



UNITED STATES COURTS FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT
OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE
JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
1 COURTHOUSE WAY - SUITE 3700
BOSTON, MA 02210

GARY H. WENTE
CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE
617-748-9613

SUSAN J. GOLDBERG
DEPUTY CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE
617-748-9614

For immediate release

Contact: Susan J. Goldberg
(617) 748-9614

PRESS RELEASE

BANKRUPTCY JUDGE POSITION

BOSTON (September 9, 2009) — Chief Judge Sandra Lynch of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit announced today the formation of a Bankruptcy Merit Selection Panel to screen and review the qualifications of applicants for a bankruptcy judge position for the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, headquartered in Worcester. The successful candidate will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Joel B. Rosenthal who has served as the bankruptcy judge in Worcester since 2000.

Under the statute providing for the appointment of bankruptcy judges, the courts of appeals, assisted by the circuit councils, have the duty of filling vacancies on the bankruptcy court in each circuit. 28 U.S.C. § 152. The Merit Selection Panel will recommend to the First Circuit Judicial Council individuals whose character, experience, and commitment to equal justice under the law fully qualify them to serve as United States Bankruptcy Judges. The Judicial Council will make recommendations to the First Circuit Court of Appeals which will make the appointment. Bankruptcy Judges are appointed to fourteen year terms by the Court of Appeals.

Judge Jeffrey R. Howard of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit will chair the Panel. Other members include: Judge F. Dennis Saylor, District Judge from the District of Massachusetts; Denise Pappalardo, Chapter 13 Trustee, Worcester, MA; Richard Shiels, Jr., Bowditch & Dewey, LLP, Worcester, MA; Deborah Birnbach, Goodwin Procter, Boston, MA; Gary Wente, Circuit Executive; and Susan Goldberg, Deputy Circuit Executive, will serve as Panel Secretary.

Chief Judge Lynch expressed her appreciation to all of the panel members for assisting the court in this important matter.