



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Gary Allan Spraker Appointed Bankruptcy Judge for District of Alaska**

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced today the appointment of Anchorage attorney Gary Allan Spraker, to serve as a judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Alaska.

Spraker, 49, will fill a judgeship that has been vacant since Judge Herbert Ross retired and was recalled in 2000. Spraker will be sworn in on October 4 and maintain chambers in Anchorage.

“Mr. Spraker is very well qualified to preside over bankruptcy matters and will be an asset to the federal bench in Alaska,” Judge Kozinski said in announcing the appointment.

Spraker has been a partner since 2002 at Christianson & Spraker (formerly Christianson, Boutin & Spraker), where his practice focuses on all phases of bankruptcy and commercial matters including litigation. He represents trustees, debtors and creditors in Chapters 7, 11 and 13 matters. Before that, Spraker was an associate at the same law office from 1994 to 2002, when it was known as Bundy & Christianson, where his practice largely involved representing Chapter 7 trustees. Spraker began his legal career in 1988 as an associate at the Denver, Colorado, law firm of Morrison & Foerster.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Spraker received his B.A., Phi Beta Kappa, from Stetson University in 1985, and his J.D. in 1988 from the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, where he graduated third in the class. He was awarded the Order of St. Ives for being in the top 10 percent of his law school class and received American Jurisprudence awards in contracts, constitutional law, Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) 1, UCC 2, trusts and estates, government contracts, and antitrust. While in law school, he

was a quarter-finalist in the New York National Moot Court Competition and received the American Municipal Government Law Award. Spraker clerked for the Honorable John W. Sedwick of the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska from 1992 to 1994.

Spraker is the first and currently only American College of Bankruptcy fellow in Alaska inducted in 2012. He has been a contributing author of the *Alaska Bankruptcy Exemption Manual* since 2008 and has served as chair of the Alaska State Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section since 2002. From 2008 to 2010, Spraker served as a volunteer teacher for the Anchorage Youth Court, instructing students how to read financial statements and has taught Catholic Sunday school since 2006.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Alaska received 999 filings in calendar year 2011. The court is authorized two bankruptcy judges.

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 and for reappointments. Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year, renewable term, at a salary of \$160,080, and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the Bankruptcy Code.

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