



**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 Mary E. Lopinot to a 14-year term as United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Illinois. Ms. Lopinot succeeds Chief Bankruptcy Judge Laura K. Grandy who retired from active service on March 12, 2024. Ms. Lopinot will take the oath of office and join the bankruptcy bench in East St. Louis on October 31, 2024.

Ms. Lopinot earned her bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Illinois, and her law degree, *cum laude*, from the Saint Louis University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri. After graduating from law school in 1998, she joined Mathis Marifian & Richter Ltd where she focused on bankruptcy, tax procedure and litigation, and general business law. She left private practice after 22 years and has spent the last four years as a staff attorney for the Office of Russell C. Simon, Standing Chapter 13 Trustee.

Ms. Lopinot has litigated Chapter 13 and Chapter 12 cases administered on behalf of the trustee's office. She has conducted creditor's meetings, negotiated disputed matters, and conducted discovery and other estate administration issues arising in Chapter 13 and Chapter 12 cases. Her outstanding work has earned the respect of the bench and bar in our circuit. We welcome her to our bankruptcy bench.

October 17, 2024