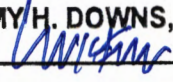


JUL 28 2023

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

TAMMY H. DOWNS, CLERK
By: 
DEP CLERK

In Re: Eastern District of Arkansas
Chief Magistrate Judgeship

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

J. Thomas Ray has served faithfully for twenty-three years as United States Magistrate Judge. For thirteen of those years, he has worn a second hat: Chief Magistrate Judge. He has, as first among equals, handled administrative matters involving his colleagues' work plus provided good counsel to three Chief District Judges about the administration of our Court's business in general. These behind-the-scenes efforts go unnoticed. But they're nonetheless essential to the smooth functioning of the judicial machinery. Our Court thanks and commends Chief Judge Ray.

As our bench and bar know, Chief Judge Ray will retire this fall – though our Court will recall him immediately, so he can continue his judicial service. We need him, albeit in what will be a part-time role. He will join Magistrate Judge Beth M. Deere in this important supporting status.

Effective 1 August 2023, our Court appoints the Honorable Jerome T. Kearney as Chief United States Magistrate Judge of the Eastern District of Arkansas. In addition, our Court adopts the

following procedure for rotating the Chief Judgeship among the Magistrate Judges of the Eastern District:

The Chief Magistrate Judge will serve one four-year term. The Chief Judge will be the most senior Magistrate Judge (determined by the date of first appointment) who has not yet served as Chief Judge, who is willing to serve, and who is approved for the Chief Judgeship by the District Court. If all the Magistrate Judges have served as Chief Judge, then the rotation shall begin again.

This rotation will allow our Court to benefit from the leadership of all our United States Magistrate Judges, without whom this Court could not do all its work.

So Ordered.

D.P. Marshall Jr.

D.P. Marshall Jr.
Chief Judge

28 July 2023
