



# United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Appoints New Bankruptcy Judge for Central District of California**

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have appointed Ronald Alonzo Clifford, III, as the next bankruptcy judge on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California. His 14-year term began on Feb. 1, 2022, when Bankruptcy Judge Maureen A. Tighe administered his oath of office. Judge Clifford succeeds retired Bankruptcy Judge Richard M. Neiter and will maintain chambers in Santa Barbara.

“The judges of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California, are excited to welcome Judge Ron Clifford as our newest judge in service to the American people,” said Chief Judge Theodor C. Albert of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

Previously, Judge Clifford had been a partner at a boutique bankruptcy and litigation firm in Orange County, California, where his practice focused on bankruptcy, creditors’ rights, commercial transactions and litigation. He represented dozens of officially appointed creditors’ committees in Chapter 11 cases in 13 states, including Arizona, California, Connecticut, New York, Maryland, Massachusetts and Washington State. He represented Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 debtors and trustees. In his litigation practice, Judge Clifford represented companies and individuals as both plaintiffs and defendants in cases such as breach of contract, lien foreclosure, asset purchases and judgment enforcement. Previously, he was the sole owner of his own law firm from 2006 to 2007.

Judge Clifford received his Bachelor of Arts from California State University at Pomona in 2003 and his Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, in 2006 from Whittier Law School, where he was editor of the Whittier Law Review. While in law school, Judge Clifford was a fellow for the Center for Children’s Rights, which included a clinic that served underprivileged children in a plethora of legal concerns.

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Engaged in his community, Judge Clifford previously volunteered for the Central District's Federal Day, where students from urban areas of Orange County are provided access to lawyers, judges and court staff to discuss careers in law and careers related to law. He also has volunteered at the Orange County Food Bank and at the free legal clinic hosted by the Langston Bar Association in Los Angeles.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California had 24,248 bankruptcy filings in fiscal year 2021 ending September 30. The court is authorized 21 permanent judgeships.

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 and for reappointments. Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year renewable term and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

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