



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Court of Appeals Reappoints Bankruptcy Judge Dennis Montali to Northern District of California

SAN FRANCISCO — The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the reappointment of U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Dennis Montali to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California.

Judge Montali, 81, who maintains chambers in San Francisco, was appointed to the Northern District bankruptcy bench in 1993. His third 14-year term took effect April 23, 2021.

Judge Montali served a seven-year term on the Ninth Circuit's Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, or BAP, from 2000 to 2007, and as chief judge of the BAP from 2008 to 2010. He was reappointed on the BAP and served an additional three years in 2007.

Judge Montali received his B.A. from the University of Notre Dame in 1961. After completing active military duty as an officer of the U.S. Naval Reserve, he received his J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law (now Berkeley Law), in 1968.

Judge Montali began his legal career as an associate then partner at the law firm of Rothschild, Phelan and Montali from 1968 to 1980. He also was a partner at the law firms of Dinkelspiel, Pelavin, Steefel and Levitt in 1980 and at Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro from 1981 to 1993.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California reported 6,586 bankruptcy filings in fiscal year 2020. The court has seven bankruptcy judges and four divisional offices serving 15 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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