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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

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Contact: David Madden, (415) 355-8800

New Bankruptcy Judge Appointed in District of Oregon

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced today the appointment of Portland attorney Thomas Renn to serve as a judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Oregon.

Mr. Renn, 52, who will maintain chambers in Eugene, is scheduled to take his oath of office Friday, October 28, 2011. He will fill a new judgeship left vacant when Bankruptcy Judge Albert E. Radcliffe died suddenly on January 19, 2011.

Mr. Renn has been a solo practitioner, working as a Chapter 7 panel trustee in the Portland division of the Oregon bankruptcy court since 2002. He has handled over 13,650 cases filed for individuals, joint filers, and businesses. His duties include turning the non-exempt assets of estates into funds that can be distributed to creditors, investigating debtors' financial affairs, liquidating assets, examining creditors' claims and investigating bankruptcy fraud and crimes. Mr. Renn also has worked as the disbursing agent in Chapter 11 cases.

From 1995 to 2002, Mr. Renn practiced law, wrote a book containing an annual survey of bankruptcy law and taught business law at Pacific University. His law practice at that time included representation of Chapter 7 trustees and work for debtors in Chapters 7, 11 and 13 cases. Mr. Renn's bankruptcy practice began in 1986, when he began working with Chapter 11 debtors. Early on his career, Mr. Renn represented debtors, creditors, trustees in business and consumer cases under all major chapters of bankruptcy.

A native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Mr. Renn received his B.A. in 1981 from Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minn., where he graduated *magna cum laude*. He received his J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1984.

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Mr. Renn is an active participant in the Oregon State Bar and was a member of the Debtor-Creditor Section Executive Committee from 2003 to 2010, serving as its chair in 2009 and as an officer from 2006 to 2009. He was a member of the Federal Bar Association Executive Committee from 2009 to 2010. Mr. Renn also served in the Oregon State Bar House of Delegates as a debtor-creditor representative in 2009. He was an adjunct professor of law, teaching advanced bankruptcy at the Northwestern School of Law, Lewis and Clark College, in Portland from 1989 to 1994. Mr. Renn has wrote or co-wrote numerous articles for bankruptcy law-related supplements, journals and newsletters. He wrote the *Wiley Bankruptcy Law Update* in 1995, 1996, and 1997.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Oregon is authorized five bankruptcy judges and reported 20,460 filings in fiscal year 2010, up 3.9 percent from the prior year. 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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