

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA  
Roman L. Hruska U.S. Courthouse  
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**Joseph F. Bataillon  
Chief United States District Judge**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE RICHARD G. KOPF ANNOUNCES  
RETIREMENT TO SENIOR STATUS.**

District Judge Richard G. Kopf today announced his plan to retire from regular active service as a United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska, effective December 1, 2011. Judge Kopf will take senior status on that date, but will maintain a full caseload.

Judge Kopf was appointed to the United States District Court on May 26, 1992, and served as chief judge from 1999 to 2004. Prior to serving as district judge, Judge Kopf served as magistrate judge from 1987 to 1992. In assuming senior status, Judge Kopf will join Nebraska's two other senior judges, Senior Judge Warren Urbom and Senior Judge Lyle Strom.

Commenting on Judge Kopf's twenty-three years of service to the federal court, Chief District Judge Joseph F. Bataillon stated, "Judge Kopf's service to the court has been immeasurable. He has been instrumental in advancing the use of technology in the federal judiciary and has been a pioneer in the development of innovative programs, such as digital court recording, which has made court records more accessible to the public." District Judge Laurie Smith Camp added, "Judge Kopf created the first paperless federal court in the nation. In 2002, under Judge Kopf's leadership, for the first time in history, lawyers began filing federal civil and criminal cases electronically, and then managing those cases on line." Judge Kopf also served as the court's budget committee chair, and he has authored countless policies and procedures, including the court's strategic plan. In addition, he currently supervises the pro se docket for the entire court, and he plans to continue to do so when he takes senior status.

Judge Kopf's retirement to senior status will create a vacancy on the district court bench. President Obama will nominate Judge Kopf's successor, who then must be confirmed by the United States Senate. The district court judges have stressed to Nebraska's two United States Senators, Ben Nelson and Mike Johanns, the importance of nominating and confirming an able successor to replace Judge Kopf. Currently, Nebraska has the sixth highest per-judge criminal felony caseload in the country. Nebraska's criminal felony per-judge caseload exceeds those of districts that include the metropolitan areas of Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, or New York City. For the 12-month period ending June 30, 2010, the average federal district judge handled 99 criminal cases, while the average Nebraska federal district judge handled 173 criminal cases. In addition, Nebraska ranks first in the nation for supervised release hearings in criminal cases. The

average federal district judge handled 34 supervised release hearings in criminal cases, while the average Nebraska federal district judge handled 132 supervised release hearings. In light of these statistics, Judge Kopf's replacement will need to quickly assume and manage a busy docket.

For general information about the selection of federal judges, visit the United States Courts' Web site, <http://www.uscourts.gov/JudgesAndJudgeships/FederalJudgeships.aspx>. For additional information about the process to select Judge Kopf's replacement or about Nebraska's federal district court, contact the clerk's office at (866) 220-4381 or visit the court's Web site at <http://www.ned.uscourts.gov>.