



**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT  
219 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Chief Judge Diane S. Sykes of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit is pleased to announce the appointment of Peter W. Henderson to a 14-year term as United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of Illinois. Mr. Henderson succeeds Chief Bankruptcy Judge Thomas L. Perkins, who is retiring on March 31, 2023. Mr. Henderson will take the oath of office on April 1, 2023, and join the bankruptcy bench in Peoria.

Mr. Henderson earned his bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* from Brown University and his law degree *summa cum laude* from the University of Illinois College of Law, where he was admitted to the Order of the Coif and was a Harno Scholar. After graduating from law school in 2012, he entered public service in the Federal Public Defender's Office in the Central District of Illinois, where he has represented indigent defendants for more than a decade, first as a Staff Attorney and then as an Assistant Federal Public Defender from 2013 to the present.

Mr. Henderson has served as lead counsel in more than 100 felony cases in the Central District of Illinois and more than 300 appeals in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. He has managed the Federal Defender's litigation of motions under the First Step Act and has also litigated postconviction petitions under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241 and 2255. His exemplary work has earned the respect of the bench and bar in our circuit. We welcome him to our bankruptcy bench.

March 21, 2023