

# BANKRUPTCY BUGLE



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## MARY A. SCHOTT'S RETIREMENT

After 38 years with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Nevada, I have decided to retire as Clerk of Court for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Nevada effective April 18, 2025. I will be spending more time with my family and pursuing various hobbies including quilting. My career began with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Nevada in March 1987 as an Electronic Court Recorder for Chief Judge Jones. Over the years, I held various positions with this Court including: Financial Administrator, Case Administrator, Budget Analyst, Human Resources Manager, and Administrative/Operations Manager. During my career with the Court, the Clerk's staff went from docketing manually on hard cardstock to automated entries in CM/ECF. In August 2007, I was appointed by the Bankruptcy Judges to be the Clerk of Court after the retirement of Patricia Gray.

During my tenure, I was a committee member for numerous committees: Administrative Office of U.S. Courts - Budget and Finance Advisory Committee and Human Resources; 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Information Technology Security Committee and 9th Circuit Security Committee, and Treasurer for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks. I collaborated to improve policies, shared best practices and became friends with Clerks across the nation.

The Bankruptcy Judges have been exceptional in working with Clerk's staff to meet all the operational needs of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Nevada. The staffing for the Clerk's office has increased and decreased based upon case filings over the years. The Clerk's staff is extraordinary at adapting to the evolving operation requirements. I want to thank the Bankruptcy Judges and all the employees for their tremendous support, professionalism and kindness throughout my career over the years.

The Bankruptcy Judges did a nationwide recruitment for the Clerk of Court position starting in October 2024. Dan Owens, Administrative Manager, U.S. Probation Office, District of Nevada was selected by the Bankruptcy Judges to become the next Clerk of Court. Dan will begin working with me to ensure a smooth transition on March 10, 2025, and become Clerk of Court on April 18, 2025.

I really appreciate all the support during my career. I'm looking forward to many new adventures in retirement.

*Mary*

**HAPPY  
RETIREMENT**

## **INTRODUCING DAN OWENS, NEW CLERK OF COURT AS OF APRIL 18, 2025**

Hello! I would like to introduce myself. My name is Dan Owens, and I am currently the Administrative Manager for the U.S. Probation Office in Nevada. It is a great privilege and honor to be selected to succeed Mary Schott as the Clerk of Court for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Nevada. A little bit about myself: I was born in Southern California but raised in Las Vegas, where I graduated from Bonanza High School. Wanting to train in information technology, I joined the U.S. Air Force as a computer operator, serving in both Bitburg Air Base, Germany, and Homestead Air Force Base, Florida. My military experience laid the foundation for a successful 25-year career at Clark County, where I held various IT positions. Over time, my passion became business, culminating in being the Manager of Technical Support for the Clark County Building Department, where I was the administration division manager over IT, records, bookkeeping, and human resources.

After retiring from Clark County, I pursued further education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Accounting. I was then fortunate enough to be offered the position of Administrative Manager at the U.S. Probation Office, where I have been responsible for the office's HR, budget, and financial duties. It is a job I have truly enjoyed for almost ten years now.

On the personal side, I am happily married to my wife, Kelly, and we are the proud parents of four incredible daughters. I am a passionate dog lover, and we share our home with three fur babies: Rooster, our Cairn Terrier; Kya, the Golden Doodle; and Shadow, the ever-energetic seven-month-old Shiba Inu.

In my free time, I love to travel, am an avid reader, and have been a lifelong collector of vintage comic books. I have been to San Diego Comic-Con 35 times and counting.

I am so excited to join the Nevada Bankruptcy court family. During my time in Probation, I got to know many of the bankruptcy staff and am looking forward to getting to know the rest of you and our partners. Thank you for this amazing opportunity!

## **HON. NATALIE M. COX WILL BECOME CHIEF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE** **EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2025**

After completing a five-year term, Hon. August B. Landis will step down as Chief Bankruptcy Judge in the District of Nevada on March 31, 2025. Effective April 1, 2025, Hon. Natalie M. Cox will begin her term as Chief Judge.

Judge Cox was appointed to the bankruptcy bench by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on January 27, 2020. Her oath of office was administered by our friend and colleague Hon. Bruce T. Beesley (Ret.).

Originally from Kodiak, Alaska, our incoming Chief attended Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee. While in college, Judge Cox's leadership skills were already on full display as she played point guard for the first Lady Governors team to appear in the NCAA tournament, as well as catcher and 3<sup>rd</sup> base on the Lady Gov's softball team. She graduated with a bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, in 1997. She attended law school as part of the charter class at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, receiving her juris doctorate degree, cum laude, in 2001. After successful completion of the Nevada bar exam in October 2001, Judge Cox engaged in the private practice of law with Jolley, Urga, Wirth & Woodbury, and Kolesar & Leatham, Chtd.

Prior to taking the bankruptcy bench, Judge Cox also served as a trial attorney with the U.S. Trustee's field office in Wilmington, Delaware and Nashville, Tennessee. In April 2019, she was promoted to the position of Assistant U.S. Trustee in Nashville and served in that capacity until returning to Nevada with her family to take her seat on the bankruptcy bench in Las Vegas.

During her five years of service as a bankruptcy judge in Nevada, Judge Cox has displayed her ability to efficiently handle cases and issues of every size and type. She looks forward to her new role as Chief Judge and has the full support of the entire bankruptcy court family as she begins her new endeavor. Please join us in welcoming our incoming Chief Judge Natalie M. Cox!

## **CHAPTER 13 CALENDAR CHANGES, RENO AND LAS VEGAS**

A review of the work being performed by the Clerk's staff is done on a regular basis to see what processes can be streamlined or automated. A review of the chapter 13 calendars shows that some matters are being continued 10 – 20 times.

Due to current staffing authorized for the Clerk, managing the chapter 13 calendars under the current process is not sustainable. To ensure Clerk's staff can perform their statutory duties, the bankruptcy judges agreed to make changes to the management of the chapter 13 calendars.

**Effective April 1, 2025**, matters on the Chapter 13 calendar regarding confirmation, motions to modify and motions to dismiss **will be restricted to one continuance**. The matter will come off calendar if it is not resolved after the first continuance. Once a matter is taken off calendar, a new notice of hearing and noticing of the parties will be required when it is ready for a bankruptcy judge to make a final ruling.

The chapter 13 trustees were updated in February of the changes to the chapter 13 calendars. The bankruptcy judges and clerk of court are aware that this is a significant cultural change for the management of the chapter 13 calendars. There will be issues, and the bankruptcy judges will make decisions accordingly.



### **COURTHOUSE HOURS**

C. Clifton Young Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse Hours and Foley Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse Hours are:

**7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

Bankruptcy Court Intake Hours are:

**9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

Excluding Weekends and Federal Holidays.

### **BANKRUPTCY COURT CONTACT**

#### **NUMBERS**

LAS VEGAS CLERK'S OFFICE:

(702) 527-7000

RENO CLERK'S OFFICE:

(775) 326-2100

Frequently called numbers and e-mail addresses are on the court's website under Court Information: <https://www.nvb.uscourts.gov/about-the-court/contact-information/>