



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

Middle District of Florida

Sam M. Gibbons United States Courthouse

801 North Florida Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33602

MEMORANDUM

From: Hon. Caryl E. Delano and Hon. Luis E. Rivera II

To: All Attorneys Practicing in the Fort Myers Division

Re: Reassignment of Fort Myers Division Cases and Hearing Procedures

Date: October 6, 2025

On October 2, 2025, the Honorable Luis E. Rivera II was sworn in as the Middle District of Florida's newest bankruptcy judge. Although Judge Rivera's duty station is in Tampa, he will preside over Fort Myers Division cases and plans to sit in Fort Myers every other week. Over the next two months, Fort Myers cases and hearings will be transitioned from Judge Delano to Judge Rivera.

Case Reassignments

Fort Myers cases have been reassigned as set forth below. Judge Rivera's Fort Myers cases are assigned the initials "FMR." Judge Delano's cases are assigned the initials "FMD."

Judge Rivera's Fort Myers Chapter 7 cases: Over the course of the past week, Chapter 7 cases in which Judge Rivera previously served as trustee have been reassigned to new trustees. Chapter 7 cases in which Judge Rivera was not the trustee and has no conflicts have been reassigned from Judge Delano to Judge Rivera. All Fort Myers Chapter 7 cases filed on or after October 3, 2025, will be assigned to Judge Rivera.

Chapter 11 cases: Judge Delano will retain all pending Fort Myers Chapter 11 cases. All Fort Myers Chapter 11 cases filed on or after October 3, 2025, will be assigned to Judge Rivera.

Chapter 12 and 13 cases: Chapter 12 and 13 cases have been reassigned to Judge Rivera. All Fort Myers Chapter 13 cases filed on or after October 3, 2025, will be assigned to Judge Rivera.

Adversary proceedings: Judge Delano will retain (a) all adversary proceedings in which Judge Rivera was a party or represented a party, and (b) all adversary proceedings filed in Chapter 7 cases in which Judge Rivera served as the trustee. Other Fort Myers adversary proceedings will be reassigned on a case-by-case basis.

Hearings

Due to Judge Delano's and Judge Rivera's schedules during the months of October and November, hearings will be conducted as follows. Please note that the usual Zoom procedures will continue to apply.

October 9 Fort Myers Chapter 13 hearings – Judge Rivera will preside from the Fort Myers hearing room and by Zoom.

Week of October 20 – Judge Delano will preside over all Fort Myers hearings from the Tampa Courthouse.

November 13 – Judge Rivera will preside from the Tampa Courthouse and by Zoom.

November 19 – Judge Delano will preside over Fort Myers Chapter 11 cases in the Fort Myers hearing room.

November 20 – Judge Rivera will preside over all Chapter 7 cases and adversary proceedings assigned to him and all Chapter 13 cases. Judge Delano will preside over Chapter 7 cases and adversary proceedings assigned to her. Both judges will preside in the Fort Myers hearing room.

Going forward, Judge Rivera generally anticipates conducting hearings in the Fort Myers hearing room every other week commencing December 1, 2025, including the weeks of

December 1
December 15
December 29
January 12
January 26

Judge Rivera may conduct hearings at other times from the Tampa Courthouse, with counsel and parties permitted to appear by Zoom.

After November, hearings in cases retained by Judge Delano will not be scheduled on the regular bi-weekly Fort Myers hearing calendars.

Judge Rivera's Staff

Pending the recruitment of Judge Rivera's courtroom deputy and law clerks, for procedural and scheduling issues please continue to contact Law Clerk Ed Comey (edward_comey@flmb.uscourts.gov and 813-301-5521) and Courtroom Deputy Lisa McCain (lisa_mccain@flmb.uscourts.gov and 813-301-5195).