

The Court Connection



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Court Bids Farewell to Clerk of Court Sheryl Loesch . . .

By: Hon. Caryl E. Delano, Chief Judge

The Middle District's Clerk of Court, Sheryl Loesch, retired on December 31, 2024, after serving in the clerk's offices of the United States Courts for over 35 years.

After graduating from the University of South Florida (Go Bulls!) Sheryl began her career with the judiciary by serving as the District Court's Jacksonville Division Manager from 1989 to 1996. Looking to advance her career, in 1996, Sheryl relocated to Kansas City, Kansas, where she served as the District of Kansas's Chief Deputy Clerk until 1999. Last year, while attending a Chief Judges' meeting in Washington, D.C., I met a senior district judge from Kansas, who, upon learning that I was from the Middle District of Florida, asked me if I knew Sheryl Loesch. Sheryl must have made an impression on the Kansas judges if, 25 years later, they remember and ask about her!

Kansas was a tad cold for Sheryl and, in 1999, she returned to the Middle District of Florida as the District Court's Clerk of Court with an Orlando duty station. In 2017, Sheryl joined the Bankruptcy Court as our Clerk of Court.

Little did Sheryl know the challenges that awaited her as the Bankruptcy Court's Clerk of Court: she served under three Chief Judges (Judge Jennemann, Judge Williamson, and me); welcomed and facilitated the transitions of five new judges to the Court (Judges Vaughan, Robson, and Geyer in Orlando and Judges Brown and Burgess in Jacksonville); painful reductions in our Court's budget that required the Clerk's Office to reduce the number of its employees (thankfully, accomplished primarily through attrition); and, probably most significantly, the challenge of operating the Court and the Clerk's Office during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through all of these challenges, Sheryl demonstrated a "can-do" and flexible attitude that allowed our Court to maintain full operations while the Clerk's Offices were closed to the public, all the while ensuring pro se parties' access to the Court. Almost overnight, our judges transitioned from in-person hearings to all telephonic and video hearings. I hope this transition appeared seamless to members of the Bar and the public; it could not have been accomplished without Sheryl's leadership and the hard work of the Clerk's Office staff.

During her career, Sheryl became well-known throughout the country, if not the world. Sheryl served on several Advisory Committees to the Administrative Office of United States Courts, and for over ten years, she served as the Clerk Liaison to the Judicial Conference's International Judicial Relations Committee. In this role, she coordinated with district and bankruptcy judges throughout the country and traveled to numerous foreign countries, including a memorable trip to Russia with Judge

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Williamson, Chief District Judge Elizabeth Kovachevich, Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Jenkins, and several others. In addition, Sheryl is a founding member and a past-president of the International Association for Court Administration. Through her involvement in these international organizations, Sheryl has traveled the world teaching judges and court clerks on numerous Rule of Law projects.

Although they love Orlando, Sheryl and her fiancé, Tom Figmik, own a second home in Maui. They look forward to being able to spend more time in Maui and other travels. Please join me in congratulating Sheryl on her remarkable career and wishing her many happy and healthy years in her well-deserved retirement!



Sheryl at her retirement celebration in Tampa on December 11

. . . And Welcomes New Clerk of Court José A. Rodriguez
By: Hon. Caryl E. Delano, Chief Judge

On January 1, 2025, I had the honor of administering the oath of office to the Middle District's new Clerk of Court, José A. Rodriguez.

First, a little background. In 28 U.S.C. § 156(b), Congress authorizes the bankruptcy judges of each judicial district to appoint a clerk of the bankruptcy court. Under § 156 (e), the bankruptcy clerk is the official custodian of the records and dockets of the bankruptcy court. And, along with the clerk's responsibilities, comes some liability: under § 156(f), the clerk is (personally) accountable to pay fees, costs, and other monies collected by the clerk to the U.S. Treasury. In essence, the Clerk is directly responsible for all the functions of the Clerk's Office.

José's career with the bankruptcy court spans over 26 years. After serving in the United States Air Force and the United States National Guard, José joined the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida as its Assistant Director of IT and ultimately served for six years as the Southern District's Chief Deputy Clerk. For family reasons, José and his wife decided to move to the Tampa area just as our former Chief Deputy, Johnnie Prophet, was retiring. In December 2021, José joined our Court as Chief Deputy Clerk with glowing recommendations from the judges of the Southern District, who told me how much they regretted losing José.

José's educational background will serve him well as the Middle District's Clerk of Court. He holds a master's degree in business administration from Nova Southeastern University, which he supplemented with courses in Information Technology from Barry University.

José, his wife, Dawn, and their two grown children, Stephanie and Brandon, enjoy living in New Tampa.

Please join me in congratulating José on his selection as the Middle District's next Clerk of Court.



*Clerk of Court José Rodriguez, Judge Delano, and Judge McEwen
surrounded by Court staff at José's swearing-in ceremony*

Help Me Help You
A Few Practice Pointers From One of
Your Friendly Orlando Bankruptcy Judges
By: Hon. Grace E. Robson

The following practice pointers are entirely mine, and I am limiting my pointers to a few issues that commonly come up. I am not speaking for my colleagues whose views may differ.

Consult and Follow the Local Rules

The Local Rules are a valuable resource on District-wide procedures. It is important to comply with them as they have the force of law. For example, Local Rule 9013-1 provides that a motion must request only one form of relief unless the request seeks alternative forms of relief under the same provision of the Bankruptcy Code or Bankruptcy Rules. There is a reason for this—the way documents are filed impacts whether they are or are not set for hearing. If your paper is filed as a notice but it includes a motion, the Court will not know you are asking for a hearing. Another example is Local Rule 9072-1(d)(4), which provides that agreed orders should contain the preamble “By submission of this order for entry, the submitting counsel represents that the opposing party consents to its entry.” Please keep in mind that failure to comply with the Local Rules may result in the delay or denial of your request.

Hearing Procedures

First, a reminder, all hearings before me are *in person*. Generally speaking, if you want to appear via Zoom, you will need to file a motion unless you are there only to observe the hearing, the matter is uncontested or settled, or the parties agree to seek a continuance. **Do not call my Chambers** to find out what constitutes “good cause” to appear via Zoom. Once you file a motion to appear via Zoom, you should email a copy of the filed motion to Chambers as directed in my Hearing Procedures.¹

- Zoom Request Tips – What Information Should Be in a Request?
 - The date of the hearing;
 - What the hearing is about and what your role is in the matter;
 - What you expect to happen at the hearing, i.e., announce settlement, ask for continuance, schedule a trial;

¹ https://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/orlando/robson/Judge_Robson_Hearing_Procedures.pdf?id=1

- Do not tell me your office is not in Orlando as this is irrelevant to whether I will grant the motion.
- Zoom Registration
 - Parties that have permission to appear via Zoom should register as early as possible; if you know a month in advance that you will be seeking permission to appear via Zoom, please file your motion more than two days in advance. Also, ***test the Zoom link***. Occasionally, parties will receive an error message; if that occurs, parties should re-register. You can contact Chambers if you have an issue with the Zoom link.
- Preparing a Notice of Hearing
 - When filing a notice of hearing, make sure to select the correct judge in the drop-down menu as the judges use different language in the form of notice of hearing.

Motion Practice

- State Exactly What Relief You Want in the Wherefore Clause: The Court and parties in interest should never be unclear as to what relief is requested. The Wherefore Clause is a great place to succinctly enumerate what you are asking the Court to do. It is best to explicitly state what relief you are seeking. Vaguely asking the Court to “grant this Motion” does not empower the affected parties to respond appropriately.
- Binding Case Law: If binding Eleventh Circuit case law exists, include it in your pleadings. If there is a split of opinion, be honest about it and advocate as to why I should rule in your favor.
- Check for Proper Service: Confirm that you have the correct address for parties that will be receiving service—this will save you from having to re-serve and/or attend multiple hearings. Also, pay special attention to the service requirements for insured depository institutions and governmental entities.
- Requests for a Hearing on an Emergency or Expedited Basis: Local Rule 9013-1(d), (e) sets forth requirements when seeking a hearing on an emergency or expedited basis. For emergencies, parties must file a “Certificate of Necessity” using the specific CM/ECF docketing event with the same name. The form can be found on The Source in the section titled “*Emergency Matters (including Certificate of Necessity)*.”² After filing a motion seeking an emergency hearing

² <https://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/proguide/index.asp>

or expedited relief, counsel should contact Gena Whitsett, my Courtroom Deputy, to coordinate scheduling the hearing.

Proposed Orders

Providing relief in a timely manner is beneficial to all parties. When submitting a proposed order, there are a few things you should do to ensure that your proposed order will not need to be resubmitted.

- Orders After Hearing: Timely submit your proposed order. The Local Rules require submission of proposed orders within 3 days of the hearing, but the sooner you submit it, the sooner it will be entered.
- Use the Style Guide, which can be found at https://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/procedures/district/style_guide-POST.pdf?id=1
Too often, proposed orders are submitted with the incorrect Court name, insufficient room at the top (3-inch margin) to affix my signature, and lacking necessary information like the correct name of a motion, the document number, and hearing date and time.
- Utilize Sample Forms!
Take advantage of the many form motions and orders on The Source, which are available at <https://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/proguide/index.asp>; in addition, I have prepared specific forms for frequently used orders that can be found at <https://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/judges/robson/>.
- “Dos” for Proposed Orders
 - Do reference all motions, responses, and replies (and the corresponding document numbers) that are being addressed in the proposed order.
 - Do reference the correct Courtroom when submitting orders scheduling hearings.
 - Do include that a hearing is canceled in the title and body of a proposed order (via separate paragraph) if the proposed order cancels a hearing. An example of a title is “Agreed Order (1) Granting Motion for Relief from Stay and (2) Canceling Hearing.”
 - Do include the language referenced in Local Rule 9072-1(d) in agreed orders.
 - Do attach legible attachments when included as exhibits to a proposed order.
- “Do Nots” for Proposed Orders
 - Do not use “hereby.”
 - Do not use “nunc pro tunc” (instead use “effective as of”).

- Do not use any unnecessary archaic language.
- Do not include the attorney's signature block.
- Do not submit an order where the last page only contains directions for service.
- Do not submit orders before the negative notice (plus 3 days for mail) time has expired to object or respond to the corresponding motion.
- Do not include internal document identification in the footer.

Chapter 11 Cases

- Redline Comparison: If an amendment or modification is filed with respect to a plan or disclosure statement, the plan proponent should contemporaneously file (under separate notice of filing) a redline comparing the prior version to the amendment or modification.
- Distribution Chart for Plans: It would be helpful to attach a proposed distribution chart to the plan that lists the creditor names (scheduled creditors and creditors that filed proofs of claim), class the creditor is being treated in, claim amount by class, as well as the proposed distribution (amount of distribution as well as %, i.e., Class 3 unsecured creditors will receive a 5% distribution under the plan, etc.). I may begin requiring plan proponents to provide a distribution chart in the future.
- Motion for Cramdown: A motion seeking to approve a plan under either 11 U.S.C. § 1129(b) or § 1191(b) is not necessary if the plan and disclosure statement include language that the plan proponent intends to seek non-consensual confirmation in the event it does not have sufficient votes accepting the plan. Only one motion setting forth all impaired classes at issue should be filed.
- Confirmation Orders
 - For Subchapter V cases, proposed orders confirming a plan should include requirement to file and serve notice of substantial consummation of the plan within 14 days thereof as required under 11 U.S.C. § 1183(c)(2).
 - All proposed orders confirming a plan should include a requirement to file notice of effective date of the plan.
- Post-Confirmation Reporting for All Chapter 11 Cases: I require filing of post-confirmation quarterly reports, which include detail on disbursements, distributions, and any transfers of real property made pursuant to the confirmed plan until the entry of a final decree. Counsel must include reference to the required post-confirmation reporting in any proposed order confirming

plan. An example of appropriate language is: “Debtor shall file with the Bankruptcy Court a financial report or statement of disbursements for each quarter (or portion thereof) that this Chapter 11 case remains open, in a format prescribed by the United States Trustee. These reports shall include any disbursements made from the sale or refinance of any real property. Debtor shall attach to the quarterly report copies of all refinancing and/or sale closing documents for any property sold during the applicable period.”

Adversary Proceedings

- When Amending a Complaint, Add New Counts at the End: It is confusing to re-number counts in a complaint after the parties and the Court have considered the matter to any extent. If you amend a complaint by adding new counts at the end, then count 1 will always be count 1, etc.
- Use Only Arabic Numerals for Count Numbers in a Complaint: Please use Arabic numerals. Roman numerals are not easily recognized and can lead to duplicating or skipping count numbers.
- Removal is Almost Never a Good Idea: Most times, the matter removed is entirely non-core, raising concerns about the ability of the Bankruptcy Court to enter final orders. Instead, you might seek relief from the automatic stay to continue litigation in the original forum. Or, depending on the nature of the claims, you may file a new adversary proceeding in the bankruptcy case, presenting only those claims appropriately pursued in bankruptcy court.

Evidentiary Hearings/Trials

- Alert Chambers if Matters Have Been Resolved: If a matter is set for trial or evidentiary hearing, please alert Chambers as soon as possible that matters have been settled so that the calendar can be cleared for other matters. **Please note:** I will not remove the trial from the calendar unless a motion or stipulation of dismissal is filed.
- Timely Upload Exhibits and Other Documents: Please make sure that all exhibits, witness lists, and other documents are timely uploaded. If you have technical issues inhibiting your ability to timely upload required documents, file a motion seeking an extension of time and contact Chambers.
- Exhibit Binders: I am trying my best to be as paperless as possible. If the exhibits are not voluminous, I do not require an exhibit binder. The uploaded exhibits are the “official” record, so if there are voluminous documents and you know you will be asking me to look at certain pages, feel free to provide me

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with a binder containing only those pages you will be asking me to review. **Also, you do not have to include the exhibit cover sheet referenced in Local Rule 9070-1 unless the exhibit is admitted at trial and was not listed on the exhibit list.**

Thank you for taking the time to read these practice pointers—I appreciate your reading all the way to the end! 😊

**Haiku from the Zoom Waiting Room
(or, Our Courtroom Deputies Aren't Cephalopods Who
Can Reach Back While Doing Other Things and Rescue You):**

*Technology moves
Do not let it get past you
You'll be left alone*

By: Hon. Catherine Peek McEwen



Our bankruptcy court adopted “new” remote-hearing Zoom scheduling procedures in January 2024, more than a year ago. Not so new anymore, right? Why is it, then, that lawyers still do not follow the procedures? The procedures aren’t a secret; they aren’t hidden. They are posted on each of our judges’ webpages within the Court’s website. They are posted on our website within The Source in the Procedures Manual. And they are referred to in every hearing notice. We even have a how-to CLE posted in The Source’s CLE corner.

The Rules Regulating The Florida Bar require lawyers to be technologically competent. Rule 4-1.1 of the Florida Rules of Professional Conduct requires a lawyer to provide competent representation to a client. The comments address maintaining competence and state the following:

To maintain the requisite knowledge and skill, a lawyer should keep abreast of changes in the law and its practice, engage in continuing study and education, including an understanding of the benefits and *risks associated with the use of technology*, including generative artificial

intelligence, and comply with all continuing legal education requirements to which the lawyer is subject.¹

This means you must be proficient with the technological tools necessary to practice law. If you want to appear for hearings in our Court remotely — when a judge's procedures permit such — you must master the technological process of how to get into the remote hearing.

After a full year, lawyers should be registering for Zoom hearings in a timely manner so as not to risk missing an important hearing. Why is registering by the judges' respective deadlines important? Our courtroom deputies (CRDs) print the Zoom registration list at the end of the workday before the hearing day so that the judge will have a roll to call for each hearing. Those who do not register for a remote hearing by the published deadline the day before the hearing will not be on the list. Thus, late registrants will not be expected to appear by Zoom and, consequently, will be left stranded in the Zoom waiting room — at least in my cases. Our CRDs cannot be expected to keep checking the Zoom waiting room during a hearing docket at the same time they are operating the FTR Gold recording system (and monitoring its several frequencies), the backup recorder, and the Zoom audio and video controls, as well as endeavoring to maintain a real-time electronic speaker log by entering voice-identifying data when speakers change during the hearing. And, on top of that, the CRDs must respond to requests by the judge for information during the hearing. Yet our CRDs aren't cephalopods with eight arms!

The procedures mean (and sometimes say outright) that you must appear in person if you don't register on time. We are always happy to see you in person. But you may not be happy to have to come to the courthouse if you blow the deadline for registering for a remote appearance.

Perhaps you should provide a copy of this article to your scheduler. Neither you nor your scheduler should treat the Zoom registration deadline any differently than tickling a statute of limitation. Tell your scheduler that failure to register you on time will mean that he or she may have to drive you over to the courthouse.

For your convenience, below are hot links to all our judges' Zoom limitations and/or procedures pages, as well as the procedures memo in the Procedures Manual. Read them, follow them. And when you get to the actual registration page for each judge, read the instructions and input fields carefully and fill in the registration form correctly, including the hearing time *and* whether it is an a.m. and p.m. hearing.

¹ R. Regulating Fla. Bar 4-1.1 Cmt. (emphasis added).

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(Note that the first field where you pick the date is not the place where you find the field to input your hearing time.) The link to the CLE program is also below.

If you do not follow the procedures for remote appearances, you may miss the hearing altogether unless you get to the courtroom in person and on time. Don't let technology leave you behind.

The Source's Procedures Manual Link

[Telephonic Appearances.pdf](#) (don't be fooled by the name of the PDF).

Jacksonville Judges

Judges Brown, Burgess, and Funk: [InPersonTrialNotice.pdf](#) (don't be fooled by the name of the PDF).

Judge Brown: [Judge Brown Remote Access.pdf](#)

Judge Burgess: [Judge Burgess Hearing Procedures.pdf](#)

Judge Funk: Remote access through Zoom is not available for remote appearances. Telephonic appearances before Judge Funk are through CourtCall.

Orlando Judges

Judge Geyer: [Judge Geyer Hearing Procedures.pdf](#)

Judge Robson: [Judge Robson Hearing Procedures.pdf](#)

Judge Vaughan: [Judge Vaughan Hearing Procedures.pdf](#)

Tampa/Fort Myers Judges

Judge Colton: [Judge Colton | U.S. Bankruptcy Court Middle District of Florida
Judge Colton Hearing Procedures.pdf](#)

Judge Delano: [Judge Delano Procedures Governing Court Appearances.pdf](#)

Judge McEwen: [Judge McEwen Hearing Procedures.pdf](#) (my CRD also posts the registration information on any proceeding memo concerning a hearing in which a subsequent hearing is scheduled).

How-to CLE Program

CLE Credits | Middle District of Florida (sign in at upper right-hand corner, then go to the CLE icon shown below, and then fast forward to the second segment in this multi-part CLE — unless you also want to learn about the Department of Education’s student loan discharge program, then start at the beginning).

JUDGE MCEWEN’S MENTORING
PROGRAM FOR NEW BANKRUPTCY LAWYERS

Program Title

HODGE PODGE FOR \$400



By: Hon. Catherine Peek McEwen

Above and Beyond Shout-Out to **Mike Markham!** Mr. Markham took on representation of landlord creditors in an individual chapter 7 case. The creditors had met with him at the virtual clinic, and he took it a step further by filing a motion for stay relief and representing them at the hearing on that contested matter.



Volunteers Needed for Virtual Pro Se Clinic

The Middle District of Florida Bankruptcy Pro Se Clinic provides pro se litigants with the opportunity to schedule an appointment for a free thirty-minute virtual consultation. During 2024, the Clinic hosted 671 virtual consultations, consisting of 317 in Orlando, 207 in Tampa, 127 in Jacksonville, and 37 in Fort Myers. The Clinic hopes to help many more people in 2025. As set forth in the chart below, there are ample consultation slots available in the Jacksonville and Fort Myers Divisions, but we could use more volunteers in the Orlando and Tampa Divisions. Please consider donating thirty minutes of your time each week to those in need.

Pro Se Clinic virtual appointment availability for each division as of January 27:

| | Avail Start | 2 weeks | 30 days | 60 days | All Avail |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Fort Myers | 1/31/2025 | 2/9/2024 | 2/23/2025 | 3/23/2025 | 1/24/2026 |
| | | 34 | 83 | 182 | 1283 |
| Jacksonville | 1/28/2025 | 2/9/2024 | 2/23/2025 | 3/23/2025 | 1/25/2026 |
| | | 188 | 399 | 819 | 5439 |
| Orlando | 2/3/2025 | 2/9/2024 | 2/23/2025 | 3/23/2025 | 1/24/2026 |
| | | 12 | 38 | 94 | 710 |
| Tampa | 2/3/2025 | 2/9/2024 | 2/23/2025 | 3/23/2025 | 1/24/2026 |
| | | 9 | 32 | 80 | 608 |
| Middle District | | 243 | 552 | 1175 | 8040 |

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The link for attorneys to volunteer is:

[Attorney Account - Middle District of Florida Bankruptcy Pro Se Assistance Clinic](#)

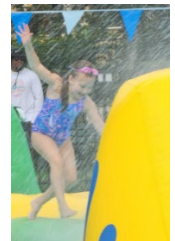
In addition to the virtual clinic, the Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association hosts a Bankruptcy Pro Se Assistance Clinic on the fourth Wednesday of every month (except for November and December, which occur on the third Wednesday) from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse 300 North Hogan Street, Rooms 4303 and 4403, Jacksonville. The Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association also hosts a pro se clinic every Wednesday from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Tampa Courthouse at 801 North Florida Avenue, 9th Floor Attorney Resource Room, Tampa.

For more information and details on the accomplishments of the District's Pro Bono efforts for 2024, please see the article on page 39.

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CFBLA had a busy Summer in 2024. In June, CFBLA hosted a Family Fun Day at the Winter Park Racquet Club. We had great barbecue food along with a pool challenge course, water slide, boating (compliments of Ryan Davis), fishing, face painting, and a balloon artist.



In August, CFBLA hosted its Second Consumer Bankruptcy Primer at FAMU College of Law. Attendees earned 8 Hours of CLE including Professionalism, Ethics and Technology. This was a very well-attended event.

And on October 18, the CFBLA held its 30th Annual Seminar at the Citrus Club in Orlando.

CFBLA FAMILY COURT DAY: FUN TIMES IN ORLANDO!

Once upon a time in a courthouse far, far away (at least if you're approaching from I-4), many gathered for CFBLA's Family Court Day in Orlando for the dramatic trial of the *Big Bad Wolf* (a/k/a B.B.) v. *Curly Pig*. But this trial would not be presided over by Judge Geyer, Robson, or Vaughan. Instead, three new (and far younger) judges were sworn in to preside over the serious charges alleged. A jury was empaneled, and the members of the prosecution and defense teams assembled with their clients and witnesses before a packed courtroom.



Judges Yane Icez, Reid Layden, and Zahira Mitchell



Members of the Jury

The charges were serious: Curly Pig was accused of attempted Wolficide, and the prosecution presented compelling evidence that Curly Pig tried to boil B.B. in a pot of water on the stove in Curly Pig's house. But what was B.B. doing in Curly Pig's house to begin with?



Courtroom Audience

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B.B. claims he simply slid down the chimney and into the home to say hello, when someone suddenly took the lid off a huge pot of boiling water, next to which lay a cookbook open to a recipe for Poached Wolf. A witness testified that B.B. had eaten both of Curly Pig's brothers after their homes had collapsed. Curly Pig testified she was fearful that B.B. was coming to eat her up too,



Curly Pig and her Attorney

and that she was only trying to scare him off with the boiling water.

The case went to the jury, and after much deliberation, the verdict arrived. Not guilty! Curly Pig went free based on the jury's belief she was only defending herself. The jury even suggested B.B. should be the one

on trial because they believed B.B. planned to turn Curly Pig into a ham sandwich.

After the trial, participants received a security demonstration by our wonderful Court Security Officers. Each child was scanned with the wand and walked through the magnetometer. The CSOs gave the children items to hide in their pockets so they could see how they looked on screen and how metal is detected—this was a big hit! After participants enjoyed lunch with their families, the Judges, chambers' staff and the CSOs, they received a tour of the Judges' chambers.

Following a question-and-answer session with the Judges, participants received "Junior Lawyer for the Day" certificates and Bankruptcy Court challenge coins.



CSO Jeff Diaz and Yane Icez



Orlando Judges and Anthony Howie

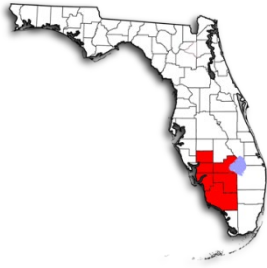


"Junior Lawyer for the Day" Certificates

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It was a truly enjoyable and memorable day. A heartfelt thank you to Noreen Benford, Esther McKean, Jennifer Morando, and Lori Patton for their creativity and hard work to make this special day for our Orlando bankruptcy court attorneys and their families a success, and to our staff members, Kathy Deetz, Jeanne Herdeker, and Chelsea Moore who went the extra mile to assist in coordinating this great event!





**Southwest Florida
Bankruptcy Professionals Association**
By: Shannon Puopolo, Esq., President

On October 9, 2024, the Southwest Florida Bankruptcy Professionals Association (or “SWFBPA”) held a crossover event with the Turnaround Management Association titled “Introduction to Distressed Investing: Strategies for Turning Around Troubled Businesses.” The event featured a distinguished panel that provided valuable perspectives on mitigating risk and maximizing value in distressed situations, all while covering essential topics such as identifying distressed businesses, navigating legal complexities, and strategies for successful turnarounds.

On November 20, 2024, the SWFBPA held its flagship event: the 12th Annual Alexander L. Paskay Memorial Dinner. Consistent with tradition, Chief Judge Delano swore in the SWFBPA’s new slate of officers, and outgoing President Christian Haman presented the SWFBPA’s Alexander L. Paskay Professionalism Award to Ryan Really.



Ryan Really (l) receives the Paskay Professionalism Award from Christian Haman (r)

The 2025 SWFBPA Officers are:

Shannon Puopolo – President
Jennifer Duffy – Vice President
Luis Rivera, II – Treasurer
Roy Moloney – Secretary



SWFBPA Board Shannon Puopolo, Jennifer Duffy, Roy Moloney, and Luis Rivera

And in other news, Robert E. Tardif, Jr., Chapter 7 Trustee, is stepping down from the Trustee panel and winding down his law practice. As he stated in a recent email to the SWFBPA membership: “It has been said many times by different people, but our local bankruptcy bar is truly remarkable. I agree with that. I have enjoyed my time and wish you all the best of luck.” Congratulations to Mr. Tardif on this well-deserved next chapter!

Judge McEwen Administers The Florida Bar Oath to New Attorneys

On September 30, 2024, Judge McEwen held swearing-in ceremonies for Deana Alegi, Logan Golladay, and Nick Sellas. Ms. Alegi is a graduate of Stetson University College of Law and serves as law clerk to the Middle District bankruptcy judges. Mr. Golladay also attended Stetson University College of Law and is an associate attorney at Phelps Dunbar in Tampa. Mr. Sellas is a graduate of Florida State University College of Law and while in law school served as an intern for Judge McEwen. He is an associate attorney at Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, PA, in Orlando.



Judge McEwen congratulating Deana Alegi after the swearing-in; Ms. Alegi signing her oath.



Judge McEwen swearing-in Logan Golladay as his wife Lauren looks on.



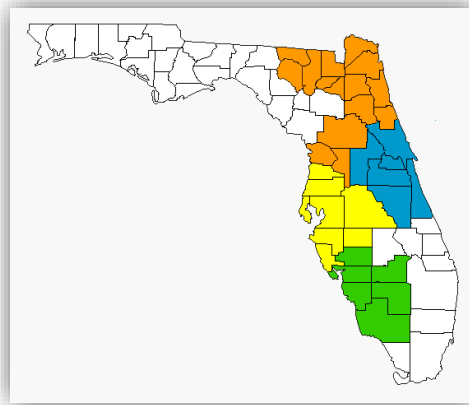
Judge McEwen and Nick Sallas

* * * * *

On October 1, 2024, Judge McEwen administered The Florida Bar Oath to Lindsay Peterson, a graduate of Florida State University College of Law and an associate attorney at Squire Patton Boggs in Tampa.



Judge McEwen and Lindsay Peterson



Upcoming Events Around the District

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| February 11 | TBBBA Luncheon Judge Delano's State of the District Presentation <i>University Club, Tampa</i> |
| February 13 | SWFBPA Luncheon Judge Delano's State of the District Presentation <i>United States Courthouse, Fort Myers</i> |
| February 27-28 | 49th Annual Alexander L. Paskay Memorial Bankruptcy Seminar <i>Marriott Water Street, Tampa</i> |
| March 10 | CFBLA Consumer Bankruptcy Seminar <i>FAMU College of Law, Orlando</i> |
| March 12 | JBBA Luncheon Judge Delano's State of the District Presentation <i>The River Club, Jacksonville</i> |
| March 13 | CFBLA Luncheon Judge Delano's State of the District Presentation <i>Akerman, Orlando</i> |
| May 16 | CFBLA Annual Seminar <i>FAMU College of Law, Orlando</i> |
| August 15 | JBBA Annual Seminar <i>Sawgrass Marriott, Ponte Vedra</i> |

**Jacksonville Interns Present Biographies
on Middle District Judges' Oral Histories**
By: Law Clerks Kristyn Barber and Jodie Hollingsworth

Veteran judges in the Middle District of Florida often complete an oral history discussing their background, the practice of law, and their time on the bench, amid other reflections. The District's Bench Bar Fund History Subcommittee, chaired by Judge Brown, assists with recording and preserving these oral histories. That Subcommittee, which Judge McEwen has long served on, continues to find ways to use these oral histories and honor judicial legacies and contributions to the Middle District.

Last summer, the Jacksonville Bankruptcy Court summer interns were asked to choose a judge from the Middle District of Florida, watch and prepare a biography on the judge's oral history, and compose a presentation. On July 17, 2024, the interns gave their presentations to a small audience in Judge Brown's courtroom. Chase Anderson, a rising junior at Auburn University, presented the biography of the Honorable Jerry A. Funk, who was present in the courtroom and clearly enjoyed Chase's presentation. Mia Summa, a rising senior at the University of Miami, presented the biography of the Honorable Anne C. Conway. Emma Gaul, a rising 2L at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, presented the biography of the Honorable Howell E. Melton. Caroline Levine, also a rising 2L at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, presented the biography of the Honorable George L. Proctor. Dominic DiPeppe, a rising senior at the University of Florida, presented the biography of the Honorable Harvey E. Schlesinger.

The presentations were compelling, educational, informative, and provided insight that would otherwise only have been obtained by watching the oral histories themselves. Sharing the legacy of the judges who have served the Middle District of Florida is an integral component of informing young lawyers of the significant contributions made over the Court's storied history, as well as reminding seasoned practitioners that the fabric of our Court was built by judges who were true public servants who valued a culture of civility, hard work, and professionalism.

In furtherance of the goal to honor and share the legacy of the judges with the legal community, Caroline Levine presented the oral history of Judge Proctor at the Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association's Annual Seminar. Caroline's presentation was extremely well received and a beautiful tribute to the over three decades of service Judge Proctor gave to the Court. It was especially meaningful for the presentation to be given at the JBBA seminar because Judge Proctor strongly

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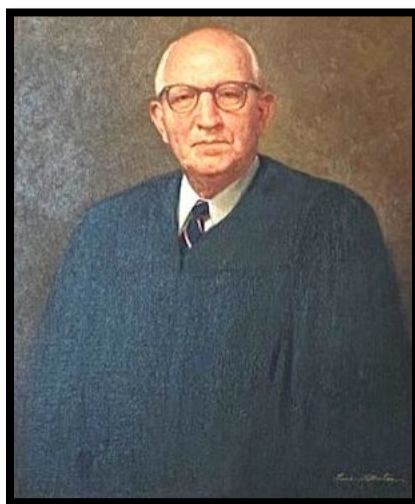
championed the seminar's creation over thirty years ago. The Jacksonville Federal Court Bar Association hopes to host Emma Gaul for a presentation on Judge Melton at one of its upcoming meetings. Future initiatives may include brown bag lunches hosted by local bar associations in courtrooms throughout the District for a viewing of oral histories.

If you have ideas on how these oral histories and other of the Court's archival materials can be shared, please reach out to Kristyn Barber, law clerk to Judge Burgess, at Kristyn_Barber@flmb.uscourts.gov.

The History of the Bankruptcy Court in the Middle District of Florida Part I

It's hard to imagine, but just 65 years ago, the Middle District of Florida did not exist. Back then, Florida had two districts: the Northern District and the Southern District. As of 1960, Tampa was part of the Southern District of Florida.

At that time, there was no such thing as bankruptcy “judges.” Instead, bankruptcy cases were heard by “referees,” who were appointed by the district court to exercise all the powers of a district judge under the Bankruptcy Act of 1898, which was in effect in the 1960s. Decisions by bankruptcy referees were reviewed by district court judges, including U.S. District Judge Joseph Lieb, who had been transferred to the Tampa Division of the Southern District in 1961 after serving five years on the federal bench in Miami.

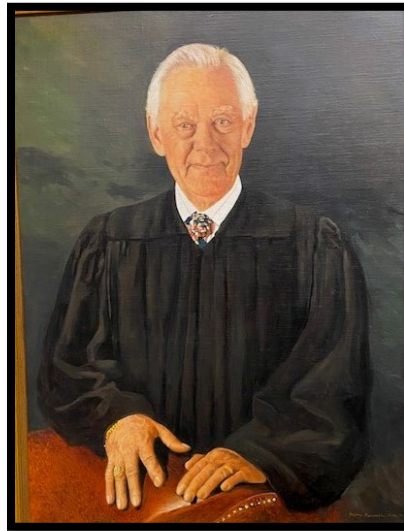


United States District Judge Joseph P. Lieb

When Judge Lieb was transferred to the Tampa Division, he brought with him a law clerk he hired three years earlier—a Hungarian refugee fresh out of the University of Miami School of Law, who had helped Judge Lieb and U.S. District Judge Emmett Choate review bankruptcy cases: Alexander Paskay.

In 1962, Congress created the Middle District of Florida, which was carved out of the Southern District. Three district judges were reassigned from the Southern District to the Middle District of Florida: Judge John Milton Bryan Simpson; Judge William A. McRae; and Judge Lieb.

Alexander Paskay, who continued to clerk for Judge Lieb after Judge Lieb was formally reassigned to the Middle District of Florida, told Judge Lieb that if there was ever an opening for a bankruptcy referee in Tampa, he wanted the job. As luck would have it, there was an opening, and Paskay was officially sworn in as a bankruptcy referee in Tampa on July 1, 1963.



United States Bankruptcy Judge Alexander L. Paskay

Judge Paskay served as a bankruptcy “referee” until 1973, when the Supreme Court issued rules changing the title of bankruptcy “referee” to bankruptcy “judge.” Around that same time, Congress created a commission to study the need for changes to the bankruptcy system.

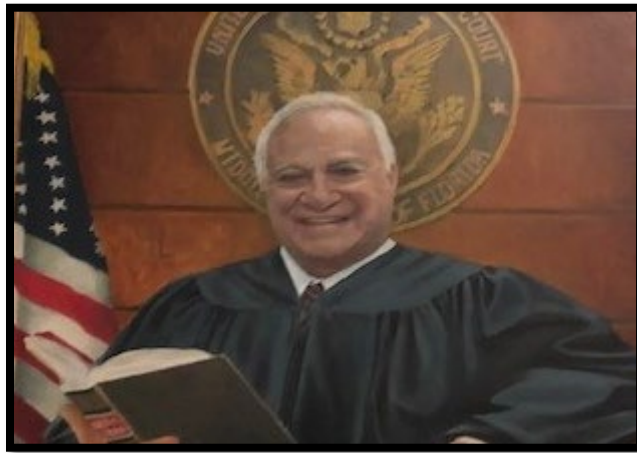
In 1978, Congress passed the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978, which reorganized (pardon the pun) the bankruptcy system: The 1978 Act established United States Bankruptcy Courts for each judicial district; created bankruptcy judgeships; established that bankruptcy “judges” would be nominated by the President, confirmed by the Senate, and serve 14-year terms; conferred broad jurisdiction on bankruptcy judges; and established the United States Trustee Program to monitor the bankruptcy system (including parties and private trustees), oversee certain administrative functions, and ensure compliance with applicable laws and procedures.

Although the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Northern Pipeline Const. v. Marathon Pipe Line Co.*, 458 U.S. 50, 57 (1982), later declared the broad jurisdiction conferred on bankruptcy judges under the 1978 Act to be unconstitutional, Congress passed the Bankruptcy Amendment and Federal Judgeship Act of 1984, which resolved the 1978 Act’s constitutional infirmities by conferring bankruptcy jurisdiction on the district

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courts and permitting district courts to refer bankruptcy cases to bankruptcy courts; and provided for the appointment of bankruptcy judges by the Circuit Courts of Appeal.

In the meantime, Judge Paskay served as the only bankruptcy judge in the Middle District of Florida until 1975, regularly traveling to Orlando to hear bankruptcy cases. In 1975, another full-time judge was appointed in Jacksonville: George Proctor.



United States Bankruptcy Judge George L. Proctor

Judge Proctor, a worker's compensation lawyer and former deputy commissioner of the Florida Industrial Commission, was offered an appointment as bankruptcy judge in 1975 and eventually presided in Jacksonville, while Judge Paskay presided in Tampa. Judge Proctor and Judge Paskay shared the Orlando docket, with Judge Paskay also traveling to Fort Myers. However, because there was still no Orlando Division, all Orlando cases were filed in Jacksonville; in time, Judge Proctor took over all the Orlando cases.

In 1979, Judge Paskay and Judge Proctor decided that it would be appropriate to have a clerk of court. They selected Aaron Nathan, a Chapter 13 trustee and retired military colonel. He served for five years from 1979 to 1984.

Excerpted from *Fifty Years of Justice: A History of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida*, by James M. Denham. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, pp. 16-17, and 137-141; and reprinted with permission of the University Press of Florida.

CASE LAW UPDATE

Edited by:

Bradley M. Saxton and Lauren M. Reynolds
Winderweede, Haines, Ward & Woodman, P.A.
Kathleen L. DiSanto
Bush Ross, P.A.

Eleventh Circuit Cases

Juravin v. Florida Bankruptcy Trustee

2024 WL 4677417 (11th Cir. Nov. 5, 2024).

Appellants contended that the bankruptcy trustee seized assets that did not belong to the debtor and filed an action in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. The district court dismissed the case because the appellants did not comply with the *Barton* doctrine. On appeal, the Eleventh Circuit held that a bankruptcy trustee has judicial immunity when seizing assets pursuant to a court order if the trustee acts within the scope of their authority as a court-appointed officer. The Eleventh Circuit concluded that the bankruptcy trustee acted within the scope of his authority because the debtor prevented the trustee from performing his duties by withholding information about his assets and financial condition.

Richert v. Murphy (In re Richert)

2024 WL 4297798 (11th Cir. Sept. 26, 2024).

Debtor appealed a series of orders entered by the bankruptcy court which granted a creditor an extension of time to respond to a claim objection, involuntarily converted her chapter 13 case to chapter 7, and allowed the claims of certain creditors. The district court affirmed on appeal. The Eleventh Circuit also affirmed on appeal, concluding that the bankruptcy court did not err in converting the case to chapter 7 because the debtor consistently failed to comply with bankruptcy court orders and demonstrated bad faith.

Breland v. Commissioner of IRS

2024 WL 2796450 (11th Cir. May 31, 2024).

The Eleventh Circuit affirmed the tax court’s determination that the consent order entered between the IRS and Breland during the pendency of his chapter 11 bankruptcy did not fix Breland’s tax liability for the years at issue, as the order fixed the claim for plan confirmation and claims allowance purposes, but did not constitute a determination of tax liability under section 505 of the Bankruptcy Code. Therefore, the IRS was not barred from assessing additional taxes by the doctrines of collateral estoppel or res judicata.

Cannie v. Jacksonville Golf & Country Club Property Owners Assoc., Inc.
(In re Cannie)

2024 WL 2783774 (11th Cir. May 30, 2024).

After completing her chapter 13 case and receiving a discharge, pro se debtor sought sanctions against her property owners’ association for pursuing her for postpetition fees and expenses. However, during the pendency of the chapter 13 case, the bankruptcy court had overruled the debtor’s objection to the association’s claim, which included the postpetition fees and expenses. The bankruptcy court denied the debtor’s motion for sanctions because the postpetition fees were not discharged since they were not provided for in the plan, and the doctrine of res judicata barred the debtor from relitigating the fee collection issue. The Eleventh Circuit affirmed the decision of the bankruptcy court under its well-settled standard of review because the decision was “unopposed” since the debtor failed to challenge it based on res judicata.

Lee v. U.S. Bank, N.A.

102 F.4th 1177 (11th Cir. 2024).

Chapter 11 debtor filed a plan seeking to modify a mortgage secured by a 43-acre parcel of land, which included her house and yard, but the principal use of the property was commercial. The bankruptcy court granted the mortgagee’s motion for relief from stay, because the debtor’s plan was not confirmable as a result of the anti-modification provisions of section 1125(a)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code. The district court affirmed the decision of the bankruptcy court, as did the Eleventh Circuit, in a split opinion.

Bankruptcy Court Cases

GFRS Equip. Leasing Fund II, LLC v. Zebrowski (In re Zebrowski)
663 B.R. 776 (McEwen, J.).

Debtor failed to turn over medical equipment after attempted replevin and to comply with requests for discovery in aid of execution over a nearly two year period. The bankruptcy court found that the state court default judgment in excess of \$350,000 for breach of contract and specific performance for return of the medical equipment was non-dischargeable under section 523(a)(6), based on the debtor's willful and malicious conduct.

In re NJ Criminal Interdiction LLC
Case No. 6:24-bk-00468-GER (Bankr. M.D. Fla. June 11, 2024) (Robson, J.).

Court denied confirmation of a Chapter 11 plan which contained a “conditional injunction” that sought to enjoin creditors and parties in interest from taking actions against debtor's managing member, a non-debtor, as long as debtor complied with the plan. Court recognized that the Bankruptcy Code does not explicitly prohibit or authorize a bankruptcy court to enjoin claims against non-debtors to facilitate a plan. To obtain an injunction, the party seeking relief must satisfy the standards for a preliminary injunction, which were not met in this case. (Note – this case was decided prior to *Purdue Pharma*).

In re Tampa Hyde Park Café Properties, LLC
660 B.R. 322 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. 2024) (Delano, C.J.).

Court held that because the debtor's alleged use of an alter ego to avoid taxes injured the IRS and not the debtor, the trustee lacked standing to release alter ego claims as part of a settlement.

In re Crutcher
2024 WL 1994071 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. May 6, 2024) (Geyer, J.).

Court dismissed Chapter 13 case, finding debtor exceeded the Chapter 13 debt limits, where court found it was clear that amount debtor scheduled for a certain creditor's debt was inaccurate, and debtor failed to produce any

evidence to rebut the validity of the creditor's filed claim amount, which caused the debtor to exceed the debt limits.

In re Fundamental Long Term Care, Inc.

2024 WL 1855776 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. Apr. 29, 2024) (Delano, C.J.).

Trustee's counsel filed motion for sanctions under 28 U.S.C. § 1927 against law firm for unreasonable and vexatious litigation in connection with the firm's filing of a motion to disqualify trustee's counsel and a motion to recuse the bankruptcy judge. While court was sympathetic to trustee's counsel's frustrations, court denied the motion because the unreasonable and vexatious litigation complained of occurred in appeals and a petition for writ of mandamus, but did not occur in the bankruptcy court. Therefore, court concluded it lacked jurisdiction to sanction the conduct.

NG Solutions, LLC v. Senturk (In re Senturk)

660 B.R. 726 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. 2024) (Geyer, J.).

In adversary proceeding to deny debtor's discharge, court granted creditor's motion for summary judgment on counts under 11 U.S.C. § 727(a)(2), (a)(3), and (a)(4), finding that creditor met its burden of proof with references to the debtor's schedules and SOFA and transcript of 2004 testimony. Significantly, the debtor failed to file a response to the motion.

In re Burdock & Assocs., Inc.

662 B.R. 16 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. 2024) (Vaughan, J.).

Creditor with \$14 million claim arising from disputes related to a consulting agreement objected to debtor's Subchapter V election and its plan of reorganization. The debtor argued that the debt was unliquidated because it would require looking beyond the consulting agreement, and lost profits were the only measure of damages available to the creditor. In overruling the objection to the debtor's subchapter V election, the Court opined that not all contractual disputes result in a liquidated claim and held that a lost profits calculation goes beyond the consideration of simply the amounts contracted for the sale or purchase of a product and requires the exercise of judgment or discretion, thereby rendering the claim unliquidated.

In re Crawford

2024 WL 1773425 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. Apr. 24, 2024) (Burgess, J.).

Debtor's former spouse sought dismissal of chapter 13 case for bad faith. Based on numerous findings by the state court in the underlying marital dissolution action, coupled with the debtor's failures in the bankruptcy case, the Court granted the motion to dismiss, finding that the debtor had engaged in a pattern of divesting himself of assets and income to avoid paying the former spouse's money judgment.

In re Wieder

659 B.R. 21 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. 2024) (Delano, C.J.).

Court held that an objection to a claim filed by a credit union may be served by first-class mail upon the person most recently designated on its proof of claim, rather than the heightened service of process on an officer by certified mail because a credit union is not an "insured depository institution."



What's New?

District Court Enters General Order Regarding Bankruptcy Appeals

On October 29, 2024, Chief District Judge Corrigan entered the *Amended General Order Establishing Protocols for Processing Bankruptcy Appeals*. The order vacates and supersedes the District Court's previous general orders regarding untimely bankruptcy appeals and appeals filed without payment of filing fees. A copy of the order is posted on the Administrative Orders page of The Source at [Administrative Orders | U.S. Bankruptcy Court Middle Florida](#).

Amendments to Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure Effective December 1, 2024

Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1007(b)(7)

The amended rule requires that the debtor provide the ***certificate of course completion issued by the provider of that course*** unless the requirement has been waived by the Court. Submission of Official Form 423 is no longer sufficient, and Official Form 423 has been abrogated.

Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4004(c)(1)(H) and (c)(4)

Fed. R. Bankr. P. 5009(b)

Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9006(b), (c)

The foregoing amended rules incorporate the change to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1007(b)(7).

Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7001(a)

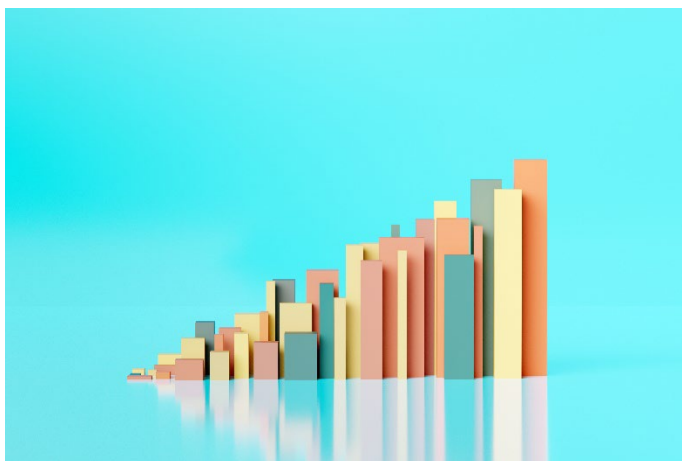
The amended rule creates an exception for certain turnover proceedings brought by an individual debtor under § 542(a) of the Code. An individual debtor can now proceed by motion (instead of by adversary proceeding) to require turnover from a third party of tangible personal property, e.g., an automobile or tools of a trade. The procedure of Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9014 *Contested Matters* will apply.

Fed. R. Bankr. P. 8023.1(a) (new rule)

This new rule is derived from Fed. R. App. P. 43 and governs substitution of parties upon death or any other reason in appeals to the district court from a judgment, order, or decree of a bankruptcy court.

* * * *

****Make sure to keep an eye on your inbox for email updates from the Court.****



Middle District Bankruptcy Filings Increase Over 28%

Bankruptcy filings in the Middle District of Florida were up over 28% during the 12-month period ending December 31, 2024.

The Middle District's national rankings for the period are:

Total Cases – 3rd (21,094)
Chapter 7 Cases – 2nd (15,761)
Chapter 11 Cases – 6th (469)
Sub V Chapter 11 Cases – 1st (270)
Chapter 13 Cases – 9th (4,858)
Adversary Proceedings – 2nd (740)

More statistics and filing data are available at www.uscourts.gov, the website maintained by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts on behalf of the Federal Judiciary.

**MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
BANKRUPTCY PRO SE ASSISTANCE CLINIC
JAN - DEC 2024 STATISTICS**

Notices Issued to Pro Se Parties

| <u>2024</u> | <u>Jacksonville</u> | <u>Orlando</u> | <u>Tampa</u> | <u>Ft. Myers</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| January | 29 | 69 | 47 | 2 |
| February | 30 | 59 | 48 | 7 |
| March | 28 | 50 | 46 | 7 |
| April | 19 | 53 | 40 | 6 |
| May | 26 | 43 | 73 | 10 |
| June | 25 | 55 | 65 | 1 |
| July | 37 | 62 | 65 | 8 |
| August | 28 | 53 | 64 | 9 |
| September | 33 | 47 | 57 | 6 |
| October | 32 | 53 | 47 | 9 |
| November | 20 | 49 | 60 | 0 |
| December | 17 | 45 | 48 | 4 |
| TOTAL: | 324 | 638 | 660 | 69 |

Total Notices Issued District-Wide in 2024: 1,691

| <u>2024</u> | <u>Jacksonville</u> | <u>Orlando</u> | <u>Tampa</u> | <u>Ft. Myers</u> | <u>Outside of, But Admitted to, FLMD</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---|
| January | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 +Justin Thomas |
| February | 0 | -1 | 1 | 0 | 0 +Luis Orengo |
| March | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| April | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 +Gross, Benanti |
| May | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 +Wilcox, Etlinger |
| June | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| July | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| August | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 +Grewal, Devries |
| September | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| October | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 +RJCole3 |
| November | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 +Really, VanHorn, +Puopolo, Yesner, Harris |
| December | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 +Whitson III |
| TOTAL: | 3 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 0 |

Deleted -1 duplicate account for Cameryn Justice Rivera (Orlando).

Number of Virtual Pro Se Clinics Actually Held

| <u>2024</u> | |
|--------------------|------------|
| January = | 60 |
| February = | 44 |
| March = | 32 |
| April = | 33 |
| May = | 36 |
| June = | 94 |
| July = | 51 |
| August = | 73 |
| September = | 74 |
| October = | 63 |
| November = | 67 |
| December = | 44 |
| TOTAL: | 671 |

These numbers have been updated based on changes in the status of the calls, the method of calculating changes, and error-checking performed while recalculating the numbers for this annual report. If a client books two (or three) consecutive half-hour slots with the same attorney, this is only counted as one call. Cancelled calls are not reflected in these numbers.

| Count of Service | Location | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| Service | Orlando | Tampa | Jacksonville | Fort Myers | Grand Total |
| Debtor Consultation | 272 | 165 | 110 | 25 | 572 |
| Creditor Consultation | 45 | 42 | 17 | 12 | 116 |
| Grand Total | 317 | 207 | 127 | 37 | 688 |

VIRTUAL PRO SE CLINIC HALF-HOUR APPOINTMENTS BY ATTORNEY

Pro Bono Appts Held

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Traci K. Stevenson (Any) | 130 |
| Michael Barnett (Any) | 94 |
| Luis E. Rivera (Any) | 84 |
| Nina LaFleur (Any) | 77 |
| Kathleen DiSanto (Any) | 75 |
| Alec Solomita (Any) | 57 |
| Robert Branson (Any) | 54 |
| Jonathan Sykes (Any) | 34 |
| Allan Wulbern (Any) | 15 |
| Michael Markham (Any) | 14 |
| Samantha Kelley (Any) | 12 |
| Edmund Whitson III (Any) | 10 |
| Mike Dal Lago (Any) | 6 |
| Allison Moscato (Any) | 5 |
| Shawn Yesner (Any) | 5 |
| Jennifer Duffy (Any) | 4 |
| Lauren Stricker (Any) | 3 |
| Lauren Box (Any) | 3 |
| Dana Robbins (Any) | 2 |
| Matthew Hale | 1 |
| Steven Berman (Any) | 1 |
| Edward Jackson (Any) | 1 |
| Bill McDaniel (Any) | 1 |
| | 688 |

These numbers are based on distinct half-hour time slots, and do not factor in calls of longer duration with the same client.

IN-PERSON PRO SE CLINIC APPOINTMENTS
ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS

JACKSONVILLE

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| January | Amy Leitch |
| February | Amy Leitch |
| March | Grange Dinkins |
| April | Gregory Gilbert |
| May | Bill McDaniel |
| June | Sarah Manion |
| July | Carol Galloway |
| August | Kevin Paysinger |
| September | Edward Jackson |
| October | Bill McDaniel |
| November | Edward Jackson |
| December | Eugene “Gene” Johnson |

ORLANDO

This information is not currently tracked in Orlando

TAMPA

| | |
|-----------|---|
| January | Christopher Tancredo, Peter Zooberg, Katelyn Vinson, Karen Gatto, Daniel Fogarty (x2), Megan Klotz (x2), Kelley Petry |
| February | Daniel Fogarty, Peter Zooberg, Katelyn Vinson, Mark Robens (x2), Christopher Tancredo |
| March | Fehintola Oguntebi, Peter Zooberg, Katelyn Vinson, Daniel Fogarty, Michael Barnett |
| April | Daniel Fogarty, Peter Zooberg, Kelley Petry, Katelyn Vinson, Scott Stichter, Megan Klotz, Kerri Oguntebi, Laura Gallo |
| May | Michael Barnett, Samantha Dammer, Daniel Fogarty (x4), Laura Gallo, Katelyn Vinson, Peter Zooberg |
| June | Laura Gallo, Megan Klotz, Katelyn Vinson, Peter Zooberg |
| July | Peter Zooberg, Katelyn Vinson, Scott Stichter, Michael Barnett, Daniel Etlinger |
| August | Information not provided |
| September | Daniel Fogarty, Peter Zooberg, Megan Klotz, Katelyn Vinson, Laura Gallo |
| October | Peter Zooberg, Megan Klotz, Katelyn Vinson, Mark Roberts, Nicole Carnero, Kelley Petry, Kristina Fehrer |
| November | Peter Zooberg, Katelyn Vinson, Amy Mayer, Kristina Fehrer |
| December | Peter Zooberg, Alma Torres, Katelyn Vinson, Amy Mayer, Dan Etlinger |

The Court Connection



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The *Court Connection* is a publication of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida.

Articles are welcome! Please submit yours to newsletter@flmb.uscourts.gov for the next issue.

Our Court serves the public by processing and deciding bankruptcy cases with fairness, impartiality, and excellence, while treating everyone with dignity, integrity, and respect.