



Guest Speaker Biography

The Honorable Catherine Peek McEwen United States Bankruptcy Judge Middle District of Florida - Tampa Division

Catherine Peek McEwen is a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida (appointed August, 2005). She is also an adjunct professor at the Western Michigan University Cooley Law School. Prior to becoming a judge, she was in private practice, concentrating on commercial litigation with an emphasis on representing parties in bankruptcy cases.

Judge McEwen was graduated from Stetson University College of Law *cum laude* in 1982 and received her undergraduate degree from the University of South Florida (B.A., Political Science) in 1979.

She is the judicial chair of The Florida Bar Business Law Section Bankruptcy/UCC Committee and a member of The Florida Bar Business Law Section Executive Council as well as past chair of The Florida Bar Federal Court Practice Committee. She is a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges' Legislative Committee and is a Past Editor in Chief of the NCBJ *Conference News*, past co-chair of the NCBJ's Future of the Conference Committee and past member of its National Bar Association Liaison Committee, Endowment for Education Board, Public Outreach Committee, Ethics Committee, and the Newsletter Committee. She is a past chair and a member of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (of Florida) Pro Bono Committee. She is on the Board of Directors of the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers.

She was elected into the American Law Institute in 2012. Among her other honors are the Stetson University College of Law Distinguished Alumnus Award (2007), Hillsborough County Bar Association Jimmy Kynes Pro Bono Service Award (2008), the Stetson University College of Law J. Ben Watkins Award (2009), the Florida Association for Women Lawyers Leaders in the Law inaugural class designation (2010), the Tampa Bay Hispanic Bar Association's Luis "Tony" Cabassa Award (2012), the George Edgecomb Bar Association's Delano S. Stewart Diversity Award (2015), the inaugural Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice's Distinguished Federal Judicial Service Award (2016), the Stetson Lawyers Alumni Association Ben C. Willard Award (2016), the University of South Florida Distinguished Alumna Award (2016), and the Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. Judge Don Castor Justice Award (2016).

Prior to becoming a lawyer, she was a sportswriter from 1975-1979 for the *Tampa Tribune* and the *Tampa Times*.

In her spare time, she either manages or coaches a team for Bayshore Little League (14 years' service as of 2016; co-Volunteer of the Year in 2010) and she teaches religious education at Christ the King Catholic Church (1994-present) and Sacred Heart Catholic Church (2008-present).