

# AMERICAN BANKRUPTCY INSTITUTE JOURNAL

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## ABC Update

BY JUSTIN D. LEONARD

### ABC-Certified Specialist Peter C. McKittrick Appointed to Ore. Bench

On Jan. 12, 2015, Oregon attorney and chapter 7 trustee **Peter C. McKittrick** was sworn in as new U.S. bankruptcy judge for the District of Oregon, Portland division. He now has what he calls the impossible job of filling the shoes of the retiring Hon. **Elizabeth L. Perris**.

Judge McKittrick is well equipped to take on this new challenge. He has been an Oregon attorney and an active member of the Oregon State Bar's Debtor/Creditor Section since 1986, and he served on its executive committee from 1995-2000. He became board certified in business bankruptcy law in 2003, and in 2005, he began serving as a chapter 7 panel trustee in Oregon, in addition to his work as a receiver and examiner in state and federal courts.

An ABI member since 1998, Judge McKittrick spent his legal career practicing commercial bankruptcy and debtor/creditor rights. He began at Farleigh Wada Witt PC in 1985, where he served as managing partner for some of those 27 years. In early 2012, we started the commercial bankruptcy boutique of McKittrick Leonard LLP. In December 2014, our firm was featured by *Super Lawyers Business Edition* as the "Top Small Firm" in Oregon for business and transactions, including our specialty of bankruptcy and creditor/debtor rights. That same month, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals announced his appointment to the bench.

Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas of the Ninth Circuit explained that Judge McKittrick was selected based on his excellent reputation with both the bench and his bar colleagues, who worked with him in his many roles as a commercial bankruptcy attorney, trustee, receiver and examiner. Judge Thomas said that he "is highly regarded for his bankruptcy expertise and experience, which include[d] representation of both creditors and debtors and work as a trustee."



Hon. Peter C. McKittrick

Born in St. Louis and raised in California, Judge McKittrick attended both college and law school in Oregon, and he has lived in the area's rainy paradise with his wife and two children ever since. He received his B.S. from Lewis & Clark College in 1981 and his J.D. from Willamette University College of Law, graduating *cum laude* in 1985. He is a

member of the Lewis & Clark College Athletic Hall of Fame, which recognized his accomplishments on the tennis court. Despite his so-called "advanced years," he continues to be an avid recreational tennis player.

Judge McKittrick described his decision to apply for the position as a way to expand his bankruptcy expertise and use the knowledge that he has gained over the past 29 years. When asked to give advice to new bankruptcy lawyers, he emphasized building and maintaining relationships with others: "In this specialized area, we tend to run across the same lawyers, judges, trustees, clerks, and support staff over and over. Being visible and staying involved is critical — and no client is worth compromising your reputation. You can act as a strong advocate for your client and still maintain constructive, positive relationships with adverse counsel. Burning bridges is never practical." **abi**

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