ballentine, Treasurer). Attorney Liz Green emceed the bar associations' presentations.

Judge Geyer's daughter, Eleanor, gave a beautiful speech about her mother, followed by Judge Geyer's former law partners, Liz Green and Jimmy Parrish, who reflected on their experiences working with Judge Geyer as an attorney. I was honored to administer the oath of office; Judge Jennemann robed Judge Geyer—her former law clerk—and commented on the significance of Judge Geyer's having been appointed to Judge Jennemann's seat on the bench.

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Judge Lori Vaughan, now the senior-most Orlando bankruptcy judge, officially welcomed Judge Geyer to the bench. In her warm remarks, Judge Geyer recognized her family members and described the history of St. Paddy's (not Patty's!) Day. Following the benediction by Ms. Snedaker, the attendees adjourned to a reception at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Please join me in officially welcoming Judge Burgess and Judge Geyer to the bench!



Judge Jerry A. Funk and Judge Jason A. Burgess



Judge Jacob A. Brown, Judge Jerry A. Funk and Judge Jason A. Burgess

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Judge Jason A. Burgess and Family



Roy S. Kobert, Esq., Judge Jason A. Burgess and Eugene H. Johnson, Esq.



Judge Karen Jennemann (ret.) with Judge Tiffany P. Geyer



Judge Geyer's daughter, Eleanor



Karla Lee Hue, Orlando Case Administration Team Leader, Judge Tiffany P. Geyer and former Orlando Supervisors Maggie Moyet and Nola Russell.