



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL APPOINTS UNITED STATES TRUSTEE
TO OVERSEE BANKRUPTCY CASES
IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN**

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Attorney General Janet Reno today appointed Ira Bodenstein as United States Trustee to oversee the administration of bankruptcy cases in Northern Illinois and in Wisconsin. Bodenstein's appointment as United States Trustee for Region 11 runs for five years; he will assume his duties immediately.

The principal office for Region 11 is located in Chicago; other offices are located in Milwaukee and Madison, Wis.

The United States Trustee Program is an arm of the Justice Department that supervises the administration of bankruptcy cases nationwide. As United States Trustee, Bodenstein will perform a variety of duties, including: assessing the feasibility of Chapter 11 reorganization plans; appointing and monitoring professionals employed to represent bankruptcy estates; reviewing fee applications of attorneys and other professionals; and investigating and assisting in the prosecution of bankruptcy crimes.

From June 1993 to May 1998, Bodenstein was a partner in the bankruptcy and reorganization practice group of D'Ancona & Pflaum in Chicago, where he specialized in bankruptcy, creditors' rights, and commercial litigation. At D'Ancona & Pflaum, Bodenstein represented debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, trustees, and unsecured creditors' committees in bankruptcy and reorganization cases.

Between 1980 and 1993, Bodenstein practiced bankruptcy law at the Chicago firms of Towbin & Zazove Ltd., which specializes in representing corporate debtors in reorganization proceedings; Portes, Sharp, Herbst & Fox Ltd., where he headed the firm's bankruptcy practice; and James S. Gordon Ltd., where he developed extensive experience in commercial litigation.

Bodenstein received his Juris Doctor in 1980 from the

University of Miami School of Law, Coral Gables, Fla., where he participated in the Law and Economics Specialization Program and served as a legal intern for the Dade County State's Attorneys Office. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government in 1977 from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa.

Bodenstein has been admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the Illinois Supreme Court, and the Florida Supreme Court.

Bodenstein is a frequent speaker at national and local bar association and law school programs and has served as a monthly legal panelist on a Chicago radio show. In addition to participating in the American Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association, he is active in community affairs, serving as an officer of Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, the Chicago Public Art Group, and the Jewish Council of Urban Affairs.

Bodenstein replaces former Region 11 United States Trustee M. Scott Michel, whose term has expired.

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