

TNWB CLERK'S OFFICE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021



Farewell Judge Kennedy

Our Chief Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee is retiring after many years of dedicated service. Please join us in saying goodbye to the Honorable David S. Kennedy. We have included in this month's newsletter comments from a fellow Judge and the Clerk of the Court.

"I came to the court straight out of law school in the spring of 1987, as the estate administrator. Judge Leffler and Judge Kennedy were the two bankruptcy judges and George Emerson was the clerk of court. Judge Leffler passed away shortly thereafter and therefore I spent most of my court time before Judge Kennedy. I recall how he treated everyone with respect and dignity – whether attorneys, debtors, or creditors. Many times, as we left the courtroom, those who did not receive a favorable ruling would comment that even though they were unsuccessful, they felt like they had genuinely been heard and their positions sincerely considered.

Judge Kennedy is the epitome of what a judge should be: thoughtful, kind, respectful, prepared, and the list could go on and on....

He is a mentor, friend, and colleague. I am forever grateful for the impact he has made on my life.

Wishing Judge Kennedy, a well deserved and wonderful retirement!"

- Hon. Jimmy Croom

"Very early in my career at the court, I was invited to participate in a few law clerk interviews with Judge Kennedy. I walked out of the interviews in awe of his ability to recite the bankruptcy rules and code as if it were the Pledge of Allegiance or the ABC's. Over the years, as I got to know him, I admired him even more as a person. When asked about him, I always say they broke the mold after he was created. He is genuinely kind, thoughtful and fair. What makes him unique is that he treats everyone with dignity no matter who they are or what their circumstance. I am grateful for the opportunity to know him and to have worked under his leadership.

On behalf of the clerk's office staff, we will miss you and we wish you the very best in your retirement!"

- Lisa Haney, Clerk of Court



WE DID IT!!! As you know by now, we successfully made the transition to NextGen the weekend of February 26-28 and went LIVE March 1st. We hope you were able to make the switch with little or no problems. Just to give you some background on this project, we started working on it about nine months ago getting our servers ready, making the necessary updates, and participating in the training needed for the upgrade. You might ask, what is the purpose of all this? The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts plans to have all federal courts on NextGen by the end of 2021. This will allow the user to have one login through PACER and access all the courts with one login. We want to say thank you to everyone for your patience and to those who helped test the system. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with your questions. You may contact us at ECFHelp@tnwb.uscourts.gov

Did you know Debtors can get free Electronic Noticing?

The Debtor Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing (DeBN) Program provides free electronic noticing to debtors. In 2015, the Court implemented DeBN to allow debtors to receive court notices and orders (e.g., meeting of creditors, objections notices, notices of hearings, orders, motions for relief from stay, order of discharge, etc.) by email from the Bankruptcy Noticing Center. The debtor will receive the court notices in their email as an attachment in Adobe PDF format.

To receive electronic notice, a debtor or debtor's attorney must file a [Debtor's Electronic Noticing Request \(DeBN\) Form](#). The form can be electronically filed through ECF using the *Debtor Electronic Noticing Request* event code. Please ensure the email address is correct and clearly printed. You may find it beneficial to provide the [DeBN brochure](#) to your client when they complete the request form. It outlines how DeBN works and what they can expect. Additional information is available on the [Debtor](#) page of the Court's website.

ECF Online Training

Do you have a new employee at the office? Do you need a refresher on a certain process within ECF? Did you know there are free online ECF training modules on our website at www.tnwb.uscourts.gov. There are several modules available such as Opening a New Case, Proof of Claims, Order Upload, and Maintaining Your ECF Account. Under the [ECF Online Training Information](#) tab on our homepage you will find additional helpful tools and resources. Whether you need to review the ECF Guidelines or perhaps check the Frequently Asked Questions section, there are many resources available to you.

The *TNWB Clerk's Office Newsletter* is a publication of the Clerk of Court for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee. Any views or opinions expressed are those solely of the Clerk of Court and not of the Judges of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee or of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Court.