



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · (415) 355-8901 Fax

NEWS RELEASE

August 2, 2013

Contact: David Madden, (415) 355-8800

Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel Selects New Chief Judge

SAN FRANCISCO – United States Bankruptcy Judge Randall L. Dunn of Portland, Oregon, has been elevated to chief judge of the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, which hears appeals of decisions made by federal bankruptcy courts in the western states.

Judge Dunn, 63, was selected by his BAP colleagues to succeed U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Jim D. Pappas of Boise, Idaho, who stepped down after serving as chief judge since 2010. Judge Dunn assumed the gavel effective August 1, 2013, and will serve as chief judge until 2016.

Judge Dunn has served on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Oregon since 1998 and was reappointed in 2012 to a second 14-year term on the court. Appointed to the BAP in 2006, his term was recently extended to 2016 by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, the governing body for federal courts in the western states.

Based in the Richard H. Chambers U.S. Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena, California, the BAP has historically handled between 49 percent and 60 percent of all bankruptcy appeals in the Ninth Circuit (district courts hear the remainder). In fiscal year 2012, the BAP received 590 of 1,015 new bankruptcy appeals, or 58 percent. The panel disposed of 724 appeals during the year.

“We do our best to provide clear interpretations of the Bankruptcy Code and Rules for the benefit not just of the parties before us, but also for the Ninth Circuit, other bankruptcy judges and the bankruptcy bar,” Judge Dunn said, adding that he and his colleagues strive to craft opinions that “go beyond the mere words of the provisions and impart some of what they really mean to the practice before us.”

– more –

Judge Pappas, who was first appointed to the BAP in 2005, is credited with implementing administrative changes that enabled the panel to contend with a growing caseload. Coincident with the economic recession, appeals to the BAP grew by 84 percent during his tenure as chief judge.

“We had to become much more active in case management. And all of the judges worked very, very hard to keep pace,” Judge Pappas said, noting that the BAP decided 12 to 15 cases per month, up from six to eight.

Judge Pappas has served on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Idaho since 1990. He was reappointed to a second 14-year term in 2004 and previously served as chief bankruptcy judge of his court. First appointed to the BAP in 2005, Judge Pappas plans to continue serving on the panel until his extended term ends in 2015. He said he is drawn to the intellectual challenge of appellate law and the opportunity to work collaboratively with his colleagues.

The BAP was established in 1979 by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit as an alternative forum for hearing bankruptcy appeals. Since then, it has disposed of more than 15,000 cases, including more than 5,000 decided on the merits.

The Ninth Circuit, which is composed of nine western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions, was the first federal circuit to establish a bankruptcy appellate panel. Other circuits with bankruptcy appellate panels are the First, Sixth, Eighth and Tenth circuits. For more information, visit: <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/bap/>.

###