

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA**

**Hugo L. Black United States Courthouse  
1729 5th Avenue North  
Birmingham, Alabama 35203**

January 9, 2026

Happy New Year from the Northern District of Alabama:

We hope that the holidays brought fun with family and friends and that treasured memories of loved ones lost in the past year warmed your celebrations. As we begin a new year, we want to take a minute to reflect with you on the past year.

The past year was filled with excitement in our district. In 2025, we were delighted to welcome two new district judges to the Northern District of Alabama, Judge Harold D. Mooty, III, who sits in Huntsville, and Judge Edmund G. LaCour Jr., who sits in Tuscaloosa. We look forward to Judge Mooty's and Judge LaCour's first full year with the court in 2026. In 2025, we also completed construction on our new Huntsville courthouse. With the new courthouse, we now hold grand jury proceedings in Birmingham and Huntsville.

We were busy in 2025. Attorneys and *pro se* litigants filed 2,266 civil actions in district court in 2025. That is a 23% increase over civil case filings in 2024. Our district and magistrate judges presided over 11 civil trials and 7 criminal trials to verdict in 2025. We empaneled juries for several other civil and criminal cases, and those matters settled during trial. Our bankruptcy judges saw an increase in bankruptcy filings. Attorneys and *pro se* litigants filed 10,262 bankruptcy petitions, a 4% increase from 2024, and 336 related adversary proceedings were filed. Over the course of 2025, the bankruptcy court closed 9,401 bankruptcy cases and 359 adversary proceedings. Our District Court Clerk's Office staff did an outstanding job of managing cases and trials in our courthouses in Anniston, Birmingham, Florence, Huntsville, and Tuscaloosa. The Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office deftly managed cases in these courthouses too.

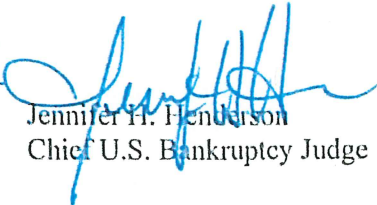
We anticipate that 2026 will be another busy year. As of January 1, 2026, Judge R. David Proctor took senior status. Judge Proctor served as an active judge in our district for more than 22 years, and he served as Chief Judge for the past two years. We join with all of you in thanking Judge Proctor for his outstanding service to our district as an active district court judge and look forward to his work as a senior district judge.

As of the date of this letter, you already have filed 36 new civil cases, so we are off to a fast start. Our magistrate judges continue to receive consent for dispositive jurisdiction in a wide variety of cases. Information about our magistrate judges is available at <https://www.alnd.uscourts.gov/us-district-court-judicial-officers>. Please continue to share this information with your clients and explain the benefits of consent to dispositive jurisdiction for the magistrate judges who draw your cases.

We look forward to serving you in the year ahead. On behalf of our judges and court staff,  
we wish you a healthy and productive 2026.



Madeline H. Haikala  
Chief U.S. District Judge



Jennifer H. Henderson  
Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge



John H. England, III  
Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge