



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

District of Minnesota

John R. Tunheim, Chief Judge

Kate Fogarty, Clerk

Warren E. Burger Federal
Building and U.S. Courthouse
316 North Robert Street
Suite 100
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 848-1100

U.S. Courthouse
300 South Fourth Street
Suite 202
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 664-5000

Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building
and U.S. Courthouse and Customhouse
515 West First Street
Suite 417
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 529-3500

Edward J. Devitt U.S.
Courthouse and Federal Building
118 South Mill Street
Suite 212
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
(218) 739-5758

June 20, 2019

PRESS RELEASE

MICHAEL E. RIDGWAY ASSUMES CHIEF JUDGE POSITION WITH U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – The Judges of the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota have designated Judge Michael E. Ridgway as Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota, effective June 21, 2019, for a term of three years. Judge Ridgway succeeds Chief Judge Kathleen Sanberg, whose three-year term as Chief Judge ends June 20.

Judge Ridgway was sworn in as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Minnesota on May 20, 2013. Judge Ridgway handles cases in Minneapolis and travels to Fergus Falls once a month to preside over a regular calendar there, as well as presiding over cases in the District of North Dakota. In addition, Judge Ridgway has taught a course in bankruptcy the last five years at the University of St. Thomas Law School.

Judge Ridgway is a 1978 graduate of Yankton College (Yankton, S.D.) and a 1981 graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School. From 2006 until his appointment, he served as a Trial Attorney with the United States Trustee Program in Minneapolis. In October 2011, he was among a group of seven United States Trustee Program attorneys who received the United States Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award, the Department of Justice's second highest award for employee performance, for "Exceptional Work to Address Misconduct and Abusive Practices in the U.S. Bankruptcy System."

From 1998 to 2006, he was an Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Dakota. During his tenure there, he represented the interest of the federal government in both civil and criminal matters, including bankruptcy, asset forfeiture, and prosecutions of white collar fraud cases. Judge Ridgway also has extensive litigation experience having been in private practice for 17 years; he also served as an elected county

prosecutor for over five years. He has prosecuted several bench and jury trials in both the state and federal courts.

Judge Ridgway is an avid fan of the Minnesota Twins, stemming from his twenty years of experience umpiring baseball games at various skill levels, including amateur, intercollegiate, American Legion, and V.F.W. Teener. In 1996, he was inducted into the South Dakota Baseball Umpires Hall of Fame.

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