

Press Release- United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of North Carolina

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Peggy B. Deans, Clerk of Bankruptcy Court, to Retire

Peggy B. Deans, the Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina for over 33 years, has announced her retirement, effective January 2, 2009. Mrs. Deans was first appointed clerk in 1975 by the late Honorable Thomas M. Moore, who at the time, was the district's bankruptcy referee. The district, which serves 44 eastern North Carolina counties, now has three bankruptcy judges.

Mrs. Deans served as Secretary to the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks from 1993-1995 and served as Chairperson of the Bankruptcy Noticing Center Working Group in 2004. She has served as an *Ex Officio* Member of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Bankruptcy Institute, as member of the Bankruptcy Clerk's Advisory Group, and as a member of the Digital Audio Pilot Project Working Group. She has been a permanent member of the Local Rules Committee for the Bankruptcy Court.

During her tenure, Mrs. Deans oversaw tremendous growth and numerous innovations. When she was appointed clerk 33 years ago, the clerk's office had two employees and annual case filings of 119. Today, the clerk's office oversees 41 employees and case filings for 2008 are estimated to exceed 9,000. Several years ago, the court converted to electronic filing of all documents and records. Today, digital recordings of most hearings are posted to the public docket for easy public access. The court maintains its primary office in Wilson and a divisional office in Raleigh and always ranks near the top nationally in case processing statistics.

On behalf of the court, Chief Judge Randy D. Doub said, "Mrs. Deans' leadership and experience will be missed, but our court is most grateful for her service and dedication. We wish for her good health and much happiness as she begins this new chapter in her life."

Mrs. Deans is a cum laude graduate of Barton College. She has been married to Kenneth H. Deans for 45 years. Her son, Kenneth H. Deans, Jr. and wife, Amy, and their son, Kenneth H. Deans, III, more affectionately known as "Tripp," live in Moyock, N. C. Mrs. Deans is a member of Peace Church in Wilson.