

## Meet Our Newest Bankruptcy Judge – Hon. Luis E. Rivera II – and His Chambers Staff



On October 2, 2025, Luis E. Rivera II was appointed a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida, succeeding the Honorable Michael G. Williamson. Judge Rivera's duty station is in Tampa, Florida, and he also presides in the Court's Fort Myers Division.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Rivera was the deputy chair of GrayRobinson, P.A.'s bankruptcy group and served as the managing shareholder of the firm's Fort Myers and Naples offices. Judge Rivera is board certified in both Business Bankruptcy Law and Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and served as a panel trustee in the Middle District of Florida from 2010 to his appointment. Judge Rivera is an active member of American Bankruptcy Institute and The Florida Bar's Business Law Section.

Judge Rivera received his B.A. in political science, magna cum laude, from Loyola University New Orleans in 2001 and his J.D. from Washington & Lee University School of Law, where he served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Washington & Lee Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice.

Judge Rivera's career in bankruptcy began in January 2002 in the Eastern District of Louisiana where he briefly served in the Clerk's Office as an Intake and Records Management Clerk.



Judge Rivera and his wife, Kathleen, who also practices bankruptcy law, are frequent contributors to ABI and The Florida Bar Business Law Section publications and seminars. Judge Rivera and Kathleen led a memorable Hamilton-themed Evidence Workshop at the ABI's 2025 Annual Spring Meeting featuring not only tips on the effective use of experts, but also

seven bankruptcy judges in Revolutionary War-era costumes.

And most recently, Judge Rivera participated in a whimsical fireside chat with Roy Kobert at the Business Law Section's Winter Meeting in Port Charlotte, Florida, complete with real marshmallows and menacing wolves.



Between the two of them, Judge Rivera and his wife have five sons and five daughters. Much of Judge Rivera's free time is spent on his children and their activities. Judge Rivera also enjoys cooking, traveling, and playing golf.

Judge Rivera is joined in Chambers by career law clerk Patricia Levy, term law clerk Alex Chiang, and courtroom deputy Lisa McCain.

### **Patricia Levy, Career Law Clerk**



Tricia began her legal career practicing bankruptcy law in Tampa with Bush Ross and Akerman Senterfitt. After several years in an appellate practice with her husband, Tricia accepted a position with the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to work on the appellate provisions of the pending Bankruptcy Reform Act. Tricia remained with the AO for twenty years in the Bankruptcy Judges Division, the Office of General Counsel, and the Office of Legislative Affairs. Tricia's last position was as the General Counsel of the United States Tax Court.

Tricia's husband is an appellate lawyer who is Of Counsel with Kynes Markman in Tampa. Tricia grew up in Tampa and she is thrilled to be home near family and to have regular access to Tampa's truly wonderful Cuban food. Tricia loves running, hiking, scuba diving, and birding, watching baseball and hockey, and reading great books.

### **Alex Chiang, Term Law Clerk**

Alex Chiang previously practiced at Beltran Litigation in Tampa, primarily engaging in commercial litigation and discovery disputes. Alex became a member of The Florida Bar in 2025 after graduating from Emory University School of Law with Honors, as a Notes and Comments Editor of the Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal. In his spare time, Alex enjoys cooking and animating. Alex feels fortunate to join the collegial team in the Middle District of Florida's Bankruptcy Court.



### **Lisa McCain, Courtroom Deputy**



Originally from Medford, Wisconsin, Lisa McCain relocated to the Tampa Bay area in July 1994. Lisa earned an Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies from St. Petersburg College in 1996. After gaining experience in both the insurance industry and private legal practice, Lisa began her career with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in May 1997. Lisa served as a Case Manager for Hon. C. Timothy Corcoran III and Hon. Paul M. Glenn, Jr. before being appointed Courtroom Deputy to Judge Caryl E. Delano in August 2008, a role she held until December 2025. Lisa currently serves as Courtroom Deputy to Judge Rivera.