

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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**Media Release**

**Appointment and Designation of New Chief Bankruptcy Judge**

*November 16, 2012* – United States Bankruptcy Judge Stephen C. St. John has been appointed and designated by the district judges of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia to serve as the Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, for a seven-year term, effective January 1, 2013. He will be the first chief bankruptcy judge located in the Norfolk Division of the Court and will preside over the bankruptcy courts located in Alexandria, Newport News, Norfolk, and Richmond. Judge St. John succeeds Chief Judge Douglas O. Tice Jr., who will continue to preside over bankruptcy cases in Richmond until his retirement at the end of June 2013.

The duties of a chief judge are prescribed by statute, 28 U.S.C. § 154(b), which provides that “[t]he chief judge of the bankruptcy court shall ensure that the rules of the bankruptcy court and of the district court are observed and that the business of the bankruptcy court is handled effectively and expeditiously.”

A native of Richmond, Virginia, Judge St. John was appointed as a United States Bankruptcy Judge in 1995 for a 14-year term by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and was reappointed for a second term in 2009. He is a *summa cum laude* graduate of the University of Richmond, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and the University of Virginia School of Law. Prior to his appointment in 1995, Judge St. John was a partner in the law firms of Williams, Worrell, Kelly & Greer, P.C., and Faggert & Frieden, P.C. In addition to his duties as Chief Judge, Judge St. John will continue to preside over cases in the Norfolk and Newport News Divisions of the Court.

If you have questions about this media release, please contact William Redden, the Clerk of Court, at 804-916-2490 or [william\\_redden@vaeb.uscourts.gov](mailto:william_redden@vaeb.uscourts.gov).