
The Honorable Catharine R. Carruthers
United States Bankruptcy Court
Middle District of North Carolina

Tammi is energetic, self motivated and extremely professional. Her work product is always dependable and she works expeditiously and thoroughly. She is a quick study and has always been willing to put the time required to make certain the work product was first rate. She has a real gift for working well with others. She has been able to work for five bankruptcy judges and has managed to adapt to each judges' style and expectations. Tammi had a very harmonious relationship with the other members in our court and with the members of the bar. If polled, I would expect the clerk's office would label Tammi as their favorite clerk. They liked her because she took the time to explain things to them, helped implement changes without criticizing the work of others, and was quick to praise others. I believe all these traits would serve her well as your clerk.

Every bankruptcy court is about to enter a very demanding period as we all face the implementation of the new Act, new rules under the Act, and mandatory ECF. Only someone with a keen legal mind, leadership and personal skills will be able to successfully guide a court through this process. The work that Tammi has put in for you on your new local rules and in speaking to the bar have helped prepare her for the position as Clerk. I can recommend Tammi to you without any hesitation or reservation.

The Honorable Arthur J. Gonzalez
United States Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of New York

I am writing to recommend Tammi M. Hellwig for the position of Clerk of Court for the District of South Carolina. Tammi served as my law clerk for a one-year term from August 1999 to July 2000. I hired Tammi from a pool of qualified candidates because she had the distinction of having previously clerked for a bankruptcy judge as well as having practiced bankruptcy in a large law firm. Additionally, I felt as though her professional manner and personable nature would enable her to work well with my staff and our clerk's office. During her tenure, her performance exceeded my expectations. Her duties included research and drafting of opinions, as well as handling a variety of conference calls with counsel to preliminary handle discovery matters and other disputes. I was pleased with her ability to approach multiple tasks in a timely and organized manner, and her written work was thorough.

Tammi was also charged with supervising my intern program. Those duties included training the interns in court and chambers procedures and overseeing research projects assigned to the interns, thus demonstrating an ability to allocate resources and delegate duties where appropriate. Tammi was also responsible for reviewing the interns' written work and critiquing their performance. I found that Tammi approached her supervisory role in a fair and consistent manner. I appreciated her ability to inspire the interns to improve their work and achieve manageable goals in an even-handed manner. The end result was a productive team, beneficial to the interns as well as to my chambers. Tammi also had an excellent rapport with attorneys and was especially adept in addressing issues raised by pro se litigants in their contacts with Chambers.

Following Tammi's term with me, she remained with the bankruptcy court by serving as a law clerk to Chief Judge Paul Mannes in the District of Maryland. She served a one-year term with Chief Judge Mannes and returned to New York in 2001 due to her husband's acceptance of an acting professorship at New York University Law School. Again demonstrating her commitment to the bankruptcy court system, she sought a clerkship in the Southern District. As I had already filled my positions, I assisted her in obtaining a clerkship with Judge Gropper, a newly appointed bankruptcy judge. Several months following her appointment as Judge Gropper's law clerk, I was assigned the Enron Corporation bankruptcy case and requested that she be permitted to assist me on a temporary basis with research and opinion drafting in the Enron case. Judge Gropper consented to my request and supported her efforts. Tammi assisted me in drafting such opinions as In re Enron Corporation, 274 B.R. 327 (2002) (Motions to transfer venue); In re Enron Corporation, 279 B.R. 671 (2002) (Motions for an order seeking appointment of additional creditors' committees), affirmed by the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in 2003. Tammi also assisted me in the Enron case with research on issues relating to motions to assume or reject executory contracts and issues relating to appointment and the duties of an examiner. In certain of these matters, Tammi took the lead in coordinating the staffs' effort in the drafting and overall preparation of the decision. Again, Tammi demonstrated an ability to successfully manage her duties to Judge Gropper as well as timely completing significant projects for me. Tammi's efforts were tireless, often working evenings and weekends to accomplish multiple goals.

The Honorable Allan L. Gropper
United States Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of New York

Tammi Hellwig was my finest law clerk without exception, and I respectfully recommend her for the position of Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Carolina because I believe she would bring to that post the same dedication, expertise and energy that she has brought to the other positions she has held in the bankruptcy court system.

Tammi became my law clerk in my second year on the bench, after holding similar positions with my colleague here, Arthur Gonzalez, and two other bankruptcy judges. She had moved each time to be with her husband, as he changed schools or jobs, and I'm certain that her departure was a severe disappointment to each of the judges with whom she had worked. I had hoped to have her as my clerk for at least two years but had to let her go after one year because New York could not compete with South Carolina.

During her time as my law clerk Tammi applied the experience she had gained working in other courts and her keen intelligence to all of her responsibilities. As one example, she monitored the status of all the old cases I had inherited when I took the bench, creating a system that I still use, and pursued closure of cases with the clerk's office as well as with counsel. She was instrumental in drafting several opinions, including a 44-page decision that had to be issued quickly after a hotly contested trial and that I believe is still my best opinion (but was never published). One published opinion which she drafted is *In re Briarpatch Film Corp.*, 281 B.R. 820 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2002). She also assisted Judge Gonzalez, who was swamped with Enron matters, with researching and drafting opinions; she never hesitated to take on extra work if needed.

Tammi worked very well with her colleagues in chambers as well as in the clerk's office. She supervised my three or four student interns, and I believe she would have the ability to supervise a staff with the right combination of professional firmness and discretion. She has a solid grasp of the larger picture as well as an attention to detail that would serve her well as a Court Clerk. She also has great familiarity with the workings of the bankruptcy system from her many years of service, and she has a dedication to and interest in the bankruptcy process. I believe she would make a superb Clerk of Court.

The Honorable Paul Mannes
United States Bankruptcy Court
District of Maryland

This is to recommend Tammi Hellwig for consideration of appointment to the position of Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Carolina. Ms. Hellwig (Tammi) served as my Law Clerk from August 24, 2000, through August 17, 2001. We have maintained contact since she moved to New York and then to South Carolina.

During her term in Maryland, Tammi displayed a serious interest in administration and Clerk's office operations. The Court was in the process of working towards implementation of the CM/ECF system of electronic filing, and, in addition to her duties as my clerk, she represented our chambers on some of the working committees. This participation enabled me to gain familiarity with what was to come and assuage some of the "fear" of the drastic change to our operations. We are now successfully and happily fully electronic.

Because of the heavy caseload in Maryland, as my law clerk Tammi worked under constant pressure to assist me in the orderly and expeditious handling of the hundreds of cases that require attention each day. She displayed expertise, enthusiasm and tenacity, quickly reaching the point where I depended upon her to carry out daily tasks with little, if any, instruction. Her legal skills exceeded my expectations, and I would have gladly offered the position to her to become my career clerk if her plans permitted it.

I believe that the highest praise I can give concerning Tammi is that she is a genuine people person. She interacted with all chambers staff, the Clerk's office personnel, and the public in a manner that got things done easily and left everyone happy to do whatever was required to accomplish the task, no matter how difficult. She is knowledgeable, strong, and most assuredly of high moral character.

Tammi would make an excellent Clerk of Court.