

Another ABC Specialist Appointed Bankruptcy Judge

By Robert L. Pollak, Esq. of Glassberg, Pollak and Associates

The American Board of Certification is proud to announce that Creditors' Rights Specialist Ronald H. Sargis was appointed bankruptcy judge to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California in Sacramento.

Prior to his appointment, Sargis was a partner at the law firm of Hefner, Stark & Marois in Sacramento, where he worked for 26 years. During that time, he was lead counsel to the California Collectors Association, which gave him the opportunity to work with state legislators in Sacramento in shaping California law in the areas of fair debt collection practices, credit reporting, privacy, enforcement of judgments and commercial law.

Sargis was the first in his immediate family to finish college. He attended Stanford University, where he received a B.A. in Political Science in 1979. He went on to attend University of the Pacific, McGeorge Law School, where he received his J.D., with distinction, in 1982.

At that time opportunities for new lawyers in Sacramento were scarce. Sargis had been accepted to NYU, where he considered obtaining a master's degree in tax law. But at the same time, he also happened to interview for a law clerk position with Sacramento bankruptcy judge Loren Dahl.

He was so inspired by Dahl during their initial meeting that when he was offered the position, he turned down NYU and went to work for the judge. It was during his year as a clerk for Dahl that he not only learned substantive bankruptcy law, but learned from a great mentor much about the "real" practice of law.

As to the transition from private practice to judging, Sargis says the biggest difference is the isolation and absence of a collaborative effort. "I actually receive very few phone calls," he explained.

While he can now focus on one legal matter at a time without the frequent interruptions he experienced in private practice, Sargis is adjusting to not being able to interact with his former partners or working as part of a team. In private practice, Sargis saw his role as one of building alliances and coordinating efforts with others to resolve the legal problem at hand. As a judge, he sees his



role as a decision maker and, along the way, to elevate the practice of law of the lawyers who appear before him.

Serving as a bankruptcy judge is simply an extension of giving back to the community that has been a significant part of the judge's life. Both Sargis and his wife, Janeece, served as teenage youth group leaders with their church, including serving with those youths through the Sierra Service Project in rehabilitating homes in underprivileged communities.

The judge also worked with the Western States Barbeque Association by sponsoring its annual barbeque championship where 20-30 teams of non-professionals compete to raise money for local children's charities and putting on barbeques for U.S. service members deploying overseas and their families.

Their children are actively involved in community service, as well. Amelia, who will be a junior in college, participated in mission trips to Mexico through the family's church in high school and just returned from a cross-cultural solutions program in Capetown, South Africa. Their son Landon is an Eagle Scout who will be entering his freshman year at the University of Oregon in the fall.

Sargis, who was sworn in on January 14, 2010, is the first ABC board-certified creditors' rights specialist to ascend to the bankruptcy bench.

ABC Board-Certified Specialists Appointed To The Bankruptcy Bench

The American Board of Certification wishes to congratulate and acknowledge the outstanding contributions of the following board-certified specialists who have been appointed to the bankruptcy bench. These individuals personify the goal of the ABC to promote excellence in the fields of bankruptcy and creditors' rights law:

HON. THEODOR C. ALBERT
United States Bankruptcy Court —
Central District of California
Santa Ana, Calif.
Date Initially Certified in Business
Bankruptcy Law: 8/3/1994

HON. ROBERT D. BERGER
U.S. Bankruptcy Court —
District of Kansas
Kansas City, Kan.
Date Initially Certified in Business
Bankruptcy Law: 5/2/2000
Date Initially Certified in Consumer
Bankruptcy Law: 5/2/2000

HON. JEFFREY E. BOHM
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge —
Bob Casey Courthouse
Houston, Texas
Date Initially Certified in Business
Bankruptcy Law: 3/1/1995

HON. PETER H. CARROLL, III
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge —
Central Division of California
Riverside, Calif.
Date Initially Certified in Business
Bankruptcy Law: 7/16/1993
Date Initially Certified in Consumer
Bankruptcy Law: 10/28/1992

HON. KEITH P. ELLISON
U.S. District Court —
Southern District of Texas
Houston, Texas
Date Initially Certified in Business
Bankruptcy Law: 1/1/1995

HON. STEPHANI W. HUMRICKHOUSE
United States Bankruptcy Court —
Eastern District of North Carolina
Raleigh, N.C.
Date Initially Certified in Business
Bankruptcy Law: 7/16/1993

HON. STACEY G. JERNIGAN
U.S. Bankruptcy Court —
Northern District
Dallas, Texas
Date Initially Certified in Business
Bankruptcy Law: 3/13/1996

HON. WENDELIN I. LIPP
U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Greenbelt, Md.
Date Initially Certified in Business
Bankruptcy Law: 12/18/1998

CHIEF JUDGE JOAN A. LLOYD
U.S. Bankruptcy Court —
Western District of Kentucky
Louisville, Ky.
Date Initially Certified in Business
Bankruptcy Law: 5/7/1994

HON. MARCIA PHILLIPS PARSONS
U.S. Bankruptcy Court —
James H. Quillen U.S. Courthouse
Greenville, Tenn.
Date Initially Certified in Consumer
Bankruptcy Law: 1/1/1992

HON. RONALD H. SARGIS
United States Bankruptcy Court —
Eastern District of California
Sacramento, Calif.
Date Initially Certified in Creditors' Rights
Law: 7/1/1994

HON. HOWARD R. TALLMAN
United States Bankruptcy Judge —
District of Colorado
Denver, Colo.
Date Initially Certified in Business
Bankruptcy Law: 7/29/1995

HON. MARY F. WALRATH
United States Bankruptcy Court —
District of Delaware
Wilmington, Del.
Date Initially Certified in Business
Bankruptcy Law: 10/28/1992

HON. LAWRENCE S. WALTER
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge —
Southern District of Ohio
Dayton, Ohio
Date Initially Certified in Business
Bankruptcy Law: 4/8/1999

HON. MICHAEL G. WILLIAMSON
U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Tampa, Fla.
Date Initially Certified in Business
Bankruptcy Law: 10/28/1992