

Hon. Paul M. Black was appointed as United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Virginia in 2014. He currently serves as Chief Judge of that court. A native of Roanoke, Virginia, Judge Black received his undergraduate degree from Washington and Lee University in 1982, studied at Cambridge University in England, and received his law degree from the University of Richmond in 1985. He then served as law clerk to the Honorable Blackwell N. Shelley, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. He was a member of the regional firm of Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC. At Spilman, he was co-chair of the Bankruptcy and Creditor's Rights practice group, and his practice focused on commercial litigation, bankruptcy, and banking and finance law. Judge Black was past chair of the Litigation Section of the Virginia State Bar, and also chair of the Bankruptcy Section of the Virginia Bar Association. He served as a member of the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board from 2007-2013. He is past co-chair of the Legislative Committee of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and he is currently President-Elect of the NCBJ.