

Another ABC-Certified Specialist Is Appointed To The Bench

Judge Brian F. Kenney assumed his new position in September.

By H. Jason Gold, Wiley Rein LLP

For more than 25 years Brian F. Kenney has been among the leading bankruptcy and creditors rights practitioners in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

First admitted to the Virginia bar in 1983, and one of the earliest bankruptcy lawyers to achieve certification in business bankruptcy law by the American Board of Certification, Kenney collected plenty of other accolades over the years.

He twice served as president of the Northern Virginia Bankruptcy Bar Association, one of the most active local organizations of bankruptcy professionals. Kenney also served two terms on the Virginia State Bar Bankruptcy Section's Board of Governors as well as a number of other judicial advisory panels.

Kenney sat on many continuing education panels over the years for the American Bankruptcy Institute and the Virginia State Bar. Kenney was also a frequent and prolific writer, published in several professional journals.

Members of the local bar and bankruptcy professionals throughout the state were therefore delighted to hear that Kenney had been appointed by the judges of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to assume the vacancy left by Judge Stephen A. Mitchell's retirement, effective Sept. 1, 2011.

Indeed, Kenney hit the ground running by issuing his first memorandum opinion on Sept. 2, 2011.

Kenney was educated at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he received his bachelor's degree in political science and graduated magna cum laude. He obtained his law degree at the University of Virginia.

Prior to ascending to the bench, Kenney led Miles & Stockbridge, P.C.'s Tyson's Corner bankruptcy and creditors' rights practice, where he was resident for more than 22 years.

It was during this long tenure that Kenney built a large and very successful practice representing financial institutions and others in many major cases in the Washington, D.C. region.

Recently Kenney was asked

why he would give up such a successful law practice at this the prime of his career.

"I've always been interested in public service, and I simply want to give something back to the community," he said.

However, he also spoke of missing the camaraderie of his former law partners. These remarks come as no surprise to all who have known Kenney for all of these years — and in many ways, they sum up his best qualities. ●



Jason Gold

Named as one of Washington, DC's "Top 100 Lawyers" and one of Virginia's "Top 50 Lawyers" by Super Lawyers magazine (2011), H. Jason Gold has more than 30 years of experience in complex restructuring and insolvency matters. In recent years, the focus of his practice has been on major media, retail, real estate, automotive, aviation and telecommunications cases. He has also served as a bankruptcy trustee for more than 20 years and has successfully liquidated or participated in the restructure of dozens of businesses.