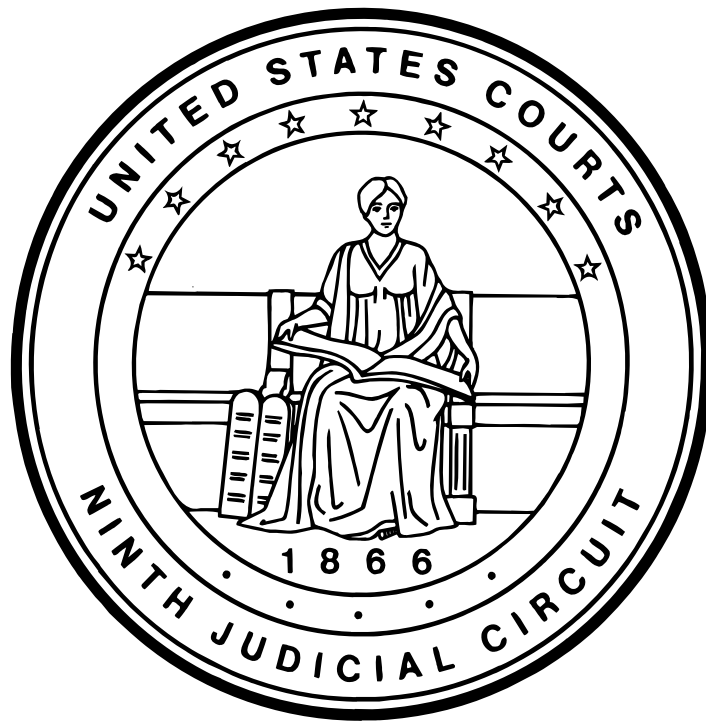


INFORMATION AND APPLICATION MATERIALS
FOR
APPLICANTS TO A FOURTEEN-YEAR TERM
AS
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE



revised 1/2010

**INFORMATION AND APPLICATION MATERIALS
FOR
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE APPLICANTS**

This package provides information on applying for a fourteen-year term as a United States Bankruptcy Judge in the Ninth Circuit. The materials in this packet are:

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Information for Applicants

A. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE'S RESPONSIBILITIES/QUALIFICATIONS

Please note that the qualifications for appointment do not require bankruptcy law experience or residence in the district in which one wishes to serve.

To be qualified for appointment, an applicant must:

1. Be a member in good standing of every state bar in which he/she is admitted to practice;
2. be competent to perform the duties of the office;
3. possess a reputation for integrity and good character;
4. possess and have demonstrated a commitment to equal justice under the law;
5. be of sound mental and physical health;
6. possess and have demonstrated outstanding legal ability and competence;
7. indicate by demeanor, character and personality that he/she would exhibit judicial temperament, if appointed;
8. unless the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council determines that special conditions exist, he/she must have been engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least five years. The Council may consider as substitute experience for the active practice of law the following, including any combination thereof:
 - a. Judge of a State Court of Record or other state judicial officer
 - b. United States Magistrate Judge
 - c. Referee in Bankruptcy
 - d. Bankruptcy Judge, or other federal judicial officer
 - e. Attorney for federal or state agencies
 - f. Law clerk to any judge or judicial officer (limited to two years)
 - g. Other legal experience which is suitable as a substitute in the opinion of the majority of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
9. not be related by blood or marriage to a judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals or the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council, or to a judge of the district court to be served, within the degree specified in § 458 of Title 28, United States Code, at the time of initial appointment.

B. JUDGESHIP AVAILABILITY/TERM OF APPOINTMENT

The Merit Screening Committee is searching for the best-qualified individuals currently available for appointment to a fourteen-year term as a bankruptcy judge for the Ninth Circuit.

C. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE SALARY

The current annual salary is \$ 160,080. Bankruptcy judge salaries are set by Congress to equal 92% of the salary of a United States district judge (\$174,000).

D. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE JURISDICTION

The basic jurisdiction of a bankruptcy judge is specified in 28 U.S.C. § 151 and in Title 11, United States Code, as well as in 98 Stat. 344 P.L. 98-353, Title I, Section 120.

E. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Applicants are considered without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, non-interfering disability and sexual orientation.

F. NINTH CIRCUIT SELECTION PROCESS

The Court of Appeals uses a competitive open-selection merit process in making appointments for the fourteen-year term of office of a bankruptcy judge. It is an extended and time-consuming procedure. Applicants should expect the entire process to take about six months. Following is a brief description of this selection process.

1. The process is initiated by a district Merit Screening Committee (MSC) made up of the administrative circuit judge, the chief district judge, the chief bankruptcy judge, state bar president, local bar association president, and dean of a law school within the district, or their designees. This committee reviews applications received, conducts background reference checks on selected applicants, and interviews those deemed most qualified. There are no funds available to reimburse applicants for their travel expenses at this interview stage. The interview time for any one candidate generally lasts about 30 to 45 minutes. The MSC prepares a written report and recommends the most outstanding applicants for further consideration.
2. The MSC's recommendations are then considered by the Court-Council Committee on Bankruptcy Appointments (Committee). The Committee is composed of three or four U.S. circuit judges and one chief bankruptcy judge. The Committee considers the candidates referred by the MSC, and makes any

additional inquiries it deems necessary (which normally includes another interview).

3. Based on the interview session and background checks, the Committee prepares a report to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council (Council), certifying that appropriate recruitment procedures were followed. The Council is composed of circuit and district judges and is the governing administrative body of the Circuit. It is the Council's responsibility to certify that appropriate recruitment procedures were followed.
4. The Committee also sends a report to the full Court of Appeals recommending the name of one candidate for each vacancy to be filled.
5. Once the Court of Appeals makes its nomination for appointment, an FBI and IRS check of the nominated candidate is initiated. This generally requires 8 to 12 weeks. Upon determination by the Court of Appeals that the investigative reports do not contain information that would make it reconsider its nomination, it issues an Order of Appointment. It is only at this point that a public announcement regarding the appointment is made.

G. DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

1. All applications **must be typed and follow the Ninth Circuit application format**. Because the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Judge application form is periodically revised, applicants for previous vacancies need to make sure their computer-stored application matches the current form (**revised 01/2010**).
2. The application form is also available electronically (MS Word or Adobe PDF formats) from the Office of the Circuit Executive. If you elect this option, you must either send (1) a blank compact disc marked to indicate which program version is desired and (2) a self-addressed stamped envelope along with the application request or an email citing the file format desired to *personnel@ce9.uscourts.gov* with, "Bankruptcy Judge Application Request," in the subject line. You may also access the form in PDF format by downloading it from our website at *www.ce9.uscourts.gov*. Click on, "Bankruptcy Court."
3. Answer **all** questions as thoroughly as possible. If a question or section is not applicable, please indicate as such. Incomplete applications **will not** be processed.
4. Respond fully to each question. If there is insufficient space for your response on the application itself, use a separate attachment sheet. Any attached sheets should

be appended to the application and should refer to the related page and question number.

5. Complete and sign Authorizations and Waivers of the application.
6. Applicants are required to **submit one original and ten copies** of this application and any attachments. The original should be kept single-sided; the copies should be made double-sided. Please secure each copy of the application with an appropriately sized binder clip. Do not place each copy in a separate binder or report cover.
7. Please DO NOT include photos of yourself in the application form or in any part of the appended materials – any such photos will be redacted.
8. **ANY LETTERS OF REFERENCE (OPTIONAL) AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS MUST ACCOMPANY THE COMPLETED APPLICATION.** Address letters to the Circuit & Court of Appeals Executive-Ninth Circuit. Subsequent letters of endorsement or reference, unless specifically requested by the Office of the Circuit Executive, will be discarded.
9. Applicants should **complete and return ONLY the application form (pp. 1-30) and any appended materials;** they may retain the informational pages of the application materials for their own records.
10. Only applicants who are selected for interview by the MSC will be required to provide a transcript of all law schools attended and evidence of good standing in all state bars in which membership is held.

H. RETURN OF APPLICATIONS

All completed application materials must be received **by the deadline stated on the announcement.**

Parcel/Express Delivery service
Office of the Circuit Executive
U.S. Courts for the Ninth Circuit
95 Seventh Street, Suite 429
San Francisco, CA 94103-1526
(415) 355-8900

U.S. Mail
Office of the Circuit Executive
U.S. Courts for the Ninth Circuit
P.O. Box 193939
San Francisco, CA 94119-3939

Attention: Bankruptcy Judgeship Application
_____ District of _____

4. The Circuit Executive's Office should send correspondence to:

Business Home

5. Length of residence in state _____

6. Country of citizenship _____

If you are a naturalized citizen, please state the date and place of naturalization:

7. Have you applied for any other bankruptcy judgeship vacancy in the Ninth Circuit within the last five years? Yes No

If yes, please list the year(s) of your application(s) and the district(s) in which the vacancy(ies) existed:

How did you first learn of this vacancy?

Announcement? Where posted? _____

Publication/Ad? Name of publication? _____

Bar Association? Which one? _____

Other (please specify): _____

C. Past affiliations

Prior Positions (List experience for last fifteen years, excluding your current position)

C.1 Employer _____

Address _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Supervisor/Managing Partner _____

Position(s) you held _____
(e.g., associate, partner)

Dates of employment _____

Salary or net income (annual) _____

Duties _____

Reason for leaving _____

C.2 Employer _____

Address _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Supervisor/Managing Partner _____

Position(s) you held _____
(e.g., associate, partner)

Dates of employment _____

Salary or net income (annual) _____

Duties _____

Reason for leaving _____

C.3 Employer _____

Address _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Supervisor/Managing Partner _____

Position(s) you held _____
(e.g., associate, partner)

Dates of employment _____

Salary or net income (annual) _____

Duties _____

Reason for leaving _____

C.4 Employer _____

Address _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Supervisor/Managing Partner _____

Position(s) you held _____
(e.g., associate, partner)

Dates of employment _____

Salary or net income (annual) _____

Duties _____

Reason for leaving _____

D. Description of Legal Practice

1. Approximately what percentage of your time in the last five years concerned:

Bankruptcy matters _____ %
 Other commercial law _____ %
 General civil law _____ %
 Other* _____ %

2. Estimate the percentage of your total time in legal work during the last five years that was:

Spent in litigation (trial, motions, depositions) _____ %
 Spent in negotiations _____ %
 Spent in legal research _____ %
 Spent in legal drafting and writing _____ %
 Spent supervising the legal work of others _____ %
 Spent in office management/administration _____ %
 Other* _____ %

3. Considering only your practice of bankruptcy law within the last five years, please estimate the percentage of your time spent within your bankruptcy practice in each category. All entries combined should equal 100%.

<u>Representing</u> ----->	<u>Debtors</u>	<u>Creditors</u>	<u>Trustees**</u>	<u>Other</u>
Under Chapter 11	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %
Under Chapter 7	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %
Under Chapter 13	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %
Other Chapter(s) (specify)	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %

* If any single activity occupied more than 10% of your time, indicate the nature of that activity.

** Includes serving as a Trustee.

Co-counsel(s) _____
Name

Address

City/State/Zip Code ()
Phone

Opposing counsel(s) _____
Name

Street

City/State/Zip Code ()
Phone

E. Education

1. Undergraduate institution(s) _____
Dates attended _____
Degree(s) received and date graduated _____
Major field(s) of study _____

2. Law school name* _____
Law school address _____
Street _____
City/State/Zip Code _____

Class standing (if known) _____
Dates attended _____
Degree received and date graduated _____

3. Other law or graduate education received _____
Institution attended _____
Course of study _____
Degree received and date graduated _____

4. Describe any honors, awards, law review or other activities or achievements.

* If selected for interview, you will be requested to provide a transcript from all law schools attended.

F. Court Admission

List state court bars to which you are presently admitted to practice and the year of admission. Provide the addresses of the administrative offices of these organizations.*

State bar _____

Year admitted _____

State bar _____

Address _____

Street

City/State/Zip Code

State bar _____

Year admitted _____

State bar _____

Address _____

Street

City/State/Zip Code

* If selected for interview, you will be requested to have the state bar administrative office(s) provide information concerning your membership in good standing and any applicable disciplinary history.

G. References

Please list three professional and three personal (**not related to you**) references.

PROFESSIONAL

1. Name _____
Title/Organization _____

Street

City/State/Zip Code
() _____
Phone
Relationship _____
Period of acquaintance _____

2. Name _____
Title/Organization _____

Street

City/State/Zip Code
() _____
Phone
Relationship _____
Period of acquaintance _____

3. Name _____
Title/Organization _____

Street

City/State/Zip Code
() _____
Phone
Relationship _____
Period of acquaintance _____

PERSONAL

1. Name _____
Title/Organization _____

Street

City/State/Zip Code
() _____
Phone
Relationship _____
Period of acquaintance _____

2. Name _____
Title _____

Street

City/State/Zip Code
() _____
Phone
Relationship _____
Period of acquaintance _____

3. Name _____
Title _____

Street

City/State/Zip Code
() _____
Phone
Relationship _____
Period of acquaintance _____

H. Additional Questions

Respond to each of the following inquiries where applicable. Indicate on additional attachment sheets the number of the Question you are answering and repeat the Question. Indicate which Questions, if any, are not applicable.

1. List all seminars, symposia, lectures, or legal meetings in the nature of continuing legal education that you have attended in the past three years, stating the date, place, sponsoring organization and subject(s) of the program(s).
2. List all seminars, symposia, lectures, or legal meetings in the last five years in which you have participated as a speaker, lecturer, panelist -- identifying your role and the subject(s) or topic(s).
3. If you have ever taught or lectured at a law school, please state the school(s), date(s) and subject(s), and your title, status or role.
4. Describe any non-legal teaching or lecturing you have done.
5. If you have written individually or with others any articles, treatises, texts, handbooks, or other writings on legal matters, which have been published, provide the complete citation including publisher, date, title and subject matter, and list the names, telephone numbers and current office addresses of any persons who co-authored, collaborated or assisted you in the writing or research. You may append pages of one or two representative selections (limit to maximum of 10 pages in total).
6. List any judicial or quasi-judicial office(s) you have held. Do not include any full-time position you hold at present. Please indicate whether the position was full-time or part-time, its location, the court or other entity served, your duties, and period of service.
7. List any elective or appointive public offices you have ever held (other than judicial or quasi-judicial). Please indicate whether the position was full-time or part-time, its location, duties (unless obvious from the title), and the periods of service.
8. List all professional or occupational license(s) (other than law) which you have ever held. Indicate the organization(s) that issued the license(s) and whether the license(s) is still current.
9. If any professional or occupational license(s) has ever been revoked or suspended or if your conduct has been the subject of other discipline or complaint to the licensing authority or its disciplinary body, state fully the facts and circumstances and the disposition. Use attached sheets. If you have nothing to report, check here _____
_____.
10. Describe fully all non law-related professions or occupations pursued since your first admission to the bar, which are not already listed herein. Provide dates, employer names, duties, reasons for leaving, and any other pertinent information regarding the same.

11. Describe any civic, philanthropic, community, social, or public service activities in which you have been engaged during the past five years, including any posts or offices held and honors or awards received.

12. Has your license or right to practice law before or in any state, court agency, or other tribunal ever been denied, revoked, or suspended? If so, describe the facts and circumstances fully on attached sheets.

_____ Yes _____ No

13. Have you ever been formally censured, reprimanded, adjudged, held in contempt, or otherwise disciplined by any judge, court, agency or tribunal? If so, describe the facts and circumstances fully on attached sheets.

_____ Yes _____ No

14. Has your professional conduct or ability been the subject of comment, favorable or unfavorable, in a written opinion of any judge, court, or other tribunal? If so, attach a copy of the opinion and state any facts and circumstances you feel appropriate. Use separate attached sheets.

_____ Yes _____ No

15. Have you been the subject of any complaint filed with or made to any attorney disciplinary body? If so, state fully the facts and circumstances and the disposition of the matter on attached sheets.

_____ Yes _____ No

16. Have you ever been the subject of any complaint filed with or made to any bar association or committee thereof? If so, state fully the facts and circumstances and the disposition of the matters on attached sheets.

_____ Yes _____ No

17. Have you ever sued or been sued by a client? If so, state fully on attached sheets the facts and circumstances, the court and case number, names, addresses and phone numbers of your attorney and all other counsel, and the disposition of the matter.

_____ Yes _____ No

18. Have you ever been a party to or otherwise personally involved (other than as counsel) in any litigation? If so, state on attached sheet(s) the court, case number, the nature of the case and the circumstances of your involvement, the names and current phone numbers of your attorney and of any attorney representing an interest adverse to yours, and the disposition.

_____ Yes _____ No

19. Have you been the subject of favorable, unfavorable or other comment in the media? If so, give particulars on attached sheet(s).

_____ Yes _____ No

20. **Note: As part of the court of appeals' consideration of a candidate's qualifications and suitability for appointment as a bankruptcy judge, candidates nominated for final consideration will be required to provide detailed financial data including copies of their federal income tax returns for the preceding 3-year period in a preliminary disclosure statement.**

Therefore, to the best of your knowledge, are you in compliance with the tax laws of the federal government and the state, county and community of which you are a resident?

_____ Yes _____ No

Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities? If so, give particulars on attached sheet(s).

_____ Yes _____ No

21. Do you now or within the last ten (10) years, have you used illegal drugs, abused alcohol or otherwise have or had a substance abuse problem? If yes, describe fully on attached sheets, the circumstances--including specific substance, duration, time period and frequency of use, and whether you received counseling or other rehabilitative treatment.

_____ Yes _____ No

22. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor, or been arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs? If so, describe fully on attached sheet(s) the circumstances--including date, court, and disposition.

_____ Yes _____ No

23. Have you served in the Armed Forces of the United States or of any other country?

_____ Yes _____ No

(If yes, please indicate on a separate sheet the branch of service, dates of service, rank or rate and type of discharge received. If still a reserve or National Guard member, please give service, branch, unit, and present rank.)

24. Are you computer literate? If so, describe your computer capability fully on attached sheet(s).

_____ Yes _____ No

25. Do any clubs or private associations to which you belong have a discrimination clause or have a history of barring membership to anyone based on race, color, gender or religion?

_____ Yes _____ No

26. Are you familiar with:

- a. the *Code of Conduct for United States Judges*, from the Guide to Judiciary Policy, Volume 2: Ethics and Judicial Conduct, Part A: Codes of Conduct, Chapter 2: Code of Conduct for United States Judges (effective July 1, 2009) (available on [USCourts.gov](http://www.uscourts.gov) at <http://www.uscourts.gov/library/conduct.html>), and
- b. the limitation upon federal employees on earning outside income prescribed under Title VI of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989 and its amendments?

_____ Yes _____ No

27. Please attach a brief statement of why you are seeking the position of United States Bankruptcy Judge and why you feel that you are qualified for the position. Include any special professional, occupational or other experience you have had which you feel should be considered by the MSC. Describe how your educational, legal, administrative and business experience have prepared you for this position.

I. Health Information

1. What is your general present state of physical and mental health? _____

2. When was your last general physical examination? Finalists who have not had a general physical examination within the past two years may be asked to do so.

3. What were the results? _____

4. What is the name, address and phone number of the examining physician?

If you answer yes to questions 5, 6, 7, or 8, below, please provide the particulars on attached sheets including, (where appropriate), the causes, dates, name, address and telephone number of physician(s) or other professional counselors consulted, place or confinement, and the present status of the conditions which caused the confinement or incapacitation.

5. Have you been hospitalized due to injury or illness (other than pregnancy or child birth) within the past five years?

_____ Yes _____ No

6. During the past ten years, have you been prevented from working due to injury or illness, or otherwise incapacitated (except pregnancy or child birth) for a period of more than 10 days?

_____ Yes _____ No

7. Do you have any disabilities which would prevent you from performing the essential functions of the position of bankruptcy judge? If so, please provide details on attached sheets.

_____ Yes _____ No

8. Have you ever been counseled or treated for any condition arising from the state of your mental health or from the use of drugs/alcohol?

_____ Yes _____ No

J. Authorizations and Waivers

1. Please complete, sign, and return the medical authorization and waiver release form. If selected for an interview, we will mail the medical authorization and waiver form to the physician(s) listed on the form.
2. Please complete, sign, and return the professional experience inquiry authorization and waiver form. If selected for an interview, you will be requested to obtain from the state bar association(s) proof of membership in good standing and any applicable disciplinary history.
3. All applicants who are members of the California bar must complete, sign, and return a release of all claims form.

**Ninth Circuit
Bankruptcy Judge Application Form**

**Office of the Circuit Executive
P.O. Box 193939
San Francisco, CA 94119-3939
(415) 355-8900**

Medical Authorization and Waiver

Physician's name _____

Address _____

Street

City/State/Zip Code

()

Phone

I hereby authorize any person designated by the Ninth Circuit or the Merit Screening Committee to communicate orally (including by telephone) and/or in writing with the physician or counselor named above with regard to my physical and mental condition and history, and any care, treatment and advice given me.

I hereby authorize and direct the physician or counselor named above to communicate to such person orally (including by telephone) such information regarding my physical and mental condition, care, treatment and advice as may be sought by such person and to supply a written statement if requested by such person. For these purposes, I hereby waive any physician-patient privilege that may exist.

Name _____

Address _____

Street

City/State/Zip Code

()

Phone

Signature _____

**Ninth Circuit
Bankruptcy Judge Application Form**

**Office of the Circuit Executive
P.O. Box 193939
San Francisco, CA 94119-3939
(415) 355-8900**

Professional Experience Inquiry

Authorization and Waiver Form

I hereby authorize the administrators of the disciplinary and inquiry bodies of any court, bar or other association to disclose to the Merit Screening Committee, the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council and the Court of Appeals all information contained in the files of such bodies concerning my present professional status, all complaints which have been made against me, together with the disposition thereof. I expressly waive whatever right I may have to confidentiality of the foregoing information.

I also hereby authorize the custodian of any records or information related to my application for bankruptcy judge to permit the examination or receipt of such records and/or information by anyone designated by the Merit Screening Committee, the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council and the Court of Appeals.

Print or Type Name

Signature

Social Security Number

Date Signed

**Ninth Circuit
Bankruptcy Judge Application Form**

**Office of the Circuit Executive
P.O. Box 193939
San Francisco, CA 94119-3939
(415) 355-8900**

RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS FORM

STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

*(Only required of applicants who are members of the State Bar of California)**

I hereby release, discharge and exonerate the State Bar of California, its agents and representatives, and any person so furnishing information from any and all liability of every nature and kind arising out of the furnishing or inspection of such documents, records, or the information or the investigation made by the State Bar of California.

The undersigned further waives all rights or benefits which the undersigned now has or in the future may have under the terms of § 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California, which said section reads as follows:

"A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor."

Print or Type Name

Signature

Date Signed

* Please note that if you are requested to provide proof of your membership and good standing in the State Bar of California you will be required to make a payment of \$25 with your request. Please do not send this release of claims form to the State Bar of California unless you are selected for an interview.

K. Application Verification

The questions answered and statements made in this application are true and correct (or are based on information I believe to be true and correct).

I will submit to a physical and/or psychiatric examination at my expense, if requested to do so. I also authorize my former employers and others who are familiar with my work and character to give any information they may have regarding me. I hereby waive any claims that I could make against them for information provided in connection with this application.

If selected for interview by the Merit Screening Committee, I will provide transcripts from all law schools attended and evidence of good standing in all state bars in which membership is held.

This application is being submitted by me personally and, if selected, I am willing to serve as a United States bankruptcy judge in the district where the vacancy occurs.

Signature

Date Signed

[Instructions to Applicant: Please insert the information requested based upon that which you supplied in the full application form].

APPLICATION SUMMARY

Name:

City of Residence:

Present Affiliation:

Position:

Since:

5 year Practice History

Bankruptcy ____%; Commercial Law ____%; Gen. Civil Law ____%; Other ____%

Previous Affiliations (last 15 years)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Location</u>
--------------	---------------------	-----------------

Education

Undergraduate:

Degree:

Year:

Law School:

Degree:

Year:

Special achievements, recognition, publications (academic or otherwise):

Professional, community, or public service activities/awards: