

Judge Myers' Farewell Letter

July 31, 2020

To the members of the Court Family and of the Idaho Bankruptcy Bar

You are all aware of my plans, put in motion a year ago, to retire at the end of this month, finishing 22 years of service to the Court, the Bar, and the public. Perhaps you'll appreciate that I have mixed feelings as this day has arrived. I continue to believe this is the right decision, but it is certainly bittersweet. I wanted to share some thoughts as I hang up the robe.

I so much appreciate the Bankruptcy Section honoring me this past February at the annual Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section meeting in McCall. It is something I will never forget. And how fortunate it was—especially in retrospect—that we could all gather there, before the pandemic changed literally everything. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and kindness.

I appreciated the confidence of the Ninth Circuit in selecting me in 1998 to serve as a Bankruptcy Judge in the District of Idaho. To be included in the judicial company of Judges Merlin S. Young, Alfred C. Hagan, Edward J. Lodge, Jim D. Pappas and, most recently, Joseph M. Meier has not only been daunting, but also motivating. My respect and admiration for all of them is beyond measure, and I've strived daily to merit such inclusion. And I have greatly enjoyed working alongside Judge Pappas, and now also Chief Judge Meier, including our teaching bankruptcy law to a decade's worth of University of Idaho law students.

I've also always enjoyed the ability to interact and work with the Circuit Judges, District Judges and Magistrate Judges in our consolidated court environment here in the District of Idaho. Each Judge is not just an incredibly talented individual, but an approachable and very supportive friend. Indeed, the collegiality of our Idaho federal bench is known throughout the Circuit and beyond. I thank all the Judges for their friendship and good advice. And I want to especially express my appreciation for then-Chief District Judge Winmill and then-Chief Magistrate Judge Dale, my colleagues for most of the 14 years I was Chief Bankruptcy Judge. We faced a lot of challenging times and events over those years, including management and budget issues, shutdowns and sequestration, courthouse design and construction, and courthouse closings. I treasure the times I had working with two such warm, wise, and perceptive people, notwithstanding the often difficult circumstances we collectively faced.

I have been fortunate over all these years to work with the highly skilled and professional people in our Clerk's office, and I know you in the Bar appreciate their expertise and assistance. Given my daily opportunity to work with them on myriad issues, I have learned that they take their responsibilities seriously, and share a sincere desire to assist the Bar and public as well as the Judges. I appreciate, too, the professionalism and respect you in the Bar have shown these hard-working folks, notwithstanding the pressures that you have in your own practices. And I sincerely thank all of these members of our Court family for their friendship (and, for a couple, their occasional teasing) as we've worked together over all these years.

I need to thank the law clerks I've had assisting me, and making me look smarter than I am: T.J. Frasier; John Hammond; Ben Slaughter; Jeremy Gugino; Beth Mahn; Marci Smith; Ammon Taylor; Gale Price; Mimi Faller; Chris Williams, Kade Beorchia; and Aaron Bell. I hope to have the opportunity to see and visit with many of them. I especially need to recognize and thank Jo Ann Canderan, my first Judicial Assistant; Randy French, Judge Hagan's last, and my first, courtroom deputy; and T.J. Frasier, Judge Hagan's BAP law clerk and my first law clerk. They each served Judge Hagan so well before his retirement, and they helped me in the critical period of transitioning from a law practice to a new, judicial role. I needed, and greatly appreciated, their support.

But most significantly, I must thank my career law clerk, Suzanne Hickok, and my courtroom deputy, Melanie Battle. Two more professional, smart, multi-talented, and supportive people could not be found anywhere. Many of you know of their talents, skills and marvelous personalities from your own interactions with them. Their help to me has been absolutely invaluable. More importantly, they are, and they always will be, dear and treasured friends. While my successor, and you in the Bar, will continue to have the great fortune to work with Suzanne and Mel, I will truly and deeply miss them.

It has been a privilege and honor to serve as a Judge in the District of Idaho. Thank you all.

Terry L. Myers