

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA NEWPORT NEWS NORFOLK RICHMOND

Media Advisory

Frank J. Santoro Appointed Bankruptcy Judge

February 25, 2008 – Frank J. Santoro has been appointed the second bankruptcy judge in the Norfolk Division of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Judge Santoro filled the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable David H. Adams. Judge Adams was appointed to the Court in 1993 and completed his term of appointment on January 15, 2008. The appointment was made by Chief Circuit Judge Karen J. Williams, effective February 21, 2008, and Judge Santoro was sworn in on the same date. The oath of office was administered by Eastern District of Virginia District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith at the Walter E. Hoffman United States Courthouse at Norfolk, Virginia. A more formal investiture ceremony open to the public will be scheduled and held at a later date.

Judge Santoro was the managing partner of Marcus, Santoro & Kozak, P.C., (now Marcus, Crowley & Liberatore, P.C.) a law firm located in Chesapeake, Virginia, which focuses on bankruptcy, corporate reorganizations, and corporate finance. He represented unsecured and secured creditors, as well as individual and business debtors. Judge Santoro had been a Standing Chapter 13 Trustee since October 1987 for filings in Norfolk and Newport News Divisions of the Eastern District of Virginia. In that capacity, he supervised the administration of approximately three thousand bankruptcy cases. Judge Santoro also had served as a Chapter 7 Trustee from December 1981 through May 1990. He graduated in 1976 from Allegheny College, Phi Beta Kappa with degrees in political science, and economics and finance, obtaining honors in both, and he graduated from the Marshall Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary in 1979.

As a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy, Judge Santoro participated in the 2005 National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the Mid-Atlantic Institute of Bankruptcy and Reorganization Practice (since 1987), the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute in 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, and 2007, and numerous other seminars and presentations.

Judge Santoro is recognized on the East Coast and particularly in the Commonwealth of Virginia as one of the region's premier bankruptcy practitioners. He was named the top bankruptcy attorney in Virginia by his peers in an article published in Virginia Business Magazine (December 2003).

Judge Santoro is a member of the American Bar Association, the Virginia State Bar, the Norfolk/Portsmouth Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Tidewater Bankruptcy Bar Association, and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. He is a founding Director and former Chair of the Board of Directors of the Bankruptcy Law Section of the Virginia State Bar, and a past President of the Norfolk Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Judge Santoro was a member of the Merit Selection Panel for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Virginia in 1992 and 2006. He has served as a member from 1996-1999 of the President's Council at the College of William & Mary, and is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy.

Judge Santoro was a leader in the adoption and implementation of electronic filing and case administration in the Eastern District, a pilot jurisdiction for the entire federal judiciary. He also served the Eastern District in the development of local rules of practice.

Bankruptcy judges are appointed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, which is based in Richmond, Virginia, and serve for a 14-year term.

The Eastern District of Virginia is comprised of 16 cities and 43 counties. The Bankruptcy Court hears cases in Alexandria, Newport News, Norfolk and Richmond.

If you have questions about this media advisory, please contact William Redden, the Clerk of Court, at 804-916-2490 or William.Redden@vaeb.uscourts.gov.