



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris Reappointed to Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel

SAN FRANCISCO — The Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit has reappointed Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris of Honolulu to an additional three-year term on the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, or BAP.

Judge Faris is the only judge sitting on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Hawaii, which reported 1,212 cases in calendar year 2021. He was appointed to the bench in 2002 and has served as chief judge of his court since then. Judge Faris is the chief judge of the BAP, and his reappointment to the BAP is effective Aug. 18, 2022, and will end on Aug. 17, 2025.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Faris engaged in private practice, starting in 1983, with a Honolulu law firm, where his practice focused on bankruptcy, insolvency and commercial litigation. He is a member of the American Bar Association, American Bankruptcy Institute, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and the American College of Bankruptcy.

Judge Faris taught debtors and creditors rights at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, William S. Richardson School of Law. Since 2008, he has coordinated the Credit Abuse Resistance Education, or C.A.R.E., program in Hawaii. Judge Faris served as an observer on the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit. He is a member of the Ninth Circuit's Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges.

Judge Faris received his Bachelor of Arts, Phi Beta Kappa, in economics from Reed College and his Juris Doctor, Order of the Coif, from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, where he served as an associate editor of the California Law Review.

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

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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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