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UNITED STATES COURTS
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

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BANKRUPTCY JUDGE MERIT SELECTION PANEL APPOINTED

Washington, D.C. – January 28, 2020 – Chief Judge Merrick B. Garland of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit has announced the formation of a Bankruptcy Judge Merit Selection Panel to review applications for the bankruptcy judgeship vacancy that will be created when Judge S. Martin Teel, Jr., retires. Judge Teel has served as the bankruptcy judge in the District of Columbia since February 8, 1988, and will retire on March 22, 2020.

Under the statute providing for the appointment of bankruptcy judges, the Court of Appeals, assisted by the Circuit Judicial Council, has the duty to fill the vacancy on the Bankruptcy Court. The Merit Selection Panel will review the applications, interview candidates, and recommend to the Circuit Judicial Council individuals whose experience, character, and commitment to equal justice under the law qualifies them to serve as a bankruptcy judge. The Circuit Judicial Council will review and consider the recommendations submitted by the Merit Selection Panel and present its recommendations to the Court of Appeals. A bankruptcy judge is appointed to a fourteen-year term by the Court of Appeals.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia will serve as Chair of the Merit Selection Panel. Other members include: Judge James E. Boasberg, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia; Judge Timothy J. Kelly, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia; Michael St. Patrick Baxter, Partner, Covington & Burling; and Natalie S. Walker, Partner, Webster & Fredrickson. Chief Judge Garland expressed his gratitude to members of the Panel for their valuable assistance.

Questions about the bankruptcy judge selection process should be directed to Betsy Paret, Circuit Executive, at 202.216.7369.

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