

Special Report

Outstanding Bankruptcy Judges – 2011

Judge	District	Comments
Hon. Redfiled T. Baum	District of Arizona Phoenix, Arizona	Creative judge who expeditiously handled Phoenix Coyotes Chapter 11 case, dealing efficiently with matters of first impression under the bankruptcy code. Organized and digested volumes of extensive legal briefing on all areas of law (including anti-trust) and kept control of the proceedings so the time table proceeded on track.
Hon. Kevin J. Carey	District of Delaware Wilmington, Delaware	Presided over many of the largest bankruptcy cases in the country, including Xerium Technologies, Affiliated Media, OTC Holdings Corporation, Urban Brands, and Broadway 401. Cases involved a number of complex priority disputes and novel legal issues. Grasp of the issues and handling of the process were first rate.
Hon. Robert D. Drain	Southern District of New York New York, NY	Polite to practitioners, but exacting in what is expected of them. Understands case management from a legal and business perspective. Listens to lawyers and ensures fairness in his courtroom, but cuts to the heart of the matter and will make tough decisions. Now presiding over Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company Chapter 11 case.
Hon. Robert E. Gerber	Southern District of New York New York, NY	Has handled some the biggest, most complex, and most successful reorganizations in the past several years, including GM, Adelphia, Lyondell, BearingPoint, and Chemtura. Writes long and thoughtful opinions, often on issues of first impression. Work ethic and capacity to deal with complexity in a speedy fashion are unequalled.
Hon. Arthur J. Gonzalez	Southern District of New York New York, NY	Chief Bankruptcy Judge of Southern District for good reason. A smart and fair jurist who has handled and continues to handle mega cases, such as IGSC Group and Penton Business Media Holdings in 2010, as well as reasonably sized Chapter 11s. Patient, addresses matters promptly, and decides important issues swiftly and even handedly.
Hon. Kevin Gross	District of Delaware Wilmington, Delaware	Tireless in dedication to the proper administration of the bankruptcy estates. Devotes at least as much time ensuring that creditors and general public are not only protected, but that the public perception of the bankruptcy process is one of equity and fairness. 2010 cases included Local Insight Media Holdings and Regent Communications.
Hon. D. Michael Lynn	Northern District of Texas Fort Worth, TX	Presided over such notable cases as the Texas Rangers Baseball Partners and Pilgrim's Pride. In Rangers' case, deftly handled a very high profile and deeply acrimonious situation that had developed among the debtor, the parent and affiliates of the debtor, the lenders, Major League Baseball, and various other parties prior to the bankruptcy.
Hon. Raymond B. Ray	Southern District of Florida Fort Lauderdale, FL	Presiding over a law firm bankruptcy where the law firm was the criminal enterprise of a criminal RICO conviction for a \$100,000,000 Ponzi. Demeanor, under tense circumstances, exemplifies the way a court room should be run. Has handled many Ponzi cases, including <i>In re</i> Thomas Warmus and companion <i>In re</i> American Way.
Hon. Richard S. Schmidt	Southern District of Texas Corpus Christi, TX	Achieved remarkable outcome in ASARCO case, which lasted about 4 years and was a very difficult case to manage and while commodity prices fluctuated. By virtue of the way the case was handled, creditors received 100% of their claims (totaling about \$2 billion) plus interest. Also presided over La Bota Development Company.
Hon. Brendan L. Shannon	District of Delaware Wilmington Delaware	Presides over very complex Chapter 11 cases with good humor and great knowledge of the bankruptcy code. Major bankruptcy cases handled in 2010 include Haight Cross Communications, Rubicon US REIT, East West Resort Development, and Fudruckers, aka Magic Brands.
Hon. Donald H. Steckroth	District of New Jersey Newark, NJ	Handles complex issues and brings a practical approach and an excellent temperament to cases. Presided over and confirmed the complex Chapter 11 proceedings of Tarragon Corporation, involving real estate assets valued at nearly \$1 billion. A true "lawyers' judge" and is universally considered a pleasure to appear before.
Hon. Maureen A. Tighe	Central District of California, San Fernando Division Woodland Hills, CA	Presides over one of the busiest dockets in the country, including Karykeion Chapter 11 case for the past 2+ years, one of the most difficult and contentious that any of the lawyers involved have ever seen. Through the case, balanced countless countervailing concerns and rancor by the parties to judiciously manage the case.