



The State of the District 2024
By: Hon. Caryl E. Delano, Chief Judge

In 2012, former Chief Judge Karen Jennemann started the tradition of presenting an annual State of the District address in each of the Middle District's four divisions. Judge Williamson followed this tradition for the four years that he served as chief. My first State of the District presentations were scheduled in March 2020, and I was fortunate to squeeze the Jacksonville presentation in before the pandemic shutdown. 2021 marked the first ever Zoom State of the District presentation, and in 2022 and 2023, I presented live in some of the divisions and by Zoom in others. So 2024 marked the first time I was able to give the presentation live in each District!

Thanks to the Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association, the Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association, the Southwest Florida Bankruptcy Professionals Association, and the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association for hosting the presentations! I greatly enjoyed visiting with bankruptcy practitioners throughout the District.

For those of you who missed it, here are some of the highlights:

Our Judges

Jacksonville

Judge Jay Brown

- Chair, Middle District of Florida's Virtual Pro Se Clinic Committee
- American College of Bankruptcy – Pro Bono Committee
- NCBJ – DEI, Legislative, Annual Committee Meetings

Judge Jason Burgess

- Adjunct Professor at University of Alabama School of Law

Judge Jerry Funk

- Will seek reappointment for five-year term as recall judge.

Orlando

Judge Lori Vaughan

- Adjunct Professor, Florida A&M University School of Law
- Editor-in-Chief, *NCBJ Conference News*

Judge Grace Robson

- Co-Chair, Secured Creditors' Subcommittee, ABA Business Bankruptcy Committee
- Panelist, ABA Spring 2024 Meeting in Orlando

Judge Tiffany Geyer

- *NCBJ Conference News* Committee Panelist, ABA Spring 2024 Meeting in Orlando
- Presenter, 2023 NCBJ Conference
- NCBJ Public Outreach Committee
- Spearheaded NCBJ's Public Outreach Project in Austin, Texas.
- Guest Lecturer, University of Florida Levin School of Law

Tampa

Judge Catherine Peek McEwen

- Judicial Conference's Committee on the Judicial Branch
- Judicial Conference's Advisory Committee on the Bankruptcy Rules
- Adjunct Professor, Western Michigan University Cooley School of Law
- NCBJ Legislative Committee

Judge Caryl Delano

- Reappointed Chief Judge effective October 1, 2023.
- Eleventh Circuit Representative, AO's Bankruptcy Judges' Advisory Group
- Judicial Co-Chair, ABI/Paskay Seminar
- Judicial Chair, CLE Committee, Business Law Section of The Florida Bar

Judge Roberta Colton

- Secretary, National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges
- NCBJ Education Committee
- Judicial Chair, Bankruptcy Judicial Liaison Committee, Business Law Section of The Florida Bar

Clerk's Office

Court Employees

- 26 retirements between January 2020 and January 2024
- Good news: Four new case managers started on February 26, 2024.

	January 2023	January 2024
Clerk's Office Employees	56	48
Case Managers	24	18
IT Staff	10	9


13

Virtual § 341 Meetings

Zoom § 341 Meetings

U.S. Trustee Program implemented virtual § 341 meetings of creditors via Zoom in Chapter 7, 12, and 13 cases in the Middle District of Florida in cases filed on or after September 1, 2023.

Information on each Trustee's procedures, links, etc. in



72

Subchapter V – Small Business Reorganization Act

Subchapter V
 “Unofficial”
 Statistics

- Middle District of Florida still ranked #1 in filings.
- 30% more Subchapter V cases than #2 – Central District of California.

Division	No. of Cases
Tampa	217
Orlando	212
Jacksonville	93
Fort Myers	65

Student Loans

DOJ Student Loan Guidance – effective November 12, 2022

“Unofficial”
 Statistics

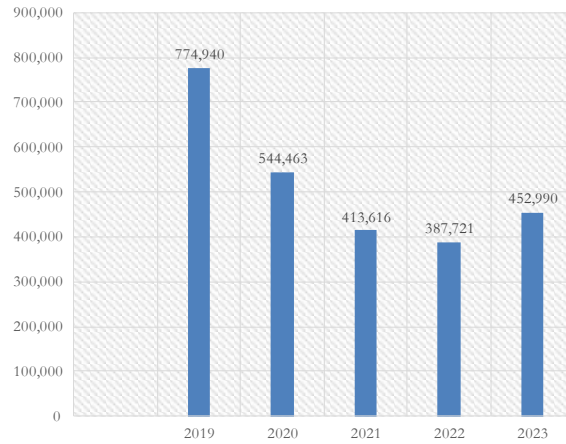
Middle District of
 Florida

Category	No.
Cases filed in 2020	8
Cases filed in 2021	3
Cases filed between 1/1/2022 and 11/16/2022	7
Cases filed from 11/17/2022 to present	42
Pending Cases	35
Cases Resolved	7
Total Discharge	4
Partial Discharge	0
% of Total or Partial Discharges	57.14%

Filing Statistics

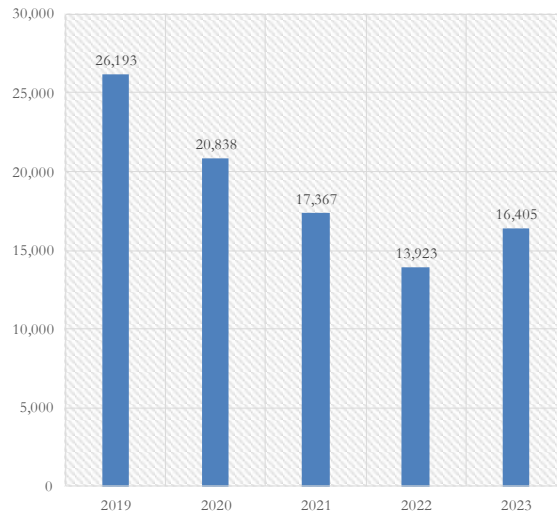
National Filings

Bankruptcy filings increased 16.8% from year ending 12/31/2022.

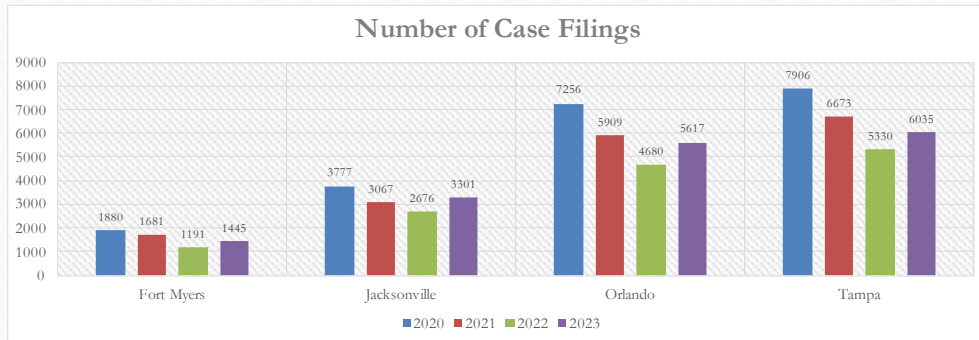


Middle District Filings

Filings increased 17.8% from year ending 12/31/2022.



Middle District Filings by Division



91

Middle District Filings 2020-2023

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Chapter 7	16,653	13,753	10,016	11,913
Chapter 11	282	226	290	262
Chapter 13	3,891	3,382	3,593	4,227
Other (Chapters 12, 15, etc.)	12	6	24	3
Total Filings	20,838	17,367	13,923	16,405

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Adversary Proceedings	977	773	525	556

92

Middle District Weighted Caseload Average Year Ending December 31, 2023

- Nationally, the average of weighted cases per authorized judgeship ranges from 2,022 to 88.
- Middle District ranked 14th in the nation for a total of 761 weighted cases per authorized judgeship (9 total authorized judgeships).
- For 8 authorized judgeships, 856 weighted cases per judge (would be ranked 10th in the nation).

94

District-Wide Pro Se Virtual Clinic

District-Wide Pro Se Virtual Clinic

- Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee Special Recognition Award
- Jacksonville Area Legal Aid Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award



99