



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

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**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY PREET BHARARA ANNOUNCES
APPOINTMENT OF CRIMINAL DIVISION CHIEF**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today the appointment of RICHARD B. ZABEL as the Chief of the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

Mr. ZABEL returns to the Office from Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, where he worked from September 1999 and was the Co-Head of Litigation. There, his practice focused on white collar criminal defense, SEC investigations, corporate internal investigations, complex civil litigation, and appeals.

Mr. ZABEL co-authored in 2008 and 2009 *In Pursuit of Justice, Prosecuting Terrorism Cases in the Federal Courts* -- two reports, published by non-profit organization Human Rights First, which examine the history, law, and practical issues involved in the prosecution of terrorism and national security cases in federal courts.

From 1991 to 1999, Mr. ZABEL served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, prosecuting a wide range of cases involving securities and other white collar fraud, racketeering, money laundering, and narcotics trafficking. Mr. ZABEL has tried numerous criminal cases in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and argued numerous cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Mr. ZABEL served as the Chief, from 1997 to 1999, and the Deputy Chief, from 1996 to 1997, of the Office's Narcotics Unit. In 1998, Mr. ZABEL was an adjunct professor at Fordham Law School and co-taught a course in criminal law concentrating on issues raised in the investigation and prosecution of narcotics trafficking and money laundering cases.

In 1997, Mr. ZABEL received the *Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service* for his role in the investigation and prosecution of a violent criminal enterprise called the Almighty Latin King Nation (the "Latin Kings"). In 1994, Mr. ZABEL received the *Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney* for the prosecution of JOHN GAMBINO, JOE GAMBINO, and other members of the Gambino Crime Family.

From 1987 until 1991, Mr. ZABEL was an associate at New York law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell, where he concentrated in securities and commercial litigation. Mr. ZABEL is a 1983 Phi Beta Kappa, *summa cum laude* graduate from Princeton University and a 1987 graduate from Harvard Law School.

Mr. BHARARA said of the appointment: "I am pleased to name Richard Zabel the new Chief of the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. Rich is smart, tough, and fair-minded. He is a legal All-Star, with just the right experience, work ethic, and temperament to lead the Criminal Division at a time when protecting national security and combating financial fraud are such critical priorities of this Office."

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