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**PRESS RELEASE**

**BANKRUPTCY JUDGE MICHAEL A. FAGONE  
NEW CHIEF JUDGE OF THE  
BANKRUPTCY APPELLATE PANEL**

BOSTON (August 14, 2025) — Chief Judge David J. Barron, of the First Circuit Court of Appeals, announced that United States Bankruptcy Judge Michael A. Fagone, of the District of Maine, will assume the duties of Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the First Circuit (BAP) for a four-year term, on September 9, 2025.

Judge Fagone replaces United States Bankruptcy Judge Diane Finkle, of the District of Rhode Island, who has served as the Chief Judge of the BAP since May 2023. Judge Fagone's term will commence upon Judge Finkle's retirement. Judge Fagone was appointed to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine for a 14-year term in 2015. He has been a member of the BAP since 2016.

The BAP, established by the Court of Appeals in 1996, consists of bankruptcy judges from all five of the districts encompassed by the First Circuit (Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, and Rhode Island), who sit in panels of

three to hear appeals directly from the bankruptcy courts of these districts. The Chief Judge of the BAP is responsible for its administrative oversight.