

The Honorable Michael B. Kaplan was appointed as a bankruptcy judge on October 3, 2006, for the District of New Jersey. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Kaplan served as a Standing Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Trustee, as well as a member of the Chapter 7 panel of bankruptcy trustees, where he received case appointments as both a Chapter 11 and Chapter 12 trustee. His private practice included the representation of institutional lenders consumer debtors (under both Chapters 7 & 13), business debtors and individuals undergoing reorganization pursuant to Chapter 11. Judge Kaplan received his A.B. degree from Georgetown University (1984) and his J.D. Degree from Fordham University School of Law (1987). He is licensed to practice law in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut, and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, Third Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. Court of International Trade and various federal district courts. Judge Kaplan teaches as an adjunct professor at Rutgers University School of Law.

Over the past thirty, Judge Kaplan has spoken to numerous bar associations and business organizations, including: the NJ Judicial College, NJ Annual Conference of Municipal Court Judges, National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees, National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, American Bankruptcy Institute, American Legal & Financial Network, American Conference Institute, Turnaround Management Association, American Legal & Financial Network, NY Institute of Credit, Bloomberg, L.P., Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, National Association of Independent Fee Appraisers, NJ Institute of Local Government Attorneys, Social Security Administration, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, National Business Institute and the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education. He has authored several articles relating to bankruptcy issues and is a co-author of West's *Consumer Bankruptcy Manual* and *Consumer Bankruptcy Handbook*. Additionally, Judge Kaplan serves as an Associate Editor of the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal*.

Judge Kaplan has served two terms as a member the Lawyers Advisory Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, and was the recipient of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees' 2006 Distinguished Service Award and New Jersey State Bar Association's 1999 Legislative Recognition Award. Judge Kaplan has been appointed by the Director of Administrative Office of the Courts to a term as the Third Circuit representative to the Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group, in addition to appointments as the Bankruptcy Judge representative on both the Human Resources Advisory Council and Budget & Finance Advisory Council to the AO.

Judge Kaplan has also served as Mayor and Councilman for the Borough of Norwood, NJ, and as a member of the Norwood Planning Board.