



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Judge Laura S. Taylor Reappointed to Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel

SAN FRANCISCO – The Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit has reappointed United States Bankruptcy Judge Laura S. Taylor of San Diego, California, to an additional three-year term on the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, or BAP. This panel resolves appeals arising out of bankruptcy court decisions in the circuit’s nine western states. Judge Taylor’s new term will commence December 31, 2019.

Judge Taylor was appointed as a bankruptcy judge for the Southern District of California in January 2008, and served as chief bankruptcy judge of her court from October 2012 through September 2019. She was appointed to the BAP on December 31, 2012, and has served as chief judge of the BAP since July 2019. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Taylor had a long career with Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP, most recently serving as an administrative partner for its San Diego office. She took a leave of absence from 1995 to 1998 to work with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program to develop and implement a program for children with special educational needs.

A native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Judge Taylor received her bachelor’s degree in English and political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1979, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and with Highest Honors, and her juris doctor in 1983 from Duke University, where she served on the school’s moot court board.

The Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit – the governing body for federal courts in the western states – established the BAP in 1979 as an alternative forum for hearing bankruptcy appeals. The council is responsible for the appointments of judges to the BAP, which is authorized seven bankruptcy judges who serve seven-year terms and may be reappointed for an additional three years. BAP judges are precluded from hearing matters arising from their respective districts.

Headquartered in the Richard H. Chambers U.S. Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena, California, the BAP has historically handled between 45 and 60 percent of all bankruptcy appeals in the Ninth Circuit (district courts hear the remainder). In Fiscal Year 2019 ending September 30th, the BAP handled 272 of 564 new bankruptcy appeals; the panel disposed of 350 appeals during that year.

The Ninth Circuit, which is composed of nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions, was the first federal circuit to establish a bankruptcy appellate panel. For more information, visit <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/bap>.