



*United States Bankruptcy Court  
Southern District of New York*

Cecelia G. Morris  
Chief Judge

Vito Genna  
Clerk of Court

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 13, 2014

**CONTACT:**

Clerk of Court, 212-668-2892

**DISTINGUISHED NEW YORK BANKRUPTCY JUDGE DECEASED**

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York announces with great sadness that the Honorable Burton R. Lifland passed away on Sunday, January 12, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Elaine and sons, Howard and Craig, their wives, Patty and Cathy, five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Judge Lifland was the former chief and Bankruptcy Judge of the Southern District of New York and former Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Second Circuit. Judge Lifland earned his B.A. degree from Syracuse University in 1951 and his J.D. from Fordham University School of Law in 1954. He was appointed to the bench in March 1980 shortly after the effective date of the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978, known as the "Bankruptcy Code." Judge Lifland presided over many significant national and international bankruptcy cases including Johns-Manville, LTV, Eastern Airlines, R.H. Macy, Singer, Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Bear Stearns Structured Funds, New York Post/Peter Kalikow, U.S. Homes, Lomas Financial, Allis Chalmers and most recently the Madoff case. Many of his first impression decisions in these cases are now statutory: international insolvency laws (Chapter 15), collective bargaining agreements, retirees benefits and future claimants.

During his long tenure as Chief Judge, the Southern District Bankruptcy Court was on the forefront of new innovative ideas in various areas including the utilization of outside claims agents; fee guidelines; establishment of a mediation program substantially different from mandatory programs and the institution of one of the first electronic case filing systems in the Federal Judiciary.

Judge Lifland was a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and the recipient of the College's Distinguished Service Award, a contributing author of Chapter 11 Theory and Practice: A Guide to Reorganization, "Practical Prefile Considerations and Commencement of Case" as well as The ABI Guide to Cross-border Insolvency in the United States. He was a contributing editor of *Norton Bankruptcy Law*, a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and worked on the development of the Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency, its counterpart, Chapter 15 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, and the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Insolvency Law. He was a member of the Judicial Conference Subcommittee on Bankruptcy Case management and the American Bar Association's Select Advisory Committee on Business Reorganization (SABRE) as well as a founding member of the International Insolvency Institute. He was a lecturer at the Practising



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Law Institute, and the American Law Institute/American Bankruptcy Institute and other professional institutions. Judge Lifland was the recipient of several awards including the Commercial Law League of America's Lawrence P. King Award, the Tina Brozman Mentoring Award; the Honorable Conrad B. Duberstein Memorial Award for Excellence and Compassion in the Judiciary; the Award for Contributions to Further Advance and Progress the Bankruptcy and Restructuring Field; the Leadership in Credit Education Award; and the Benjamin Weintraub Distinguished Professorship award.