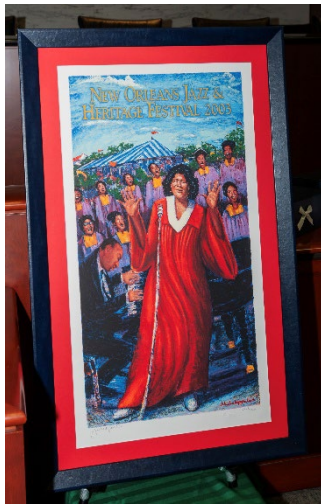


The Investiture of Luis E Rivera II: A New Chapter

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On June 12th, 2026, the Honorable Luis Ernesto Rivera II was formally inducted into the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida. Judge Rivera was joined by his wife, Kathleen, his children, his parents and siblings, and hundreds of colleagues and friends from across the Sunshine State who gathered to celebrate the occasion. Throughout the ceremony, several speakers offered heartfelt remarks recognizing Judge Rivera's professional accomplishments, integrity, and commitment to public service.



Among the ceremony's most memorable moments was the presentation of a framed New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival poster featuring Mahalia Jackson, commemorating a story from Judge Rivera's years in New Orleans. When attending the iconic Jazz Fest, Judge Rivera and his friends agreed that if they became separated, they would reunite at the Mahalia Jackson ancestor monument at The Fairgrounds. Over the years, the poster came to symbolize something more enduring: that no matter where life leads, family and friends provide a steadfast source of

support. The gift reflected the deep relationships that have shaped Judge Rivera's personal and professional journey.



Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Rivera was a shareholder at GrayRobinson, where he served as Deputy Chair of the firm's Bankruptcy practice group and Managing Shareholder of the Fort Myers and Naples offices. He also served as a Chapter 7 Trustee in Fort Myers, earning widespread respect as a skilled bankruptcy practitioner and trusted member of the Middle District of Florida's bankruptcy community. In addition to his professional commitments, Judge Rivera also served his community as a trustee at Florida Gulf Coast University, Chair of the Finance Counsel at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church, and as a Vice President and Executive Committee member of the Southwest Florida Council of Scouting America.

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United States Circuit Judge Charles R. Wilson administered Judge Rivera's oath of office, and Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge Jacob A. Brown presided over the ceremony, joined by Judges Jason A. Burgess and Jerry A. Funk of Jacksonville; Judges Lori V. Vaughan, Grace E. Robson, and Tiffany P. Geyer of Orlando; and Judges Catherine Peek McEwen, Caryl E. Delano, and Roberta A. Colton of Tampa.

Following the administration of the oath, Judge Rivera expressed his "overwhelming gratitude" to the speakers who participated in the ceremony and the members of the bar organizations who made presentations. Judge Rivera thanked the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, his new colleagues on the federal bench, and the many family members, friends, and mentors who had supported him throughout his career. Reflecting on his appointment, Judge Rivera observed that no one reaches the bench alone and acknowledged that the honor was made possible by the encouragement, guidance, and generosity of those who stood beside him along the way.

"To those who have participated in today's program, whether by presenting a gift, sharing a story, or offering prayers: your words have touched me deeply, and I am honored by your participation," Judge Rivera said. "You have made this formal transition not just a milestone, but a memory my family and I will cherish forever."



*Left to right:
Judge Geyer, Judge Robson, Judge Colton, Judge McEwen, Judge Brown, Judge Rivera,
Judge Delano, Judge Vaughan, Judge Burgess, Judge Funk*