

The Honorable Michael B. Kaplan was appointed as a bankruptcy judge on October 3, 2006, for the District of New Jersey and designated Chief Bankruptcy Judge on May 1, 2020. 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), and debtors 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 throughout the country.

Judge Kaplan has been elected as a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. Judge Kaplan also has been appointed by the Director of Administrative Office of the Courts (“AO”) to a term as the Third Circuit representative to the Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group, in addition to appointments as the Bankruptcy Judge representative for the Risk and Finance Management Advisory Council, Human Resources Advisory Council and Budget & Finance Advisory Council to the AO. As a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, Judge Kaplan serves as Treasurer and Executive Board member. Since 2009, Judge Kaplan has taught courses in bankruptcy, commercial law and corporate reorganization as an adjunct professor at Rutgers University School of Law. In addition, 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, he serves on the Editorial Board and as Business Manager for the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal*.

Over the past thirty years, 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, Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors, American Legal & Financial Network, American Conference Institute, Turnaround Management Association, International Women’s Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation, 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, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, National Business Institute and the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

Judge Kaplan has been the recipient of the NCBJ President’s Award for Excellence, the Conrad B. Duberstein Memorial Award given by the New York Institute of Credit, the Judicial Service Award from the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors, the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees’ 2006 Distinguished Service Award and New Jersey State Bar Association’s 1999 Legislative Recognition Award.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Kaplan served as Mayor and Councilman for the Borough of Norwood, NJ, and as a member of the Norwood Planning Board.