



NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Appoints New Bankruptcy Judge for Eastern District of California

SAN FRANCISCO — Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have appointed Jennifer E. Niemann as the next judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California. Her 14-year term will begin on June 16, 2020, when she takes her oath of office which will be administered by Chief Bankruptcy Judge Ronald H. Sargis in Sacramento. Ms. Niemann will maintain chambers in Fresno.

Ms. Niemann has been of counsel since 2012 at Felderstein Fitzgerald Willoughby Pascuzzi & Rios LLP in Sacramento, where she represented business Chapter 11 debtors in pre-bankruptcy consultation, filing the bankruptcy case, during the case and post-confirmation. The remainder of her practice involved representing Chapter 11 trustees and creditors. Previously, Ms. Niemann worked as a long-term judicial law clerk for Judges Thomas E. Carlson, Arthur S. Weissbrodt, and James R. Grube of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California. Ms. Niemann also engaged in private practice at Heller, Ehrman, White & McAuliffe in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and was a senior legal auditor at Stuart, Maue, Mitchell & James, Ltd., in St. Louis, Missouri.

Born in Evanston, Illinois, Ms. Niemann received her bachelor's degree, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in 1986 and her juris doctorate from Harvard Law School in 1989.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California received 15,150 bankruptcy filings in 2019. The court is authorized six permanent judgeships.

Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have statutory responsibility for selecting and appointing bankruptcy judges in the nine western states that comprise the Ninth Circuit. The court uses a comprehensive merit selection process for the initial appointment and for reappointments. Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year renewable term and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.