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ABC Update

BY WILLIAM L. NORTON III

Another Certified Bankruptcy Attorney Is Appointed to Bench

Randal S. Mashburn of Nashville, Tenn., was appointed U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee on Jan. 12, 2012, replacing retired Judge **George C. Paine II**. Before going on the bench, Judge Mashburn concentrated his practice in mediation, bankruptcy, commercial litigation, debtor-creditor issues, workouts and insolvency law.

He had nearly three decades of experience involving a wide variety of litigation over contracts, lender liability, health care issues, fraud, director/officer liability, banking, business dissolutions, Uniform Commercial Code issues, real estate and other types of commercial and financial matters. He has also represented plaintiffs, defendants, creditors, debtors, trustees, committees, examiners and receivers, and has served as a court-appointed bankruptcy examiner and chapter 11 trustee.

Most of his legal career was spent at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, where he served stints as practice group chair and board member and in a variety of other management and leadership roles. He served as a judicial law clerk for judges on the U.S. District Court and the Tennessee Court of Appeals and has contributed to dozens of publications and has spoken frequently on alternative dispute resolution, bankruptcy and creditors' rights for bar associations, industry groups and continuing legal education programs.

In addition to extensive experience as a litigator and bankruptcy adviser, a significant portion of his practice was devoted to service as a mediator in a wide range of commercial, financial and business disputes. He was a founding member and past president of the Tennessee Association of

Professional Mediators and was a member of the Tennessee Academy of Mediators and Arbitrators. He remains a board member of the Nashville Conflict Resolution Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes alternative dispute resolution in middle Tennessee.

During his legal career, Judge Mashburn achieved a wide range of distinctions and honors, including being certified as a business bankruptcy specialist by the American Board of Certification and recognition in numerous "Best of Bar" publications. He is a past president and director of the Mid-South Commercial Law Institute.

Judge Mashburn's broad experience in bankruptcy law and his devotion to alternative dispute resolution make his selection to fill Judge Paine's vacancy particularly noteworthy. Not only will he be easily acclimated to his new role, but he brings a new unique perspective in resolving disputes. **abi**

Correction: In the March 2012 ABC Update, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge **Brian Kenney** of the Eastern District of Virginia was incorrectly stated to hold a different position. We regret the error.

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Hon. Randal S. Mashburn