

Special Report

Outstanding Bankruptcy Judges – 2009

Judge	District	Comments
Hon. Kevin J. Carey	District of Delaware Wilmington, DE	Judge Carey is fair, even handed, and has handled some very complex and contentious matters in a truly professional way. Presided over some of the major bankruptcy cases of 2008, including those of the Tribune Company, Tropicana Entertainment, and WCI Communities.
Hon. Robert D. Drain	Southern District of New York New York, NY	His courtroom is a place where parties are treated fairly and lawyers are free to get straight to the issues. Well prepared and ready with thoughtful and appropriate questions. Always willing to make hard decisions that are well-reasoned and grounded firmly in the law.
Hon. James B. Haines, Jr.	District of Maine Portland, ME	A supremely qualified bankruptcy judge who teaches new bankruptcy judges how to do the job. Incredibly bright and manages cases with the efficiency and professionalism of someone who sees mega cases all the time, even though he does not.
Hon. Burton R. Lifland	Southern District of New York New York, NY	A distinguished veteran of the bench with a knack for efficiency and fairness in handling the most complex domestic and international chapter 11 cases. Continues to handle mega cases, including Calpine, and to make decisions that other courts follow.
Hon. John K. Olson	Southern District Florida, Fort Lauderdale Division Fort Lauderdale, FL	Currently presiding over one of the largest homebuilder bankruptcies (TOUSA, Inc. and its affiliates). Throughout the course of such cases, has shown a keen ability to adeptly balance the debtors' reorganization efforts amidst the current financial crisis.
Hon. Brendan L. Shannon	District of Delaware Wilmington, DE	An accomplished and respected jurist in one of the nation's busiest bankruptcy districts. Presided over several major bankruptcies in 2008, including Motor Coach Industries International, Dan River, and JHT Holdings.
Hon. Douglas O. Tice	Eastern District of Virginia Richmond, VA	Highly intelligent, prepared, and practical. Runs his courtroom with a calm and courteous judicial demeanor, and is exceptionally respectful of all who appear before him. The Movie Gallery confirmation was a testament to his ability to control his courtroom.
Hon. Maureen Tighe	Central District of California San Fernando Valley Div. Woodland Hills, CA	Handled the Franchise Pictures bankruptcy in a fair and highly thoughtful and competent fashion considering the many complex issues, major parties of interest, and significant litigation. Issued a well-reasoned opinion addressing complex issues of federal and state law.
Hon. Eugene R. Wedoff	Northern District of Illinois Chicago, IL	In presiding over bankruptcy cases such as UAL, is consistent, well reasoned, prepared, and knowledgeable about the business and legal issues presented before him. Also a dedicated leader in supporting and promoting the bankruptcy profession.
Hon. Gregg W. Zive	District of Nevada Reno, NV	Willing to decide difficult or novel issues and confront them in a challenging time frame while rigorously applying rules of procedure and ensuring fairness to all. For example, his courageous handling of prepackaged Blue Bird Bus bankruptcy preserved thousands of jobs.