

. . . 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*