

**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.