

To the members of the bar of the Eastern District of Tennessee:

For your information, I have recently advised the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals as well as Chief District Judge Pamela Reeves that I intend to retire on September 30, 2020, after having served as a bankruptcy judge for almost 27 years.

Customarily, I would not make a public announcement of what would otherwise primarily be a private decision. But unfortunately, as things currently stand, my retirement will result in the loss of a bankruptcy judgeship in the Eastern District of Tennessee since we have a temporary bankruptcy judgeship that lapsed on May 25, 2017. Stated differently, when I retire the circuit will not be able to appoint a new judge to succeed me, with the result that there will no longer be a resident bankruptcy judge in Greeneville or in the northeastern division of the district. The bankruptcy clerk's office in Greeneville will remain open, but cases filed in this division will be heard by another bankruptcy judge in the district.

The loss of the bankruptcy judgeship can be avoided if Congress acts before my retirement to extend the temporary judgeship or convert it from a temporary to a permanent judgeship. Knowing of the eventual loss of the temporary judgeship, our court over the last few years has advised members of Congress from Tennessee of this eventuality, and recently I informed Senator Lamar Alexander, Senator Marsha Blackburn, and Congressman Phil Roe of my planned retirement. Hopefully, Congress will act to save the judgeship, so that the northeastern division of the district will continue to be served by a resident bankruptcy judge. Regardless, I have the utmost confidence in the three other bankruptcy judges in the district, Judges Shelley Rucker, Suzanne Bauknight and Nicholas Whittenburg, and know that the bankruptcy cases filed here will be heard with judicial excellence.

On a brief personal note, I am profoundly grateful to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals for the confidence that it placed in me by appointing me to the position. Serving as a United States Bankruptcy Judge has been the honor of my professional life. I remain humbled by the exemplary support of my dedicated staff, as well as the staff of the bankruptcy clerk's office in this district, all of whom who are top-notch public servants, second to none. And lastly, I am indebted to each of you, members of the bar. With your professionalism and devoted service to your clients and the rule of law, you have honored me with your respect, and helped make me a better judge. Together, we have hopefully made a positive difference to those we have served in the bankruptcy community. Thank you for your invaluable contributions.

With deepest appreciation,
Marcia Parsons