

JUN 30 2021

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

JAMES W. MCCORMACK, CLERK
By:  _____
DEP CLERK

IN RE: RETIREMENT OF JAMES W. MCCORMACK
AS CLERK OF COURT FOR THE EASTERN
DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

On the occasion of his 3 July 2021 retirement, all the United States District Judges and United States Magistrate Judges of the Eastern District of Arkansas commend and thank Clerk of Court James W. McCormack. Jim is serving in his twenty-eighth year as our Clerk. He has worked for the federal courts for more than forty-one years. He's travelled far, starting as a deputy clerk in the Western District of Missouri, serving as a probation officer, completing a tour of duty at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in Washington, serving as a chief deputy clerk in the bankruptcy court for the District of Kansas, and eventually joining our Court in 1993 as chief deputy clerk. He has supported the work of twenty-four Judges and five Chief Judges of the Eastern District. Our Court has handled more than sixty-six thousand civil cases and criminal cases involving more than twelve thousand defendants during Jim's tenure.

As impressive as these numbers are, they do not tell the whole story. Jim's vocation is public service. He's assembled a team of talented individuals in the Clerk's office. They share his ethos of serving litigants, lawyers, and our Court. He encourages all those around him. He sees lessons learned, not stumbles. He anticipates, planning for future needs that appear only dimly, if at all, to the rest of us. And when, as it always does, something unexpected comes—whether it's a personnel matter or a pandemic—Jim is there. "I'm on it," he says. His eventual response is often some variation on this theme: "I see three options." Then he implements the Court's decision; "consider it done," he says. Jim has supported our Court through big things—Whitewater, the Prempro multidistrict litigation (which involved thousands of cases from around our nation), the Little Rock School case, construction of the annex and renovation of the historic part of the Richard Sheppard Arnold courthouse, realignment of our divisions, and most recently the COVID-19 pandemic. Each time he has met the challenges presented and (always quietly and in the background) helped our Court do its job well. It is a signal achievement, for example, that the Eastern District has remained open for business throughout the pandemic. Perhaps more remarkably, Jim has brought this same devotion to duty to every day, every case, and every person who sought the Clerk's assistance. For decades, he could no more stop making sure that our Court was administering justice

fairly, equally, and efficiently than the Arkansas River could stop flowing south. The Eastern District has been most fortunate in our Clerk of Court. We will miss James W. McCormack. We salute him and wish him well.

So Ordered.

D.P. Marshall Jr.

D.P. Marshall Jr.
Chief Judge

30 June 2021
