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NEW CHIEF FOR BANKRUPTCY APPELLATE PANEL OF THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals names new Bankruptcy Appellate Panel chief

BOSTON (April 15, 2003) – U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Carol J. Kenner of Massachusetts has assumed the duties of chief judge of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, Chief Judge Michael Boudin of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals announced today.

Judge Kenner replaces U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Arthur N. Votolato of Rhode Island, who has served as chief for the past seven years.

The Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, established by the Court of Appeals in 1996, consists of bankruptcy judges from all five of the districts encompassed by the 1st Circuit (Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico and Rhode Island), who sit in panels of three to hear appeals directly from the bankruptcy courts of the districts. The chief of the panel is responsible for its administrative oversight.

Appointed to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for a 14-year term in 1986, Judge Kenner was elevated to chief of that court in 1994 and served in that capacity until 1998.

Judge Votolato has served as chief of Rhode Island's bankruptcy court since 1968 and as chief of the 1st Circuit's Bankruptcy Appellate Panel since its inception.

"The Court of Appeals is very indebted to Judge Votolato for his seven years of service to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel during its initial stages," said Chief Judge Boudin. "It is with great pleasure that the court now welcomes Judge Kenner as the chief judge of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel."

For additional information, please contact Circuit Executive Gary Wentz at (617) 748-9613.

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