

**Jason D. Woodard** is the Chief Bankruptcy Judge in the Northern District of Mississippi. Judge Woodard received his undergraduate, and law degrees from the University of Alabama, and his LL.M. from Duke University School of Law. Immediately following law school, Judge Woodard clerked for Judge Tamara O. Mitchell, Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge in the Northern District of Alabama. Prior to his appointment to the bench in January 2013, Judge Woodard was a partner with Burr & Forman LLP in Birmingham, representing clients in distressed debt situations, typically on the creditors' side. He is a past chair of the Birmingham Bar's Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Section, and a recipient of the ABI's Medal of Excellence. Judge Woodard has served as chairman of the board of directors and later as president, of the Advisory Board of Hands on Birmingham, and on committees of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. He is currently serving as Judicial Liaison to the Mississippi Local Bankruptcy Rules Committee.

**Selene D. Maddox** serves as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, joining the Court on October 22, 2018. Recognized for her extensive experience and leadership in the legal community, Judge Maddox's background includes a B.B.A. from the University of Mississippi, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Mississippi School of Law. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Maddox, practiced law in Tupelo with a focus on consumer debtor and small business debtor bankruptcy law. She also served as a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Panel Trustee and held various leadership positions in the local and state bar associations. Judge Maddox is married to Administrative Law Judge Gregory A. Maddox and resides in Tupelo.

**Jamie A. Wilson** has served as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi since July 1, 2021. Her current term is set to end on July 1, 2035. Appointed by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge Wilson assumed the responsibilities of former Bankruptcy Judge Neil P. Olack, who retired on June 30, 2021. She previously served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama and before that was in private practice with the firm of Benton & Centeno. Judge Wilson was Chair of the Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Section of the Alabama Bar until she assumed the bench. She received her Juris Doctor degree from Cumberland School of Law in 2003.

**Sandra Sperino** is the Elwood L. Thomas Missouri Endowed Professor at the University of Missouri School of Law. Her scholarship focuses on how courts and other actors resolve employment law disputes. Sandra is the author of two treatises in employment discrimination law: *McDonnell Douglas: The Most Important Case in Discrimination Law* and *The Law of Federal Employment Discrimination*. Her book *Unequal: How America's Courts Undermine Discrimination Law* (2017) garnered the 2021 Civil Justice Scholarship Award from the Pound Civil Justice Institute. Before joining the Missouri law faculty, Sandra was the Judge Joseph P. Kinneary Professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. In 2013, 2017, and 2022, she received the Goldman Prize for Excellence in Teaching; in 2015, Cincinnati Law recognized her work with the Harold C. Schott Scholarship Award; in 2018, she received the Faculty Excellence Award; and the university recognized her with a Faculty-to-Faculty Research Mentoring Award in 2019. She graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the University of Illinois Law Review.

**Irma Carrillo Ramirez** is a United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Previously a United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas from 2002 to 2023, Judge Ramirez began her legal career working as an associate for the law firm Locke Punell Rain Harrell, PC, in Dallas from 1991 to 1995. She served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas in the Civil Division from 1995 to 1999, and the Criminal Division from 1999 to 2002. Her nomination on March 15, 2016, by President Barack Obama to serve as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, expired with the end of the 114th Congress. On April 14, 2023, President Joe Biden nominated Judge Ramirez to the Fifth Circuit, and she was confirmed on December 4, 2023, making her the first Latina to serve on the Fifth Circuit.

**Oliver Roberts** is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Washington University in St. Louis and Co-Director of the WashU Law AI Collaborative. A graduate of Harvard Law School and Villanova University, he is also Co-Head of the AI Practice Group at Holtzman Vogel law firm, Editor-in-Chief of the AI & the Law publication at The National Law Review, and the Founder and CEO of Wickard.ai. Before founding Wickard.ai, Oliver practiced at Skadden Arps and Jones Day, and previously founded a technology startup focused on employment solutions. His legal achievements include successfully arguing twice before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and securing a cert denial at the U.S. Supreme Court, preserving one of his appellate victories. Oliver is admitted to practice law in New York, Texas, and Washington D.C.

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI



## BENCH AND BAR CLE SEMINAR

### THE RULE OF LAW

**The Inn at Ole Miss Conference Center**  
120 Alumni Drive  
University, Mississippi

Friday, October 3, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

**THE JUDGES OF THE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI**

DEBRA M. BROWN, CHIEF JUDGE  
GREENVILLE

GLEN H. DAVIDSON, SENIOR JUDGE  
ABERDEEN

MICHAEL P. MILLS, SENIOR JUDGE  
OXFORD

SHARION AYCOCK, SENIOR JUDGE  
ABERDEEN

DAVID A. SANDERS, MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
ABERDEEN

JANE M. VIRDEN, MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
GREENVILLE

LEROY D. PERCY, MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
OXFORD

JASON D. WOODARD, BANKRUPTCY JUDGE  
ABERDEEN

SELENE D. MADDOX, BANKRUPTCY JUDGE  
ABERDEEN

**AGENDA**

**1:00**

**Welcoming Remarks**

Chief Judge Debra M. Brown  
*Northern District of Mississippi*

Honoring Senior District Judge Glen H. Davidson:  
40 Years of Exemplary Service

**1:15 - 2:15**

**What You Didn't Know You Needed to Know  
About Bankruptcy Law**

Hon. Jason Woodard  
*Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge  
Northern District of Mississippi*

Hon. Selene Maddox  
*U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, Northern District of Mississippi*

Hon. Jamie A. Wilson  
*U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, Southern District of Mississippi*

**2:15 - 3:15**

**Recent Changes in Federal Employment  
Discrimination Law**

Sandra Sperino  
*Professor, University of Missouri School of Law*

**3:15 – 3:30**

**Break**

**3:30 – 4:30**

**A Conversation with Fifth Circuit Judge  
Irma Carrillo Ramirez**

Hon. Irma Carrillo Ramirez  
*Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals*

**4:30 – 5:30**

**AI in Legal Practice: Ethical Challenges &  
Opportunities for Lawyers and Judges**

Oliver Roberts  
*Adjunct Professor of Law, Washington University*

**5:30**

**Reception**

**\*\* The CLE Certification of Attendance will be sent via email\*\***