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PRESS RELEASE

BANKRUPTCY MERIT SELECTION PANEL APPOINTED

BOSTON (May 15, 2026) — Chief Judge David J. Barron of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit has announced the formation of a Bankruptcy Merit Selection Panel to screen and review applicants for the bankruptcy judgeship vacancy in San Juan, Puerto Rico, created by Judge Edward A. Godoy's retirement in August 2025.

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

Circuit Judge Gustavo A. Gelpí of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit will serve as Chair of the Panel. Other members include: Judge Camille L. Vélez-Rivé, United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico; Jessica E. Méndez Colberg, Esq., CELFI LLC; Carlos A. Quilichini, Esq.; Hans Riefkohl, Esq., Riefkohl Law; and Susan J. Goldberg, Circuit Executive. Chief Judge Barron expressed his gratitude to the members of the Panel for their valuable assistance.

The Court of Appeals is accepting applications for the bankruptcy judgeship vacancy. Interested applicants may obtain an application on the Court of Appeals' website at

<https://www.ca1.uscourts.gov/employment>. Persons applying for this position and willing to serve if selected should personally submit their applications to Susan Goldberg, Circuit Executive, via email at ca01_chjobs@ca1.uscourts.gov. Applications must be received no later than Wednesday, June 24, 2026.