

Clerk's Office Bios

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
600 S. Maestri Place, New Orleans, LA 70130

Lyle Wyman Cayce Clerk

Mr. Cayce joined the court after serving 27 years with the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. Among other military assignments, he served as Senior Litigation Attorney for the United States Army Litigation Division, where he represented the Army in appeals to 11 different Circuit Courts of Appeals. He served as the Senior Legal Officer (Staff Judge Advocate) at three Army installations; as the senior U.S. Legal Officer for U.S. Army forces in Hungary in 1998; as Legal Advisor of a Multi-National Division in Bosnia between September 2000 and October 2001; and as the Staff Judge Advocate for the Third Infantry Division during the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Mr. Cayce became the tenth Clerk of Court for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on April 1, 2010, after serving 18 months as Chief Deputy Clerk for the court. Mr. Cayce has assisted the Administrative Office of the Courts and Judicial Conference of the United States through service on numerous national level working groups, and currently serves as chair of the Appellate Clerks Advisory Group.

Mr. Cayce is a graduate of Murray State University with majors in both History and Political Science. Additional degrees include a JD from the University of Kentucky School of Law, an LLM in Administrative Law, and a Masters in Strategic Studies.

Thomas Plunkett (Tom)
Chief Deputy Clerk

How Long with the Courts: 13 Years

How Long in Current Position: 13 Years

Education Background: Law Degree from LSU

Brief Employment Background: Retired Colonel from the US Army

General Duties/Responsibilities: EVERYTHING!

Current Key Office Initiatives/Programs: Keeping us all straight!

Kenneth Russo (Ken)
Chief, Technology

How Long with the Courts: 33 Years

How Long in Current Position: 24 Years

Education Background: Bachelor of Science

Brief Employment Background: Started with courts in 1990 at age 24

General Duties/Responsibilities: Responsible for court application development, also developer of Citelink and Briefcase

Current Key Office Initiatives/Programs: Citelink, Briefcase

Terry Thorne (TJ)
Data Quality Manager

How Long with the Courts: 31 years

How Long in Current Position: 7 years

Education Background: 1 year college

Brief Employment Background: Entry on Duty - March 2, 1992

Positions:

Generalist, 1992

QC Clerk, 1997

QC Supervisor, 2002

Data Quality Manager, 2016

General Duties/Responsibilities: CM/ECF Administration and Support, Statistics, Attorney Admissions, Training, Briefcase Support

Current Key Office Initiatives/Programs: Briefcase enhancements, Annual Report updates and automation, Training 4 new hires

Peter Connors
Case Administration Manager

How Long with the Courts: 27 years

How Long in Current Position: 3.5 years

Education Background: B.A. in Political Science - Louisiana State University; 2014 Federal Court Leadership Program graduate.

Brief Employment Background: Started with court fresh out of college in 1996. In my 27 years, I served as a Mailroom Clerk, Generalist, Case Management Clerk, Case Manager, and Case Administration Manager.

General Duties/Responsibilities: Managing all aspects of the case processing teams. Supervising the quality and quantity of case processing related services and for assuring efficient and economical work operations in the Case Management Division.

Current Key Office Initiatives/Programs: Realignment of office duties and providing training for my staff. Managing productivity of hybrid telework schedules.

Future Initiatives: Auto docketing and other electronic filing initiatives.

Charles Whitney (Charlie)
Calendar/Courtroom Deputy Supervisor

How Long with the Courts: 4 ½ years

How Long in Current Position: 8 months

Education Background: B.S. in Marketing from University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Class of 2000.

Brief Employment Background: Extensive experience in retail sales, customer service, management, and event coordination.

General Duties/Responsibilities: Preparing the court's oral argument calendar, serving as liaison between the court and the Fifth Circuit Bar, maintaining the court's YouTube content, and supervision of courtroom deputies.

Current Key Office Initiatives/Programs: Implementation of the newly-introduced automatic case assignment program

Future Initiatives: Further automation of department functions including case review and preparation of case information for chambers; preparing to assume responsibility for creation of the oral argument, administrative, and screening panels; preparing to assume responsibility for maintaining judge respite information.

Michelle Meyers
Human Resources /Court Services Manager

How Long with the Courts:

How Long in Current Position:

Education Background:

Brief Employment Background:

Current Key Office Initiatives/Programs: