



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

**PRESS RELEASE**

Chief Judge Michael B. Brennan of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit is pleased to announce the appointment of Daniel R. Fine to a 14-year term as United States Bankruptcy Judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Fine will assume his duties on January 20, 2026 in Chicago and succeeds Bankruptcy Judge Donald R. Cassling who will retire in January 2026.

Mr. Fine earned his bachelor's degree, *magna cum laude*, from The College of William & Mary, and his law degree, with honors, from The University of Chicago Law School. Shortly after beginning his career as a litigation associate for Mayer Brown, he accepted a clerkship with the Honorable Robert M. Dow, Jr. Following that clerkship, he clerked for the late Circuit Judge Joel M. Flaum. After both clerkships, Mr. Fine practiced commercial litigation at Grippo & Elden LLC and later became partner at Barack Ferrazzano, Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP. Since 2019, Mr. Fine has served as an Administrative Judge at the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board where he has adjudicated appeals filed by federal sector employees, annuitants, and applicants. In addition, he serves as a mediator on the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Mr. Fine is a member of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association, where he serves as the General Chair of the Administration of Justice Committee. Mr. Fine's commitment to public service and the judiciary exemplifies the rigorous ethical and professional standards needed to serve as a United States Bankruptcy Judge. We welcome him to our bankruptcy bench.

November 17, 2025