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ABC Update

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James Carr Appointed to Southern District of Indiana Bankruptcy Bench

James M. Carr of Indianapolis took the bench as the newest judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana on Jan. 1, 2013. His appointment comes after more than 37 years with Faegre Baker Daniels (formerly Baker & Daniels). Judge Carr spent his entire career at Faegre and devoted the majority of his practice to representing debtors and trustees in complex chapter 11 cases.

Judge Carr likes to say that he has spent most of his life within the same 10-square-mile section of Indianapolis. He was born at a local Indianapolis hospital and raised less than two miles from downtown. He graduated from Arlington High School on Indianapolis's east side before enrolling at Indiana University in Bloomington to study English. While Judge Carr considered the law for a potential career as early as the third or fourth grade, several of his college professors encouraged him to pursue the law in earnest. In fact, they helped with his admission to the Maurer School of Law at Indiana University.

Judge Carr spent the summer of 1974 as a clerk at then Baker & Daniels and began his full-time career in May 1975 after graduation. His office was less than two miles from his childhood home. Judge Carr started his career as a business litigator; however, one of his cases involved a Ponzi scheme, which required Judge Carr to learn about the "new Bankruptcy Code" that had been enacted in 1978. As he became more familiar with the Bankruptcy Code, he found himself speaking on bankruptcy topics and developing his skills. Judge Carr began doing debtor's work in the late 1980s, and in 1991, a local banker recommended him as debtor's counsel to Indianapolis-based clothing store chain Paul Harris Stores. Judge Carr and a team of other insolvency professionals at his firm represented Paul Harris in its chapter 11 case, and they began doing debtor work on a regular basis.



Hon. James M. Carr

An ABI member since 1997, Judge Carr notes that he had always considered ending his career by either teaching or serving as a judge. For several years, he has taught an advanced bankruptcy course at the Maurer School of Law with fellow judge Basil H. Lorch III. Now, he believes that his practical experience will help him understand what lawyers and their clients are going through in complex cases. He is also looking forward to helping resolve disputes without costly litigation wherever possible.

Judge Carr is a devoted Indianapolis Colts fan and counts Feb. 4, 2007, the day on which the Colts won Super Bowl XLI, as one of the best days of his life. He is also an avid Chicago Cubs fan and an occasional golfer. Judge Carr is the father of three, and he and his wife are doting grandparents to their young granddaughter.

Judge Carr acknowledges that he will greatly miss his friends and the camaraderie of practicing at Faegre Baker Daniels. He feels fortunate to have spent his entire legal career in a single place, but he further admits that he will not miss keeping time, billing or marketing responsibilities. Congratulations to Hon. James M. Carr from your colleagues at the American Board of Certification! **abi**

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