



Celebrating the Retirement of Kathy Deetz

By: José A. Rodriguez, Clerk of Court

After an extraordinary 38-year career in the federal judiciary, we celebrate the retirement of Kathy Deetz, whose dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment have left a lasting mark on every division she served.

Kathy's journey began in December 1987, when she earned her Bachelor of Science in Finance from California State University, Northridge. A few months later, in March 1988, she entered the Bankruptcy Court family as an Adversary Clerk/Case Administrator in the Santa Rosa Division of the Northern District of California. Her talent and professionalism quickly became clear, leading to her transition to the Sacramento Division in 1991, where she continued to excel as a Case Administrator.

In October 1992, Kathy brought her expertise to the Middle District of Florida, joining the Tampa Division as a Chapter 7 Case Manager. Her impact was immediate. Within a year, she transferred to the Orlando Division, where her versatility and skill earned her a promotion to Generalist – All Chapters, performing case management work across the full spectrum of bankruptcy cases.

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Her upward trajectory continued at remarkable speed. In December 1993, she was promoted to Courtroom Deputy, a role in which she became known for her poise, precision, and calm command of courtroom operations. Years later, in February 2010, she advanced to Case Management Supervisor, and by July 2012, she was promoted again. This time to Deputy-in-Charge of the Orlando Division.

From 2015 to 2019, Kathy's leadership extended across both the Orlando and Tampa Divisions, where she performed Deputy-in-Charge duties with the same reliability and professionalism that defined her entire career.

Along the way, Kathy also witnessed, and helped shape, major changes in court operations. One of her favorites "fun facts" is that she was part of the court's early telework efforts beginning in April 2009, long before remote work became commonplace.

Throughout her career, Kathy received many awards recognizing her outstanding performance, dedication, and service to the Court. Her colleagues consistently describe her as steady, knowledgeable, supportive, and deeply committed to the mission of the judiciary.

Kathy's retirement marks the close of a remarkable chapter. One defined by excellence, integrity, and decades of meaningful contributions. Her legacy will continue to influence the Court for years to come, and her presence will be missed by all who had the privilege of working alongside her.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Kathy for her exceptional service and wish her a joyful, fulfilling, and well-deserved retirement.