



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Judge Frederick P. Corbit Selected to Serve on Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel

SAN FRANCISCO – Bankruptcy Judge Frederick P. Corbit, of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Washington, has been selected to serve on the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, or BAP, which hears appeals of decisions made by federal bankruptcy courts in the western states.

Judge Corbit, 67, will serve a seven-year term on the BAP, commencing on Dec. 31, 2022. He will succeed Bankruptcy Judge Laura S. Taylor, of the Southern District of California, who has served on the BAP since 2012 and served as its chief judge from 2019 to 2022.

Judge Corbit, who maintains chambers in Spokane, was appointed to the Eastern District of Washington bankruptcy court in 2013 and served as chief judge of his court from 2014 to 2020. Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Corbit was a senior attorney and manager for Northwest Justice Project in Seattle from 2007 to 2013. He was a partner at the former Heller Ehrman LLP in Seattle from 1989 to 2007.

A native of Spokane, Washington, Judge Corbit received his Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Washington in 1977 and his Juris Doctor from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, in 1980. Judge Corbit clerked for Judge Kenneth Treadwell of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Washington.

Judge Corbit regularly lectures about bankruptcy related matters at seminars and at law schools. He has in the past taught the bankruptcy course at Seattle University School of Law and currently teaches that course at Gonzaga University School of Law.

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Page 2 of 2

He served as president of the Creditor Debtor Rights Section of the Washington State Bar Association and as president of the Bankruptcy Section of the King County Bar Association. He is a former member of the Rules Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Washington.

The Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit – the governing body for federal courts in the western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions – established the BAP in 1979 as an alternative forum for hearing bankruptcy appeals. The council is responsible for the appointments of judges to the BAP, which is authorized seven bankruptcy judges who serve seven-year terms and may be reappointed for an additional three years. BAP judges are precluded from hearing matters arising from their respective districts.

Headquartered in the Richard H. Chambers U.S. Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena, California, the BAP has historically handled between 45% and 60% of all bankruptcy appeals in the Ninth Circuit (district courts hear the remainder). In fiscal year 2021 ending September 30, the BAP handled 216 of 474 new bankruptcy appeals; the panel disposed of 297 appeals during that year.

The Ninth Circuit, which is composed of nine western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions, was the first federal circuit to establish a bankruptcy appellate panel. For more information, visit <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/bap>.

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