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ABC Update

BY WILLIAM P. JANVIER

Former ABC Board Member Benjamin Kahn Sworn In as Judge

American Board of Certification (ABC) board member and certified specialist **Benjamin A. Kahn** was sworn in as a judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of North Carolina on Feb. 3, 2014. Prior to taking the bench, he was a member of Nexsen Pruet LLC, where his practice focused on business and consumer bankruptcy law, as well as commercial litigation. Judge Kahn also served as a mediator, having been certified by the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission.

A graduate of Lawrence High School in Lawrence, Kan, Judge Kahn received his B.A. in history and political science from the University of North Carolina in 1990, and his J.D. with honors from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1993. From 1993-95, he served as a judicial law clerk for Bankruptcy Judge Jerry G. Tart of the Middle District of North Carolina.

Following his two-year clerkship, he joined the law firm of Adams Kleemeier Hagan Hannah and Fouts (which later merged with Nexsen Pruet LLC) and began a remarkably distinguished career in private practice, receiving numerous awards and recognitions. In 2012, he was elected as a Conferee of the National Bankruptcy Conference. During the two years preceding his appointment to the bench, he was recognized as one of the Top 10 North Carolina Super Lawyers across all practice areas. In 2014, he was *Legal Elite's* "Bankruptcy Winner," and as a result was named to the *Legal Elite* Hall of Fame. He is AV-rated by *Martindale-Hubbell*, and is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*.

An ABI member since 2000, Judge Kahn has actively served both the bar and his community. He has also served on the North Carolina Bar Association's Bankruptcy Council, chaired the Middle District of North Carolina's Annual Bankruptcy Seminar, and served on the Local Rules Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court



Hon. Benjamin A. Kahn

for the Middle District of North Carolina. He was a member of the Advisory Committee for the North Carolina Bar Association's Construction Law Section that was charged with rewriting North Carolina's contractor and materialmen lien laws, and was the principal author of the bankruptcy-related provisions of that law. Judge Kahn also served as a trustee and vice president of Beth David Synagogue, and as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Greensboro Jewish Federation.

During his 21 years of practice, Judge Kahn earned a reputation as being exceptionally intelligent, exceptionally reasonable and remarkably patient. People who talk with him about bankruptcy law often come away with the same impression: Judge Kahn thinks we are smarter than we really are. Even before he became a judge, he enjoyed reading opinions from all over the nation on the jurisdiction of bankruptcy courts. That in itself is not remarkable; what is remarkable is that Judge Kahn believes that most of his colleagues also read and understand the same opinions.

If you have the chance to talk with Judge Kahn, ask him about his time as a shoe salesman, his work as an underwater archaeologist or the time he was taken to the hospital after being hit in the head with a billiard ball. They are good stories worth hearing. Also ask him about NCAA basketball; having grown up in Lawrence and having been educated in Chapel Hill, he has some opinions to share. Judge Kahn also reportedly does a serviceable Elvis impersonation. **abi**

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