



**United States District Court
District of Minnesota**

Patrick J. Schiltz, Chief Judge
Kate M. Fogarty, Clerk of Court
612-664-5080

Warren E. Burger
Federal Building and U.S.
Courthouse
316 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Edward J. Devitt
U.S. Courthouse and
Federal Building
118 South Mill Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Gerald W. Heaney
Federal Building and U.S.
Courthouse and
Customhouse
515 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Diana E. Murphy
U.S. Courthouse
300 South Fourth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

January 29, 2025

NEWS RELEASE

District of Minnesota

Resignation of U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Kesha L. Tanabe

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – Chief Judge Patrick J. Schiltz of the U.S. District Court and Chief Judge Kathrine A. Constantine of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota announced today that Judge Kesha L. Tanabe has decided to return to private practice. Her resignation will be effective on March 31, 2025.

Judge Tanabe noted, “I felt called to the position after the pandemic so negatively impacted the economy in Minnesota. It has been an absolute honor to serve others in my capacity as a bankruptcy judge and I will continue to do so as I transition from the bench back into private practice.”

Chief Judge Schiltz said, “Judge Tanabe has contributed much over the past three years, in her work as a bankruptcy judge, as a frequent speaker, as a mentor to countless lawyers and judges, and as a member of our ‘federal family.’ We will miss Judge Tanabe, but she will resume her role as one of the leading bankruptcy attorneys in Minnesota, so we will see her often.”

Chief Judge Constantine said, “we are thankful for Judge Tanabe’s service, particularly her endeavors to educate both bench and bar.”

Judge Tanabe, who succeeded Judge Kathleen H. Sanberg, took the oath of office on January 7, 2022. A graduate of the University of St. Thomas, the London School of Economics, and Cardozo School of Law, Judge Tanabe began her legal career in the Honors Program for the Attorney General of New York. Before her judicial appointment, Judge Tanabe was an attorney in private practice in Minneapolis. She was a partner at Maslon LLP, Faegre Baker Daniels LLP, and ASK LLP. Additionally, she was a Subchapter V Trustee in Region 12 and taught bankruptcy law at the University of St. Thomas School of Law.



Judge Tanabe is a former member of the Bankruptcy Practice Committee for the District of Minnesota and co-Editor in Chief of the MSBA Bankruptcy Bulletin. She is a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy topics nationwide, and a member of several legal and community organizations, including the International Women’s Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation, Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and Minnesota Lavender Bar Association.

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