



U.S. Department of Justice

Executive Office for United States Trustees

Office of Research and Planning

Washington, D. C.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 20, 2002

R. MICHAEL BOLEN IS APPOINTED U.S. TRUSTEE FOR LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—R. Michael Bolen has been appointed United States Trustee for Louisiana and Mississippi (Region 5), it was announced today by Lawrence Friedman, Director of the Executive Office for United States Trustees. Bolen will take office on June 3, 2002.

“It gives me great pleasure to announce Michael Bolen’s appointment as U.S. Trustee for Region 5,” Friedman stated. “Mike’s career as a bankruptcy professional has spanned nearly 20 years, during which he has attained broad experience by serving in private practice, for the Bankruptcy Court, and for the U.S. Trustee Program.”

“I am truly honored by the opportunity to serve as U.S. Trustee for Mississippi and Louisiana,” Bolen stated. “I am well acquainted with the dedicated employees in Region 5 and look forward to working with them in this new capacity. Under the leadership of Director Friedman, I will carry out the Attorney General’s mandate to improve the integrity of the bankruptcy system.”

Bolen has served in the U.S. Trustee Program as a senior attorney in the Jackson, Miss., office since 1988. Before joining the Program, he was an estate administrator for the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Mississippi from 1984 to 1988. Bolen was a member of the Booneville, Miss., firm of Gifford, Moore & Bolen from 1979 to 1984, and an assistant city prosecutor for Booneville from 1981 to 1984.

Bolen received his law degree from Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson, Miss., in 1978 and his undergraduate degree from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Miss., in 1974.

During his career, Bolen has served as president of the Mississippi Bankruptcy Conference, the National Association of Estate Administrators, and the Mississippi College School of Law Alumni Association. He was honored as the Mississippi College School of Law Alumnus of the Year in 1988.

The United States Trustee Program is a component of the Justice Department that protects the integrity of the bankruptcy system by overseeing case administration and litigating to enforce the bankruptcy laws.

The Program has 21 regions and 96 field offices. Region 5, which consists of Louisiana and Mississippi, is headquartered in New Orleans with additional offices in Shreveport, La., and Jackson, Miss.

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