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**NEWS RELEASE**

February 18, 2016

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## **Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris of District of Hawaii Reappointed**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit today announced the reappointment of Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Hawaii.

Judge Faris, 57, is one of two judges sitting on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Hawaii, who handled 1,593 cases in fiscal year 2015. He has served as the district's chief bankruptcy judge since 2002 and since 2015 as a member of the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, or BAP, which resolves appeals arising out of bankruptcy court decisions in the western states. His reappointment to a second term became effective on February 14, 2016. Judge Faris was sworn in by Chief District Judge J. Michael Seabright of the District of Hawaii on February 3, 2016, in Honolulu.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Faris had practiced with a Honolulu law firm, emphasizing bankruptcy, insolvency and commercial litigation since 1983. He is a member of the American Bar Association, American Bankruptcy Institute, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and the American College of Bankruptcy.

Judge Faris taught debtors and creditors rights at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, William S. Richardson School of Law, one semester per year for most of the last decade. Since 2008, Judge Faris has coordinated the Credit Abuse Resistance Education, or C.A.R.E., program in Hawaii. He has served as an observer on the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit from 2008 to 2009; as chair of the Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges from 2008 to 2009; and as a member of the Ninth Circuit Space and Security Committee from 2011 to 2015.

Judge Faris received his B.A., Phi Beta Kappa, in economics from Reed College in 1980 and his J.D. in 1983 from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, where he served as an associate editor of the California Law Review from 1982 to 1983, published an article in 1982 and was Order of the Coif.

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The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Hawaii, which is authorized one bankruptcy judge, reported 1,593 new filings in fiscal year 2015.

Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year renewable term and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have statutory responsibility for selecting and appointing bankruptcy judges in the nine western states that comprise the Ninth Circuit. The court uses a comprehensive merit selection process for the initial appointment. For reappointments, the court conducts a performance review and considers public comment evaluations.

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