

## **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

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*