

**SIXTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

**PROCEDURES FOR THE SELECTION OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE NOMINEES  
AND**

**PROCEDURES FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGES**

**PURSUANT TO SEC. 120(B), BANKRUPTCY AMENDMENTS AND FEDERAL JUDGESHIP ACT  
(PUBLIC LAW 98-353, 98 STAT. 345)**

**AND**

**REGULATIONS OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES**

United States Bankruptcy Judges exercise highly important judicial powers and responsibilities as officers of the United States District Courts. A person appointed as bankruptcy judge should have the character, ability, and impartiality to qualify such person for service in the Federal Judiciary. The Bankruptcy Amendments and Federal Judgeship Act of 1984, P.L. 98-353, 98 Stat. 345, authorizes the Court of Appeals for each circuit to appoint bankruptcy judges for 14 year terms with respect to vacancies occurring on or after July 10, 1984, the effective date of the Act. The Court of Appeals will make an appointment to each vacancy from a list of at least three nominees submitted to it by the Circuit Judicial Council. The Circuit Council is required under the Act to seek applications and to review and evaluate the applicants in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Judicial Conference of the United States. These procedures describe the steps which will be followed by the Sixth Circuit Judicial Council in recommending nominees for appointment as bankruptcy judges to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. These regulations set forth procedural guidelines that create no vested rights for any incumbent or prospective bankruptcy judge.

1. **QUALIFICATIONS.** To be eligible for consideration by the Council for nomination for appointment as bankruptcy judge, an applicant must possess all of the qualifications established by the Bankruptcy Amendments and Federal Judgeship Act of 1984, P.L. 98-353, 98 Stat. 345, and the Regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States adopted pursuant thereto. The following are the minimum qualifications established by the Act and Regulations:
  - (a) An applicant must be a member in good standing of the highest court of at least one state, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and a member in good standing of every other bar of which the applicant is a member.
  - (b) Unless the Council determines that special conditions exist, an applicant must have engaged in the active practice of law for at least five years. The Council may consider as substitute experience for the active practice of law the following, including any combination thereof:
    - (1) Judge of a state court of record or other state judicial officer.
    - (2) United States bankruptcy judge, referee in bankruptcy, United States Magistrate, or other federal judicial officer.

- (3) Attorney for state or federal agency.
    - (4) Law clerk to any judge or judicial officer (limited to two years).
    - (5) Other legal experience which is suitable as a substitute in the opinion of a majority of the judicial council.
  - (c) The applicant also must possess the following abilities or characteristics:
    - (1) Competence to perform the duties of the office.
    - (2) Integrity and good character, and the reputation therefor.
    - (3) A demonstrated commitment to equal justice under the law.
    - (4) Sound physical and mental health.
    - (5) Outstanding legal ability and competence as evidenced by ability to deal with complex legal problems, aptitude for legal scholarship and writing, and familiarity with courts and court processes.
    - (6) Demeanor, character and personality that would exhibit good judicial temperament.
  - (d) An applicant may not be related to a judge of the appointing Court of Appeals or judicial council of the Circuit, or to a judge of the District Court to be served, by blood or marriage within the degree of first cousin.
2. **ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.** The Council may establish additional qualification standards appropriate for a particular position, taking into account the specific responsibilities anticipated for that position.
3. **PUBLIC NOTICE.** With respect to each vacancy, a public notice shall be given which shall identify the vacant position, and shall describe the nature of the position and the procedures for submission of applications. An affirmative effort shall be made to insure that all qualified candidates without regard to race, color, age (over 40), gender, religion, national origin or disability are informed of the vacancy and are invited to apply.
  - (a) **Publication.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Council because of exigent circumstances, the notice of the vacancy shall be published at least two times in major newspapers of general circulation in the geographic area in which the vacancy exists. The notice also should be published, to the extent feasible, in bar journals, newsletters, and local legal periodicals, if available.
  - (b) **Posting.** The public notice of a vacancy also shall be posted in the office of the clerk of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and in the offices of the clerks of the district court and bankruptcy court for the district in which the vacancy exists.
4. **FORM OF APPLICATION.** Applications for appointment as bankruptcy judge shall be submitted on the form prescribed by the Council. A copy of the prescribed form is attached to these procedures as Appendix A.

- (a) Availability of application forms. Application forms may be obtained from the office of the circuit executive, the office of the clerk of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, or from the office of the clerk of the district or bankruptcy court in which the vacancy exists, or at [www.ca6.uscourts.gov](http://www.ca6.uscourts.gov).
- (b) Submission of applications. Applications for appointment as bankruptcy judge shall be submitted to:

**Office of the Circuit Executive  
503 Potter Stewart United States Courthouse  
100 East Fifth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3988**

- (c) Number of copies. Each applicant shall submit **12** copies of the application form.
- (d) Application period. Unless otherwise ordered by the Council, applications must be submitted within 30 days of the announcement by the Council of the vacancy.

**5. MERIT SELECTION PANEL.** For the purpose of assisting the Council in reviewing and evaluating the applications for appointment as bankruptcy judge, the Chief Judge of the Circuit shall appoint, for districts in this circuit in which a bankruptcy vacancy occurs, merit selection panels; provided, however, that the Council may, by majority vote, dispense with the appointment of a merit selection panel for a particular vacancy because of exigent circumstances.

- (a) Membership. A merit selection panel shall consist of three to seven members, including the chairperson. The members of the panel shall be appointed by the chief judge of the circuit in consultation with the circuit and district judges of the district concerned. Each member of the panel shall be a resident of the circuit.
- (b) Term of office. Members of a panel shall serve for a term of one year and may be reappointed at the discretion of the chief judge of the circuit.
- (c) Compensation. Members of a panel shall receive no compensation for their services, but may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law.
- (d) Duties. A panel shall examine all applications for the purpose of identifying qualified applicants. A panel shall make an effort to identify and give due consideration to all qualified applicants, without regard to race, color, age (over 40), gender, religion, national origin or disability. A panel shall grant a personal interview to each applicant whose name is submitted to the Council. A panel, or members thereof, may, subject to the confidentiality provisions of paragraph 7 of these procedures, solicit information regarding an applicant from any persons who are familiar with the applicant's qualifications. A panel shall solicit confidential comments from the circuit, district and bankruptcy judges of the district concerned regarding the qualifications of each applicant whose name is submitted to the Council. All panel meetings shall be closed to preserve confidentiality.

- (e) Activation of the panel. A panel shall be activated upon notification to it by the Chief Judge of the Circuit of the existence of a vacancy in the office of bankruptcy judge for the district in which the panel serves. For the purposes of these procedures, the Chief Judge may deem a bankruptcy judge position to be vacant and may, after consultation with the Administrative Office of the United States and the Bankruptcy Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States and approval of the filling of the position by the Judicial Council of the Sixth Circuit, activate a panel upon the death of a bankruptcy judge or upon receipt of written notification from a sitting bankruptcy judge of his or her intention to resign or retire from active service upon a date certain in the future.
- (f) Panel report. Within 90 days after the application deadline, a panel shall submit a report to the council. Such report shall specify five to ten persons found best qualified by the panel for appointment as bankruptcy judge. For good cause shown, the council may accept a list containing fewer than five persons. The report of the panel also shall include a description of the panel's activities and all written materials received by it or prepared by the panel concerning the recommended nominees.
- (g) Successive vacancies. In the event a new vacancy occurs within 90 days after submission of a panel report for a prior vacancy in the same district and geographic area, the panel may include in the list of persons found best qualified nominees for the prior vacancy together with other persons also deemed qualified.

**6. COUNCIL EVALUATION AND NOMINATION.** To fulfill the responsibilities for selection and appointment of bankruptcy judges pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. Section 152(a)(1), the Sixth Circuit Judicial Council (“Judicial Council”) shall act as a reviewing panel for all Merit Selection Panel reports and perform the following tasks:

- (a) Form a Judicial Council Committee (the “Committee”) consisting of three Court of Appeals Judges, the Chief District Judge from the District involved in the appointment and the Bankruptcy Judge Representative to the Judicial Council. The Chief Judge should select Court of Appeals Judges based on: (1) the judges’ residence in the city or location where the bankruptcy judge vacancy exists; (2) the judges’ residence within the state, by seniority, where the vacancy exists; (3) selection at the discretion of the Chief Judge.<sup>1</sup>
- (b) The Committee shall:
  - (1) Schedule and conduct interviews for all persons recommended by the Merit Selection Panel (the “finalists”).
  - (2) Gather any additional investigative information to supplement the Merit Selection Report.
  - (3) Contact the Chief Bankruptcy Judge of the District involved.
  - (4) Prepare a report to the Judicial Council ranking the top three candidates and making any other report that may be appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> Judicial Council Minutes, at 5 (June 26-27, 2005) (on file with the Circuit Executive’s Office).

To assist the Committee, each finalist shall complete a financial disclosure statement. In addition, each finalist shall furnish five letters of reference to the members of the Committee. The five persons submitting letters of reference may be contacted by members of the Committee for purposes of confirming their association and knowledge of the applicant.

The Judicial Council shall release to the public the names of all of the finalists for a period of at least two weeks so that persons wishing to do so may submit written comments concerning the nominees.

At least seven (7) days prior to conducting the interviews, all members of the Committee, the Judicial Council and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals shall receive copies of the Merit Selection Panel Report, the applications, financial disclosure reports, five letters of reference and public comments on each of the finalists to assist with the interviews and the selection of the final nominee for a bankruptcy judgeship vacancy.

The Committee shall then interview the finalists. All active circuit judges not serving on the Committee at the time of the interviews shall have the option of attending. The interviews should be scheduled on or near the same time as a regularly scheduled meeting of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, unless the Committee determines that a different meeting date is necessary.

The report of the Merit Selection Panel and the report of the Committee shall be circulated to the Judicial Council and the Court of Appeals. The reports forwarded to the Judicial Council shall remain confidential. Absent a request from a member of the Judicial Council to consider the Committee report at a meeting of the Judicial Council, the report will be considered by mail vote ballot ten days following its circulation.<sup>2</sup> By majority vote, the Judicial Council may approve the Committee report or make such other recommendation as it deems appropriate. The Judicial Council may also reject the first list submitted by the Committee and request that the Merit Selection Panel submit a new report using the same process previously described.

The Court of Appeals shall normally complete its selection within ninety (90) days of receipt of the Merit Selection Panel Report.

7. **CONFIDENTIALITY.** All information received by the Council, a Merit Selection Panel, or the Committee in the performance of its responsibility under the Act and Regulations, including the application forms, the names of applicants and the identities of persons recommended by the Merit Selection Panel or the Committee shall be kept in strict confidence, except as may be necessary to permit the Council, the Merit Screening Panel, or the Committee to obtain necessary information about an applicant's qualifications for appointment. The Merit Selection Panel may solicit confidential comments about an applicant's qualifications from the circuit, district or bankruptcy judges of the district concerned and the panel may contact personal references listed in the application form without securing a waiver of confidentiality. No other disclosure of an applicant's name or solicitation of information about an applicant will occur unless the applicant has executed

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<sup>2</sup> Judicial Council Minutes, at 5 (June 26-27, 2005) (on file with the Circuit Executive's Office).

a waiver of confidentiality. All Council, panel, and Committee meetings concerning the review of applicants or potential nominees shall be closed to preserve confidentiality.

**8. REAPPOINTMENT OF UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGES.** The reappointment of incumbent bankruptcy judges shall be by the United States Courts of Appeals. In accordance with the Guidelines for the Reappointment of United States Bankruptcy Judges adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States, these procedures describe the steps to be followed by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in determining whether or not to reappoint incumbent bankruptcy judges.

- (a) At the beginning of each calendar year, the Circuit Executive shall furnish the Chief Judge with a list of those bankruptcy judges whose terms expire within the succeeding twelve (12) months. The Chief Judge will then write to each of those judges to determine whether or not they will seek reappointment. Forwarded with the Chief Judge's letter shall be a financial disclosure statement which the incumbent must complete and return to the Chief Judge with his letter advising that he is seeking reappointment. Pursuant to the Retirement and Survivors' Annuities for Bankruptcy Judges and Magistrates Act of 1988, not earlier than twelve months and not later than nine months before the date on which the term of a bankruptcy judge expires, a bankruptcy judge who is willing to be reappointed shall further provide written notification to the Chief Judge of the Circuit by completion of AO form, Notice of Willingness to Accept Reappointment, and forwarding same to the Circuit Executive for the signature of the Chief Judge. If an incumbent bankruptcy judge advises the Chief Judge that he/she is going to retire at the end of his/her term, the Chief Judge may declare a vacancy in the position and institute the procedures to fill that vacancy in accordance with the selection procedures prescribed herein.
  - (1) The Judicial Conference of the United States has adopted guidelines that a bankruptcy court's weighted filings exceed 1,500 per judge and that circuit judicial councils not fill vacant bankruptcy judgeships if such action would result in less than 1,000 weighted filings for the remaining judges in the District. If the Chief Judge feels that there is a question as to whether or not to fill a vacant bankruptcy judgeship, he shall present this question to the Sixth Circuit Judicial Council for consideration before declaring, or declining to declare, a vacancy in the position.
- (b) At the first meeting of the Court of Appeals held each year, the Chief Judge shall present to the active judges of the Court a list of those bankruptcy judges seeking reappointment to their positions together with copies of their financial disclosure forms. At such first meeting, the Court will make an initial determination whether or not to reappoint the incumbent bankruptcy judges. In making this decision, the Court of Appeals shall take into consideration the professional and career status of the incumbent judges. Reappointment shall not be denied unless an incumbent has failed to perform the duties of a bankruptcy judge according to the high standards of performance regularly met by United States bankruptcy judges.
- (c) If the Court of Appeals determines by majority vote of the active judges that the incumbent does not appear to merit reappointment, the Court shall forthwith notify

the incumbent and proceed with the selection procedures prescribed herein. The incumbent shall not be considered for appointment under the selection procedures.

- (d) If the Court of Appeals determines by majority vote of the active judges that an incumbent bankruptcy judge appears to merit reappointment, the circuit executive shall cause to be published a public notice in a general local newspaper or similar publication, and if practicable, in a bar journal, newsletter, or local legal periodical stating that the Court of Appeals is considering the reappointment of the incumbent bankruptcy judge to a new term of office. The notice shall describe the duties of the position, state the date of expiration of the incumbent's current term of office, and invite comments from members of the bar and public. The comment period shall not exceed forty-five (45) days. The notice shall include the name and address of the circuit executive to whom comments shall be submitted. A copy of the notice shall be filed and posted in the office of the clerk of the bankruptcy court in which the judge serves, and a copy shall be provided to the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.
- (e) No later than ten (10) days after the deadline for submission of comments from members of the bar and public, the Chief Judge of the Court shall appoint a committee to review the comments received; conduct any additional investigation regarding comments received, including interviewing the incumbent judge and consulting with the chief district judge and the chief bankruptcy judge of the district concerned; and report to the Court its recommendation on whether or not to reappoint the incumbent bankruptcy judge. The committee's report shall include copies of all comments received.
- (f) If a majority of the active judges of the Court of Appeals vote to reappoint the incumbent, the incumbent shall be notified of that vote, and the order of reappointment shall not be finalized until thirty (30) days before the expiration of the incumbent's current term. If a majority of the active judges of the Court of Appeals vote not to reappoint the incumbent, the incumbent shall not be reappointed. The Chief Judge shall forthwith notify the incumbent and proceed with the selection procedures prescribed herein. The incumbent shall not be considered for appointment under the selection procedures.
- (g) Whenever a majority of the active judges of the Court of Appeals cannot agree upon whether to reappoint an incumbent bankruptcy judge, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals shall make the decision. If, in the exercise of such authority, the Chief Judge decides not to reappoint the incumbent, the Chief Judge shall forthwith notify the incumbent, and the Court shall institute the procedures for the selection of a successor. The incumbent shall not be considered for appointment under the selection procedures.
- (h) In appropriate cases the Chief Judge may extend any of the time periods stipulated in this chapter after the date of the initial vote by not more than 45 days. If the Chief Judge extends any time periods, the judge whose reappointment is affected by such extension shall be notified. The extension of time periods does not preclude the Court from using the provision of 28 U.S.C. § 152(a)(1), which permits a bankruptcy judge,

with the approval of the circuit judicial council, to continue to perform the duties of the office until the earlier of the date that is 180 days after the expiration of the term or the date of the appointment of a successor.

9. **RECALL RATHER THAN REAPPOINTMENT.** If an incumbent bankruptcy judge advises the Chief Judge that he will retire and seek recall status at the end of his term, the Chief Judge will refer the recall request to the Sixth Circuit Judicial Council for consideration at its next meeting. The Judicial Council will decide the need for the service of a recalled bankruptcy judge; the length of the recall appointment; and whether or not to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the bankruptcy judge if his/her recall appointment is approved. As stated in paragraph 9.(a) above, it is suggested that the filling of any vacant bankruptcy judgeship or any recall of a United States bankruptcy judge follow the guidelines established by the Judicial Conference of the United States that a bankruptcy court's weighted filings exceed 1,500 per judge and that circuit councils not fill vacant bankruptcy judgeships if such action would result in less than 1,000 weighted filings for the remaining judges. If the Council decides to recall the retiring judge and not fill the vacancy, the Council shall reconsider filling the position before the expiration of the retiring judge's recall appointment. Council approval of an extension of a recall appointment after filling a vacancy would be based on the bankruptcy court's caseload meeting the criteria set out above.

June 26, 2005<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> As corrected on February 4, 2011.



6. **Date of birth, place of birth, and length of residence in state.**
  
7. **In what countries do you hold citizenship?**
  
8. **Spouse's Occupation: If spouse is an attorney, will he/she practice before the Bankruptcy Court if you are appointed Bankruptcy Judge? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, please provide details.**
  
9. **Military Service**
  - (a) **If you served in the military, please give dates, branch of service, rank, and present status. If discharged, state character of discharge.**
  
  - (b) **If still a reserve or National Guard member, please give service, branch, unit, and present rank.**
  
10. **Are you presently receiving treatment for a mental illness or condition or for problems related to the consumption of alcohol or drug dependency? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, please provide details.**

11. Are you related by blood or marriage to any judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit or to any judge of the United States District Court for the district in which you seek appointment or to any member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Council? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, give their names and relationship.

**EDUCATION**

12. List each college, university, and law school you attended, including dates of attendance, the degree awarded, and if you left any institution without receiving a degree, the reason for leaving. Include the following:
- (a) College - major academic achievements and other significant activities.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - (b) Law School - major academic achievements and other significant activities. If you were a member of the law review board, provide the name of the law review, the dates and position held.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - (c) If you published any legal books or articles, please list them, giving citation and dates.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - (d) List any honors, prizes, or awards you have received.

- (e) **List the continuing legal education (CLE) courses or seminars which you have completed or taught within the last five years or provide your CLE transcript with this item number.**

**HONORS**

- 13. List any honors, prizes, or awards you have received for service to the legal profession or civic organizations.**

**PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS**

- 14. List all courts (including state bar admissions) and administrative bodies having special admission requirements in which you are presently admitted to practice, giving the dates of admission in each case.**

**LAW PRACTICE**

15. **Have you been engaged in the active practice of law for at least five years?**  
Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_
16. **List chronologically, since graduation from law school, the names, dates, and addresses of all law firms with which you have been associated in practice, and of all governmental agencies or private business organizations in which you have been employed, periods you have practiced as a sole practitioner, and other prior practice.**

**17. Describe the general nature of your current practice, including any legal specialties which you possess and the character of your typical clients. Additionally, if your practice is substantially different now than previously, please give details of prior practice.**

**18. (a) During the last five years, what percentage of your practice has been trial practice?**

**(b) How frequently have you appeared in court?**

**(c) How frequently have you appeared in administrative hearings?**

**(d) What percentage of your practice has been:**

Civil. . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ %    Administrative. . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ %  
Criminal . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ %    Other . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ %  
Bankruptcy . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ %

**19. What percentage of your court appearances in the last five years were in:**

Federal Courts other than Bankruptcy Court..... \_\_\_\_\_ %  
Bankruptcy Court..... \_\_\_\_\_ %  
State or Local Courts of Record..... \_\_\_\_\_ %  
Administrative Bodies..... \_\_\_\_\_ %  
Other..... \_\_\_\_\_ %

- 20. State the number of cases you have tried to conclusion in courts of record during each of the past five years, indicating whether you were sole, associate, or chief counsel. Give citations of any reported cases in which you participated.**

- 21. Have you served as a trustee or other court appointed officer in bankruptcy matters? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If yes, provide the approximate number of such cases and list the more important matters in which you served.**

**22. Summarize your courtroom experience prior to the last five years.**

- 23. List five cases handled by you which you consider to be major matters. State the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of co-counsel and adversary counsel in such cases.**

**PUBLIC OFFICE**

24. Have you ever run for, or held, public office? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If yes, give details.

**PRIOR JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE**

25. (a) Have you ever held judicial office or been a candidate for judicial office? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If yes, please state the courts involved and the dates of service, or dates of candidacy.

(b) Have you previously applied for a bankruptcy judge position? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If yes, please list all positions applied for and the dates below.

(c) List prior administrative decision-making service, including the name of the agency; position held; hearings on what issues; number of cases adjudicated and dates of service.

**BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT**

26. (a) **If you are now an officer, director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise, state the name of such enterprise, the nature of the business, the nature of your duties and whether you intend to resign such position immediately upon your appointment to judicial office.**
- (b) **Since being admitted to the Bar, have you ever engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If yes, please give the details, including dates.**
- (c) **State whether during the past five years you have received any fees or compensation of any kind, other than for legal services rendered, from any business enterprise, institution, organization, or association of any kind. If so, identify the source of such compensation, the nature of the business enterprise, institution, organization, or association involved, and the dates such compensation was paid.**
- (d) **Do you have a financial interest in any business organization which could come before the bankruptcy court? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If yes, please give the details.**

**OTHER**

27. **Have you ever been convicted for violation of any federal law, state law, county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, please give details. Do not include traffic violations for which a fine of \$100 or less was imposed unless it also included a jail sentence.**
28. (a) **Have you ever been sued by a client? Yes \_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If yes, please give particulars.**
- (b) **Have you or your professional liability insurance carrier ever settled a claim against you for professional malpractice? Yes \_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If yes, please give particulars, including the amounts involved.**
29. **Have you ever been charged in any civil or criminal proceedings with conduct alleged to involve moral turpitude, dishonesty and/or unethical conduct? Yes \_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If yes, please give particulars, including the full style of the cause.**

- 30. Have you ever been disciplined for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, or other professional group? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, please give the particulars.**
- 31. To the best of your knowledge, are you in compliance with the tax laws of the federal government and of the state, county, and community of which you are a resident? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If no, please explain.**
- 32. Have you filed all appropriate tax returns as required by federal, state, local, and other government authorities? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If no, please explain.**
- 33. Do you have any liens or claims outstanding against you by the Internal Revenue Service or any state or local tax authority? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, please explain.**

**PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

34. (a) List all bar associations and legal or other professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any office you have held in such groups, and committees to which you belonged.
- (b) List all organizations and clubs, other than bar associations and professional societies identified in response to Question No. 34(a), of which you have been a member during the past ten years, including the titles and dates of any offices you have held in each such organization.
- (c) Describe any civic, philanthropic, community, social, or public service activities during the past five years, including any posts or offices held and honors or awards received.
35. Do you hold membership in any professional, social, fraternal or civic organization or association which bars membership to persons by reason of race, religion, sex or national origin? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If yes, provide pertinent details.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

- 36. State any achievements or actions you have accomplished, demonstrating your commitment to equal justice under law.**

**37. State any additional education or other experiences you believe would assist you in holding judicial office.**

**38. State any other pertinent information reflecting positively or adversely on you which you believe should be disclosed to the Court of Appeals, Judicial Council, and selection panel in connection with your possible nomination as United States Bankruptcy Judge.**

- 39. a. List five individuals as references who are familiar with your professional abilities and personal character. You must provide address and telephone number for each reference.**

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- b. Give the name and current phone number of at least three persons who have worked for you and with you in a subordinate position.**

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- c. Give the name and current phone number of not more than five judges (of whom at least three must be active) with whom you are not and have not been associated in the practice of law or in business, and before whom you have appeared recently in matters which would afford them an opportunity to observe your professional conduct and ability. If yours is a non-litigation practice, list such judges, if any, who have had an opportunity to observe you in bar association or other activities. Indicate those before whom you have appeared in court or other judicial bodies by inserting (A) before the name of the judge.

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**I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Candidate**

**CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT**

This form will be kept confidential. The individuals whom you have listed as references above in question #39 may be contacted, and the district and bankruptcy judges of the district may be asked to provide confidential comments regarding your qualifications, but no other employers, colleagues, or other individuals will be contacted without your prior approval. In the event you are selected for final consideration, you will be asked to provide a waiver of confidentiality authorizing the release of information from your current employer, former employers, and professional colleagues, regarding matters pertinent to the qualifications for the position of United States Bankruptcy Judge.

**APPLICATION COPIES**

**Please return 12 copies of the completed application form to:**

**Office of the Circuit Executive  
503 Potter Stewart United States Courthouse  
100 East Fifth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3988**

**HOW DID YOU FIRST LEARN ABOUT THIS VACANCY?**

Publication/Ad (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Website (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Bar Association (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Announcement (location posted) \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_