



United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

August 11, 2026

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK OF COURT FOR THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit is pleased to announce the selection of Thomas “Tom” B. Plunkett as the eleventh Clerk of Court. Mr. Plunkett will officially assume the responsibilities of Clerk of Court on October 3, 2026, upon the retirement of our current Clerk, Lyle W. Cayce, who has served as Clerk since 2010.

In his role as the Chief Deputy Clerk of our court for the past 15 years, Mr. Plunkett has been extensively involved in the leadership, strategic direction, and management of the Clerk’s Office. In 2024, he received the Director’s Award for Excellence in Judiciary Service from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts for his role in the development of the Attorney Toolbox application. Mr. Plunkett holds a Juris Doctor from Louisiana State University Law Center and a Master of Science in Health Care Administration from the University of New Orleans.

The court would also like to express its profound appreciation to Mr. Cayce for his many years of service to the court. Mr. Cayce has been a critical leader of the court’s work and instrumental in shepherding the Clerk’s Office through numerous advancements and challenges. The court is extremely appreciative of Mr. Cayce’s stewardship of the Clerk’s Office and his dedication to the federal judiciary and our country.