



# United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Court of Appeals Reappoints Bankruptcy Judge Ernest M. Robles to Central District of California**

SAN FRANCISCO — The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the reappointment of U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Ernest M. Robles to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

Judge Robles, 64, who maintains chambers in Los Angeles, was appointed to the Central District bankruptcy bench in 1993. His third 14-year term took effect June 12, 2021.

During his second term, Judge Robles presided over the Chapter 11 case of Verity Health System of California, Inc., the second-largest health care bankruptcy filing in American history. The case raised novel issues of law and involved six hospitals in Northern and Southern California that treat more than 500,000 patients annually. Judge Robles also presided over the case of Gardens Regional Hospital and Medical Center, Inc., another high-profile Chapter 11 health care filing.

Judge Robles received his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1978 and his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1981. He was in private practice in Los Angeles and San Francisco until 1988, when he was named an assistant U.S. trustee in Northern California, supervising the San Jose office for five years before his appointment to the bench.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California reported 31,042 bankruptcy filings in fiscal year 2020. The court has 18 bankruptcy judges and five divisional offices serving seven counties.

Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year renewable term and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. 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. For reappointments, the court conducts a performance review and considers public comment evaluations.

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