



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Court of Appeals Reappoints Bankruptcy Judge Laura S. Taylor to Southern District of California

SAN FRANCISCO — The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the reappointment of U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Laura S. Taylor to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California. Her second 14-year term will begin on Jan. 10, 2022.

Judge Taylor, 63, was appointed to the Southern District bankruptcy bench in 2008 and served as chief judge of her court from October 2012 through September 2019. Judge Taylor has served since 2019 as chief judge of the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, or BAP, which operates under the authority of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit to hear appeals from the bankruptcy courts of the circuit.

“We are all thrilled to see Judge Taylor reappointed,” said Chief Bankruptcy Judge Christopher B. Latham of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California. “She is an integral part of this Court, a supportive colleague, and an outstanding jurist. The district – and circuit – benefit greatly from her service,” he noted.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Taylor had a long career with Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP, where she was 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.

Judge Taylor served on Ninth Circuit committees, including as chair of the Conference Executive Committee, which plans and organizes the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. She served as an observer on the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit; a member of the Bankruptcy Judges Education Committee; and a member of the Self-Represented Litigants (Pro Se) Committee.

A native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Judge Taylor received her Bachelor of Arts degrees 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.



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Page 2 of 2

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California reported 5,338 bankruptcy filings in fiscal year 2021 ending September 30. The court is authorized four judgeships and serves San Diego and Imperial 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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