

Media Advisory

Kevin R. Huennekens Named Bankruptcy Judge

May 11, 2006 – Kevin R. Huennekens has been named the second judge in the Richmond Division of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. He is expected to take the bench this summer.

He will fill a new bankruptcy judgeship, which was created by the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005.

Mr. Huennekens, 53, is a partner in the Richmond office of Kutak Rock, a 325-attorney firm with offices in 16 cities nationwide. He represents unsecured and secured creditors, committees of creditors and equity security holders, indenture trustees and business debtors in workout and bankruptcy matters, including Chapter 11 reorganization, bankruptcy liquidations and out-of-court restructurings. He is also active in representing parties acquiring companies in bankruptcy or their assets. A significant portion of Mr. Huennekens' practice includes bankruptcy and commercial litigation matters such as preference and fraudulent conveyance litigation. Since 1987, he has served as a Bankruptcy Trustee for the Court in Chapter 7 bankruptcies, overseeing personal bankruptcies and the estates of companies that have gone out of business.

In 1992, he successfully argued the case of *Patterson v. Shumate* before the U.S. Supreme Court. The case established the rule that Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) qualified retirement plans are not property of the individuals' bankruptcy estates. This allowed individuals to retain their retirement benefits even after filing bankruptcy.

He is a member of the 650-person American College of Bankruptcy, an honorary association of bankruptcy and insolvency professionals. Its Fellows include: commercial bankruptcy attorneys, consumer bankruptcy attorneys, corporate turnaround specialists, United States Trustees, Bankruptcy Trustees, investment bankers, insolvency accountants, law professors, Judges, government officials, appraisers, and others involved in the bankruptcy and insolvency community. Nominees are extended an invitation to join based on a proven record of the highest standards of professionalism and service to the profession. He is one of only three members in Richmond.

Mr. Huennekens is a 1975 graduate of the College of William & Mary and a 1978 graduate of the College's Marshall-Wythe School of Law, where he has since taught the Bankruptcy course as an adjunct faculty member.

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

The Eastern District of Virginia encompasses 16 cities and 43 counties. The Bankruptcy Court hears cases in Alexandria, Newport News, Norfolk and Richmond. When Mr. Huennekens takes the bench, the court will have six judges.

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.