



**HONORABLE PAMELA L. REEVES CHIEF JUDGE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE  
800 Market Street, Suite 145  
Knoxville, TN 37902**

For Immediate Release  
August 31, 2020

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE SHELLEY D. RUCKER**  
**APPOINTED CHIEF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE**

Chief Judge Pamela L. Reeves of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee has announced the appointment of U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Shelley D. Rucker of Chattanooga as the next Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, effective October 1, 2020.

Judge Rucker will fill the position current Chief Judge Marcia Phillips Parsons will be vacating upon her retirement on September 30, 2020. Chief Judge Parsons has served as the chief judge since July 2, 2012.

A chief bankruptcy judge is the statutorily appointed presiding officer of the bankruptcy court, and serves as the court's executive and organizational leader, responsible for the effective execution of bankruptcy court business. In fulfilling the duties of the position, a chief bankruptcy judge guides the development, adoption, and enforcement of uniform policy for the bankruptcy court through the active participation of all the court's bankruptcy judges and with the support of the district court.

Judge Rucker has served as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee since April 2, 2010, upon her appointment by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Rucker practiced bankruptcy law with the firm of Miller & Martin PLLC in Chattanooga,

Tennessee, for twenty-seven years prior to taking the bench. She previously served as chairperson of the firm's Commercial Department and practice group leader of the Bankruptcy Creditor Rights Group. She was a board member and President of the Mid-South Commercial Law Institute. In 2000, she served on the Joint Committee of the Tennessee Bar Association and the Tennessee Bankers Association which worked on the enactment of Revised Article 9 in Tennessee. Judge Rucker has been a member of the Tennessee Bar since 1982, is a frequent lecturer about bankruptcy, and is a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy.

Judge Rucker received her undergraduate degree in English and Economics from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa. She earned her law degree from the University of Georgia, where she was a member of the National Moot Court Team.

There are two other federal bankruptcy judges in the Eastern District of Tennessee—one in Chattanooga, Bankruptcy Judge Nicholas W. Whittenburg, and one in Knoxville, Bankruptcy Judge Suzanne H. Bauknight.

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