

## **Meet the Leaders**

### **Shaping the Future of Court Operations**

**By: Kathryn M. Sullivan, Director of Human Resources**

As our Court continues to see steady growth in case filings and operational demands, we remain committed to a leadership structure that supports innovation, consistency, and exceptional public service. To further strengthen collaboration across all divisions, the Court has established a new District Operations Team while expanding divisional operational leadership. Together, these experienced leaders will help advance operational excellence by promoting consistent practices, strengthening quality assurance, enhancing training and professional development, supporting change management, and ensuring efficient processing of bankruptcy cases. Their collective experience and dedication to continuous improvement will position our Court for continued success and ensure exceptional service to the Bar, the bankruptcy community, and the public.

### **District Operations**

#### **Seth Bowe, District Operations Manager**

With more than a decade of bankruptcy experience, over eight years with the federal judiciary, and more than ten years in leadership, Seth brings an exceptional combination of operational expertise, strategic leadership, and technical knowledge to the Court's newly established District Operations Team. Throughout his career, Seth has earned a reputation for developing high-performing teams, leading complex operational initiatives, and driving continuous process improvement through data analysis, quality assurance, and innovative problem solving. His passion for employee development, engaging leadership style, and commitment to operational excellence make him uniquely qualified to lead districtwide initiatives that strengthen consistency, collaboration, and service across all divisions.



## **Jacksonville Division**

### **Tonya Craft, Operations Supervisor**



Tonya brings more than two decades of bankruptcy court experience, advancing through progressively responsible operational roles to become a true expert in case management. Her extensive knowledge of bankruptcy case administration, combined with strong leadership, sound judgment, and exceptional organizational skills, has made her a trusted guide within the Court. Tonya is widely recognized for mentoring staff, fostering accountability, and ensuring cases move efficiently through the bankruptcy process.

Her commitment to collaboration and outstanding public service reflects the highest standards of the judiciary.

### **Kim McFarland, Case Administration Team Leader**

Since joining the Middle District of Florida in 2018, Kim has consistently demonstrated professionalism, initiative, and a collaborative leadership style that supports both staff development and operational success. Her broad knowledge of court operations, coupled with a master's degree in Human Resources, provides a unique perspective on employee development, organizational effectiveness, and leadership. Kim is recognized for her adaptability, thoughtful problem-solving approach, and commitment to building strong teams while advancing the Court's mission of delivering exceptional service to the public and the bankruptcy community.



## **Orlando Division**

### **Danielle Howie, Operations Supervisor**



Danielle brings more than six years of federal judiciary experience, with a proven record of versatility and leadership as both a Case Manager and Courtroom Deputy. Her work supporting the Clerk's Office and Chambers has given her a unique and comprehensive understanding of court operations, allowing her to strengthen communication and foster collaboration across all functional areas. Danielle is known for her commitment to excellence, continuous professional growth, and dedication to upholding the highest standards of public service. Her focus on innovation, teamwork, and operational integrity continues to impact the Court and the broader bankruptcy community positively.

### **Karla Lee Hue, Case Administration Team Leader**

With more than 22 years of bankruptcy court experience, Karla Lee Hue has built an outstanding reputation for excellence in case administration, employee development, and customer service. She is widely recognized for her ability to train and mentor new case managers, improve workflows, and foster a collaborative, supportive work environment focused on accuracy and accountability. Karla consistently exemplifies the Court's core values of dignity, integrity, and respect while helping ensure exceptional service to judges, attorneys, trustees, and the public.



## **Tampa Division**

### **Anel Merritt, Operations Supervisor**



Anel Merritt brings more than 25 years of bankruptcy court experience and extensive expertise in managing complex bankruptcy cases, as well as in leading high-performing operational teams. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated exceptional knowledge of case administration and operational efficiency within a fast-paced court environment while maintaining compliance with policies and procedures. Anel is known for developing staff through mentorship, encouraging collaboration, and maintaining the highest standards of quality and accountability. Her depth of experience and unwavering commitment to excellence have made her a respected leader dedicated to supporting both employees and the Court's mission.

### **Deborah Kerkes, Case Administration Team Leader**

With an extraordinary 35 years of dedicated service to the Court, Deborah possesses unparalleled institutional knowledge and expertise in bankruptcy court operations. Throughout her distinguished career, she has played an integral role in numerous districtwide committees, training initiatives, and special projects that have strengthened operational consistency and improved court processes. Deborah is highly respected for her collaborative leadership, commitment to mentoring others, and steadfast dedication to preserving the Court's tradition of excellence.

