

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chief United States District Judge Louis Guirola has confirmed the court's selection of Arthur S. Johnston, III, currently the Madison County Chancery Clerk, to serve as Clerk of Court for the federal court in the Southern District of Mississippi. He will succeed J. T. Noblin who earlier announced plans to retire from the post in January. Noblin has served in that capacity since 1990.

In the federal court system, the Clerk of Court serves as the Court's chief administrative officer with budget, IT, facility, civil and criminal case management, and HR responsibility. Johnston will now assume the post coming from serving in his third term as Madison County Chancery Clerk. As the Chancery Clerk, Johnston also serves as Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and as County Treasurer and Auditor in Madison County. Johnston had been instrumental in the implementation of the federal electronic court filing system in the Mississippi state courts. For these efforts, he received the Chief Justice Award at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Bar Association. Mississippi is the only state to have implemented electronic filing in state courts based on the federal system.

Regarding the federal position, Judge Guirola noted, "*We have been fortunate to have J. T. and his staff provide the administrative leadership for our Court during multiple court design and construction projects as well as in the coordination of important IT advancements, all carried out amid significant budget challenges. Our good fortune continues now with the employment of Arthur Johnston who will assure for our Court continued progressive management.*"

The jurisdiction of the court's Southern District includes the state's 45 southern counties, with staffed facilities in Jackson, Hattiesburg, Gulfport and Natchez. The Court is currently served by six active district judges, four senior judges, and five magistrate judges.

Johnston, a cum laude graduate of Delta State University, is a graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law where he was the associate editor of the Law Journal. He was in the private practice of law for ten years before his election as the Madison County Chancery Clerk. He is a native of Cleveland, Mississippi.

Commenting on the Court's selection, Noblin observed that "*Arthur Johnston will bring great skill and experience to work with a very committed administrative staff and supportive judges; the court family only gets better.*" The Court has not announced an effective date for Johnston's transition to the federal position.