



**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE**  
Howard H. Baker Jr. U.S. Courthouse  
800 Market Street, Suite 330  
Knoxville, TN 37902  
(865) 545-4284  
[www.tneb.uscourts.gov](http://www.tneb.uscourts.gov)

**PRESS RELEASE (Corrected)**  
**January 28, 2026**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CHRISTOPHER A. CALL NAMED CLERK OF U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE**



*Mr. Call being sworn in as Clerk by Chief Judge Bauknight, with his wife, Lilas, by his side. Photo courtesy Lora Finley*

Christopher A. Call is the new Clerk of Court for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, succeeding William T. Magill, who is retiring on January 31, 2026.

The Clerk is the chief unit executive for the bankruptcy court, acting as business manager by overseeing all aspects of court administration and operations. Call was selected by the bankruptcy judges of the Eastern District, Chief Judge Suzanne H. Bauknight, Judge Nicholas W. Whittenburg, and Judge Rachel Ralston Mancl. He assumes the role of Clerk after having served as the Chief Deputy Clerk

since 2021. Call has served the public his entire legal career, first as Law Clerk to the Hon. J. Steven Stafford, Judge of the Tennessee Court of Appeals; then as Law Clerk for the Hon. Jeffrey S. Bivins, Judge of the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals (now Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court);

and the Hon. Juliet Griffin, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, before moving to Chattanooga in 2015 to serve as the Career Law Clerk to Bankruptcy Judge Shelley D. Rucker.

Mr. Call earned his law degree, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Tennessee Winston College of Law, after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

On behalf of the bankruptcy judges for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Chief Judge Bauknight stated, “We are excited for Chris to become our next Clerk of Court. He has served the Court with excellence as Chief Deputy Clerk and before that as Judge Shelley Rucker’s Career Law Clerk. He has proven himself as an able servant leader who is respected by members of the Court family and the bankruptcy bar. We are exceedingly fortunate for Chris to take the reins from the retiring Will Magill. Chris’s gifts, skills, and temperament uniquely qualify him to lead the Court in this time of financial uncertainty that presents resource challenges for the Court at a time of growing caseloads.”

The Court is also pleased to announce the promotion of Caitlin Ray to Chief Deputy Clerk. Ms. Ray joined the Court as Operations Manager in 2022. She will continue to serve from the Knoxville office, and Mr. Call’s duty station will continue to be Chattanooga.

Mr. Call will assume the duties of Clerk on February 1 on the retirement of William T. Magill, who served the Court with distinction and grace for over 28 years, including for nearly 11 years as Clerk. The judges of the Eastern District are grateful to Mr. Magill for his long and dedicated public service. Chief Judge Bauknight commented, “The Court family will miss Will immensely, and we wish him good health, adventure, and happiness in his retirement.”

The jurisdiction of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee includes 41 of Tennessee’s 95 counties, spanning 420 miles, with courthouses in Chattanooga, Greeneville, Knoxville, and Winchester.

Contact:

Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Suzanne H. Bauknight  
865.545.4284  
[teresa\\_wheeler@tneb.uscourts.gov](mailto:teresa_wheeler@tneb.uscourts.gov)