

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

Message from Chief Judge Jeffery A. Deller

Date: September 19, 2018

Please join me in congratulating Judge Carlota M. Böhm as she assumes her role as our new Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, effective September 22, 2018. Her selection as my successor was unanimous by the United States District Court, and I look forward to working with Chief Judge Böhm in her new capacity.

I would also like to thank the Clerk's Office and the bar for their support during my tenure as Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge. The Court was faced with some challenges since my elevation in 2013, mostly budgetary. But we weathered the storm of sequestration without furloughing a single employee.

During the past five years, we have built upon efficiencies and implemented a parity plan whereby the Clerk's Office now has a seamless operation between Pittsburgh and Erie. Case assignments amongst judges and case administrators have also been equalized throughout the District for the first time in our Court's history.

Consistent with national initiatives, the Court implemented and expanded its continuing operations plan and telework policies such that in the event of a regional or national emergency, our Court will always remain open.

Technology-wise, and despite budget constraints, the Court implemented new versions of electronic filing and fully utilized emerging technology to manage the data flow to the Court. Examples include instituting automated docketing with respect to high volume filings and docketing events.

Our Clerk's Office has received high praise nationally. This year, it is hosting the Court Unit Executive's Conference sponsored by the Federal Judicial Center. As Chief Judge, it was also an honor for me to serve as a member of the Chief Judges Advisory Group at the Federal Judicial Center.

As a Court, we have worked hard at encouraging uniformity of practice and procedures. The anecdotal evidence provided by the Chief Judge's Attorney Advisory Group reflected as much.

I'd also be remiss if I did not acknowledge the support of my colleagues. Each one supported the public service mission of the Court in tremendous ways.

For example, on the public outreach front, each of our judges were routine planners and participants at various events for the bar and public. Such events included the quarterly brown bag lunches, the annual Student Loan Program, Bench-Bar conferences, the annual ACBA Bankruptcy Symposium, and the Federal Court BiCentennial. Our full judge complement at these events has been at an all-time high.

Attorney participation in a number of these outreach programs has also been impressive. Our Court is fortunate to have high caliber attorneys that practice in this District. I am sure that it will continue under the leadership of our new Chief Judge.

Thank you again for all your support. We all look forward to working with our new Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge - Judge Carlota M. Böhm.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Jeffery A. Deller
Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge