

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
Eastern District of California
501 I Street, Suite 3-200
Sacramento, CA 95814-7303

Chambers of
FREDRICK E. CLEMENT
Chief Bankruptcy Judge

916-930-4540

July 12, 2024

Re: Retirement of Clerk of the Court
Wayne Blackwelder

An Open Letter to the Bar:

With an abiding sadness, I have received Wayne Blackwelder's notice of retirement, effective February 28, 2025. After more than 14 years of service to the Eastern District of California Bankruptcy Court, Wayne has decided to enjoy the sweet fruits of retirement.

As I look back on Wayne's service, I am reminded of rigors of his position. The Clerk of the Court oversees 50 employees and administers a \$5 million budget. Technically, his position answers only to the collective bankruptcy bench. But as a practical matter, the Clerk of the Court is accountable to the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, District Court, the trustees and bar, and the public at large. Wayne has presided over the years of higher-case filings, e.g., 2010-2014, and the years of lower-case filings, e.g., 2021-2022, with all of the challenges those entailed. During his tenure, he has seated four new bankruptcy judges. And in 2020 and 2021, he presided over court operations on a wholly, or nearly wholly, remote basis during the pandemic.

Through it all, Wayne has performed his duties with skill, diligence, and good humor. As we say goodbye to our friend and colleague, please join me in thanking Wayne for his faithful service and in wishing him, as well as his wife, Sachiko, a happy retirement.

In the coming months, we will undertake the pick-and-shovel task of selecting our next Clerk of the Court. Naturally, I will keep you apprised of our progress as is appropriate.

Sincerely,



Fredrick E. Clement
Chief Judge, U.S. Bankruptcy Court