



Another ABC-Certified Specialist is Appointed to the Bench

by Matthew Q. Tompkins and Kristofor D. Sodergren

Jerry C. "Buddy" Oldshue, Jr., was sworn in as the newest bankruptcy judge in the Southern District of Alabama in an investiture ceremony held March 18, 2016 in the Federal Courthouse in Mobile, Alabama. Presiding over the ceremony was The Honorable Joel F. Dubina, Senior U.S. Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit. The Oath of Office was administered by the Honorable William H. Steele, Chief Judge of the United States District Court, Southern District of Alabama. Numerous active and retired federal and state court judges were in attendance for the ceremony.

In addition to the comments offered by Judge Dubina and Judge Oldshue, comments regarding the occasion and the accomplishments of Judge Oldshue were offered by Alabama Governor Robert Bentley, R. Cooper Shattuck (general counsel University of Alabama system), Matthew Q. Tompkins (president Rosen Harwood, PA, Judge Oldshue's former law firm), and John Oldshue (Judge Oldshue's brother).

Judge Oldshue was born in Birmingham, Alabama in 1962, but was a lifelong resident of Tuscaloosa, Alabama until relocating to Mobile, Alabama to serve in his new role as one of the bankruptcy judges in the Southern District. Judge Oldshue's father, Dr. Jerry C. Oldshue, was a long time professor at the University of Alabama, and his mother is a retired physician who enjoyed a long and successful practice in Tuscaloosa.

Judge Oldshue received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Alabama in 1985. Judge Oldshue applied his engineering degree in positions with General Motors and BellSouth before returning the University of Alabama for further educational pursuits. Judge Oldshue participated in the University's joint Juris Doctorate and Masters of Business Administration program beginning in 1992 and finishing in 1995. Judge Oldshue was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 1995 and was further admitted to practice before all of the United States District Courts in Alabama. Judge Oldshue began his private legal practice in Tuscaloosa, Alabama with the Hubbard, Smith, McIlwain

and Brakefield law firm in 1995, and later moved to Rosen Harwood, P.A., in 1999, where he joined the firm as a shareholder in 2001. Judge Oldshue participated in the Tuscaloosa County Bar Association, Alabama State Bar, the American Bar Association (as a member of the

Business Law Section), the Alabama Bar Association - Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Section (serving as President of this section in 2011), the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Conference on Consumer Finance Law, and the Commercial Law League of America. While in private practice Judge Oldshue, was board certified as a specialist in creditor's rights law by the American Board of Certification.



Jerry C. "Buddy" Oldshue, Jr.

As noted above, Judge Oldshue was in private practice at the Rosen Harwood firm in Tuscaloosa, Alabama immediately prior to his appointment to United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Alabama. Judge Oldshue is the second attorney from Rosen Harwood to serve as a bankruptcy judge in the State of Alabama. Judge George Wright served as the Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Alabama after having joined Gordon Rosen and Bernard Harwood in forming the Rosen Harwood firm in 1967.

In his comments at his investiture ceremony on March 18, 2016, Judge Oldshue noted his excitement at taking on the new challenge of transitioning from a successful and comfortable private practice to service as a bankruptcy judge in a city away from his lifelong home of Tuscaloosa. Judge Oldshue explained his desire to meet a personal challenge to himself to do more to serve the community and the bar as a bankruptcy judge. Matthew Tompkins, Judge Oldshue's former clerk, associate and law partner, and current president of the Rosen Harwood law firm, notes that Judge Oldshue will be missed at the firm, but that he left a strong foundation in his practice at the firm, that the firm is better from his time there, and that Judge Oldshue will undoubtedly provide great service to those that come to his Court in the South District of Alabama. ■