



2015 Ninth Circuit
Annual Report

The Office of the Circuit Executive would like to acknowledge the following for their contributions to the 2015 Ninth Circuit Annual Report:

Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas

Chief District Judge Ann L. Aiken, *District of Oregon*

Cathy A. Catterson, *Circuit and Court of Appeals Executive, Ninth Circuit*

Molly C. Dwyer, *Clerk of Court, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals*

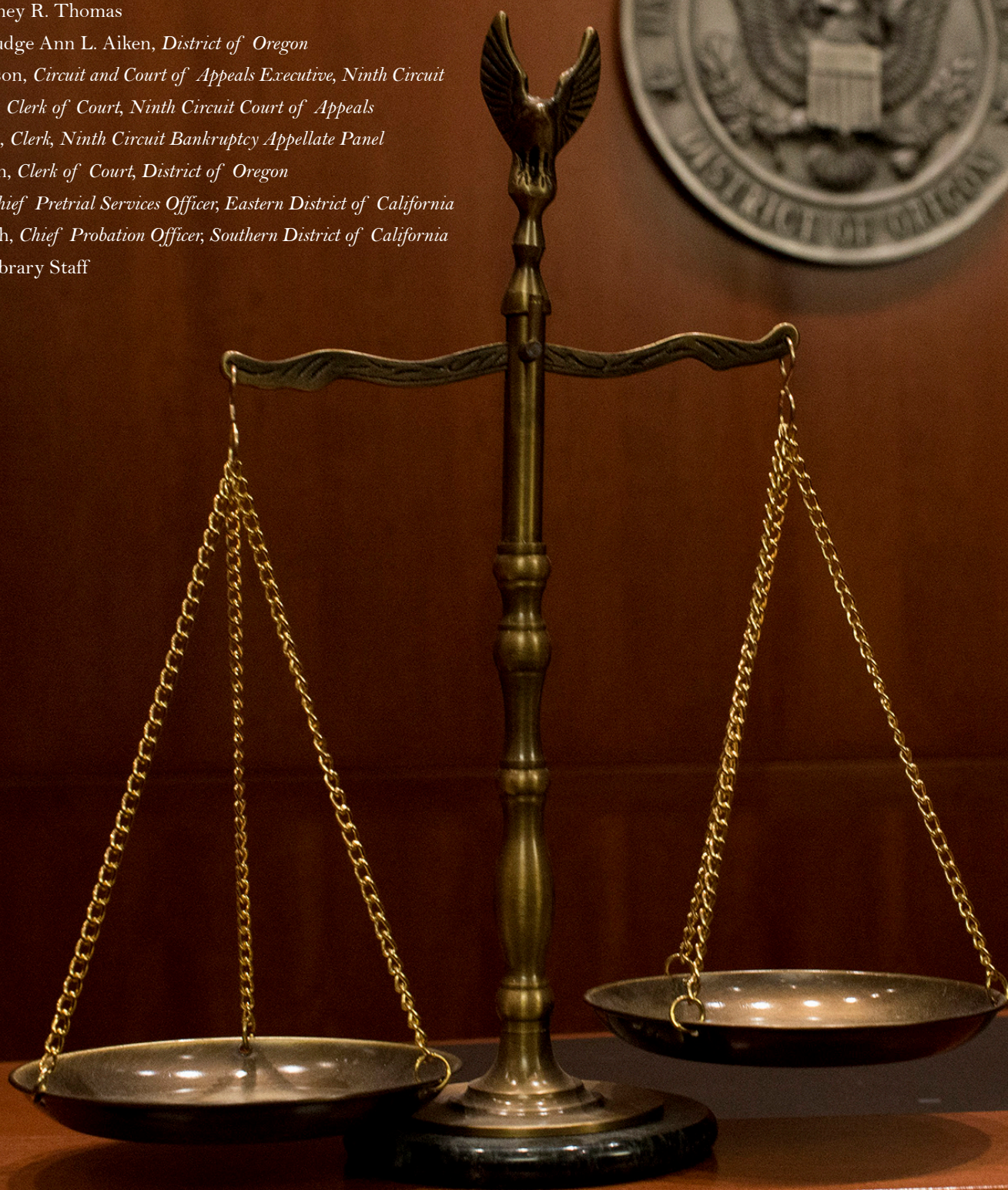
Susan M. Spraul, *Clerk, Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel*

Mary Lou Moran, *Clerk of Court, District of Oregon*

Gina Faubion, *Chief Pretrial Services Officer, Eastern District of California*

David Sultzbaugh, *Chief Probation Officer, Southern District of California*

Ninth Circuit Library Staff



Cover Image: The lobby of the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse in Portland, Oregon, features a portrait of Judge Matthew Paul Deady, the first judge of the Oregon federal court.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit is to support the effective and expeditious administration of justice and the safeguarding of fairness in the administration of the courts within the circuit. To do so, it will promote the fair and prompt resolution of disputes, ensure the effective discharge of court business, prevent any form of invidious discrimination, and enhance public understanding of, and confidence in the judiciary.

Voting members of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit are Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas, Senior Circuit Judge William C. Canby, Jr., *Senior Circuit Judge J. Clifford Wallace, Circuit Judge Richard A. Paez, *Circuit Judge Richard C. Tallman, Circuit Judge Consuelo M. Callahan, Circuit Judge N. Randy Smith, Circuit Judge Mary H. Murguia, Chief District Judge Raner C. Collins, Chief District Judge George H. King, Chief District Judge B. Lynn Winmill, Senior District Judge Susan Y. Illston, *Senior District Judge Anthony W. Ishii

Observer members of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit are Chief District Judge Ann L. Aiken, *Chief District Judge Ralph R. Beistline, *Chief District Judge Susan Oki Mollway, District Judge Anna J. Brown, *District Judge Robert S. Lasnik, Senior District Judge Claudia Wilken, *Chief Bankruptcy Judge Frank R. Alley, III, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Laura S. Taylor, Chief Magistrate Judge Deborah M. Smith, District Court Clerk Mary Moran, *District Court Clerk Terry Nafisi, Bankruptcy Court Clerk Mary Ann Schott, *Bankruptcy Court Clerk Wayne E. Blackwelder, Chief Probation Officer David Sultzbaugh, *Chief Probation Officer Felix S. Mata, Chief Pretrial Services Officer Gina Faubion, and *Chief Pretrial Services Officer David L. Martin.

**Term expired in 2015*



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FOREWORD

I am pleased to provide you with the 2015 Ninth Circuit Annual Report. The Report highlights events and activities involving and affecting judges and judicial staff in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions and provides statistical summaries of the work done by our courts. This is my second report as Chief Judge, and I am happy to advise that our courts once again provided exceptional services to litigants and the general public.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit remains the nation's busiest federal appellate court with 22.5 percent of all new appeals nationally. While our docket reflects the full scope of federal law, immigration matters and appeals brought by inmates in state or federal prisons accounted for 53.3 percent of new filings. Just under half of all new appeals to the court involved at least one litigant not represented by a lawyer.

In the 15 federal trial courts of the circuit, new criminal cases were down 4.9 percent, due in part to the changes in federal prosecution priorities. The District of Arizona, one of two Ninth Circuit border courts, continues to lead the nation in number of defendants charged with drug offenses and ranks second nationally for defendants charged with immigration offenses. New civil cases in the circuit declined by 7.7 percent. About one in five of new civil cases is being brought by a prison inmate.

The rebounding economy has meant fewer bankruptcy filings in the Ninth Circuit and the nation. New filings in the circuit were down 18.2 percent from the prior fiscal year. The Central District of California, which experienced



CHIEF JUDGE
SIDNEY R. THOMAS

a drop of almost 20 percent, nonetheless remains the busiest bankruptcy court in the country. Appeals to the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel also fell by 20 percent.

This year's report from the Circuit's federal public defenders, who represent indigent defendants, proved unusual: New case openings were down circuit-wide while actually increasing in most districts. The overall decrease stems from a very steep drop in one district, while the increases in the other districts are due to the reopening of closed drug cases to determine

eligibility for a retroactive sentence reduction instituted by the U.S. Sentencing Commission. The change has resulted in early release of some offenders, which has been successfully managed by our United States Probation Services offices.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals enjoyed its full complement of 29 active judges for most of the year. A new vacancy occurred in December when our friend Judge Harry Pregerson of Woodland Hills, California, took senior status. District Judge Lucy H. Koh of San Jose, California, has been nominated for the seat. Following a wave of judicial confirmations in 2014, the only new district judge to be seated in 2015 was District Judge Dale A. Drozd of the Eastern District of California. The year ended with five vacancies among the district courts of the circuit, three of them in the Central District of California. The court of appeals appointed five new bankruptcy judges, while districts courts appointed 11 new magistrate judges.

This past year saw the passing of a number of distinguished jurists. While all of them are recognized elsewhere in this report, I would be remiss not to mention the loss of my Ninth Circuit colleague, Senior Judge Arthur L. Alarcón, the first Hispanic to sit on our court, and Senior District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton, a legendary

jurist in the Eastern District of California. Both of these judges were dedicated servants of the law and role models for generations of colleagues.

Over the course of the year, we celebrated the accomplishments of a number of judges. Heading the list is Senior Circuit Judge Edward Leavy, one of Oregon's most admired jurists, who received the 2015 Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award, the judiciary's highest honor. The award was presented during a special dinner at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington attended by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., and Justices Anthony M. Kennedy, Sonia Sotomayor and Clarence Thomas. Judge Leavy was also honored by his Ninth Circuit friends and colleagues at a special session in his hometown of Portland.

At the 2015 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, the American Inns of Court for the first time selected two recipients for its prestigious Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award, honoring Senior District Judge Robert J. Bryan of the Western District of Washington for judicial leadership in the Pacific Northwest, and Phoenix attorney Larry A. Hammond, one of the deans of the Arizona criminal defense bar. Attorney Judy Clarke, another renowned criminal defense lawyer, received the 2015 Ninth Circuit John Frank Award recognizing outstanding lawyering in the federal courts of the western states. A full list of other judges being recognized can be found elsewhere in this report.

Court staff from the Ninth Circuit received awards from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. A Director's Award for Excellence in Court Operations were presented to court staff from the District of Nevada and the Southern District of California for developing the eVoucher System, which automates the process of billing and disbursing payments for indigent defense under the Criminal Justice Act. Clifford Harlan, assistant circuit executive for space and facilities in the Office of the Circuit Executive, also received the same award for his contributions to an inter-governmental effort to reduce the judiciary's energy use and costs.


Federal judges in San Francisco, meanwhile, noted the retirement of the longest-serving judge in the history of the Northern District of California. Senior District Judge Samuel Conti, 93, stepped down in November after celebrating his 45th year on the Northern California bench. One would have to look back more than a century to find a judge with a similar tenure.

In the space and facilities realm, good progress was made during the year on construction of a new courthouse in Los Angeles, a priority project scheduled for occupancy by the Central District of California in fall 2016. Judges of the Northern District of California held a dedication ceremony in March for a new courthouse in McKinleyville, near Eureka, which will house a courtroom and chambers for a magistrate judge and space for the bankruptcy court, probation

office, U.S. attorney, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

Because our judges and staffs are willing to consider new approaches to challenging problems, federal courts of the Ninth Circuit are frequently trailblazers. This past year provided another example of that with the Ninth Circuit Corrections Summit. This was a first-of-its-kind gathering of important stakeholders in the difficult area of prisoner litigation, including representatives of state attorneys general and corrections departments from all of the states that comprise the circuit. Judging by the feedback from attendees, the time spent discussing ways to improve the operations of both the courts and our prisons was well spent, and we look forward to continuing the dialogue in the future. I congratulate and commend all of the organizers.

Our magistrate judges continue to make vital contributions to the courts. In addition to yeoman's work in the courtroom, they are contributing to our overall understanding of the law as it pertains to law enforcement requests to obtain cellphone and other electronic data. The Magistrate Judges Executive Board and its Education Subcommittee produced a helpful booklet on the subject and organized a supplemental program at our circuit conference.

We invite you to review this report further for more information about the work of the federal courts in the West. 

NINTH CIRCUIT OVERVIEW

The United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit consists of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the federal district and bankruptcy courts in the 15 judicial districts within the circuit, and associated administrative units that provide various services to the courts.

Judicial districts within the Ninth Circuit include the districts of Alaska, Arizona, Central California, Eastern California, Northern California, Southern California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Eastern Washington, Western Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The establishment of the Ninth Circuit in 1866 began the development of the federal judicial system for the western United States. It is the largest and busiest federal circuit in the nation.

Judges serving on the circuit and district courts are known as Article III judges, a reference to the article in the Constitution establishing the federal judiciary. Nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, Article III judges serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. The Ninth Circuit

Court of Appeals is authorized 29 judgeships and ended 2015 with one vacant position. For most of the year, the district courts of the circuit were authorized 112 judgeships, five of which were vacant at the end of 2015.

Federal courts also rely on senior circuit and senior district judges to assist with their workload. These are Article III judges who are eligible to retire but have chosen to continue working with reduced caseloads. On the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, 15 senior circuit judges were at work for most of the year, sitting on motions and merits panels, serving on circuit and national judicial committees, and handling a variety of administrative matters. In the district courts within the circuit, 60 senior judges were at work, hearing cases, presiding over procedural matters, serving on committees and conducting other business in 2015.

In addition to Article III judges, the federal bench includes Article

I judges, who serve as magistrate judges in the district courts and bankruptcy judges in the bankruptcy courts. Bankruptcy judges are appointed by judges of the courts of appeals and serve terms of 14 years. Magistrate judges are appointed by the judges of each district court and hold their positions for eight years. Bankruptcy and magistrate judges may be reappointed.

In 2015, bankruptcy courts in the Ninth Circuit were authorized 68 permanent and five temporary judgeships. The district courts were authorized 105 full-time and 9 part-time magistrate judges, and one combined position of part-time magistrate judge/clerk of court. Several courts also utilized recalled bankruptcy and recalled magistrate judges.

Overall, the Ninth Circuit courts experienced reduced caseloads in 2015. Unless otherwise noted, statistics in this report cover fiscal year 2015 ending September 30. 🏛️



JUDICIAL COUNCIL, ADVISORY GROUPS & ADMINISTRATION

The Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit is the governing body for federal district and bankruptcy courts in nine western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions. The judicial council has statutory authority to “make all necessary and appropriate orders for the effective and expeditious administration of justice within its circuit.”

The judicial council also has been delegated responsibilities by the Judicial Conference of the United States, the national governing body for the federal courts. These responsibilities include authorizing senior judge staffing levels and pay, and managing the judicial misconduct complaint process.

The judicial council is chaired by the chief judge of the circuit and relies on advisory groups and committees to accomplish its governance goals. Chairs of three advisory groups attend council meetings as observers and sometimes as voting members. Committee chairs report to the council as needed.

Newly appointed in 2015 as voting members of the judicial council were Senior Circuit Judge William C. Canby, Jr., Circuit Judge N. Randy Smith, and Chief

District Judge Ann Aiken of the District of Oregon. Newly appointed in 2015 as observers include Senior District Judge Claudia Wilken of the Northern District of California, Chief District Judge Ralph R. Beistline of the District of Alaska, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Laura S. Taylor of the Southern District of California, District Court Clerk Mary Moran of the District of Oregon, Bankruptcy Court Clerk Mary Ann Schott of the District of Nevada, Chief Probation Officer David Sultzbaugh of the Southern District of California, and Chief Pretrial Services Officer Gina Faubion of the Eastern District of California.

Under the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings, the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit considers petitions for review of the chief judge’s orders in judicial misconduct complaints. In 2015, there were 42 petitions for review filed and all 42 petitions were resolved by the judicial council.

Conference of Chief District Judges

The Conference of Chief District Judges advises the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit regarding

the administration of justice in the circuit’s 15 district courts. The conference, which meets twice a year, is comprised of the chief district judge of each district. Chief District Judge Ralph R. Beistline of the District of Alaska served as chair from March 2015 to December 2015. He was succeeded by Chief District Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona, who will chair the conference until January 2017.

Elevated to chief district judge during the year were Judges Timothy M. Burgess of the District of Alaska and J. Michael Seabright of the District of Hawaii.

Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges

The Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges advises the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit on the administration of the bankruptcy courts within the circuit. The conference, which also meets twice per year, consists of chief bankruptcy judges from each district, the chief bankruptcy judge of the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel and a recalled bankruptcy judge representative. Chief Bankruptcy Judge Frank R. Alley,

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT

Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE

Cathy A. Catterson
Circuit & Court of Appeals Executive

ASSOCIATIONS OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS

- Conference of Chief District Judges
- Magistrate Judges Executive Board
- Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges

ADVISORY & STANDING COMMITTEES

- Advisory Board
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Capital Case
- CJA Oversight
- Court-Council Committee on Bankruptcy Judge Appointments
- Courts and Community
- Federal Public Defenders
- Fairness
- Information Technology
- Jury Instructions
- Jury Trial Improvement
- Ninth Circuit Judges Education
- Pacific Islands
- Pro Se Litigation
- Space & Security
- Wellness

LIAISON COMMITTEES

- District Clerks
- Bankruptcy Clerks
- Chief Probation & Pretrial Services Officers

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee

III, of the District of Oregon chaired the conference from October 2014 to September 2015. He was succeeded by Chief Bankruptcy Judge Laura S. Taylor of the Southern District of California, who will chair the conference until September 2016.

Elevated to chief bankruptcy judge in 2015 were Judges Roger L. Efremsky of the Northern District of California, Sheri Bluebond of the Central District of California, Bruce Beesley of the District of Nevada, Trish M. Brown of the District of Oregon and Ronald Sargis of the Eastern District of California.

Magistrate Judges Executive Board

The Magistrate Judges Executive Board communicates to the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit on behalf of the more than 120 full-time, part-time and recalled magistrate judges serving in the district courts. The 15-member board meets twice a year and holds a session with all magistrate judges at the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. Chief Magistrate Judge Deborah M. Smith of the District of Alaska has served as chair since August 2014.

Clerks of Court

Daily management of the courts rests with the chief judges and clerks and/or district executives of the court of appeals and each of the district and bankruptcy courts of the circuit. The clerks' offices process new cases and appeals, handle docketing functions, respond to procedural questions from the public and bar, and provide adequate judicial staff resources. The clerk of court for the court of appeals

also supervises the work of the Circuit Mediation Office and the Office of the Staff Attorneys, which includes the research, motions, case management and pro se litigation units. The Office of the Appellate Commissioner, also in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Clerk's Office, reviews Criminal Justice Act vouchers for cases that come before the court of appeals.

Associated Court Units

Ninth Circuit courts also rely on several critical court-related agencies to ensure the fair administration of justice. The district courts maintain oversight of U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services offices. Pretrial services officers are responsible for background investigations and reports on defendants awaiting trial, while probation officers supervise persons convicted of federal crimes after their release into the community. All but one judicial district in the circuit is served by either federal public defender or community defenders, who represent indigent defendants unable to afford private counsel. Indigent defendants in the District of Northern Mariana Islands are represented by private attorneys provided by the District of Guam and paid through the federal Criminal Justice Act.

Circuit Libraries

The Ninth Circuit Library System assists judges, attorneys, court staff and the public


through a network of 24 law libraries housed in courthouses throughout the western states. The primary mission of court librarians is to provide research services to judges and their staff. Research librarians assist law clerks on case-related research by providing guidance and recommendations, offering training opportunities, and performing direct research on more complex topics. Librarians also conduct research to assist court executives and judges in the administration of local courts and on matters involving committees of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit and the Judicial Conference of the U.S. Library resources are also made available to the bar and public with the level of access determined by local judges.

Office of the Circuit Executive

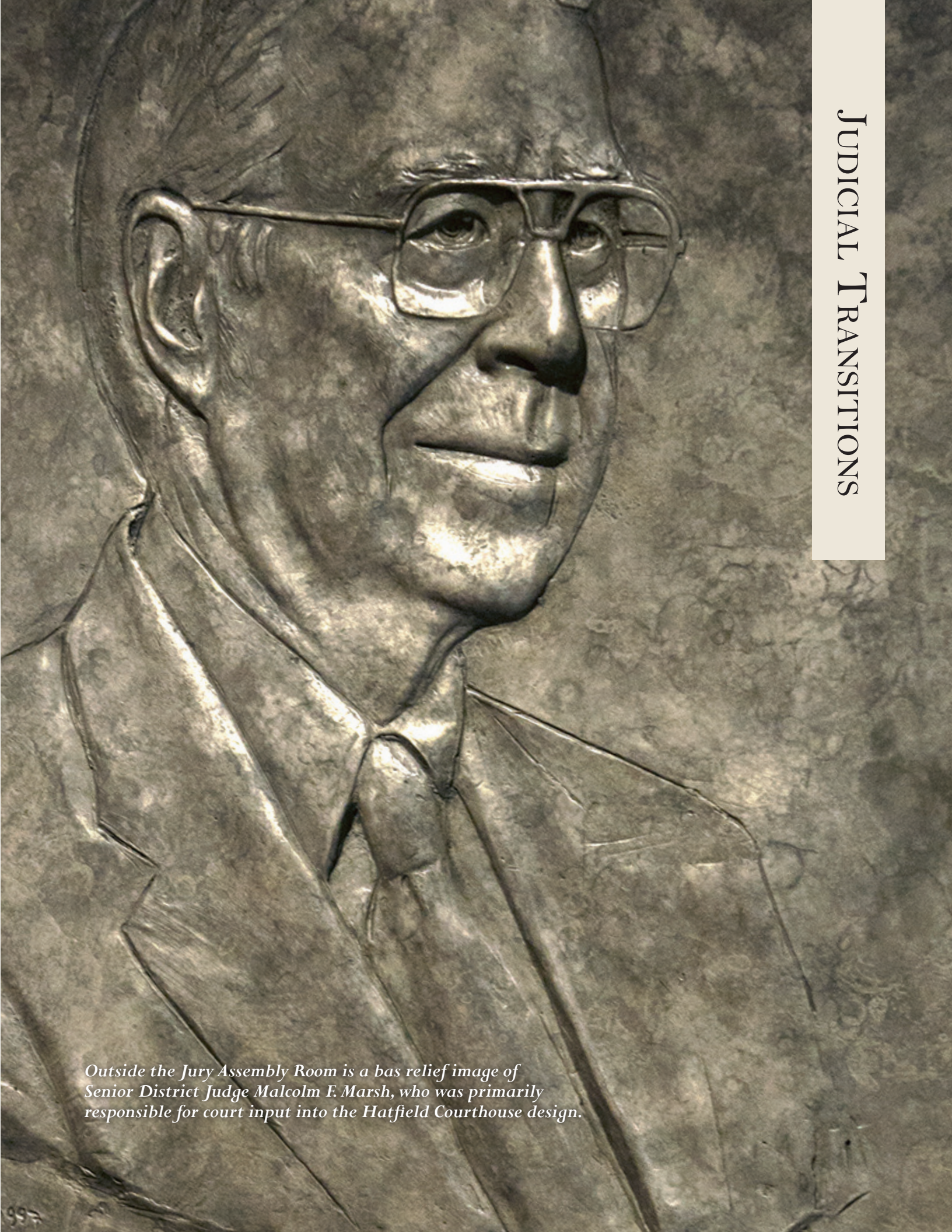
The Office of the Circuit Executive provides staff support to the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit and implements the council's administrative decisions and policies. By statute, the circuit executive is the administrative assistant to the chief judge of the circuit and secretary to the council. The circuit executive and her staff assist in identifying circuit-wide needs, conducting studies, developing and implementing policies, and providing training, public information and human resources support. Circuit executive staff also coordinates building and automation projects, and advises the council on

procedural and ethical matters. The Office of the Circuit Executive provides management and technical assistance to courts within the circuit upon request. It also administers the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Lawyer Representatives

Judges of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and of each of the 15 district courts of the circuit appoint lawyer representatives. Lawyer representatives serve as a liaison between the federal bench and bar, fostering open communications between judges and lawyers, and providing support and advice in the functioning of the courts within the circuit. Attorneys serving as lawyer representatives work closely with district, bankruptcy and magistrate judges in their home districts. They participate as members on various committees and help plan local district conferences, often serving as speakers or facilitators. Lawyer representatives also help plan the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, which is convened "for the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice within the circuit," pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 333. 

JUDICIAL TRANSITIONS



Outside the Jury Assembly Room is a bas relief image of Senior District Judge Malcolm F. Marsh, who was primarily responsible for court input into the Hatfield Courthouse design.

NEW JUDGES

District Judge



Dale A. Drozd was confirmed by the Senate to serve as a district judge for the Eastern District of California on

October 5, 2015, and received his judicial commission on November 2, 2015. Prior to his appointment, he had served as a magistrate judge for the Eastern District of California since 1997. Judge Drozd engaged in private practice in Sacramento, California, from 1986 to 1997, and in San Francisco, from 1982 to 1985. He received his B.A. from San Diego State University in 1977 and his J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, in 1980. Following law school, he clerked for Judge Lawrence K. Karlton of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California from 1980 to 1982. He maintains chambers in Fresno.

Bankruptcy Judges



Christopher M. Alston was appointed as a bankruptcy judge for the Western District of Washington

on July 1, 2015. Prior to his appointment, Judge Alston was with the law firm of Foster Pepper PLLC in Seattle, where he

had chaired the firm's Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy Group since 2010. He joined the firm as an associate in 1989 and became an equity partner in 1997. Judge Alston served as a lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference for the Western District of Washington. He had served as a mediator for the district's Judge Thomas T. Glover Mediation Program since 2012 and on its Executive Committee since 2014. Judge Alston received his A.B. from Princeton University in 1985 and his J.D. in 1989 from the University of Michigan Law School, where he was awarded a Clarence Darrow Scholarship. He maintains chambers in Seattle.



Martin R. Barash was appointed as a bankruptcy judge for the Central District of California on March 26,

2015. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Barash had been a partner at the law firm of Klee, Tuchin, Bogdanoff & Stern LLP, in Los Angeles since 2001. He joined the firm as an associate in 1991. He also worked as an associate at Stutman, Treister & Glatt P.C. in L.A., from 1994 to 1998, and served as an adjunct professor of law at California State University at Northridge, from 1998 to 1999. Judge Barash earned his A.B. in 1989 from Princeton University, where he graduated

magna cum laude, and his J.D. in 1992 from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, where he served as member, business manager, symposium editor and editor of the UCLA Law Review. Following law school, he clerked for Judge Procter R. Hug, Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, from 1992 to 1993. He maintains chambers in Woodland Hills.



Christopher D. Jaime was appointed as a bankruptcy judge for the Eastern District of California on January 5,

2015. Prior to coming onto the bench, Judge Jaime had been the vice-president and a shareholder at Maupin, Cox & LeGoy in Reno, Nevada, since 1998. He joined the firm as an associate in 1992. Judge Jaime received his B.S. from St. Mary's College of California in 1989 and his J.D. in 1992 from Willamette University College of Law, where he was the associate editor of the Willamette Law Review from 1991 to 1992. He maintains chambers in Sacramento.



Photo credit: Ronald Webb

JUDICIAL INVESTITURE IN FRESNO

District Judge Dale A. Drozd of Fresno was the only Article III judge to be confirmed in the Ninth Circuit in 2015. His investiture ceremony was held February 18, 2016, at the Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse in Fresno. Senior District Judge Anthony W. Ishii administered the oath of office and Judge Drozd was helped into his robes by his sons, Doug, left, and Paul Drozd. Judge Drozd had previously served his court as a magistrate judge for 18 years.



René Lastreto, II, was appointed as a bankruptcy judge for the Eastern District of California on

September 14, 2015. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was a partner and owner of Lang, Richert & Patch in Fresno, California, where he served on the Management Committee and was lead attorney of the Financial Services Practice. He joined the firm in 1999 and served as managing partner from 2004 to 2005. Judge Lastreto received his B.S., cum laude, from the University of Utah in 1978 and his J.D. in 1981 from the

University of San Francisco, School of Law, where he received honors for moot court in 1978 and 1979. He maintains chambers in Fresno.



Peter C. McKittrick was appointed as a bankruptcy judge for the District of Oregon on January 12,

2015. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge McKittrick had been a partner at McKittrick Leonard LLP in Portland, Oregon, since 2012. He had worked as a bankruptcy trustee in his own firm, McKittrick, Inc., since 2005 and previously had

a long association with the law firm of Farleigh Wada Witt PC in Portland, where he worked as an associate from 1986 to 1991, a shareholder from 1991 to 2005, and of counsel from 2005 to 2012. Judge McKittrick received his B.S. from Lewis & Clark College in 1981 and his J.D. in 1985 from Willamette University College of Law, where he graduated cum laude. During law school, he worked as a teaching assistant for first-year legal research and writing and as a research assistant to a professor. He maintains chambers in Portland.

Magistrate Judges



Stacie F. Beckerman was appointed as a magistrate judge for the District of Oregon on January 5,

2015. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Beckerman had served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Oregon since 2008. During 2011-2012, Judge Beckerman was also an adjunct professor at Lewis and Clark Law School. Prior to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Judge Beckerman served as an assistant attorney general for the Oregon Department of Justice. Prior to public service, Judge Beckerman engaged in private practice as a litigation associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, & Flom, in Boston and Palo Alto, California, from 1999 until 2006, and as an associate at Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson & Hand, in Washington, D.C., from 1998-1999. Judge Beckerman received her B.A. from the University of Iowa in 1995 and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1998. She maintains chambers in Portland.



David W. Christel was appointed as a magistrate judge for the Western District of Washington on

April 1, 2015. He had served as a part-time magistrate judge for district since 2007. Prior to coming onto the bench, he engaged in private practice in Vancouver, Washington, where he was a partner at Christel & Isely, from 2007 to 2015; a sole proprietor of David W. Christel Attorney at Law, PC, from 2006 to 2007; a partner at Simon & Christel from 2004 to 2006; a partner at Blair, Schaefer, Hutchison & Wolfe LLP, from 1989 to 2004; and an associate at Blair, Schaefer, Hutchison & Wynne, from 1987 to 1989. He began his legal career as a litigation associate at Diamond & Sylvester in Seattle, from 1986 to 1987. Judge Christel received his B.A. from Washington State University in 1979 and his J.D. from the University of Washington, School of Law, in 1985. He maintains chambers in Tacoma.



Deborah M. Fine was appointed as a magistrate judge for the District of Arizona on May 4, 2015.

Prior to her appointment, Judge Fine had served as an assistant

federal public defender for the District of Arizona in Flagstaff since 2005 and in Phoenix from 1992 to 1994. She engaged in private practice in Flagstaff from 1994 to 2005 and in Phoenix from 1989 to 1992. Judge Fine received her B.A. from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1986 and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1989. She maintains chambers in Flagstaff.



Erica P. Grosjean was appointed as a magistrate judge for the Eastern District of California on

October 12, 2015. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Grosjean had been a partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan in Los Angeles and New York since 2001. She received her A.B., with honors, from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1997 and her J.D., cum laude, in 2000 from Harvard Law School, where she was editor of the Law Review. Following law school, she clerked for Judge Herbert Y.C. Choy of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 2000 to 2001. Judge Grosjean maintains chambers in Fresno.



John T. Johnston was appointed as a magistrate judge for the District of Montana on January 5,

2015. Prior to coming onto the bench, Judge Johnston had been a partner with the law firm of Joyce, Johnston & MacDonald, PLLP, in Butte, Montana, since 2003. Prior to that, he worked in Butte as a partner with Corette, Pohlman & Allen, PC, from 1994 to 2002 and as an associate with Corette, Smith, Pohlman & Allen, PC, from 1988 to 1993. Judge Johnston received his B.S. from Western Montana College in 1985 and his J.D. from the University of Montana, School of Law, in 1988. He maintains chambers in Great Falls.



Sallie Kim was appointed as a magistrate judge for the Northern District of California on July 30,

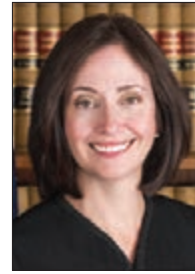
2015. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Kim had been a partner with the law firm of GCA Law Partners, LLP, in Mountain View, California, since 2002. She was a special counsel at Duane Morris in San Francisco, from 1999 to 2002; an associate at Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe in Palo

Alto, California, in 1995; and an associate at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Palo Alto, from 1991 to 1994. Judge Kim worked as an assistant and associate dean of student affairs and as a lecturer in law at Stanford Law School from 1995 to 1999. Judge Kim received her A.B., cum laude, from Princeton University in 1986 and her J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1989. Following law school, she served as a law clerk to Judge Spencer Williams of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. She maintains chambers in San Francisco.



Alexander F. MacKinnon was appointed as a magistrate judge for the Central District of California on July 20,

2015. Prior to coming onto the bench, Judge MacKinnon had been an associate then partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP since 1982. He received his B.S.E. from the University of Michigan in 1977 and his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1981. He clerked for Judge Albert J. Engel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit from 1981 to 1982. He maintains chambers in Los Angeles.



Rozella A. Oliver was appointed as a magistrate judge for the Central District of California on

May 1, 2015. Prior to her appointment, Judge Oliver had served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Central District since 2005 and in the District of Columbia from 2003 to 2005. She served as a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, Tax Division, from 2000 to 2003. Judge Oliver received her A.B. from Harvard University in 1992, her diploma in Hispanic studies from the Universidad de Barcelona in 1994, and her J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1999. Following law school, she clerked for Judge Douglas P. Woodlock of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. She maintains chambers in Los Angeles.



Karen E. Scott was appointed as a magistrate judge for the Central District of California on July 28, 2015.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Scott had engaged in private practice as a civil litigator at Rutan & Tucker LLP in Costa Mesa, California, since 1996. She received her B.A. from

Stanford University in 1993 and her J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1996. She maintains chambers in Santa Ana.



Gail J. Standish was appointed as a magistrate judge for the Central District of California on April 13, 2015. Prior

to her appointment to the bench, Judge Standish had served as a partner at Winston & Strawn LLP since 2005. She began her career at Irell & Manella LLP in 1994 and also practiced at Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP from 2001 to 2005. She served as an assistant United States attorney for the Central District of California from 1997 to 2001. She served as an Air Force officer and flight test engineer for the F-16 Falcon aircraft in the 1980s and later worked on life sciences experiments that flew on the space shuttle. Judge Standish received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1985 and 1990, respectively. She received her J.D., Order of the Coif, in 1993 from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, where she served as an articles editor of the UCLA Law Review. Following law school, she clerked for Judge William J. Rea of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California from 1993 to 1994. She maintains chambers in Los Angeles.



Karen L. Stevenson was appointed as a magistrate judge for the Central District of California on August 10,

2015. Prior to coming onto the bench, Judge Stevenson had served as of counsel with Buchalter Nemer's Litigation Practice Group in Los Angeles since 2006. She practiced law at Hennigan Bennett & Dorman, from 2001 to 2006, and at O'Melveny & Myers, from 1998 to 2001. She worked as a litigation attorney at Pacific Telesis Group in 2001. Judge Stevenson received her B.A., Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1979 and her M.A. from Magdalen College, Oxford University, in 1981. She earned her J.D., with distinction, from Stanford Law School in 1998. Judge Stevenson served as editor-in-chief of the American Bar Association Litigation Section's Litigation News online and print publication. She maintains chambers in Los Angeles.

SENIOR JUDGES



District Judge Ralph R. Beistline was appointed as a district judge for the District of Alaska on March 19, 2002.

He served as chief judge of his court from 2009 to 2015, assuming senior status on December 31, 2015. Judge Beistline served previously as judge of the Alaska Superior Court, Third Judicial District, since 1992, and was in private practice from 1975 to 1992. He received his B.A. in 1972 from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and his J.D. from the University of Puget Sound, School of Law in 1974. After law school, he clerked for Judges Warren W. Taylor, Gerald Van Hoomissen, and Everett W. Hepp of the Alaska Superior Court, Third Judicial District from 1974 to 1975. He maintains chambers in Anchorage.



District Judge Edward J. Lodge was appointed as a district judge for the District of Idaho on November 27,

1989, and was chief judge of his court from 1992 to 1999. He assumed senior status on July 3, 2015. Judge Lodge was previously a judge of the Idaho District Court, 1965 to 1988, and a judge of the Canyon County (Idaho) Probate Court, 1963 to 1965. He was in

private practice in Idaho from 1960 to 1963. Judge Lodge received his B.A. from the College of Idaho in 1957 and his LL.B. in 1961 from the University of Idaho College of Law. His chambers are in Boise.



District Judge Susan Oki Mollway was appointed as a district judge for the District of Hawaii on June

23, 1998, and served as chief judge of her court from 2009 to 2015. She assumed senior status on November 6, 2015. Prior to coming onto the bench, Judge Mollway had engaged in private practice in Honolulu since 1981. She also taught as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Hawaii, School of Law, from 1988 to 1989. Judge Mollway received her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Hawaii in 1971 and 1973, respectively. She received her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1981. Judge Mollway maintains chambers in Honolulu.



District Judge Margaret M. Morrow was appointed as a district judge for the Central District of California on

February 24, 1998, and assumed senior status on October 29, 2015. Prior to her appointment to the

bench, she had engaged in private practice in Los Angeles since 1974. Judge Morrow received her A.B. from Bryn Mawr College in 1971 and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1974. She retired from the bench on January 6, 2016.



Senior Circuit Judge Harry Pregerson was confirmed by the Senate to serve as a judge of the United States Court of

Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on October 31, 1979. He received his judicial commission on November 2, 1979, and assumed senior status on December 11, 2015. He served previously as a district judge of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California since 1967. Prior to joining the federal bench, Judge Pregerson served as a judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, 1966 to 1967, and as a judge of the Los Angeles Municipal Court, 1965 to 1966. He was in private practice in Van Nuys, California, 1953 to 1965, and in Los Angeles, 1951 to 1953. Judge Pregerson served in the U.S. Marine Corps as first lieutenant from 1944 to 1946. He earned his B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1947, and his LL.B. from U.C. Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, in 1950. He maintains chambers in Woodland Hills.

IN MEMORIAM



Senior Circuit Judge Arthur L. Alarcón, 89, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, died on January

28, 2015. Nominated by President Carter, he came onto the Ninth Circuit bench in 1979 and was the first Hispanic to sit on the court. He assumed senior status in 1992 but maintained a full caseload for many years. Judge Alarcón also served as a judge of the California state courts. Appointed by Governor Jerry Brown, Jr., he served as an associate justice of the California Court of Appeal for the Second Appellate District from 1978 to 1979. He was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court by Governor Edmund Brown, Sr., serving from 1964 to 1978. He also worked in the administration of the first Governor Brown from 1961 to 1964, serving as a legal advisor, clemency and extraditions secretary, and an executive assistant. An Army veteran of World War II, he received the Combat Infantry Badge, 4 Battle Stars, Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. Judge Alarcón earned his B.A. from the University of Southern California in 1949, and his LL.B. in 1951 from the USC School of Law, where he was editor of the Law Review. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Sandra; two sons, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Greg Alarcón and his wife, Helen, and attorney Lance Alarcón and his husband, Scott; a daughter, Dr. Jan

Alarcón; sisters, Maria Alarcón and Angelina Glomb; four grandchildren; and extended family.



Senior District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton, 80, of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California

died on July 11, 2015. Nominated by President Carter, Judge Karlton was confirmed by the Senate on July 23, 1979, and received his judicial commission the following day. He served as an active judge for almost 21 years before taking senior status on May 28, 2000. He led his court as chief judge from 1983 to 1990. Prior to coming onto the federal bench, Judge Karlton had served as a judge of the Sacramento County Superior Court, from 1976 to 1979, and been in private practice in Sacramento from 1962 to 1976. He began his career as a civilian legal officer in the Sacramento Army Depot from 1960 to 1962. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Judge Karlton received his J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1958. He came to Sacramento while serving in the Army from 1958 to 1960. Judge Karlton is survived by his wife, Sue, and daughter, Emily Williams.



Senior District Judge David V. Kenyon, 84, of the United States District Court for the Central District of California

died on March 31, 2015. Nominated by President Carter, Judge Kenyon was confirmed by the Senate on September 29, 1980, and received his judicial commission the following day. He served as an active judge for 15 years, assuming senior status in 1995. Prior to federal service, Judge Kenyon had served as a judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, from 1972 to 1980, and the Los Angeles Municipal Court, from 1971 to 1972. He was in private practice from 1961 to 1971, during which time he served as house counsel to National Theaters and Television, Inc., and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Inc. Judge Kenyon served as a Marine Corps infantry officer during the Korean War and was headed into combat when an armistice ending the conflict was announced. He received his B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1952, and his J.D. from the University of Southern California Law School in 1957. After law school, he clerked for District Judge Ernest A. Tolin of the Central District. Judge Kenyon is survived by his wife of 49 years, Mary; two sons, John and George; two grandsons, Miles and Timothy; a brother, Clark; and extended family.



Bankruptcy Judge Robert L. Ordin, 90, of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District

of California died on March 24, 2015. Judge Ordin served on the bankruptcy bench from 1973 to 1983. Before that, he had practiced bankruptcy law with several well-known specialty firms in Los Angeles. After leaving the bench, he returned to private practice as of counsel to the L.A. firm of Murphy, Sheneman, Julian & Rogers. His career also includes stints as an associate professor at Loyola Law School and Western State University College of Law, and as part-time professor at San Fernando University College of Law. A lifelong L.A. resident, Judge Ordin attended the University of California, Los Angeles, for two years before being inducted into military service. He served as a bomber pilot in the Army Air Force during World War II. After leaving the service, he was accepted at the University of Southern California, School of Law, receiving his law degree in 1949. He eventually returned to UCLA to obtain his undergraduate degree in English. Judge Ordin is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Andrea; two daughters, Allison and Victoria, and a son, Richard; two grandchildren; and extended family.



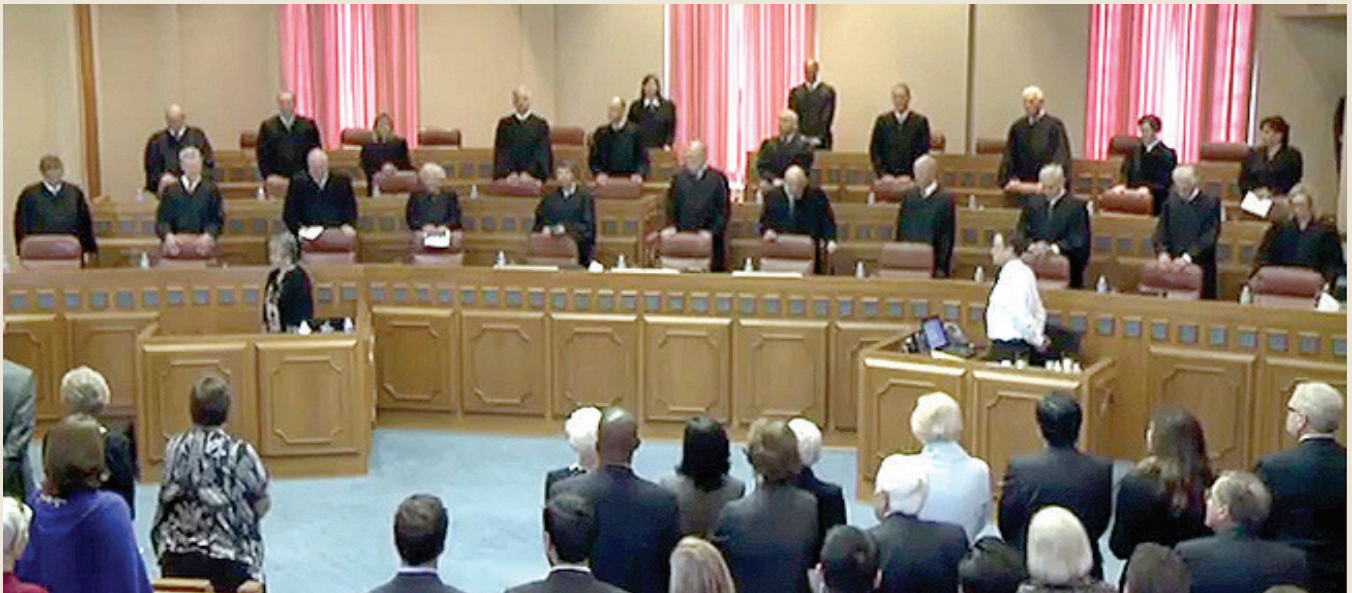
Senior District Judge Mariana R. Pfaelzer, 89, of the United States District Court for the Central District of California

died on May 14, 2015. Nominated to the federal bench by President Carter, Judge Pfaelzer was confirmed by the Senate on September 22, 1978, and received her judicial commission the following day. Judge Pfaelzer served as an active judge for 19 years, taking senior status on December 31, 1997, and continued working right up until her death. Her career in the law began in 1958, when she joined the West Los Angeles firm of Wyman, Bautzer and Rothman and became a partner within a very short time and had a major role in building the firm into a litigation powerhouse. While in private practice, she also served as a member of the L.A. Police Commission and as commission president from 1976 to 1978. Judge Pfaelzer received her A.B. from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1949. After working for six years as a school teacher in Burbank and L.A., she entered law school, earning her J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1957. Judge Pfaelzer's husband, attorney Frank Rothman, died in 2000.



Senior District Judge Gordon Thompson, Jr., 85, of the United States District Court for the Southern District of

California, died on July 5, 2015. Nominated by President Nixon, Judge Thompson was confirmed by the Senate on October 13, 1970, received his commission on October 16, 1970, and assumed senior status on December 28, 1994. He served as chief judge of his court from 1984 to 1991. A lifelong San Diegan, Judge Thompson was born into a family of judges. His brother was the late Judge David R. Thompson of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. His father, Gordon Thompson, Sr., had been a judge of the San Diego County Superior Court, while his grandfather, Adam Thompson, had been a judge pro tem of San Diego County. Continuing the family tradition is his son, Judge John M. Thompson of the San Diego County Superior Court. Judge Thompson received his B.S. from the University of Southern California in 1951 and his LL.B. from the Southwestern University School of Law in 1956. Following law school, he served as deputy district attorney for San Diego County from 1957 to 1960 then went into private practice in San Diego until his appointment to the federal bench. In addition to his son, Judge Thompson is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jean; sons Peter Renwick Thompson and Gordon Thompson, III; and four grandsons. 🙏



The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit convened a special session in June to celebrate the life and legacy of a distinguished colleague, Senior Circuit Judge Arthur L. Alarcón of Los Angeles. Judge Alarcón, who died of cancer in January at age 89, was the first Hispanic to sit on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and had been a judge of the state and federal courts in California for more than 50 years. Most of his Ninth Circuit colleagues were present for the special session at the Richard H. Chambers Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena, California. Also in attendance were other federal and state court judges, members of the bar and legal academia, and friends and family of the late jurist.



Senior District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, who died in July at age 80, was remembered at a special program held later that month at the Robert T. Matsui U.S. Courthouse in Sacramento. More than 400 people attended the special session, which featured remarks by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, via video, Circuit Judge Stephen R. Reinhardt of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and Justice Cole Blease of Sacramento's 3rd District Court of Appeal, Karlton's best friend and former law partner.

NINTH CIRCUIT HIGHLIGHTS

THE BOISTEROUS SEA OF LIBERTY
IS NEVER WITHOUT A WAVE

THOMAS JEFFERSON

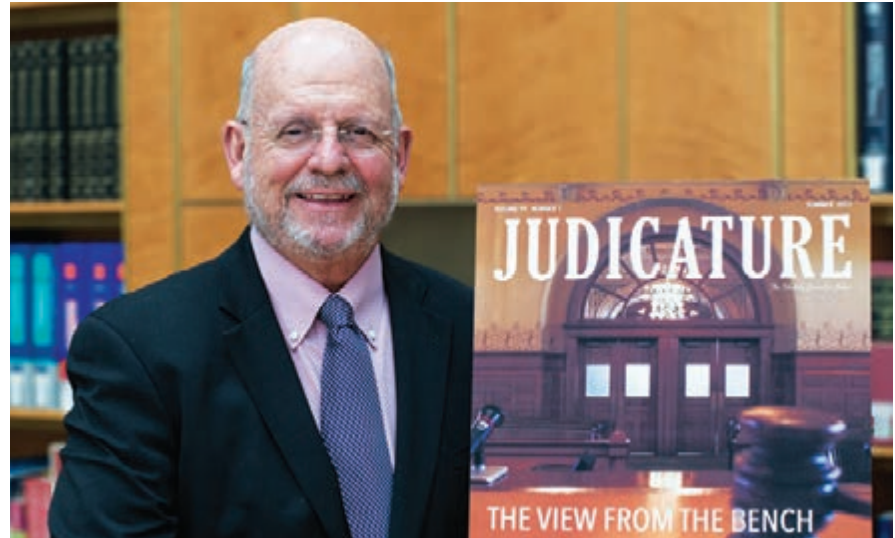
NEW JUDICATURE HAS NINTH CIRCUIT FLAVOR

For nearly a century, *Judicature* had been published by the American Judicature Society. But when the society dissolved last fall due to financial problems, the future of the scholarly journal grew dim. In stepped the Duke University School of Law, which acquired rights to the *Judicature* name and announced plans to resume publication on a quarterly basis, beginning this spring.

The first edition of the magazine to be published by the law school – *Judicature* Volume 99 Number 1 – rolled off the presses at the end of April. It was freely delivered to federal appellate, district and magistrate judges, justices of the U.S. Supreme Court and the chief justices of state supreme courts in the 50 states. (The magazine is available to other federal and state judges at a reduced subscription rate.)

Senior Circuit Judge Michael Daly Hawkins of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals served as the editor-in-chief of the first edition, while Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Emeritus Alex Kozinski authored one of the anchor articles, a provocative piece suggesting consideration be given to video recording jury deliberations.

Also writing articles for the first edition are Dean Erwin Chemerinsky of the University of California, Irvine, School of



*Senior Circuit Judge Michael Daly Hawkins of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals served as the editor-in-chief of the first edition of the new *Judicature*.*

Law, reviewing the pros and cons of measuring judicial behavior; District Judge Gregory L. Frost of the Southern District of Ohio, considering predictability in the law; and District Judge George C. Hanks, Jr., of the Southern District of Texas, assessing the role of magistrate judges and special masters in complex litigation.


Judge Hawkins came to be involved in the editorial direction of *Judicature* through his relationship with Duke Law Dean David Levi. The two men have been friends since Dean Levi's days as a federal district judge in Sacramento, California.

As part of his classroom commitment, Judge Hawkins spent four weeks with state and federal judges in Duke's LL.M. program. In anticipation of eventually publishing their work, the group elected a board of editors and selected Judge Hawkins as editor-in-chief. A Ninth Circuit colleague, Circuit Judge

Johnnie Blakeney Rawlinson, also was elected an editor.

Those plans were set aside when the opportunity came along to acquire *Judicature*. Intrigued by the possibilities, Dean Levi and John Rabiej, Director of Duke's Law Center for Judicial Studies, moved to acquire rights to the *Judicature* name and gain access to part of the society's substantial archive.

Mr. Rabiej, who came to Duke after a career at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, says *Judicature* will provide articles that are practical and useful to judges and contribute to the improvement of the administration of justice. The publication also will appeal to attorneys and academics through articles focusing on emerging issues of law, case management techniques and ways litigation can be more effectively handled in court.

More information about *Judicature* is available online at: <http://law.duke.edu/judicature/>. 



NINTH CIRCUIT JUDGE EDWARD LEAVY RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS DEVITT AWARD

The Honorable Edward Leavy, a distinguished senior circuit judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and one of Oregon's most admired jurists, was the 2015 recipient of the prestigious Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award.



*Senior Circuit Judge
Edward Leavy*

Presented by the Dwight D. Opperman Foundation, the Devitt Award is considered to be the federal judiciary's highest honor. Recipients are chosen by a committee of federal judges, which in 2015 was chaired by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

Judge Leavy formally received the Devitt Award on November 13, 2015, at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Justice Thomas along with Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., and Justices Anthony M. Kennedy and Sonia Sotomayor attended the event. Judge Leavy was accompanied by his wife of 64 years, Eileen, and a number of colleagues.

Judge Leavy also was honored at a special sitting of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, held December 15, 2015, at the Pioneer Courthouse in Portland, Oregon, where he maintains chambers. Scores of federal and state court judges, members of the bar, family and friends gathered for the session.

Often referenced as the Nobel Prize for the judiciary, the Devitt Award honors an Article III judge who has achieved a distinguished career and made significant contributions to the administration of justice, the advancement of the rule of law, and the improvement of society as a whole. Judge Leavy was nominated by Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas in a letter also signed by five previous chief judges of the circuit.



Also contributing letters of support for the nomination were numerous other federal and state court judges, the current attorney general of Oregon and a former governor of the state, federal agency representatives, members of the bar, law professors and Native American tribal councils.

At the Pioneer Courthouse event, Judge Leavy was lauded for his keen intellect, humble demeanor and humor.

"No other judge ... possesses in one being his dignity, sagacity, humility, warmth and gentleness. Judge Leavy is the genuine article," observed Judge O'Scannlain.

Another speaker, District Judge Anna J. Brown of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon, composed a limerick and knitted a pair of socks to remind her friend and colleague of his roots.

“To help Ed return to humility, this guy known for his great gentility, I have knitted him socks, right here in this box, to remind him of his sensibility,” she rhymed.

In his remarks, Judge Leavy expressed gratitude to many people.

“The only way you can react to this is to try to do better,” Judge Leavy said of the award. “You say to yourself, ‘Why do people think I am worthy of this and how can I make them feel that they were right?’ ”

Judge Leavy, 86, has a long and distinguished record of public service. His judicial career spans 58 years and includes service on both the federal and state courts. In addition, he is renowned for his mediation skills, successfully settling a number of complex, high-profile civil and criminal cases.

The youngest of 10 children raised on a farm in rural Oregon, Judge Leavy graduated from the University of Portland in 1950, the first in his family to earn a college degree. He received his law degree from the University of Notre Dame, graduating fourth in his class in 1953. After a brief stint in private practice, he served as a deputy district attorney in Lane County, Oregon, from 1954 to 1957. From 1957 to 1976, he served as a district and circuit court judge in Lane County and was selected to serve as a justice pro tem of the Oregon Supreme Court in 1974.

In 1976, judges of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon selected Judge Leavy



Seated from left are Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Senior Circuit Judge Edward Leavy, Eileen Leavy, and Lisa Jaye, Ninth Circuit mediator. Standing from left are Justice Clarence Thomas; Justice Anthony M. Kennedy; Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.; Julie Chrystyn Opperman; Ike Devji, Esq., Editor at Large for the Opperman Report of the Dwight D. Opperman Foundation; Circuit Judge Diarmuid F. O’Sconnlain and William A. Barton (who entertained the guests at the celebration as Oliver Wendell Holmes).

to serve in the newly-created position of federal magistrate judge. President Reagan nominated him to serve his court as a district judge in 1984 then elevated him to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1987. Judge Leavy assumed senior status in 1997 but has hardly been retired. He was appointed to the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, serving from 2001 to 2008. He continues to carry a large caseload.

As a mediator, Judge Leavy has been sought after by judges nationwide to settle difficult and complex cases. His notable mediations include overseeing the coordination, case management and settlements of hundreds of suits related to the 2000-2001 energy crisis in California and the Pacific Northwest. To date, more than \$8.5 billion in refunds to rate payers have been issued under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission refund proceedings.

He also negotiated a plea agreement in a 1999 case involving Dr. Wen Ho Lee, a New Mexico scientist accused of mishandling the nation’s nuclear secrets; settlements between 2004 and 2009 of suits by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon claiming trust mismanagement by the federal government; and settling multiple lawsuits and obtaining substantial compensation for pensioners following the collapse of Capital Consultants LLC of Oregon.

Previous Ninth Circuit winners of the Devitt Award include Chief Judge Emeritus J. Clifford Wallace, honored in 2006; District Judge William W. Schwarzer of the Northern District of California in 2004; and the late Chief Judge Emeritus James R. Browning in 1990. 🏠

NINTH CIRCUIT BREAKS NEW GROUND WITH CORRECTIONS SUMMIT

Litigation brought by inmates in state and federal prisons now accounts for significant portions of the caseloads in federal trial and appellate courts. The inaugural Ninth Circuit Corrections Summit, held in early November in Sacramento, California, sought to foster greater understanding and cooperation among many of the principal stakeholders in the realm of corrections-related litigation.

Among the more than 300 attendees at the first-of-its-kind event were federal judges, court staff, government lawyers, corrections officials, plaintiff attorneys, prisoner advocates and academic researchers. Their focus was on working together to improve the operations of the courts and the state and federal correctional institutions in the nine western states that comprise the Ninth Circuit.

The summit agenda sought to address five key issues: segregated housing, health care, grievance policies, case management and class actions. Each topic was the subject of a panel presentation by recognized experts, followed by discussion among small groups of attendees having diverse professional and



Attendees listen in on panel presentations addressing key issues in litigations brought by inmates in state and federal prisons. Participating in small group discussions was Magistrate Judge Valerie Cooke of the District of Nevada, pictured far right.



geographic backgrounds. This “cross-pollination” small group discussion was highly rated by participants in post-event evaluations.

“While there was occasional tension in these discussions, there was also a great deal of agreement,” said Magistrate Judge Charles Pyle of the District of Arizona, who championed the summit idea and served as one of the chairs of the organizing committee.

Many of the summit attendees arrived early to take an optional tour of the California Department of Correction’s new prisoner medical center in Stockton, California. The

California Health Care Facility, a sprawling campus of buildings with a combined 1.4 million square feet of space, provides state-of-the-art health services to more than 1,700 inmates.

The summit also featured an opening night reception in the rotunda of the Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse. California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., delivered the keynote address. Also offering remarks were Chief District Judge Morrison C. England, Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California and Dr. Jeffrey A. Beard, secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.



Over the 2 ½ days of the summit, attendees also heard from Paul Wright, the executive director of the Human Rights Defense Center and editor of Prison Legal News, and Michael G. Santos, author and prison reform advocate. Each of them had spent over 20 years in prison and started on the road to success while incarcerated.

The conference opened with remarks by Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas and concluded with a video presentation from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who has spoken of the plight of the incarcerated and expressed serious concern with the use of solitary confinement in his legal writings.

The summit was cosponsored by the Association of State Correctional Administrators, the Federal Judicial Center and the Office of the Circuit Executive



for the Ninth Circuit. Others playing key roles on the judicial side were Ninth Circuit Judge N. Randy Smith; Senior District Judge Jeremy Fogel, director of the Federal Judicial Center; Magistrate Judge Valerie Cooke of the District of Nevada; and Denise Asper, coordinator of the Ninth Circuit's Prison Litigation Project.

Summit organizers are hopeful that the work begun in Sacramento will be continued by small working groups in each of the participating states. There is also talk of repeating the summit every two to three years.

"The summit was an extraordinarily unique and complex venture. The ability of these three organizations to smoothly and cooperatively work through the many challenges in putting on this conference was remarkable," Judge Pyle observed. 🙏

Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas greeted summit attendees, above left, while California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., delivered the keynote address at an opening night reception at the federal courthouse in Sacramento.

NINTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL CONFERENCE



The Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference is authorized by law “for the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice within the circuit.” 28 U.S.C. § 333. The conference provides an exceptional legal educational program while facilitating circuit governance through numerous business meetings of judges and lawyers.

The 2015 circuit conference, held in San Diego, California, offered a varied program that included sessions on cyberwarfare; global demographic changes; improving appellate advocacy; human trafficking; and the application of law to the mentally ill.

The conference also served to recognize winners of the 2015 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, an essay and video competition focusing on the Constitution for high school-aged students in the greater San Diego area. The winning essay was read and winning video shown during the opening session.

United States Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who is the designated justice for the Ninth Circuit, attended the conference and participated in an informal conversation on the closing day of the event.

In addition to the general sessions, the conference offered a review of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions; a judicial primer on law enforcement requests for cellphone location data; and use of alternative dispute resolution to achieve mortgage loan modifications during Chapter 13 bankruptcy proceedings.

The Honorable Stephen J. Rapp, U.S. ambassador-at-large in the U.S. Department of State’s Office of Global Criminal Justice, was the keynote speaker at a conference luncheon, discussing his experiences in bringing to justice international figures accused of war crimes.

The conference featured speakers and panelists from the federal bench and bar, government, academia and the private sector. Judicial participants include

Circuit Judges, pictured top from left, Marsha S. Berzon, Jay S. Bybee, John B. Owens, and Paul J. Watford, participated in a pre-conference program on Supreme Court Review. U.S. Ambassador-at-Large Stephen J. Rapp of the Office of Global Criminal Justice, shared his experiences in international prosecution of war crimes.



Circuit Judge Thomas M. Hardiman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, who led the discussion on protecting the judiciary against cyberwarfare. Judge Hardiman chairs the Committee on Information



Technology of the U.S. Judicial Conference. His co-panelists included Lt. Col. Shane Reeves of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; Peter F. Cowhey, dean of the School of Global Policy and Strategy at the University of San Diego; and Dr. Kimberly C. Claffy, founder of the Center for Applied Internet Data Analysis in San Diego.

The presentation on human trafficking included remarks by Egyptian-born Shyima Hall, whose parents sold her into forced labor as a child. She lived as a household servant in Southern California until being freed by authorities. The panel also included U.S. District Judge Virginia Kendall of the Northern District of Illinois, a noted expert on child exploitation and human trafficking, and lawyer T. Markus Funk, who provided real-world examples of how attorneys and judges can address the complex and widespread problem of human trafficking.

A discussion of how the Ninth Circuit can meet the challenge of global demographic change was moderated by District Judge Edward M. Chen of the



Northern District of California. Panelists included Marcelo M. Suárez-Orozco, a professor and dean of the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Circuit Judge Mary H. Murguia of the Ninth Circuit and Anne M. Voigts, an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of California and chair of the Appellate Lawyer Representatives, led the discussion on improving appellate practice. The session focused on identifying common shortcoming in appellate practice and exploring ways for the bench



Attorney Rebecca Pennell, seated left, and Bankruptcy Judge Margaret M. Mann, seated far right, engaged Justice Anthony M. Kennedy in a conversation at the conference. Marcelo M. Suárez-Orozco, professor and dean at UCLA pictured top right, participated in a panel discussion on global demographic trends affecting courts and juries. Shyima Hall, left, shared her ordeal as a survivor of human trafficking.

and bar to work together to address them.

All told, judges and lawyers participated in 22 business meetings during the conference. The meetings serve to disseminate information and seek consensus on various policy matters affecting the administration of justice in the circuit. The annual face-to-face interaction also promotes collegiality among the bench and bar of the nation's largest judicial circuit. 🗣️

CIVICS GETS ITS DUE AT THE CIRCUIT CONFERENCE

Civics education was given its due and then some at the 2015 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in San Diego. The opening session of the conference featured remarks by federal and state court judges and presentations of the winning essay and video from the 2015 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest. The contest was cosponsored by the Courts and Community Committee of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit and the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.

Speakers included Senior Circuit Judge Raymond C. Fisher of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Presiding Justice Judith D. McConnell of the California Court of Appeal. Judge Fisher sits on the Judicial Branch Committee of the Judicial Conference of the U.S. and serves as the co-chair of that committee's new Civic Engagement Subcommittee. Justice McConnell is closely involved in the California judiciary's effort to reintroduce civics into the state's high school curriculum.

District Judge Janis L. Sammartino of the Southern District of California, who chairs the Courts and Community Committee, read the names of the contest winners and



Winners included Martha Elva Rodriguez, top left, first-place winner of the video competition, and Johannah Whitelock, who finished third. Teacher Patrick Goddard, at rear, read the winning essay written by one of his students. Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas congratulated the winners at the conference. Essay runner-up, Gavin Jackson, chatted with Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, left.

runners-ups. Several of them were present and received loud applause from the audience. Essay winner Lucile Vigouroux, a graduating senior, was unable to attend the program. However, her teacher, Patrick Goddard, was present to read her essay to the assembly. The video created by sophomore Martha Rodriguez, who was present, also was shown.

Both the essay and video winners along with a third-place finisher in the video contest were students of Mr. Goddard, who teaches at the San Diego High Educational Complex's School of International Studies, one

of the nation's top performing public schools. He is one of two instructors for the legal pathway program, a three-year curriculum designed to provide students with an in-depth examination of the legal system and its industry.

Also on the opening day of the conference, the Courts and Community Committee hosted a reception for the contest winners, their parents and other companions. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy and Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas were present, making remarks and chatting informally with the visitors. A number of



other judges and court staff from around the circuit also attended.

All told, more than 300 students from 45 high schools in the greater San Diego area participated in the 2015 civics contest, which featured the theme “The Constitution: What the American Dream Means to Me.” Students were challenged to write an essay or produce a brief video focusing on how the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments make possible the American Dream. Individual students competed in the essay contest, while individuals and teams of up to three students were eligible to enter the video contest.

Cash prizes of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 were awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, respectively, in each category of the competition. The prize money was contributed by several federal courts in the Ninth Circuit, using non-appropriated funds, and from donations by two San Diego law firms. All of the students participating in the contest received a certificate of commendation from the Ninth Circuit. 🏆



Student winners rise to accept applause during a reception sponsored by the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee, top. Patrick Goddard, above, accepts a plaque on behalf of first place essayist Lucile Vigouroux.

NINTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL CONFERENCE AWARDS

The opening session of the 2015 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference featured the presentation of awards recognizing exceptional career achievements by judges and lawyers.

Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award

The American Inns of Court for the first time selected two recipients for its prestigious Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award, honoring a distinguished federal judge from the Pacific Northwest and a respected Arizona lawyer.

Senior District Judge Robert J. Bryan of the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington was recognized for judicial leadership, particularly in promoting collegiality and mentoring among the bench and bar in the Seattle-Tacoma area. Attorney Larry A. Hammond, a senior partner in the Phoenix law firm of Osborn Maledon, was recognized as one of the deans of the Arizona criminal defense bar.

Senior Circuit Judge Mary M. Schroeder of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, a former board member of the American Inns of Court, presented the awards.

Judge Bryan has served as a federal and state judge for more than 46 years. Nominated by President Reagan, he came onto the federal bench in 1986 and served as an active judge for 14 years. He took semi-retired senior status in 2000 but continues to carry a substantial caseload. He has sat by designation with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit multiple times and participated in

Before coming onto the federal bench, Judge Bryan had sat on the Kitsap County (Washington) Superior Court. Appointed to the bench in 1967, he was elected to the office in 1968, then re-elected in 1972, 1976 and 1980. He retired from the state bench in 1984. During his 17-year tenure, he served as a judge pro tem for the Washington State Court of Appeals and a justice pro tem for



Senior District Judge Robert J. Bryan, left, and attorney Larry A. Hammond, right, pictured with Senior Circuit Judge Mary M. Schroeder, center.

circuit governance as a member of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit and its Jury Committee. He also served as president of the U.S. District Judges Association and as a trustee of the Federal Judicial Center.

Judge Bryan has his chambers in the historic Tacoma Union Station Courthouse and was actively involved for seven years on a circuit committee that helped oversee the federal government's acquisition and renovation of the historic railroad depot.

the Washington State Supreme Court; was elected president of the Washington State Association of Superior Court Judges; and was a member of boards and commissions involved in developing judicial qualifications and training standards.

A native of Bremerton, Washington, Judge Bryan received his B.A. from the University of Washington in 1956 and his J.D. from the UW School of Law in 1958. After serving two years in the Army Reserve, he practiced law in

Bremerton with his father from 1959 to 1967.

In nominating him for the award, colleagues pointed to Judge Bryan's leadership in establishing the Puget Sound American Inn of Court in Tacoma. Chartered in 1987, it was the 25th Inn of Court in the nation, a milestone for then fledgling organization. More importantly, colleagues said, was Judge Bryan's unflagging support of the inn, which was renamed in his name in 2004.

Mr. Hammond, whose career spans more than 40 years, was heralded for his devotion to achieving justice, whatever the social station of his client. Of note was his lengthy pro bono service as co-counsel for the NAACP in a mid-1970s suit seeking to desegregate Tucson public schools. The case concluded in 1981 with issuance of a federal court desegregation order that remains in force to this day. Also cited was his representation of defendants in nine federal death penalty cases originating in Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada, including one case spanning 11 years. Two of the cases ended with the release of prison inmates and all but one of the cases ended in a plea to something less than a death sentence.

Another noteworthy pro bono endeavor was Mr. Hammond's two decades of service as lead counsel on behalf of Arizona prison inmates who were to be moved from protective segregation into the general

prison population. After lengthy litigation involving two trials held under seal, the state agreed not to move the inmates and developed a new policy for protective segregation.

Mr. Hammond is a founder and chair of The Justice Project sponsored by Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice, which organizes cadres of law school students to work with volunteer criminal defense lawyers on cases and case evaluations involving prison inmates. Since its formation in 1998, the project has screened requests for assistance from more than 5,000 prisoners.

Mr. Hammond received his B.A. from the University of Texas in 1967 and his J.D. in 1970 from the University of Texas Law School, where he graduated Order of the Coif and served as editor-in-chief of the Texas Law Review.

The American Inns of Court professionalism awards are given annually in all of the federal circuits to "a lawyer or judge whose life and practice display sterling character and unquestioned integrity, coupled with ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession and the rule of law." Other circuits have had two winners named, but this is the first time it has happened in the Ninth Circuit.

John Frank Award

Nationally renowned criminal defense attorney Judy Clarke received the 2015 Ninth Circuit John Frank Award, which

recognizes an outstanding lawyer practicing in the federal courts of the western United States. Ms. Clarke has spent almost all of her 38-year career doing public defense work, often serving as lead

defense counsel in numerous high-profile capital cases. Her past representations include Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, Atlanta Olympics bomber Eric Rudolph, child-murderer Susan Smith, Tucson mass shooter Jared Lee Loughner, and Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

Ms. Clarke, who practices law in San Diego, has participated in the Federal Death Penalty Resource Counsel Project, operated by the Office of Defender Services in the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. The project provides learned counsel and other resources to assist the federal courts, federal defenders, and appointed counsel in connection with matters relating to the defense function in federal capital cases at the trial level. She has been a visiting law professor at Washington and Lee University since 2006.

Ms. Clarke was a trial attorney with the Federal Defenders of



Attorney Judy Clarke acknowledged conference attendees after receiving the 2015 Ninth Circuit John Frank Award.


San Diego, Inc., from 1978 to 1983, when she became executive director of the organization. She left in 1992 to join the newly established Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington and Idaho, serving as executive director there until 2002. She is a past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

A native of Asheville, North Carolina, Ms. Clarke received her B.A. from Furman University in 1974 and her J.D. from the

University of South Carolina School of Law in 1977.


The John Frank Award recognizes a lawyer who has “demonstrated outstanding character and integrity; dedication to the rule of law; proficiency as a trial and appellate lawyer; success in promoting collegiality among members of the bench and bar; and a lifetime of service to the federal courts of the Ninth Circuit.” The late Mr. Frank was a renowned attorney in Phoenix who, over the course of a 62-year career, argued

more than 500 appeals before the Arizona Court of Appeals, the Arizona Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, other federal circuit courts and the U.S. Supreme Court.

The award was established in 2003 by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit at the recommendation of the Ninth Circuit Advisory Board, a group of experienced attorneys who advise on circuit governance issues. The award was presented by Seattle attorney Todd True, who chairs the Advisory Board. 



NINTH CIRCUIT WELCOMES NEW JUDGES


Seated from left are Magistrate Judge Stacie F. Beckerman of the District of Oregon, District Judge Haywood S. Gilliam, Jr., of the Northern District of California, Chief Circuit Judge Sidney R. Thomas of Billings, Montana, Bankruptcy Judge Christopher Jaime of the Eastern District of California, and District Judge Rosemary Márquez of the District of Arizona. Standing in the middle row from left are Bankruptcy Judge Paul Sala of the District of Arizona, Bankruptcy Judge Scott H. Yun of the Central District of California, Bankruptcy Judge Peter C. McKittrick of the District of Oregon, Bankruptcy Judge Martin R. Barash of the Central District of California, Bankruptcy Judge Scott H. Gan of the District of Arizona, and Magistrate Judge David W. Christel of the Western District of Washington. Standing in back row from left are Magistrate Judge John Z. Boyle and District Judges John J. Tuchi, Douglas L. Rayes and James Alan Soto of the District of Arizona. 



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FEDERAL BAR LUNCHEON

The Federal Bar Association of the Northern District of California held its 37th annual Ninth Circuit Luncheon on March 18, 2015, in San Francisco. The event recognized judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District

of California. The Honorable Sidney R. Thomas, pictured top right, made his first remarks to the group as the Ninth Circuit's new chief judge. Judge Thomas thanked the bar for its ongoing support, particularly for the Ninth Circuit Pro Bono Program. Also speaking were the appellate court's newest members, Judges

John B. Owens and Michelle T. Friedland, pictured top left, who participated in an informal question-and-answer session with Judge M. Margaret McKeown. Also in attendance were judges of the Northern District of California and hundreds of lawyers who practice in the federal courts. 



IN STOCKTON, JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR TALKS OF LIFE, LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor made her first formal visit to California's Central Valley in October, delivering a message of hope to the city of Stockton, where times have been exceedingly tough in recent years.



Justice Sonia Sotomayor makes her way into the audience to speak with young people.

The keynote speaker at the Advancing Women's Leadership Conference at the University of the Pacific, Justice Sotomayor set aside matters of law to talk about life, learning and leadership. More than 3,000 people, many of them college, high school and middle school students, attended the sold-out event at the Alex G. Spanos Center.

The justice spoke only briefly from the stage, spending most of her time strolling among

the students seated in the upper levels of the auditorium. Her rapport with them was clear as she clasped hands, touched shoulders and gave hugs.

Justice Sotomayor, who was diagnosed with diabetes at age 7 and lost her father to alcoholism at age 9, told the students that everyone faces adversity. While growing up poor in New York City was not necessarily a happy childhood, she said she sometimes wonders if she would have achieved what she has had her experiences been different.

"It's important (to reach out) because, having grown up the way I did and the challenges that I lived through, I understand the need for hope. If I hadn't found some hope in my life, those challenges would have overcome me," said Justice Sotomayor, the third woman and first Latina to sit on the high court.

Poverty, unemployment and crime rates run high in the Stockton area, which was hit hard by the 2008 real estate crash and the subsequent recession. The

City of Stockton, meanwhile, is emerging shakily from municipal bankruptcy declared in 2012.

Helping arrange Justice Sotomayor's appearance was Circuit Judge Consuelo M. "Connie" Callahan of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, a Stockton resident who earned her law degree from UOP's McGeorge School of Law.

"What I told the justice is that our community contains many students that face the same challenges that she has overcome in her life," Judge Callahan explained, noting that many young people in Stockton live in poverty and may have a parent in prison or having substance abuse issues.

Advancing Women's Leadership was launched by a group of Stockton business, education and civic leaders as a one day public forum that brings outstanding women leaders to the city to inspire and empower youth and adults alike. The group, which is based at UOP, is intended to serve as a collaborative community effort that will promote women's leadership throughout California's San Joaquin County. Throughout her hour-long talk, Justice Sotomayor made frequent references to the importance of mentors and role models and urged women professionals to help others.

"Once you achieve any kind of position of responsibility, you have an obligation to give back. Women should mentor other women, minorities should give back," Justice Sotomayor said, adding, "It's why I am here." 🗣️



NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA'S LONGEST SERVING JUDGE RETIRES

Colleagues, friends and family gathered in San Francisco in November for a ceremony marking the retirement of Senior District Judge Samuel Conti, the longest serving judge in the history of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

Appointed by President Nixon in 1970, Judge Conti celebrated his 45th year on the Northern District bench on October 7, 2015. One would have to look back more than a century to find a judge with a similar tenure. That would be Judge Ogden Hoffman, Jr., the first federal district judge in California, who was appointed in 1851 and served for 40 years until his death in 1891.

Now 93, Judge Conti left the federal bench after a colorful career that saw him preside over numerous high-profile cases.

Those included a 1979 trial of members of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club accused of racketeering, during which threats of violence were made against him and his family.

Judge Conti also authored an 80-plus-page opinion in which he documented extensive problems with the Veterans Administration before reluctantly concluding he did not have jurisdiction to take corrective action. He was reversed by a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals but was affirmed when the case was heard by an 11-judge en banc court.

"It's the only time I have ever regretted being affirmed," the judge said in an interview.

A Los Angeles native, Judge Conti was an Army veteran of World War II. He earned his B.A. from

the University of Santa Clara (now Santa Clara University) in 1945 and his LL.B. from Stanford Law School in 1948. He was in private practice in San Francisco, from 1946 to 1967, and served on the Contra Costa County (California) Superior Court from 1968 until his appointment to the federal bench.

Colleagues recognized the achievement with a plaque presented to Judge Conti at a special court session. The plaque, which has pictures of Judge Conti when he came on the court and as he is leaving it, hangs on a wall in the judges' robing room. It has its own space, set apart from other photos, and will remain so until someone sets a new record of service to the court. 🏛️

NINTH CIRCUIT WELCOMES UGANDAN VISITORS

With a tradition of international judicial outreach, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit regularly receives delegations of justices, judges and other officials from the nations around the world.

In October, visitors from the Uganda judicial system were welcomed at the James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco by Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Emeritus J. Clifford Wallace, who has been at the forefront of the federal judiciary's international outreach efforts. The group also met with Circuit Judges Marsha S. Berzon, Carlos T. Bea and Michelle T. Friedland and court staff.

The Ugandan delegation was led by Chief Justice Bart Katureebe of the Courts of Judicature, a judicial system that includes a Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and a High Court. The delegation included two other jurists, the solicitor general of the Ministry of Justice, the director of public prosecutions, and the secretary




Chief Judge Emeritus J. Clifford Wallace gives an overview of the appellate process in the United States to the delegation from Uganda.

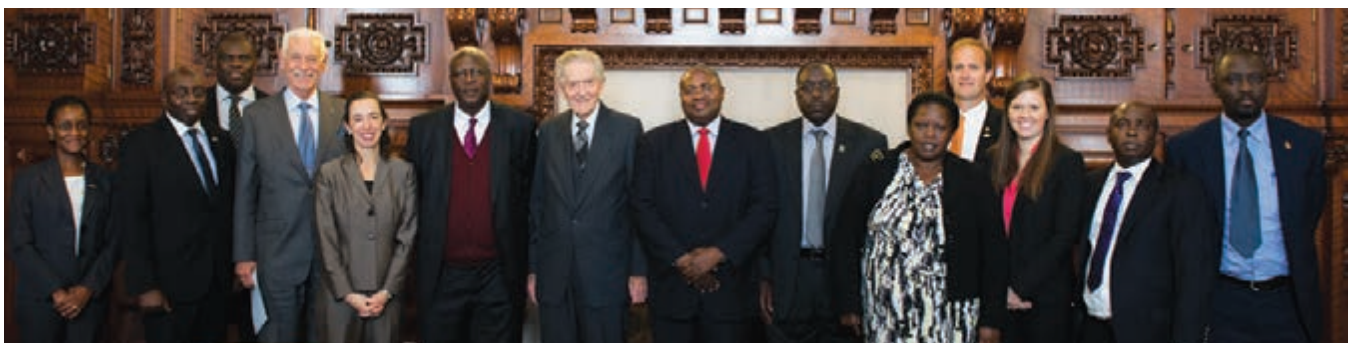
of a task force established by the Uganda Law Reform Commission.

In addition to their interaction with Ninth Circuit judges, the group heard from Circuit and Court of Appeal Executive Cathy Catterson and Clerk of Court Molly Dwyer. They also received presentations on mediation and innovative case management practices from, respectively, Chief Circuit Mediator Claudia Bernard and Chief Deputy Clerk Lisa Fitzgerald.

In addition to hosting visits, Ninth Circuit judges also travel

overseas to share their expertise and to promote the rule of law, particularly in developing nations. In addition, the Ninth Circuit is authorized to directly support educational programs for judges and court staff in the U.S. territories and the island nations of the Pacific.

During the year, both Judge Wallace and Ms. Bernard visited Uganda, where they met with judges and court officials to discuss the mediation concept and how it might fit into the Ugandan judicial system. 





APPELLATE PANELS TRAVEL THE WEST FOR SPECIAL SITTINGS

In addition to their regular venues, judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit frequently travel to other locations for special sittings. These proceedings are often held at law schools to further legal education but may also coincide with important events organized by local federal district courts. Ninth Circuit judges made a number of such trips in 2015.

The court's visit in January to Billings, Montana, served as a homecoming for new Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas, who maintains chambers there. Judge Thomas presided over oral arguments at the new James F. Battin Federal Courthouse in Billings. He was joined on the panel by Circuit Judge Morgan Christen of Anchorage, Alaska, and Senior Circuit Judge Michael Daly Hawkins of Phoenix, Arizona.

In conjunction with the court's visit, the Montana bar organized a number of activities, including a post-proceeding question-and-answer session with the judges and a later continuing legal education program for attorneys.

In November, the court added to Pacific Northwest legal history with its first-ever visit to Richland, Washington. The special sitting was held in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building in Richland. Associated public activities included a naturalization ceremony and an open house with guided tour of the courthouse.

Also during the year, the court sat in San Diego at the Edward J. Schwartz U.S. Courthouse and at Stanford Law School in Palo Alto, California; the University

of California, Los Angeles, School of Law; the University of California, Berkeley, Law School; the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law in Tucson, Arizona; and the University of Hawaii, Manoa, William S. Richardson School of Law in Honolulu.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals normally meets monthly in Seattle, San Francisco and Pasadena, California; every other month in Portland, Oregon; three times per year in Honolulu, Hawaii; and twice a year in Anchorage, Alaska. 🏛️

An attorney makes her case before, from left, Senior Circuit Judge Michael Daly Hawkins, Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas and Circuit Judge Morgan Christen.

MONTANA CELEBRATES FAMED JURIST

The influence of Montanans, past and present, on the law and the administration of justice was the highlight of the 15th annual James R. Browning Distinguished Lecture in the Law, held March 26, 2015, at the University of Montana in Missoula.

Organized by the Montana Law Review, the lecture is named for one of the UM School of Law's most famous alums, the late Chief Judge Emeritus James R. Browning of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Delivering the lecture was Ninth Circuit's current leader, Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas, another Montanan and UM law alum. Judge Thomas, who maintains chambers in Billings, assumed the chief judgeship in December 2014.

Entitling his talk "Judge James R. Browning: His Legacy for Montana and the Future of the Federal Judiciary," Judge Thomas recalled a man who was warm, generous and witty, possessed a keen intellect and deep understanding of human nature, and passionately committed to achieving justice for all.

"You cannot find a single person who did not like Judge Browning, nor anyone who did

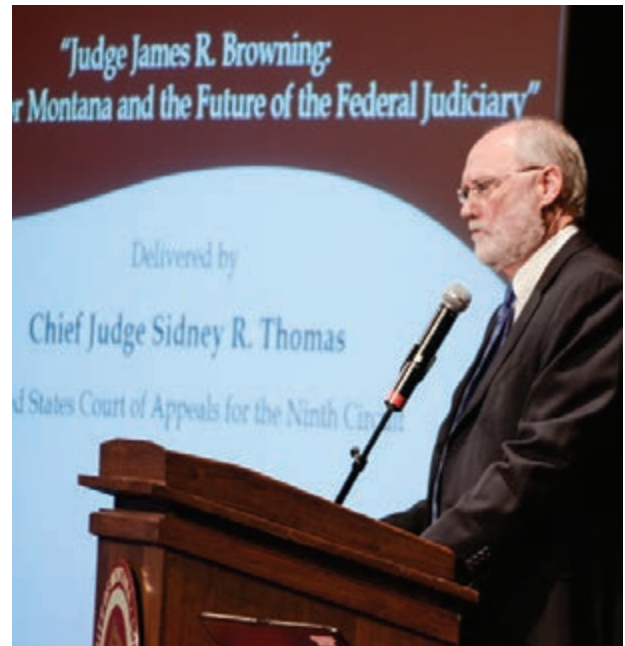
not deeply respect him. It is simply impossible," Judge Thomas said in his remarks.

At the time of his death in 2012, Judge Browning had served on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for 50 years, making him the longest serving federal appellate judge in the nation's history. His contributions to jurisprudence were particularly noteworthy in the area of antitrust law but also included the first decision recognizing ineffective assistance of counsel as grounds for appeal.

During his 12 years as chief judge, Judge Browning proved to be an extraordinary administrator whose vision shaped the future of judicial operations and governance.

"Judge Browning was unquestionably one of the best chief circuit judges in our nation's history. He virtually invented the modern federal judiciary," Judge Thomas said.

While he would never use a computer himself, Judge Browning embraced technology for his court, which was an early adopter of email, electronic docketing systems and many



Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas delivers University of Montana School of Law's lecture named after Chief Judge Emeritus James R. Browning.

other technical innovations. He reorganized the circuit's administrative structure, established mediation services and the nation's first judicial misconduct system, and opened circuit governance to participation by all levels of judges.

This year's lecture had particular significance for the Montana Law Review. The oldest legal journal in the state, it was co-founded in 1940 by Judge Browning, who also served as its first editor-in-chief.

"We were ecstatic to have Judge Thomas back in Missoula," said Caitlin Boland Aarab, current editor-in-chief of the law review. "In many ways, he has followed in Judge Browning's footsteps and we were honored to have him as our guest speaker." 📷

QUACKENBUSH LECTURE SERIES DRAWS TOP SPEAKERS

Add Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Emeritus Alex Kozinski to the list of distinguished jurists, practitioners and academics who have traveled to Spokane, Washington, to participate in the Quackenbush Lecture Series at the Gonzaga University School of Law.

Established in 2010, the lecture is named for Senior District Judge Justin L. Quackenbush of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, a lifelong resident of Spokane and one of the law school's most successful and influential alums. The 2015 event, held in March, drew a large audience of students and faculty along with members of the Spokane area bar and many of Judge Quackenbush's fellow judges from the Eastern District of Washington. They were treated to a lively conversation between Judge Kozinski and Judge Quackenbush touching on various topics involving the law and the administration of justice.

Judge Kozinski also surprised his host by presenting him with a commendation recognizing the approaching 35th anniversary of Judge Quackenbush's

appointment to the federal bench. The commendation was signed by the six of the seven Ninth Circuit chief judges to have served during Judge Quackenbush's judicial tenure.

Nominated by President Carter, Judge Quackenbush received his judicial commission on June 18, 1980. He served as an active judge for 15 years and led his court as chief district judge from 1989 to 1995, when he assumed senior status. He was also active in judicial governance, serving on several

of Law in 1957 and served as an instructor at the law school from 1961 to 1967. His earlier professional career includes private practice and service as a Spokane County deputy prosecutor.

Prior Quackenbush Lecture speakers include Cindy Cohn, legal director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation; Kathleen M. Sullivan, former dean of Stanford Law School; Erwin Chemerinsky, noted law professor and dean of the University of California, Irvine,



Chief Judge Emeritus Alex Kozinski participates as guest lecturer with Senior District Judge Justin L. Quackenbush during the Quackenbush Lecture Series at Gonzaga University School of Law.

Ninth Circuit committees and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

As a lifelong resident of Spokane, Judge Quackenbush received his LL.B. from the Gonzaga University School

School of Law; retired District Judge Vaughn R. Walker of the Northern District of California; and Judge William A. Fletcher of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. 📖

LECTURE NAMED FOR NINTH CIRCUIT JURIST, SPOUSE

An annual lecture established by the University of California, Irvine, School of Law, recognizes the civil rights contributions of Judge Stephen Reinhardt of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and his wife, Ramona


Ripston, retired executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

The first “Judge Stephen Reinhardt and Ramona Ripston Lecture on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties,” held at the law school in March, featured the Honorable Aharon Barak, the former president of the Supreme Court of Israel and currently the Gruber Global Constitutionalism Fellow at Yale Law School. His

lecture was entitled “Judges as Guardians of the Constitution.”

In an announcement, the law school said the new lecture series “pays tribute to two legendary advocates of civil liberty and justice” who have influenced thousands of attorneys and activists.

Nominated by President Carter, Judge Reinhardt was appointed to the Ninth Circuit bench in 1980 and currently ranks second in years of service among the court’s 29 active judges. He has participated in many of the court’s most noteworthy cases, including authoring the 2012 opinion affirming a lower court finding that a California law banning same-sex marriage was unconstitutional.

Ms. Ripston served as executive director of the ACLU of Southern California from 1972 to 2011 and now acts as a consultant to the organization. Under her leadership, the ACLU chapter successfully pursued suits seeking to curb police abuses and obtained an injunction preventing enforcement of Proposition 187, which would have denied public benefits to suspected illegal immigrants. 



Ramona Ripston and Judge Stephen Reinhardt, center, are joined by Dean Erwin Chemerinsky of UC Irvine School of Law, left, and the Honorable Aharon Barak, former president of the Supreme Court of Israel, right.

JUDGES, STAFF FIND MERIT IN JURY SUMMIT

The Ninth Circuit Jury Trial Improvement Committee, or JTIC, was established in 2002 by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit to develop and implement innovative approaches that improve juror experience for citizens and contribute to better court management of the jury system. The committee includes district

summit also provided instruction, both from expert panelists and from the attendees themselves, on a wide range of issues.

The 1 ½ -day program opened with remarks by Chief District Judge Gloria M. Navarro of the District of Nevada and District Judge Anna Brown of the District of Oregon, who chairs the JTIC. Presentations followed on jury websites, including tours of the JTIC website, sample district jury websites and discussions of what makes a website successful.



At the summit, jury plans were discussed by a panel that included, above from left, Ed Juel, an attorney advisor from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; Magistrate Judge Candy Dale of the District of Idaho; Hannah Horsley, assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Oregon; and Jeffrey Aaron, supervisory assistant federal public defender in the Central District of California.


and magistrate judges, criminal and civil attorneys and court administrators.

In 2015, the JTIC organized a Jury Summit for court executives, jury administrators and district and magistrate judges. Held in April at the Lloyd D. George United States Courthouse in Las Vegas, the summit focused on the use of websites to inform and summon jurors, jury management, and jury trials. The

Jury utilization sparked extensive discussion among judges and administrators as to the merits of the current system and metrics. A presentation followed on jury plans and how to develop a model jury plan. Other issues of interest included the availability of counseling for emotionally distressed jurors, use of technology in voir dire, jury excuses, juror no-shows, and the sanctioning of jurors and employers.

Later in the afternoon, judges and administrators split into breakout sessions. Administrators discussed eJuror, the Jury Management System, the Interactive Voice Response and ways to revamp a jury website. Judges heard from District Judge Larry Burns of the Southern District of California, who offered a compelling presentation titled “Trials Take Too Long.” Judge Burns described numerous ways judges and staff could make the trial process more efficient not only for the benefit of jurors but for the administration of justice. Various evidence systems used in the Ninth Circuit were also covered.

The second day opened with Loyola Law School Professor Laurie Levenson, who gave an engaging lecture summarizing recent court decisions involving jury issues. Ed Juel of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts offered his expertise on “jury utilization” rates and other jury issues for which there is an AO policy or guidance.

Attendees responded very positively, and court executives and jury staff were particularly appreciative that judges from their districts were in attendance. Understanding various jury-administration policies and procedures staff are required to follow may lessen the chances of judges giving inconsistent directions to staff. The summit provided a useful forum for staff and judges to discuss such issues and to continue that discussion at their home districts. 

MAGISTRATE JUDGES FOCUS ON LEGAL IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGY

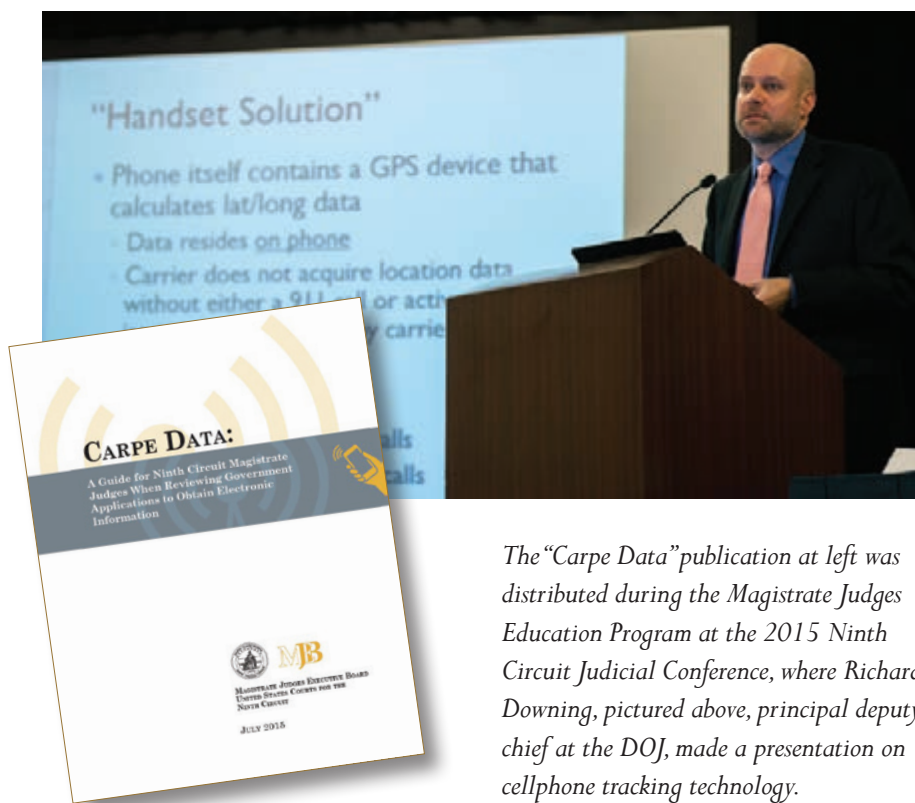
The Magistrate Judges Executive Board was established by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit to provide continuing legal education to the 105 full-time, and 24 recalled and part-time magistrate judges serving on the district courts of the Ninth Circuit. Working through its Education and Technology Subcommittee, the board plans an annual educational program at the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference and periodically produces practice guides for use by magistrate judges.

In 2015, the board expanded its educational efforts to include a quarterly newsletter and a special-issue publication focusing on ex parte applications from law enforcement for electronic and digital information from cellphones, cell towers, computers and service providers. It also established the Technology Subcommittee to report on the legal and other impacts of new technologies on the work of magistrate judges.

Federal magistrate judges are often at the forefront of the collision of privacy and technology. Magistrate judges receive ex parte applications for pen registers and trap and trace devices, to collect all

phone numbers to and from a phone; for orders pursuant to the Stored Communication Act, to obtain information related to a cellphone or computer service accounts including cell tower information; and for tracking warrants, to obtain real time cell tower information or GPS information that can be used to track a person or fugitive. Magistrate judges also frequently review requests for preclusion orders, to prohibit a service provider from revealing

When Reviewing Government Applications to Obtain Electronic Information” was developed by the board’s new Technology Subcommittee. The guide reflects on emerging legal issues in this area and gathers the developing law related to each type of government application. It provides the majority and minority views presented in the case law and offers links to “go-bys,” or protocols, which some districts have developed.



The “Carpe Data” publication at left was distributed during the Magistrate Judges Education Program at the 2015 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, where Richard Downing, pictured above, principal deputy chief at the DOJ, made a presentation on cellphone tracking technology.

the existence of a subpoena or warrant for customer account information. Each application type is governed by different statutes and has a different standard of review.

“Carpe Data: A Guide for Ninth Circuit Magistrate Judges

“Carpe Data” was authored by Technology Subcommittee members. The subcommittee was chaired by Magistrate Judge Mitch Dembin of the Southern District of California and included Chief Magistrate Judge Suzanne Segal of the Central District of California,

and Magistrate Judges Mark Clarke of Oregon and Charles Pyle of Arizona. Magistrate Judges Stanley Boone and Jennifer Thurston of the Eastern District of California joined the subcommittee in July.

Technology also was the focus of the Magistrate Judges Education Program at the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. The Education Subcommittee presented an excellent panel discussion, “When Privacy Is No Longer Private: A Judicial Primer on Cellphone Location Data.” The program was moderated by Magistrate Judge Jacqueline S. Corley of the Northern District of California. Panelists included Magistrate Judge William Cobb of Nevada, Federal Public Defender Lisa Hay of Oregon and Richard Downing of the U.S. Department of Justice. The session was open to other judicial officers and members of the bar, and there was standing room only to hear this timely and spirited discussion on the legal implications of government applications for cellphone location data. 🗣️



Pictured from left are Magistrate Judges Charles Pyle of the District of Arizona, Peggy A. Leen of the District of Nevada, and Mark D. Clarke of the District of Oregon, and Dr. Bob Rucker, assistant circuit executive for policy and research, Office of the Circuit Executive.

NINTH CIRCUIT COURTS PURSUE ADR

The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit along with U.S. district and bankruptcy courts within the circuit actively pursue the use of alternative dispute resolution to resolve civil disputes.

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit is a focal point of ADR activities in the circuit. The committee plans and implements ADR education programs and activities and serves as a clearinghouse for ADR-related information through its newsletter and website.

At the appellate level, the Ninth Circuit Mediation Office annually resolves hundreds of appeals that might otherwise be heard by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. At the trial court level, ADR programs are frequently used to resolve suits brought by inmates in federal and state prisons within the circuit. Many of these programs are made possible through the assistance of local lawyers who provide their services pro bono. Some bankruptcy courts also are promoting the use of mediation.

Eight district courts in the Ninth Circuit currently make use of prisoner mediation programs. The U.S. district courts for the



Attorney Kresta Daly of Sacramento received the 2014 Joe Ramsey Award from Chief District Judge Morrison C. England, Jr., of the Eastern District of California.

Eastern District of California and the districts of Arizona and Nevada are noteworthy for having large prisoner populations. A substantial portion of their civil caseloads – more than 40 percent in Arizona in 2015 – is made up of inmate litigation, which often focuses on prison conditions. Mediation programs in these districts seek to identify and resolve meritorious claims. They also assist the courts and state departments of correction in identifying possibly systemic problems, including issues related to health care and religious worship.

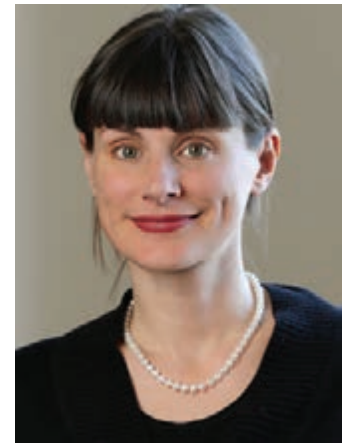
Bankruptcy courts are using mediation to address mortgage modifications as part of Chapter 13 petitions. The U.S. Bankruptcy

Court for the Northern District of California uses its Mortgage Modification Mediation Program to facilitate communication and exchange of information between lender and debtor in a confidential setting. The intent is to encourage the parties to reach a feasible and beneficial agreement under the supervision of the bankruptcy court.

Almost all court-organized mediation programs rely upon the pro bono support of the bar. Lawyer recognition programs are held regularly by many district and bankruptcy courts. In addition, the ADR Committee of the Ninth Circuit presents two annual awards honoring outstanding achievements in the field by individuals and institutions.

In 2015, the ADR Committee selected Debra Newman of the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada, to receive the Robert F. Peckham Award for Excellence in Alternative Dispute Resolution. The committee selected the University of Oregon, School of Law, as the recipient of the 2015 Ninth Circuit Alternative Dispute Resolution Education Award. The awards were established by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit to recognize individual and institutional achievements.

Ms. Newman, a paralegal and judicial assistant to Magistrate Judge Valerie Cooke of Las Vegas, was recognized for her significant work in advancing the delivery of effective court-based ADR in Nevada. She also assisted Harvard University in a study of the effectiveness of the Nevada ADR program, which serves to settle prisoner civil rights cases



Debra Newman, left, judicial assistant to Magistrate Judge Valerie Cooke, is recipient of the 2015 Robert F. Peckham Award, and Jennifer Reynolds, right, associate professor and faculty director of the Appropriate Dispute Resolution Center at the University of Oregon, School of Law, received the 2015 Ninth Circuit ADR Education Award on behalf of the law school.

after the court has completed its initial review orders.

Oregon Law is nationally known for its long-standing commitment to ADR. Since 2008, the law school's ADR Center has been among the nation's top 10 law school

dispute resolution programs as ranked by U.S. News and World Report. The law school focuses on social justice in the larger community, while providing law students with an outstanding educational experience. 🏛️

2015 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

Senior Circuit Judge Edward Leavy, Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award, Dwight D. Opperman Foundation; Circuit Judge M. Margaret McKeown, Robert F. Drinan S.J. Law Alumni Public Service Award, Georgetown University Law Center; Circuit Judge Jacqueline H. Nguyen, 2015 Spirit of Excellence Award, American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession; Circuit Judge Stephen Reinhardt, honorary doctor of laws degree, Pomona College; Circuit Judge N. Randy Smith, Idaho Hometown Hero Award, JRM Foundation for Humanity; Senior Circuit Judge Stephen S. Trott, Distinguished Jurist Award, Idaho State Bar Association.

District of Arizona

Magistrate Judge Michelle Burns, honoree for 15 years of contribution and leadership, Phoenix Chapter of the Federal Bar Association; District Judge David G. Campbell, 2015 Jesse Udall Distinguished Service Award, Phoenix, Arizona Chapter of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society.

Central District of California

District Judge Andrew J. Guilford, Distinguished Public Service Award, Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association, and Judge of the Year Award, Orange County Hispanic Bar Association; Senior District Judge Ronald S.W. Lew, 2015 Trailblazer of the Bar, Los Angeles County Bar Association, Senior Lawyers Section, and 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award, Chinese-American Elected Officials Presidents Circle; District Judge James V. Selna, Legend of the Law, Masters Division, Orange County Bar Association; Bankruptcy Judge Peter H. Carroll, Appreciation Award, Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Association; Magistrate Judge Jay C. Gandhi, Benjamin Aranda III Judge of the Year Award, Mexican American Bar Association of Los Angeles, and Judicial Trailblazer Award, Asian American Bar Association of Orange County.

Northern District of California

Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler, Tara L. Riedley Barristers Choice Award, The Bar Association of San Francisco; Magistrate Judge Sallie Kim, Unsung Hero Award, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon Valley

Southern District of California

Chief District Judge Barry Ted Moskowitz, honoree, National Conference of Federal Trial Judges, American Bar Association; Bankruptcy Judge Louise DeCarl Adler, special tribute, National Conference of Federal Trial Judges, American Bar Association; Magistrate Judge Karen S. Crawford, Outstanding Judicial Officer Award, California Western School of Law.


District of Idaho

Chief District Judge B. Lynn Winmill, Distinguished Alumnus Award, Idaho State University, listed as one of Idaho's top 100 most influential people, published in the "100 Influential Idahoans 2015," by Randy Stapilus.

District of Oregon

Senior District Judge Owen M. Panner, 32nd Annual Earl A. Chiles Award, High Desert Museum; Bankruptcy Judge Frank R. Alley III, William N. Stiles Award of Merit, Oregon State Bar Debtor-Creditor Section.

Eastern District of Washington

Magistrate Judge James P. Hutton, Outstanding Judge Award, Washington State Bar Association. 



NINTH CIRCUIT HOLDS ANNUAL LAW CLERK ORIENTATION

The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held its annual New Law Clerk Orientation Program in September at the James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco. The program introduced newly-hired law clerks to the workings of the court. Other topics included ethics and social media, mediation, sentencing and legal writing. Presenters included Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas, top right, Circuit Judge M. Margaret McKeown, middle, and bottom right, Circuit Judge Richard Paez, and Magistrate Judge Joseph Spero of the Northern District of California. 🗣️



DISTRICT COURTS STAFFS GET NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Court staff from Nevada and Southern California received national recognition for their work in developing an electronic voucher processing system that is transforming how the federal judiciary manages spending for indigent defense.

The eVoucher System, which grew out of a program developed by the United States District Court for the District of Nevada and is now being implemented by federal courts nationwide, was selected for a Director's Award for Excellence in Court Operations by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

Recognized for their work in developing and implementing the system were District Clerk Lance Wilson, Chief Deputy Clerk Cindy Jensen, Special Projects Director Vicente Angotti and programmers Thomas Pyle and Guillermo Rojas of the Nevada district court in Las Vegas, and programmer Vaidehi Prabhakaran of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California in San Diego.

Legal representation of indigent defendants facing criminal charges in federal courts is required under the Sixth Amendment of the Constitution and the Criminal Justice Act.

CJA funding is allocated to the federal judiciary each year for this purpose and courts are responsible for managing use of these funds, which pay for legal counsel and other services necessary for adequate representation.

processing of vouchers and payments to attorneys and service providers.

The eVoucher System also provides much improved data retrieval and analysis functions. As the database of information



Pictured from left are Thomas Pyle, developer; Cindy K. Jensen, chief deputy clerk; Guillermo Rojas, developer; Lance Wilson, district court clerk; and Vicente Angotti, director of special projects.

Before eVoucher, courts relied on a "hard copy" system that was slow, susceptible to mathematical and other errors, and labor intensive. By automating much of the process, the eVoucher System simplifies the submission of vouchers by attorneys and service providers and the review of vouchers by judges and court staff. Reimbursement rates are built into electronic forms, removing almost all mathematical errors and significantly reducing the amount of time needed for staff review. Vouchers are immediately available for review by judges, facilitating quicker

builds over time, trial judges will be better able to evaluate specific vouchers and the overall cost of a representation.

"The eVoucher System will have substantial long-term benefits to the judiciary. I am very pleased that the managers and staff who worked so diligently on it are being recognized," said Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. 📷

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES AROUND THE CIRCUIT



Eileen M. Decker was confirmed by the Senate to serve as the United States attorney for the Central

District of California on June 11, 2015. She serves on five Attorney General Advisory Committees—Civil Rights, Cyber/Intellectual Property, Terrorism/National Security, Violent and Organized Crime, and White Collar/Fraud. Prior to her appointment, she served as the deputy mayor for the City of Los Angeles, Homeland Security and Public Safety, for nearly six years. In addition, she served as the principle liaison for the City of Los Angeles to all federal law enforcement agencies. Ms. Decker worked as an assistant U.S. attorney for almost 15 years, serving as chief of the National Security Section, as deputy chief of the Organized Crime and Terrorism Section, and as deputy chief of the Organized Crime Task Force. She engaged in private practice at the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Los Angeles for three years. Ms. Decker received her undergraduate and law degrees from New York University. She also received a master's degree in homeland security studies from the Naval Postgraduate School

and was a Wasserstein Fellow at Harvard Law School. She clerked for Judge Gary L. Taylor of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. She is a past president of the Women's Lawyer's Association of Los Angeles.



Kiry K. Gray was appointed clerk of court of the United States District Court for the Central District of

California on September 24, 2015. She is the first African-American woman to be appointed as clerk in the Central District. Ms. Gray has a long history of service to the court, spanning 30 years. She began her career in the judiciary in the Jury Department on a temporary assignment in 1985. Her dedication to the court and work ethic earned Ms. Gray many promotions over her tenure, and she rose to several management positions early in her career, including being named the assistant supervisor in the Criminal Section in 1987, the assistant deputy-in-charge for the Southern Division in 1990, and the deputy-in-charge of the Eastern Division in 1993. Ms. Gray served as the court's acting clerk of court beginning July 1, 2015 prior to her appointment.



Lisa Hay was appointed as the federal public defender for the District of Oregon on June 30, 2015. Prior to that,

she had served as the acting FPD for the district since 2014. She joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender in 1998 and was named an assistant FPD in 2002. Prior to federal service, Ms. Hay worked as an associate at law firms in San Francisco, Boston and Portland, Oregon. She received her B.A., summa cum laude, from Yale University in 1985 and her J.D., magna cum laude, in 1991 from Harvard Law School, where she served as editor of the Harvard Law Review from 1989 to 1991. Following law school, she clerked for Judge Robert E. Keeton and Patti B. Saris of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.



Matt Jedrosko was appointed as the chief probation officer for the District of Alaska on March 23,

2015. Mr. Jedrosko began his career as a probation officer in the District of Alaska in 1999 and left federal service to work in juvenile justice in 2004. He returned to federal service in 2008 as a probation officer in the Northern District of Iowa, where he remained until returning to the District of Alaska in 2010.

Mr. Jedrosko became a supervisor in 2011 and held the position until becoming chief in 2015. He received a B.S. in criminal justice from the Defiance College in 1991.



Hilary Potashner was appointed as the federal public defender for the Central District of California on

June 30, 2015. Prior to that, she had served as the acting FPD for the district since 2014. She joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender in 2001, was promoted to a supervising defender in 2007 and became the office's chief deputy in 2012. Ms. Potashner worked previously as deputy public defender in San Diego County Public Defender's Office from 1993 to 2000. She received her B.A. from Duke University in 1989 and her J.D. in 1993 from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, where she received the Hastings Public Interest Law Foundation grant in 1991.



Robert A. Ramirez was appointed as the chief probation officer for the Eastern District of

California on June 1, 2015. He served as the deputy chief from 2013 to 2015, as a supervisory probation officer from 2003 to 2013, and as a senior electronic

monitoring specialist in 2003. Mr. Ramirez began his career as a probation officer in 1997 in the Northern District of California then transferred to the Eastern District of California in 2011. He received a B.S. in sociology from Santa Clara University in 1994 and was a deputy probation officer for Monterey County, California, from 1995 to 1997.



Susan Y. Soong was appointed the clerk of court of the United States District Court for the Northern

District of California on September 2, 2015. Prior to her appointment, she served as the chief deputy of operations for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In 2011, Ms. Soong was selected to go to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts through the Director's Leadership Program in Washington, D.C., where she expanded her professional network and gained greater understanding of national issues and policies affecting the federal judiciary. Ms. Soong received her bachelor's degree from Stanford University and her law degree, magna cum laude, from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she served on the law review and the moot court board. She pursues a passion for music outside of work as a professional-level player of the violin and viola in chamber music ensembles in the Bay Area.



Brian Stretch serves as the acting United States attorney for the Northern District of California.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Stretch served as the first assistant U.S. attorney for five years. From 2007 to 2010, he served as chief of the Criminal Division. Mr. Stretch joined the United States Attorney's Office in 1999 and has worked in the Oakland Branch Office, the Organized Crime Strike Force, the Anti-terrorism Unit, and the Securities Fraud Unit. In 2003 and 2004, Mr. Stretch was chief of the Major Crimes Unit in the San Francisco Office and served as chief of the Oakland Branch Office in 2005. In 2006, he returned to the San Francisco Office and served as the senior litigation counsel in the Criminal Division until 2007. Prior to joining the United States Attorney's Office, Mr. Stretch was a deputy district attorney in the Marin County District Attorney's Office between 1994 and 1999. From 1992 to 1993, he served as a judicial clerk to the San Francisco Superior Court. From 1986 to 1988, Mr. Stretch was a teacher and coach at St. Ignatius College Preparatory. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and the Georgetown University Law Center.



Matt Thompson was appointed as the chief probation officer for the Eastern District of Washington

on September 1, 2015. He served as the deputy chief probation officer from February 2015 and as a supervisory probation officer from January 2012. Mr. Thompson joined the Eastern District of Washington in November 2005. He was instrumental in starting the district's first reentry drug court program and assisted in the district's implementation of evidence based correctional practices. Prior to his federal employment, he worked as a probation officer for 10 years at the state and local level. He earned his B.A. in criminal justice from Eastern Washington University in 1993.



Billy J. Williams serves as the United States attorney for the District of Oregon. He has been with

the U.S. Attorney's Office since October of 2000. Prior to his role as the U.S. attorney, he has served as the first assistant U.S. attorney, chief of the Criminal Division, chief of the Violent Crimes Unit, and as the Indian Country AUSA/Tribal Liaison. He serves on the following Attorney General's Advisory Committee Subcommittees: Native American Issues; Law Enforcement Coordinating Council/ Victim/Community Issues; and Border and Immigration Law Enforcement Issues. He also serves on the following AGAC Working Groups: Environmental Issues; Local Government Coordination;

Child Exploitation and Obscenity; Civil Litigation Policy; Security; and Marijuana Enforcement. Prior to his federal service, Mr. Williams served as a senior deputy district attorney in Multnomah County, where he supervised the Career Criminal Unit, and over his career prosecuted major crimes of violence, including aggravated murder, adult and child sex offenses, domestic violence, narcotics trafficking, vehicular homicide crimes, as well as investigations of officer-involved shootings. Mr. Williams received his law degree in 1989 at the Willamette University College of Law. 🏛️

SPACE & SECURITY



FEDERAL COURT HAS LONG PRESENCE IN PORTLAND

The Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse in Portland serves as the headquarters of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon. The district is also authorized to hold court in Coquille, Eugene, Klamath Falls, Medford and Pendleton, Oregon. The court is authorized six district judges and seven magistrate judges (including one part-time position). It reported almost 2,800 new filings in fiscal year 2015 and ended the year with a pending caseload of about 2,700 cases.

The federal court has long had a presence in Portland, which is situated at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette rivers. The area was settled around 1840 and incorporated as a city in 1851. When Oregon achieved statehood in 1859, Congress established a federal judicial district for the state. Appointed by President Buchanan to lead the new court, Judge Matthew Paul Deady initially held court in the state capital of Salem. He soon moved the court to Portland in 1860, recognizing its growth and potential as a major port and population center.

The first federal courthouse to be built in Portland was the Pioneer Courthouse, which opened in 1869. It housed the federal trial and appellate courts, the U.S. Post Office and Customs Service, and other government offices. Now one of the oldest courthouses west of the Mississippi, the Pioneer Courthouse has been used exclusively by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit since 1973. It was designated a Historic National Landmark in 1977.

Eventually outgrown by the community it served, the Pioneer Courthouse gave way in 1933 to a new federal courthouse, which also housed the post

The Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse in Portland, pictured right, is the headquarters of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon.



NOTABLE CASES

Over the past 18 years, the Mark. O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse has been the venue for numerous important federal cases, including these long-running matters:

- The Kennewick Man, involving the disposition of an 8,000-year-old human skeleton found in Kennewick, Washington. The nine-year-old dispute was resolved in 2005 in favor of anthropologists who wanted to continue to study the remains, which the government had sought to inter at the request of Native American tribes.
- Death with Dignity, which was litigated from 1994 to 2007 and involved challenges to Oregon's legalization of physician-assisted suicide. The state's Death with Dignity Act was initially held to be unconstitutional by the district court, but the decision was reversed on appeal to the Ninth Circuit. The district court later granted an injunction to prevent enforcement of a directive of the U.S. Attorney General that physicians would be violating the Controlled Substances Act. The decision was affirmed by the Ninth Circuit and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Salmon Recovery, ongoing litigation dating back to 1994 over the conservation of salmon protected under the Endangered Species Act. The current cases, which were brought in 2001, has led to court decisions authorizing water spill over dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers to facilitate salmon passage.

office and other federal agencies. In 1989, Congress authorized naming that building the Gus J. Solomon U.S. Courthouse after the longest-serving federal judge in Oregon history. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, it remains in use today by commercial tenants.

Construction of a third federal courthouse in the city began in 1994 and was substantially completed in 1997. In 1996,



Pioneer U.S. Courthouse



Gus J. Solomon U.S. Courthouse

Congress authorized naming the building the Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse in honor of one of the state's legendary elected leaders. The late Senator Hatfield, who died in 2011, represented Oregon in the Senate from 1967 to 1997 and also served two terms as governor from 1958 to 1966.



The Hatfield Courthouse was built on a site formerly occupied by a landmark hotel that had been eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Underground structures associated with early Chinese settlers also were found. The hotel underwent a historic survey prior to demolition and architecturally and historically significant items were salvaged. Archaeological testing occurred before and during construction. Some of the artifacts and specimens recovered are on display in the lobby of the building.

Two architectural firms, Broom, Oringdolph, Randolph & Associates of Portland and Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates of New York, collaborated on the design of the 565,300-square-foot structure. The building consists of an 8-story block and a 16-story tower capped by a vaulted metal roof canopy. Rising 318 feet from street level, the courthouse ranks among the tallest buildings in Portland and was the tallest structure to be built in the city during the 1990s. The design received a 1994 GSA National Honor.

The administrative block, which was scaled to the height of neighboring civic structures, including the Multnomah County Circuit Court building, overlooks a parkway with green spaces and a monument. The main lobby offers three water features



Artwork in the courthouse includes linen tapestries, top, created around the theme of the law and indigenous vegetation. One of the courtrooms in the building, above, and the reception area in judicial chambers space on the 16th floor.





along with historic quotations inscribed in a two-story green marble wall. The top floor contains a law library and open air roof top terrace.

The tower portion is constructed of limestone, steel and glass. It houses two grand jury hearing rooms, 14 district and magistrate courtrooms and judicial chambers, other office space, and a special proceedings courtroom on the 16th floor. The top floor also features another open air terrace offering views of Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens.

The courthouse design incorporates extensive security measures, including separate elevators and corridors for the public, persons in custody and judges and court staff. In addition, a multi-year “retrocommissioning” project undertaken by the GSA led to an LEED certification in 2013. The criteria for the Leadership in Energy and Environment Design designation are

established by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The Oregon arts community contributed to the selection of artists whose works are on display at the courthouse. They include renowned public art sculptor Tom Otterness, whose “Law of Nature” sculpture garden in the open air terrace on the eighth floor of the administrative block features whimsical bronzed beavers, owls and other animals engaged in courtroom and other law-related activities.

Courthouse artwork also includes two linen tapestries for the Special Proceedings Courtroom on the 16th floor. Entitled “Judicial Heritage” and “Oregon Environment,” the tapestries were created by artist Judith Poxson Fawkes around themes relating to the history of justice and indigenous vegetation of the state of Oregon. 🐿️



The building tower features glass and steel window overlooking the city of Portland, above left. Visitors gather on one of two open air terraces in the courthouse, above. One of the “Law of Nature” sculptures created by artist Tom Otterness, below.



ART EXHIBIT RECALLS TRAUMA OF INTERNMENT

In November, the Wayne L. Morse United States Courthouse in Eugene, Oregon, hosted the traveling exhibit “Art of Survival: Enduring the Turmoil of Tule Lake,” which conveys the trauma and deprivation experienced by those confined to the largest of the Japanese American internment camps operated by the U.S. government during World War II.

The Tule Lake Segregation Center, located in the Northern California town of Newell, reportedly housed almost 18,800 Japanese Americans. The multimedia exhibit features still photographs, video, text panels, canvas banners and art and artifacts made by those who lived in the camp for more than three years.

Chief District Judge Ann Aiken of the District of Oregon helped arrange for the exhibit to come to Eugene and is working to bring it to the federal courthouse in Portland in 2016. 🗿

Visitors at an opening reception included former internees, top. Court staff created hundreds of colorful origami birds to decorate the jury assembly room. The exhibit included a guard tower replica and banners with the numerals 9066, the number of the executive order issued by President Roosevelt authorizing the internment. Chief District Judge Ann Aiken offered welcoming remarks at the event.



NINTH CIRCUIT STAFF PLAYS KEY ROLE IN JUDICIARY'S EFFORT TO REDUCE ENERGY COSTS

Clifford Harlan, the assistant circuit executive for space and facilities in the Office of the Circuit Executive for the Ninth Circuit, received the Director's Award for Excellence in Court Operations from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. The award is the top honor achievable by judiciary staff. He received the national recognition for helping



Clifford Harlan, assistant circuit executive for space and facilities

guide an inter-governmental effort to reduce the judiciary's energy use and costs. He shared this award with Dave Carlson, an architect in the Fifth Circuit, and John Domurad, chief deputy in the Northern District of New York. Mr. Harlan has co-chaired an interdisciplinary group of

judiciary and General Services Administration officials, who focused on developing better forecasting tools for energy usage, enhancing opportunities to reduce overtime energy costs, and exploring options to encourage greater energy savings within the judiciary.

"Cliff has done remarkable work in strengthening the judiciary's partnership with GSA," said Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas.

"When fully implemented, the recommendations made by this group will significantly improve the services GSA provides to the judiciary," he said. 🗣️



DEDICATION CEREMONY HELD FOR NEW COURTHOUSE IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California gathered outside the new U.S. Courthouse near Eureka, California, for a dedication ceremony held March 6, 2015. The approximately 23,000-square-foot courthouse in McKinleyville includes a courtroom and chambers for a magistrate judge along with space for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, U.S. Probation Office, Office of the U.S. Attorney, and the U.S. Marshals Service. 🗣️

Photo courtesy of U.S. District Court, Northern District of California

COURTHOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION



U.S. Courthouse in Los Angeles, California

Gross Square Footage:
600,000

Design/Build Team:
Clark Construction & SOM

Occupancy Date:
October 2016



WORK OF THE COURTS

*The demonstration of compassion is
the proclamation of one's convictions...*

*We speak not only by what we say,
but by what we do.*

MARK O. HATFIELD

COURT OF APPEALS REPORTS SLIGHT DECREASE IN NEW APPEALS

The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit continues to be the nation's busiest federal appellate court. In fiscal year 2015, the court received fewer appeals and reduced its pending caseload.

New appeals filed with the Ninth Circuit numbered 11,870 in FY 2015, down 1.6 percent

Appellate Caseload Profile, 2014-2015

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-15
Filings	12,061	11,870	-1.6%
Terminations	12,493	12,048	-3.6%
¹ Pending Cases	13,886	13,708	-1.3%

¹2014 pending cases revised

from the prior fiscal year. The Ninth Circuit had 22.5 percent of all new appeals nationally, the most of any circuit. Appellate filings nationwide numbered 52,698, down 4.2 percent overall. Nine circuits reported fewer filings, led by the Third Circuit with 19.3 percent fewer new appeals. New filings were up in three circuits.

The Ninth Circuit disposed of 12,048 cases in FY 2015, down 3.6 percent. The court's pending caseload was reduced by 1.3 percent to 13,708 cases.

Breakdown of New Appeals

Immigration matters and appeals brought by inmates in state or federal prisons within the circuit accounted for 53.3 percent of new filings, while just under half of all new appeals were brought by litigants who were not represented by a lawyer.

District courts, which serve as trial courts in the federal judicial system, accounted for 60.2 percent of new filings in FY 2015. District courts generated 7,150 new appeals, down 2.7 percent from the prior year. Of the total, 5,601 were civil appeals and 1,549 were criminal appeals. Prisoner petitions involving habeas corpus, capital habeas corpus, civil rights, prison conditions and other matters accounted for 35.3 percent of all new civil appeals from the district courts. The

Filings, Terminations and Pending Cases by Appeal Type, 2014-2015

Type of Appeal	2014 Filings	2015 Filings	Change 2014-15	% of Circuit Total	2014 Terminations	2015 Terminations	Change 2014-15	2014 Pending	2015 Pending	Change 2014-15
Civil										
U.S. Prisoner Petitions	511	411	-19.6%	3.5%	550	466	-15.3%	302	247	-18.2%
Private Prisoner Petitions	2,265	2,287	1.0%	19.3%	2,650	2,273	-14.2%	1,718	1,732	0.8%
Other U.S. Civil	662	705	6.5%	5.9%	491	620	26.3%	895	980	9.5%
Other Private Civil	2,330	2,198	-5.7%	18.5%	2,226	2,116	-4.9%	3,003	3,084	2.7%
Criminal	1,578	1,549	-1.8%	13.0%	1,699	1,641	-3.4%	1,720	1,628	-5.3%
Other										
Bankruptcy	229	249	8.7%	2.1%	209	221	5.7%	316	344	8.9%
Administrative Agency Appeals	3,555	3,615	1.7%	30.5%	3,837	3,786	-1.3%	5,589	5,440	-2.7%
Original Proceedings and Miscellaneous Applications	931	856	-8.1%	7.2%	831	925	11.3%	325	253	-22.2%
Circuit Total	12,061	11,870	-1.6%	-	12,493	12,048	-3.6%	13,868	13,708	-1.2%
National Appellate Total	54,988	52,698	-4.2%	-	55,216	53,213	-3.6%	41,751	40,808	-2.3%
Ninth Circuit as % of National Total	21.9%	22.5%	-0.6%	-	22.6%	22.6%	0.0%	33.2%	33.6%	0.4%

Note: This table does not include data for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Beginning in March 2014, data include miscellaneous cases not included previously.

U.S. government was a plaintiff or defendant in 1,116 new civil appeals, accounting for 20.1 percent of the total new civil cases commenced.

The four district courts in California accounted for 62 percent of the new civil appeals and 48 percent of new criminal appeals. The Central District of California, the busiest court in the circuit, generated 1,925 new appeals, down 6.9 percent from the prior year. The Eastern District of California had the next largest number of new appeals with 896, up 6.2 percent. Nine district courts generated fewer appeals than the prior year.

Of 1,549 new criminal appeals, 54.5 percent were related to drug and immigration offenses. The court reported 528 appeals involving drug offenses and 316 for immigration offenses.

The court received 212 appeals involving property offenses, of which 176 were related to fraud. The court received 151 appeals for offenses involving firearms and explosives, of which one third were alleged to have been committed in the course of violent drug trafficking. Also reported were 103 appeals involving sex offenses and 64 for violent offenses. The court also reported 41 appeals of cases involving money-laundering, the most of any circuit.

For many years, a substantial portion of the court's caseload has consisted of appeals of decisions by the Board of Immigration Appeals, or BIA, and other executive branch agencies. Appeals of agency decisions were up 1.7 percent in FY 2015. Of 3,615 appeals of agency decisions received, 3,441 involved the BIA. The BIA cases

constituted almost 29 percent of the court's new filings. The Ninth Circuit had 58.3 percent of the total BIA appeals filed nationally in FY 2015.

Original proceedings commenced in FY 2015 numbered 856, down 8 percent from the prior year. The bulk of original proceedings cases involved second or successive habeas corpus petitions and mandamus appeals.

Terminations, Pending Cases

The court terminated 12,048 cases in FY 2015, down 3.6 percent from the prior year. Of the total, 5,150 were terminated on procedural grounds. The remaining 6,898 cases or 57.3 percent of the total terminations, were decided on the merits. Of the merits decisions, 1,507 came after oral argument, 5,044 after submission on the briefs and 347 by consolidation. Total merit terminations included 1,948 prisoner cases, 1,219 criminal cases and 1,298 administrative agency appeals. For the year, judicial panels produced 557 published opinions and 5,994 unpublished opinions and memorandum dispositions.

Among cases terminated on the merits in FY 2015, 4,221 were affirmed or enforced, while 715 were reversed. The court's overall reversal rate was 10.9 percent, compared to a national average of 8.3 percent. A total of 414 cases were dismissed, reversed, remanded or disposed

Median Time Intervals in Months for Cases Terminated on the Merits, 2014-2015

By Stage of Appeal	Number of Months			
	Ninth Circuit		National	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
¹ From Filing of Notice of Appeal or Docket Date to Filing of Appellee's Last Brief	8.4	8.9	5.8	5.8
From Filing of Appellee's Last Brief to Oral Argument or Submission on Brief	12.0	14.5	3.8	3.7
From Oral Argument to Last Opinion or Final Order	1.1	1.3	2.1	2.1
From Submission on Brief to Last Opinion or Final Order	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4
¹ From Filing of Notice of Appeal or Docket Date to Last Opinion or Final Order	12.4	14.1	8.5	8.5
From Filing in Lower Court to Last Opinion or Final Order in Appeals Court	32.6	34.7	28.0	27.8

Note: This table does not include data for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Beginning in March 2014, data include miscellaneous applications not included previously. Cases terminated include appeals, original proceedings, and miscellaneous applications.

¹Docket date is used when computing the median time intervals for original proceedings, miscellaneous applications, and appeals from administrative agencies.

of by other means. Another 1,201 cases were rejected on the basis of denial of a certificate of appealability. By category, reversal rates were 11.4 percent in criminal matters; 17.3 percent in private civil matters; 5.4 percent in cases involving inmates in federal correctional facilities and 5.6 percent for inmates in state correctional facilities; and 9.8 percent in administrative agency appeals.

The court's pending cases numbered 13,708, down 1.3 percent from the prior year. Among the pending cases, 39.7 percent involved administrative appeals; 29.6 percent civil matters; 14.4 percent prisoner petitions; and 11.9 percent criminal matters. Of the pending caseload, 34.2 percent had been pending less than 6 months, 21.3 percent pending 6 to 12 months, and 44.5 percent pending for more than 12 months.

Median Time Intervals

Median time intervals measure how long it takes for cases decided on the merits to proceed through the appellate process. In the Ninth Circuit in FY 2015, the median time interval from filing of a notice of appeal to final disposition was 14.1 months, up from 12.4 months the prior fiscal year. The court had reduced its reduced its median time interval by 5 months over the prior four fiscal years.

The median time interval from the filing of a case in a lower court to final appellate

Sources of Appeals, Original Proceedings, and Miscellaneous Applications Commenced, 2015

District	Appeals	% of Total
Alaska	82	0.7%
Arizona	809	6.8%
C. Calif.	1,925	16.2%
E. Calif.	896	7.5%
N. Calif.	836	7.0%
S. Calif.	564	4.8%
Guam	15	0.2%
Hawaii	132	1.1%
Idaho	124	1.0%
Montana	256	2.2%
Nevada	551	4.6%
Northern Mariana Islands	10	0.1%
Oregon	361	3.0%
E. Wash.	149	1.3%
W. Wash.	440	3.7%
Bankruptcy	249	2.1%
Administrative Agencies, Total	3,615	30.5%
IRS	48	0.4%
NLRB	43	0.4%
BIA	3,441	29.0%
Other Administrative Agencies	83	0.7%
Original Proceedings and Miscellaneous Applications	856	9.7%
Circuit Total	11,870	

Note: Administrative agency appeals previously reported as appeals of decisions by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) are now shown as appeals of decisions by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). Appeals of decisions by the U.S. Tax Court are shown as Internal Revenue Service (IRS) appeals. Beginning in March 2014, data include miscellaneous cases not included previously.

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals En Banc Ballots, 2011-2015

Year	Petitions Filed for Rehearing En Banc	En Banc Ballots Sent	Grants of Rehearing En Banc Following A Vote	Denials of Rehearing En Banc Following A Vote
2015	796	30	16	14
2014	785	37	17	20
2013	832	32	17	15
2012	913	33	19	14
2011	826	128	13	14

¹En banc call withdrawn in one case.

disposition was 34.7 months, up from 32.6 months in FY 2014. The national median time intervals in FY 2015 were 8.5 months from notice of appeal to final disposition by a circuit court of appeals, and 27.8 months from the filing of a case in a lower court to final disposition by a circuit court.

In appeals of BIA decisions, the median time interval from the date of docketing the case to filing of opinion or final order was 29 months.

Once an appeal was fully briefed, Ninth Circuit judges decide all types of cases fairly quickly. In FY 2015, the median time interval for panel decisions was 1 month for a case in which oral argument was held, and about 10 days for cases submitted on briefs.

Pro Se Filings and Terminations

Pro se appeals involve at least one party who is not represented by counsel. In FY 2015, new appeals by pro se litigants numbered 5,855, down 2.7 percent from the prior year. Pro se litigants accounted for 49.3 percent of all appeals opened during the year. Prisoner petitions, 2,343, and agency appeals, 1,512, made up 65.8 percent of the new pro se cases. The majority of pro se appeals, 3,619 cases, involved decisions of the district courts of the circuit.

The court terminated 5,872 pro se appeals in FY 2015, down 9 percent from the prior year.

Of that number, 2,641 were closed on procedural grounds, while 3,231 were terminated on the merits after oral argument, submission on the briefs, or by consolidation. Prisoner petitions, 2,325, and agency appeals, 1,523, made up the bulk of the terminations.

En Banc Cases


En banc courts, which consist of 11 judges rather than three, are convened quarterly to resolve intra-circuit conflicts or other legal questions of exceptional importance. In FY 2015, 11 en banc courts were convened. During the fiscal year, the court received 796 petitions seeking en banc review. Active judges of the court voted on 30 en banc requests, granting en banc review in 16 cases. En banc decisions issued by the court in FY 2015 numbered 17.

Death Penalty Cases

The court ended calendar year 2015 with 104 pending death penalty cases from five states. Arizona had 42 pending cases, followed by California with 40 pending cases. There were 18 pending cases in Nevada, three in Idaho and one in Washington. Within the circuit, another 707 death penalty cases are pending in federal trial courts and state supreme courts. Since 1976, there have been 75 executions by states within the circuit.

Contributions by Active, Senior and Visiting Judges

The court ended FY 2015 with 28 active circuit judges and 16 senior circuit judges. During the year, active circuit judges authored the opinions in 63 percent of all cases terminated on the merits. Senior judges of the circuit authored opinions in 32.3 percent of the merits cases, while visiting judges authored opinions in the remaining 4.7 percent. Over the course of the year, 92 judges sat on the court by designation, including active and senior district judges from the Ninth Circuit and circuit judges and district judges from other circuits.

In addition to sitting on panels, senior circuit judges served on screening and motions panels and various administrative court committees. 

DISTRICT COURTS

United States district courts serve as the trial courts in the federal judicial system and have jurisdiction to consider civil and criminal matters and other types of cases. A district court operates in each of the 94 judicial districts in the nation.

The 15 district courts in the Ninth Circuit ranked first in the nation in total filings reported in fiscal year 2015. Filings numbered 56,708, down 7 percent from the prior year. The circuit accounted for 16.7 percent of all filings nationwide. District courts in the Fifth Circuit ranked second with 45,980 filings, while the Fourth Circuit followed with 44,203 filings in FY 2015.

Criminal Caseload and Defendants

Beginning in FY 2012, data on criminal cases commenced by offense and district are no longer published by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Data on criminal defendants commenced by offense continues to be used because it takes into account that a single case may have multiple defendants.

Criminal cases brought by the federal government declined in FY 2015. District courts in the Ninth Circuit reported 13,184 criminal filings, down 4.9 percent from the prior fiscal year.

Immigration- and drug-related cases declined nationally and in the circuit. Ninth Circuit courts

U.S. District Courts - Total Criminal and Civil Cases Filed, Terminated and Pending, 2014-2015

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	¹ Change 2014-2015
Civil Filings	47,132	43,524	-7.7%
Criminal Filings	13,859	13,184	-4.9%
Total Filings	60,991	56,708	-7.0%
Civil Terminations	47,928	43,199	-9.9%
Criminal Terminations	14,946	13,490	-9.7%
Total Terminations	62,874	56,689	-9.8%
² Pending Civil Cases	37,986	38,311	0.9%
Pending Criminal Cases	12,624	12,245	-3.0%
² Total Pending Cases	50,610	50,556	-0.1%
² Civil Case Termination Index (in months)	9.51	10.64	11.9%
Criminal Case Termination Index (in months)	10.14	10.89	7.4%
² Overall Case Termination Index	9.66	9.67	0.1%
Median Time Intervals in Months from Filing to Disposition			
Civil Cases	7.20	7.10	-1.4%
Criminal Defendants	5.60	5.50	-1.8%
Civil Cases National Total	8.30	8.80	6.0%
Criminal Defendants National Total	7.00	7.00	-

Note: This table includes all criminal cases filed and all criminal defendants in all cases filed as felonies or Class A misdemeanors but includes only those cases or defendants filed as petty offenses that were assigned to district judges rather than magistrate judges. Pending totals for criminal cases exclude cases in which the only defendants pending in such cases had been fugitives more than 12 months before the end of the period indicated. Beginning in March 2012, the median time interval is computed from the proceeding date for a defendant (e.g., the date an indictment or information was filed) to the date on which the defendant was found not guilty or was sentenced. Previously, the median time interval was computed beginning with the defendant's filing date. Therefore, data for March 2012 and thereafter are not comparable to data for previous periods. Median computed only for 10 or more defendants.

Median time interval from filing to disposition of civil cases terminated excludes land condemnation, prisoner petitions, deportation reviews, recovery of overpayments and enforcement of judgments. Median computed only for 10 or more cases.

¹Percent change not computed when fewer than 10 cases reported for the previous period.

²2014 total pending civil cases and total pending cases revised.

reported 6,033 cases, which accounted for 16.5 percent of the 36,687 cases reported nationwide. Criminal cases terminated by Ninth Circuit district courts during the year numbered 13,490, down 9.7 percent, while the total pending caseload decreased by 3 percent to 12,245 cases.

Ten district courts reported fewer criminal cases in fiscal year 2015. The Ninth Circuit as a whole

accounted for 22 percent of the total criminal filings nationwide, which numbered 61,202 slightly down 2.4 percent from the prior fiscal year.

In the Ninth Circuit, the total number of defendants involved in criminal cases decreased by 5.2 percent to 16,752 in FY 2015. A majority of the defendants, 13,828, were charged with felony offenses. Defendants charged with drug offenses

U.S. District Courts - Criminal Defendants Commenced by Offense and District, 2014-2015

	AK	AZ	C. Calif.	E. Calif.	N. Calif.	S. Calif.	GU	HI	ID	MT	NMI	NV	OR	E. Wash.	W. Wash.	Total 2014	Total 2015	Change 2014-15
Violent Offenses																		
Homicide	0	38	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	4	0	1	0	1	2	44	52	18.2%
Robbery	2	13	8	1	5	18	0	2	5	0	0	12	23	1	4	127	94	-26.0%
Assault	1	149	12	10	11	25	1	1	12	20	0	8	20	1	36	254	307	20.9%
Other	2	22	4	3	6	9	7	0	3	24	0	16	11	6	2	137	115	-16.1%
Property Offenses																		
Burglary, Larceny & Theft	9	41	60	20	21	9	36	8	11	11	1	12	15	17	131	381	402	5.5%
Embezzlement	4	5	7	5	2	2	0	3	7	10	0	4	4	19	2	86	74	-14.0%
Fraud	29	289	253	117	180	391	15	16	38	23	5	52	33	47	42	1,593	1,530	-4.0%
Forgery & Counterfeiting	1	4	16	20	16	9	4	2	6	6	0	0	1	4	1	104	90	-13.5%
Other	0	4	1	18	8	1	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	21	24	58	141.7%
Drug Offenses																		
Marijuana	7	2,519	21	50	23	86	0	12	1	9	0	0	3	14	65	3,069	2,810	-8.4%
All Other Drugs	73	522	316	214	178	1,320	31	96	118	145	3	140	118	91	181	3,671	3,546	-3.4%
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	28	129	49	88	101	48	4	10	43	65	0	123	84	48	71	928	891	-4.0%
Sex Offenses	23	127	53	27	29	68	0	5	17	34	2	47	27	42	65	537	566	5.4%
Justice System Offenses	2	58	17	5	18	34	1	6	4	4	0	10	16	10	8	184	193	4.9%
Immigration Offenses																		
Improper Reentry by Alien	1	2,169	130	85	61	1,109	0	2	48	11	0	70	113	46	46	4,375	3,891	-11.1%
Other	0	465	9	0	8	679	5	1	4	3	4	1	0	1	11	1,178	1,191	1.1%
General Offenses	7	55	74	10	31	63	1	5	3	23	0	12	19	1	50	321	354	10.3%
Regulatory Offenses	20	63	56	22	19	50	4	23	6	7	2	3	10	3	15	362	303	-16.3%
Traffic Offenses	1	3	0	11	19	0	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	197	257	242	-5.8%
All Offenses Total	210	6,675	1,087	707	737	3,921	113	200	329	402	17	512	497	352	950	17,632	16,709	-5.2%

Note: This table includes defendants in all cases filed as felonies or Class A misdemeanors but includes only those defendants in cases filed as petty offenses that were assigned to district judges rather than magistrate judges.

numbered 6,356 and accounted for 46 percent of total criminal defendants in the circuit. Of the total drug offenses, 2,810 involved marijuana and 3,546 involved all other drug offenses.

Criminal defendants charged with immigration offenses numbered 5,082 down 8.5 percent compared to FY 2014. Immigration offenses constituted 30.3 percent of all criminal defendants in the circuit. Of the total, 3,891 defendants

were charged with improper reentry into the United States.

The District of Arizona, one of two Ninth Circuit districts on the U.S.-Mexico border, continues to lead the nation in the number of defendants charged with drug offenses and ranks second in the nation for defendants charged with immigration offenses. Defendants charged with drug offenses in Arizona numbered 3,041, down 2.4 percent from

the prior year, and accounted 47.8 percent of the circuit total. Defendants charged with immigration offenses in the district numbered 2,634, down 2.2 percent, and accounted for 51.8 percent of the circuit total.

The Southern District of California, also located on the U.S.-Mexico border, ranked second in the circuit for the largest numbers of defendants charged with immigration

and drug offenses. The district reported 1,788 defendants charged with immigration offenses, down 11.5 percent, and 1,406 defendants charged with drug offense, down 4.4 percent. The Southern District of California had 22.1 percent of all defendants with drug offenses in the circuit.

District courts reported 2,154 defendants charged with property offenses. Under this category, defendants charged with fraud were most numerous, totaling 1,530, followed by burglary, larceny or theft, 402; forgery and counterfeiting, 90; embezzlement, 74; and 58 for other property offenses.

Defendants charged with firearms and explosive offenses numbered 891, while violent offenses, including homicide, robbery, assault, and other violent offenses numbered 568.

District courts pending caseloads were down 3 percent to 12,245 cases with 10 out of the 15 districts reporting fewer pending criminal cases in fiscal year 2015.

Civil Caseload

District courts in the Ninth Circuit reported 43,524 civil filings, down 7.7 percent compared to the prior fiscal year.

Civil matters accounted for 76.8 percent of total caseloads in the district courts. Civil filings declined by 5.5 percent nationally in FY 2015.

Private civil cases, which numbered 35,771, accounted for 82.3 percent of all new civil filings in the circuit. Prisoner petitions were most numerous under this category, totaling 8,238, or 23 percent of all private civil cases in the circuit.

Civil rights cases numbered 6,948 cases or 19.4 percent of all private civil cases in the circuit. Private civil cases also included contract dispute, 3,915 or 11 percent; intellectual property

U.S. District Courts: Weighted and Unweighted Filings Per Authorized Judgeship

District	Authorized Judgeships	Weighted Filings Per Judgeship						Unweighted Filings Per Judgeship			
		Civil	Criminal	Supervision Hearings	2015 Total	2014 Total	Change 2014-2015	Civil	Criminal	Supervision Hearings	2015 Total
Alaska	3	104	53	1.15	183	158	13.7%	96	58	8.00	180
Arizona	13	445	281	15.87	597	742	-19.5%	527	516	113.31	886
C. Calif.	28	617	42	4.51	659	664	-0.8%	502	47	31.82	569
E. Calif.	6	858	108	8.05	910	974	-6.6%	793	121	57.33	938
N. Calif.	14	541	48	4.41	590	593	-0.5%	403	54	31.43	481
S. Calif.	13	275	218	15.38	493	508	-3.0%	234	327	108.92	612
Hawaii	4	209	70	6.73	214	286	-25.2%	164	70	46.25	246
Idaho	2	308	132	6.00	498	446	11.7%	269	139	42.00	502
Montana	3	246	145	7.97	360	399	-9.8%	260	140	50.67	394
Nevada	7	430	70	4.79	572	505	13.3%	386	75	33.14	536
Oregon	6	381	107	8.87	518	497	4.2%	351	119	63.66	535
E. Wash.	4	161	96	20.61	277	278	-0.4%	176	98	146.50	414
W. Wash.	7	467	76	6.25	570	549	3.8%	441	133	43.86	609
Circuit Total	110	5,042	1,446	110.59	6,441	6,599	-2.4%	4,602	1,897	776.89	6,902
Circuit Mean		388	111	8.51	495	508	-2.4%	354	146	59.76	531
Circuit Median		381	96	6.73	518	505	2.6%	351	119	46.25	535
National Mean		409	98	5.84	489	513	-4.7%	410	120	39.07	521
National Total	673	434	94	5.41	522	533	-2.1%	411	120	36.74	535

Note: Case weights are based on the 2003-2004 district court case weighting study conducted by the Federal Judicial Center. Data for the territorial courts are not included. This table excludes civil cases arising by reopening, remand, or transfer to the district by the order of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation. This table includes defendants in all criminal cases filed as felonies or Class A misdemeanors but includes only those defendants in criminal cases filed as petty offenses that were assigned to district judges rather than magistrate judges. Remands and reopens for criminal defendants are excluded. This table includes trials conducted by district and appellate judges only; all trials conducted by magistrate judges are excluded. Sentencing hearings are excluded. Due to rounding, subtotals may not equal totals.

suits, 2,789 or 7.8 percent; personal injury suits, 2,531 or 7.1 percent; labor suits, 2,473 or 6.9 percent; and real property suits, 2,258 or 6.4 percent.

The U.S. government was a party in 7,753 civil cases, accounting for 17.8 percent all Ninth Circuit civil filings. The government acted as a plaintiff in 1,100 cases and as a defendant in 6,653 cases. Among matters involving the government, social security cases were most numerous, 3,832 or 49.4 percent of the total civil cases in the Ninth Circuit. Other major categories were prisoner petitions 1,175 cases or 15.2 percent, and contracts, 441 cases or 5.7 percent.

Six districts reported increased civil filings in fiscal year 2015. Filings in the District of Nevada were up by 12.3 percent to 3,138 cases; the District of Oregon, up 9.7 percent to 2,380 cases; the Western District of Washington, up 1.7 percent to 818 cases; the District of Idaho, up 8.6 percent to 608 cases; the District of Alaska, up 3 percent to 311 cases; and the District of Guam, up 123.8 percent to 47 cases.

The District of Arizona reported 3,706 cases down 46.8 percent compared to the prior fiscal year. However, the steep decline was an anomaly resulting from the court limiting filings from a prisoner who brought more than 3,000 frivolous cases in the district in FY 2014. The prisoner is now limited by court

order to one filing per month. After accounting for absence of filings by the prisoner, civil cases declined by about 4 percent in the district.

The Central District of California, which had the highest civil caseload in the circuit and second highest in the nation, reported 14,549 filings, down .1 percent from FY 2014. Other districts with fewer filings include Northern, Eastern and Southern California, Hawaii, Montana, Western Washington and the Northern Mariana Islands.


District courts in the Ninth Circuit closed 43,199 civil cases, down 9.9 percent, and ended the fiscal year with 38,311 pending civil cases, up 1 percent. Civil case terminations nationwide increased by 6.2 percent to 274,627, while pending cases nationwide were up 1.3 percent to 341,813.

Case Processing Times

Case processing times in the district courts of the Ninth Circuit remained almost unchanged in fiscal year 2015. The Case Termination Index, which computes how long it would take to clear the pending caseload if the current termination rate remained constant, was 9.67 months compared to 9.66 months the prior fiscal year. (The termination rate for FY 2014, previously reported as 9.67 months, was revised due to revised total

pending cases as reported in the FY 2015 statistical tables published by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.)

The median time from filing to disposition of civil cases terminated in Ninth Circuit district courts decreased to 7.1 months compared 7.2 months the prior fiscal year, while the national median increased to 8.8 months in FY 2015.

For criminal defendants, the median time from filing to disposition in the Ninth Circuit slightly improved to 5.5 months compared to 5.6 months in FY 2014. The national median remained constant at 7 months. 

BANKRUPTCY COURTS REPORT FEWER CASES

Bankruptcy filings nationwide continue to decline in fiscal year 2015. Total filings numbered 860,182 in FY 2015, down 10.7 percent from FY 2014, when 963,739 filings were reported.

For the fifth consecutive year, bankruptcy courts in the Ninth Circuit reported fewer new cases. Total new filings in the nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions was 152,080, down 18.2 percent from FY 2014.

Bankruptcy courts in all 15 districts in the Ninth Circuit reported fewer filings with the biggest decreases occurring in California. The Northern District of California, which includes San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose, had 11,892 filings, down 22.9 percent. The Eastern District of California, which takes in Sacramento, Fresno and the Central Valley, had 17,681 filings, down 21 percent. The Southern District of California, which covers San Diego and Imperial counties, had 8,889 filings, down 19.1 percent. The Central District of California, which includes Los Angeles and six Southern California counties, reported 48,487 filings, down 19.9 percent. Even with the decline, the Central District remains the busiest bankruptcy court in the nation.

Business and Nonbusiness Bankruptcy Cases Commenced, by Chapter of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, 2014-2015

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015
Filings			
Business Chapter 7	4,640	3,885	-16.3%
Business Chapter 11	1,188	921	-22.5%
Business Chapter 12	62	34	-45.2%
Business Chapter 13	528	443	-16.1%
Nonbusiness Chapter 7	143,442	113,421	-20.9%
Nonbusiness Chapter 11	517	426	-17.6%
Nonbusiness Chapter 13	35,443	32,949	-7.0%
Total	185,820	152,079	-18.2%
Terminations	217,764	183,545	-15.7%
Pending Cases	212,114	180,649	-14.8%

¹2014 pending cases revised

Note: Section 101 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code defines consumer (nonbusiness) debt as that incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose. If the debtor is a corporation or partnership, or if debt related to operation of a business predominates, the nature of the debt is business.

These figures include the following cases not reflected elsewhere.

Fiscal Year 2014: Central Calif. (Chapter 15=1); Northern Calif. (Chapter 9=1; Southern Calif. (Chapter 15=1); Nevada (Chapter 15=5); Western Wash. (Chapter 15=1)

Fiscal Year 2015: Eastern Calif. (Chapter 9=1)

Fewer filings reported elsewhere in the circuit included the District of Arizona, 17,448 filings, down 16.5 percent; the Western District of Washington, 14,567 filings, down 16.2 percent; the District of Oregon, 11,134, down 12.1 percent; the District of Nevada, 9,902, down 15.2 percent; the Eastern District of Washington, 4,450, down 8.1 percent; the District of Idaho, 4,162, down 16.4; the District of Hawaii, 1,593, down 11.7 percent; the District of Montana, 1,310 filings, down 19.1 percent; the District of Alaska, 426, down 7 percent; the District of Guam 133, down, 9.5 percent; and the District of Northern Mariana Islands which reported 6 cases, down by a case.

Ninth Circuit bankruptcy courts ranked first in the total number of Chapter 7 filings with 117,306

new filings, 21.3 percent of the national total. Chapter 7 cases, which provide for the sale of a debtor's nonexempt property and the distribution of the proceeds to creditors, made up 77 percent of all new bankruptcy filings in the circuit. Chapter 13 filings, which permit individuals with regular income to develop a plan to repay all or part of their debts, totaled 33,392 or 22 percent of the circuit total. Chapters 11 and 12 filings made up the remainder. Nonbusiness filings involving individual debtors remained constant in 2015, accounting for 96.5 percent of all new filings.

Pro Se Bankruptcy Filings

Bankruptcy filings by people not represented by legal counsel continued to run high in the Ninth Circuit. Total bankruptcy cases by pro se filers numbered 25,599 or

16.8 percent of the total filings. Bankruptcy courts in the districts of Arizona, Central California, Eastern California, Northern California, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon and Western Washington have established self-help clinics for pro se filers, who are unfamiliar with bankruptcy law and court procedures. Courts also urge their local bars to assist by providing pro bono representation for some cases.

Pro se filings in the Central District of California numbered 11,799 and accounted for 46.1 percent of pro se filings in the Ninth Circuit. The Ninth Circuit, in turn, accounted for 33.2 percent of pro se filings nationwide.

High numbers of pro se filings were reported in the District of Arizona, 3,419 or 13.4 percent of all pro se filings in the circuit; the Eastern District of California, 2,989 or 11.7 percent; and the Northern District of California, 2,066 or 8.1 percent.

Terminations, Pending Cases

Cases terminated by bankruptcy courts in the Ninth Circuit numbered 183,545 or 18.5 percent of total cases terminated nationwide.

The Central District of California terminated 53,817 cases or 29.3 percent of all cases closed in the circuit. The District of Arizona followed with 23,575 or 12.8 percent; the Eastern District of California, 21,799 or 12 percent; the Western District of Washington, 16,554 cases or 9 percent; the Northern District of California, 16,275 cases or 8.8

percent; the District of Nevada, 14,102 cases or 7.7 percent; the District of Oregon, 13,116 or 7.1 percent; and the Southern District of California, 10,667 cases or 5.8 percent. The districts of Idaho, Eastern District of Washington, Hawaii, Montana, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands made up the remaining 13,155 cases terminated or 7.2 percent.

Bankruptcy courts in the circuit reported a 14.8 percent decline in pending cases which numbered 180,649 or 14.2 percent of pending cases nationwide. Pending cases in the Central District of California were down 11 percent to 43,285 cases. The Northern District of California saw its pending caseload decline by 14.8 percent to 25,313 cases, while the District of Arizona reported 24,869 cases, down 19.8 percent.

Appointments, Transitions

In 2015, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit appointed five new bankruptcy judges. The new judges were Christopher M. Alston in the Western District of Washington, Martin R. Barash in the Central District of California, Christopher D. Jaime and René Lastreto, II, in the Eastern District of California; and Peter C. McKittrick in the District of Oregon.


Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Courts, 2014-2015

District	2014 Total Filings	2015 Total Filings	Change 2014-2015
Alaska	458	426	-7.0%
Arizona	20,907	17,448	-16.5%
C. Calif.	60,545	48,487	-19.9%
E. Calif.	22,383	17,681	-21.0%
N. Calif.	15,430	11,892	-22.9%
S. Calif.	10,992	8,889	-19.1%
Guam	147	133	-9.5%
Hawaii	1,805	1,593	-11.7%
Idaho	4,976	4,162	-16.4%
Montana	1,625	1,310	-19.4%
Nevada	11,676	9,902	-15.2%
¹ N. Mariana Is.	5	6	-
Oregon	12,660	11,134	-12.1%
E. Wash	4,840	4,450	-8.1%
W. Wash.	17,380	14,567	-16.2%
Circuit Total	185,829	152,080	-18.2%

¹Percent change not computed when fewer than 10 cases reported for the previous period.

Three bankruptcy judges were elevated to chief bankruptcy judges in 2015: Bruce T. Beesley in the District of Nevada, Trish Brown in the District of Oregon, and Roger L. Efremsky in the Northern District of California.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reappointed three bankruptcy judges in 2015. They were Judges Sheri A. Bluebond in the Central District of California, Louise DeCarl Adler in the Southern District of California, and Alan Jaroslovsky of the Northern District of California.

Ninth Circuit bankruptcy courts also rely on recalled bankruptcy judges who are appointed on a temporary basis with the approval of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit. There were 18 recalled bankruptcy judges who served in 2015. 

BANKRUPTCY APPELLATE PANEL

The Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, or BAP, operates under the authority of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit. It is authorized seven bankruptcy judges, who serve seven-year terms and may be reappointed to an additional three-year term. The BAP has had one seat left vacant intentionally due to reduced workload since 2003. In their appellate capacity, BAP judges are precluded from hearing matters arising from their own districts.

All district courts within the Ninth Circuit have issued general orders providing for the automatic referral of bankruptcy appeals to the BAP for disposition. However, if any party files a timely election to have the appeal heard by a district court, the appeal is transferred according to the consent rule.

New Filings

In fiscal year 2015, new bankruptcy appeals filed numbered 782, down 20 percent from FY 2014. The BAP handled 45 percent of all bankruptcy appeals, and the district courts handled 55 percent.

Dispositions

The BAP disposed of 512 appeals in FY 2015, a decrease of 20 percent from the prior fiscal year.



The BAP consists of, front row from left, Chief Bankruptcy Judges Robert J. Faris of the District of Hawaii, Laura S. Taylor of the Southern District of California, and Meredith A. Jury of the Central District of California, who serves as chief judge of the BAP. Back row from left are, Chief Bankruptcy Judges Ralph B. Kirscher of the District of Montana and Frank L. Kurtz of the Eastern District of Washington, and Bankruptcy Judge Randall L. Dunn of the District of Oregon.

Of those, 162 appeals were merits terminations. Oral argument was held in 134 appeals, and 28 appeals were submitted on briefs. Of the 162 merits decisions, 31 were published opinions. The reversal rate was 10 percent. The median time for an appeal decided on the merits was 10.7 months.

Of the remaining 350 closed cases, 10 were terminated by consolidation and 111 were transferred to the district courts after appellee elections or in the interest of justice. The remaining 229 closed appeals were terminated

New Bankruptcy Appeal Filings, 2015

District	Bankruptcy Appellate Panel	¹ District Court	Total
Alaska	0	1	1
Arizona	30	31	61
C. Calif.	161	182	343
E. Calif.	36	21	57
N. Calif.	35	78	113
S. Calif.	22	23	45
Hawaii	0	13	13
Idaho	4	8	12
Montana	2	4	6
Nevada	33	36	69
Oregon	10	12	22
E. Wash.	2	3	5
W. Wash.	14	21	35
Total	349 (45%)	433 (55%)	782

¹The numbers for bankruptcy appeals to the district courts are taken directly from a statistical caseload table prepared by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. The numbers for bankruptcy appeals to the BAP are calculated based on data from AOUSC tables and on data from the BAP's CM/ECF docketing system. The district court numbers include all appeals in which a timely election was made to have the appeal heard in the district court (both appellant and appellee elections) as well as other cases transferred in the interest of justice. The BAP numbers exclude all such appeals.

Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appeal Filings, 2013-2015

Year	Bankruptcy Appeals Total	¹ Raw Bankruptcy Appeals Received by BAP	² Net Bankruptcy Appeals BAP	³ Net Bankruptcy Appeals District Court	⁴ Election Rate	Percentage of Appeals Heard by BAP
FY 2013	944	650	538	406	43%	57%
FY 2014	976	627	497	479	49%	51%
FY 2015	782	460	349	433	55%	45%

¹Number of new appellate filings received and opened as new case files at the BAP Clerk's Office. This figure includes some appeals where an appellee files an election and the appeal thereafter is transferred to district court. (Where a timely election is made by an appellant, the bankruptcy court generally bypasses the BAP and refers the appeal directly to the district court.)

²The number of raw bankruptcy appeals received by BAP less the number of appeals transferred from BAP to district court by election or other transfer.

³Includes the number of all bankruptcy appeals received by district court either referred directly from the bankruptcy court or transferred from the BAP.

⁴Percentage of bankruptcy appeals where one or more parties timely elected to have their appeals heard in district court.

on procedural grounds, such as lack of prosecution, lack of jurisdiction, or voluntary dismissal. The BAP had 231 appeals pending in FY 2015, down 18 percent from FY 2014.

Appeals to the Ninth Circuit

Appeals from a bankruptcy decision of either the BAP or a district court may be filed with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for second-level appellate review. In FY 2015, second-level appeals filed numbered 248. Of these, 101 were appeals from decisions by the BAP and 147 were from decisions by the district courts. Thus, of the 512 appeals that were disposed of by the BAP, roughly 80 percent were fully resolved, with only 20 percent seeking second-level review. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals did not reverse a BAP decision in FY 2015.

New BAP Judge

In August 2015, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris of the District of Hawaii was appointed to a seven-year term on the BAP. He succeeded Judge Jim D. Pappas of the District of Idaho, who completed a 10-year term which included service as chief judge of the BAP from 2010 to 2013.


BAP Use of Pro Tem Judges

The BAP continues to use bankruptcy judges from throughout the Ninth Circuit on a pro tem basis. In fiscal year 2015, the BAP used three pro tem appointments to assist with oral arguments and merits decisions.

BAP Outreach

The BAP continues its efforts to reach out to future and current bankruptcy attorneys

throughout the Ninth Circuit in fiscal year 2015. In October 2014, the BAP held oral arguments at Pepperdine University School of Law in conjunction with the inaugural Capstone Day of The Parris Institute for Professional Formation. All first-year law students from the Class of 2017 attended the oral arguments and participated in a question-and-answer session with the BAP judges. The BAP returned to Pepperdine in September 2015 to again participate in this event for the first year law students from the Class of 2018.

In November 2014, in conjunction with oral arguments in Phoenix, BAP judges participated in a continuing legal education program with members of the Arizona bankruptcy bar. 

MAGISTRATE JUDGES

Magistrate judges are appointed under Article I of the Constitution. Selected by the district judges of their judicial district, magistrate judges are appointed to an eight-year term and may be reappointed. They also may serve as recalled magistrate judges.

Magistrate judges make vital contributions to the work of the federal trial courts. They support district judges in a variety of judicial matters with duties ranging from handling petty offenses to taking felony pleas. Magistrate judges conduct preliminary proceedings, decide trial jurisdiction matters, review prisoner petitions and perform other duties. They may also preside over civil trials with consent of the parties.

In 2015, the 15 district courts of the Ninth Circuit were served by 105 full-time, 9 part-time magistrate judges, and 1 magistrate judge/clerk of court along with 18 recalled magistrate judges. They disposed of a combined 224,002 judicial matters during the year. Their dispositions were down 4.2 percent from fiscal year 2014.

Preliminary proceedings, the largest category of matters presided over by magistrate judges, include arraignments, initial appearances, detention hearings, arrest and search

warrants, bail reviews, Nebbia hearings, attorney appointment and material witness hearings. The total of preliminary proceedings was 83,318, down 1.8 percent from FY 2014.

Additional duties related to criminal matters totaled 36,664, down 7.8 percent from the prior fiscal year. Among matters included in this category are non-dispositive and dispositive motions, pretrial conferences, probation and supervised release revocation hearings, guilty plea and evidentiary proceedings, motion hearings, reentry/drug court proceedings, writs, and mental competency proceedings. Non-dispositive motions numbered 13,913, down 9.6, while dispositive motions, 231, remained constant.

Additional duties related to civil matters numbered 48,370, up 1.7 percent from prior fiscal year. The bulk of this category included non-dispositive motions/grants of in forma pauperis, or IFP, status, pretrial conferences and settlement conferences.

Trial jurisdiction, which include Class A misdemeanor and petty offenses, numbered 29,118, down 20.1 percent from FY 2014. Petty offenses totaled 26,335, down 21.5 percent, while Class A misdemeanor offenses numbered 2,783, down 3.8 percent. Civil consent cases, in which a magistrate judge presides at the consent of the parties, were up by .6 percent to 5,177 cases. The great majority of cases were disposed of without trial.

Prisoner petitions rose by 10.2 percent to 6,251 cases from the prior fiscal year. State habeas and civil rights petitions, which make up the bulk of this work were up 9.1 percent to 2,693 and 13.8 percent to 3,216, respectively.

New Magistrate Judges and Governance

Eleven new full-time magistrate judges were seated in 2015. They were Judges Stacie F. Beckerman in the District of Oregon; David W. Christel in the Western District of Washington; Deborah M. Fine in the District of Arizona; Erica P. Grosjean in the Eastern District of California; John T. Johnston in the District of Montana; Sallie Kim in the Northern District of California; and Alexander F. MacKinnon, Rozella A. Oliver, Karen E. Scott, Gail J. Standish and Karen L. Stevenson in the Central District of California.

New magistrate judges who attended the New Judges Orientation held in May at the James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco, were greeted by the Magistrate Judges Executive Board. The group met during an informal session, and exchanged ideas and offered the new judges guidance and encouragement in handling difficult matters.

Educational Program

The Magistrate Judges Education Committee, chaired by Magistrate Judge Brian A. Tsuchida of the Western District of Washington, organized a supplemental program

Matters Disposed of by Ninth Circuit Magistrate Judges, 2014-2015

Activity	2014	2015	Percent Change 2014-2015
Total Matters	233,866	224,002	-4.2%
Felony Preliminary Proceedings	84,863	83,318	-1.8%
Search Warrants	14,402	15,363	6.7%
Arrest Warrants	6,916	6,701	-3.1%
Summonses	1,169	979	-16.3%
Initial Appearances	20,980	20,330	-3.1%
Preliminary Hearings	7,016	6,731	-4.1%
Arraignments	14,672	13,642	-7.0%
Detention Hearings	13,009	12,614	-3.0%
Bail Reviews/Forfeitures/Nebbia Hearings	1,661	1,706	2.7%
¹ Other	5,038	5,252	4.2%
Trial Jurisdiction Defendants	36,427	29,118	-20.1%
Class A Misdemeanor	2,894	2,783	-3.8%
Petty Offense	33,533	26,335	-21.5%
Civil Consent Cases	5,146	5,177	0.6%
Without Trial	5,069	5,105	0.7%
Jury Trial	58	53	-8.6%
Nonjury Trial	19	19	-
Additional Duties			
Criminal	39,758	36,664	-7.8%
Non-Dispositive Motions	15,390	13,913	-9.6%
Dispositive Motions	231	231	0.0%
Evidentiary Proceedings	170	153	-10.0%
Pretrial Conferences	11,160	10,217	-8.4%
Probation and Supervised Release	1,594	1,502	-5.8%
Revocation Hearings			
Guilty Plea Proceedings	8,456	7,647	-9.6%
² Other	2,757	3,001	8.9%
Civil	47,554	48,370	1.7%
Settlement Conferences/Mediations	2,959	3,257	10.1%
Other Pretrial Conferences	4,016	3,721	-7.3%
³ Non-Dispositive Motions/Grants of IFP Status	34,595	35,337	2.1%
Other Civil Dispositive Motions	2,133	2,617	22.7%
Evidentiary Proceedings	124	128	3.2%
Social Security Appeals	908	666	-26.7%
Special Master References	1	0	-
⁴ Other	2,818	2,644	-6.2%
Prisoner Petitions	5,672	6,251	10.2%
State Habeas	2,468	2,693	9.1%
Federal Habeas	356	311	-12.6%
Civil Rights	2,827	3,216	13.8%
Evidentiary Proceedings	21	31	47.6%
Miscellaneous Matters	14,446	15,104	4.6%

for the bench and bar attending the 2015 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. The program, entitled “When Privacy Is No Longer Private: A Judicial Primer on Cellphone Location Data,” covered practical approaches to addressing privacy concerns implicated by increased data requests submitted to courts by law enforcement agencies in order to establish a suspect’s location and gather evidence. Magistrate Judge Jacqueline S. Corley of the Northern District of California moderated the panel, which included Magistrate Judge William G. Cobb of the District of Nevada; Richard Dowling, principal deputy chief, Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section, U.S. Department of Justice; and Federal Public Defender Lisa Hay of the District of Oregon.



¹Includes attorney appointment hearings and material witness hearings.

²Includes mental competency proceedings, motion hearings, reentry/drug court proceedings and writs.

³In 2013, magistrate judge workload statistics were produced using a new software program that recalculated the statistics for 2013 and for previous years. In some categories, the statistics provided in the report differ from the ones displayed in those categories in previous reports. Non-dispositive motions/grants of IFP status category includes prisoner cases, social security cases and other civil cases.

⁴Includes summary jury/other ADR/early neutral evaluations, motion hearings and fee applications.

SENTENCING CHANGE CAUSES CASELOADS TO RISE FOR MOST FEDERAL DEFENDERS

Congress created the Office of the Federal Public Defender to fulfill the constitutional requirement that indigents charged with federal crimes be provided with professional legal representation at no cost. Congress funds public defender and community defender offices through the Defender Services Division of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

Federal public defender offices are staffed by federal judiciary employees while community defender organizations are non-profit defense counsel organizations staffed by non-government employees. Both types of organizations are staffed with experienced federal criminal law practitioners who provide a consistently high level of representation. Federal public defender representations include criminal defense and appeals, court-directed prisoner and witness representations, bail/pre-sentencing, supervised release, and probation and parole revocation hearings.

By statute, judges of a court of appeals select and appoint federal public defenders to four-year terms. The court makes its initial

appointment after a nationwide recruitment and the use of a local screening committee. A federal public defender may be reappointed if the court concludes that he or she is performing in a highly satisfactory manner based upon a broad survey and performance evaluation process.

In fiscal year 2015, federal public defenders in the Ninth Circuit opened 27,465 new cases, down 2.1 percent from the prior fiscal year. The downturn was due largely to a steep drop in new cases from one district. New case openings actually rose in

Ninth Circuit Federal Defender Organizations: Cases Opened, Closed and Pending, 2011-2015

Cases	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015
Opened	33,929	33,664	32,539	28,055	27,465	-2.1%
Closed	33,733	33,376	33,192	28,951	24,720	-14.6%
Pending	10,950	11,236	10,120	9,076	11,766	29.6%

most other districts, although the upturn stemmed from a retroactive change in federal sentencing guidelines.

In Arizona, the Office of the Federal Public Defender opened 5,217 new cases in FY 2015, down 42.3 percent from 9,044 new cases the prior fiscal year. Several factors contributed to the downturn, including the loss of some 40 employees – about one-fifth of the office's total staff – during the government's budget sequestration in FY 2013. Cases not opened by the FPD were assumed by private attorneys assigned to the district's Criminal Justice Act panel. In addition to loss of staff, the government

brought about 30 percent fewer criminal prosecutions in Arizona and many of those were larger and more complex cases, requiring greater FPD resources.

The nature of FPD caseloads in Arizona and elsewhere has been changing over several years and is reflected in the most recent work measurement study by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. The study resulted in the introduction of revised formulas for determining FPD staffing and funding based on the complexity of cases rather than sheer number of cases taken.

Also noteworthy in FPD statistics for FY 2015, new case openings include previously closed cases reopened for review under an amendment to the sentencing guidelines formulated by the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Amendment 782 lowered the base offense levels for certain drug quantities, resulting in reduced sentences. It is being applied retroactively, requiring review of thousands of prior cases in which longer sentences had been given. The amendment was adopted in 2014 but delayed a year to allow for an orderly review process. The resulting bump in new case openings in FY 2015 is expected to be a one-time occurrence.

Federal Defender Organizations: Summary of Representations by District, 2014–2015

District	Opened 2014	Opened 2015	Change 2014-2015	Closed 2014	Closed 2015	Change 2014-2015	Pending 2,015
Alaska	319	436	36.7%	267	364	36.3%	232
Arizona	9,044	5,217	-42.3%	9,281	4,975	-46.4%	1,274
C. Calif.	3,116	3,816	22.5%	3,221	3,089	-4.1%	2,465
E. Calif.	1,541	1,966	27.6%	1,552	1,859	19.8%	809
N. Calif.	1,998	1,880	-5.9%	2,138	1,491	-30.3%	905
'S. Calif.	5,858	6,128	4.6%	6,308	6,096	-3.4%	2,048
Guam	113	180	59.3%	127	143	12.6%	105
Hawaii	448	761	69.9%	438	662	51.1%	431
'Idaho	271	568	109.6%	288	412	43.1%	276
'Montana	694	828	19.3%	665	819	23.2%	261
Nevada	1,013	1,440	42.2%	995	1,199	20.5%	911
Oregon	1,405	1,563	11.2%	1,322	1,251	-5.4%	1,045
'E. Wash.	857	1,123	31.0%	882	935	6.0%	519
W. Wash.	1,378	1,559	13.1%	1,467	1,425	-2.9%	485
Circuit Total	28,055	27,465	-2.1%	28,951	24,720	-14.6%	11,766
National Total	118,862	147,704	24.3%	122,802	127,508	3.8%	60,921
Circuit Total as % of National Total	23.6%	18.6%	-5.0%	23.6%	19.4%	-4.2%	19.3%

¹Community Defender Organizations

Note: Eastern Washington and Idaho are combined into one organization, and Northern Mariana Islands is not served by a defender organization. Other representations include court-directed prisoner, bail/presentment, witness, probation revocation, and parole revocation representations.

With the addition of previously closed cases, 13 of 15 districts in the circuit reported increased new case openings. New case openings numbered 6,128 in the Southern District of California, up 4.6 percent; 3,816 in the Central District of California, up 22.5 percent; 1,966 in the Eastern District of California, up 27.6 percent; 1,559 in the Western District of Washington, up 13.1 percent; 1,563 in the District of Oregon, up 11.2 percent; 1,440 in the District of Nevada, up 42.2 percent; 1,123 in the Eastern District of Washington, up 31 percent; 828 in the District of Montana, up 19.3 percent; 761 in the District of Hawaii, up 69.9 percent; 568 in the District of

Idaho, up 109.6 percent; 436 in the District of Alaska, up 36.7 percent; and 180 in the District of Guam, up 59.3 percent.

The only other district to report a downturn in new case openings was the Northern District of California, which opened 1,880 cases, down 5.9 percent.

Federal public defenders closed 24,720 cases, down 14.6 percent from the prior fiscal year, while pending caseloads increased by 29.6 percent to 11,766 cases.


Offices of federal public defenders in eight districts reported increased number of cases closed in fiscal year 2015. The Eastern District of

California closed 1,859 cases, up 19.8 percent; the District of Nevada, 1,199, up 20.5 percent; the Eastern District of Washington, 935, up 6 percent; the District of Montana, 819, up 23.2 percent; the District of Hawaii, 662, up 51.1 percent; the District of Idaho, 412, up 43.1 percent; the District of Alaska, 364, up 36.3 percent; and the District of Guam, 143, up 12.6 percent.

The FPD office in the Southern District of California reported the most cases closed, 6,096, down 3.4 percent. The District of Arizona followed with 4,975 cases closed, down 46.4 percent; the Central District of California, 3,089, down 4.1 percent; the Northern District of California, 1,491, down 30.3 percent; the Western District of Washington, 1,425, down 2.9 percent; and the District of Oregon, 1,251, down 5.4 percent.

New cases opened nationally in fiscal year 2015 were up by 24.3 percent to 147,704. Cases closed nationally numbered 127,508, up 3.8 percent, while pending caseloads nationwide rose by 35.5 percent to 60,921 from prior fiscal year.

Transitions

Two federal public defenders were appointed in 2015. Lisa Hay and Hilary Potashner both took office on June 30, 2015, in the District of Oregon and the Central District of California, respectively. 

PROBATION OFFICERS

United States probation officers prepare presentence reports on convicted defendants and supervise offenders who have been placed on probation, supervised release, civilian and military parole, or conditional release. Probation officers perform these duties in various settings, from courthouses in major cities to one-person offices in rural areas.

Presentence Reports

Probation officers investigate the offense conduct and the defendant’s personal background. They identify applicable guidelines and policy statements, and calculate the defendant’s offense level and criminal history category. Probation officers report the resulting sentencing range and identify factors relevant to the appropriate sentence. Presentence reports assist a judge in sentencing convicted defendants.

Standard guideline presentence reports are generally prepared in felony and Class A misdemeanor cases for which the U.S. Sentencing Commission has promulgated guidelines. In the Ninth Circuit, probation officers prepared 12,135 guideline presentence reports in FY 2015, down 8.75 percent from the prior year. The circuit accounted for 20 percent of the national total of 60,746 submitted guideline presentence reports.

Post-Conviction Supervision of Offenders

Probation officers supervise persons who are released to the community after serving prison sentences or placed on probation supervision by the court. They assist supervised individuals by directing them to services, including substance abuse, mental health, and sex offender treatment; medical care; employment assistance; literacy and training programs; and cognitive-behavioral treatment therapies to foster long-term positive changes to reduce recidivism. By using both controlling and correctional strategies, officers work diligently to protect the community, while promoting long-term change in the offender population.

Ninth Circuit Federal Probation System: Persons Under Post-Conviction Supervision, 2014-2015

Persons Under Supervision	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015
¹ From Courts	3,534	3,338	-5.5%
² From Institutions	19,273	19,641	1.9%
Total	22,807	22,979	0.8%

¹Includes conditional release, probation, and the former categories known as judge probation and magistrate judge probation.

²Includes parole, special parole, mandatory release, and military parole.

Probation officers in the Ninth Circuit supervised 23,135 persons in FY 2015, up 1.5 percent from the prior fiscal year. The circuit accounted for 17 percent of the national total of 135,468 persons under supervision at the conclusion of FY 2015.

Among those under supervision, 3,338 were on probation, 19,641 were on supervised release, 133

persons were on parole, and 23 individuals adhered to Bureau of Prisons custody standards.

Offenders with convictions for drugs, property, firearms and weapons, and violent offenses are the largest group of persons under supervision in the Ninth Circuit. These offenders numbered 19,163, accounting for 83 percent of persons under supervision in the Ninth Circuit.

Revocations and Early Terminations

Ninth Circuit cases that were revoked and closed after post-conviction supervision numbered 3,198, virtually unchanged from FY 2014. The revocations, 153 were from probation sentences, 3,039 were from supervised

release terms, and 6 were from parole cases. The Ninth Circuit had 21.8 percent of the 14,637 cases revoked nationally. The national revocation rate for FY 2014 was 24.1 percent, while the Ninth Circuit’s revocation rate was 26.3 percent. The 26.3 percent revocation rate represents a decrease of nearly 5 percent from the previous fiscal year.

Since 2002, the Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on Criminal Law has encouraged officers to identify offenders who qualify for early termination. When conditions of supervision have been met, and the offender does not pose a foreseeable risk to the public or an individual, the probation officer may request the sentencing judge to consider early termination. For FY 2015, system wide there were 7,644 cases terminated early, resulting in significant savings to the judiciary of over \$33.2 million.

Evidence-Based Practices

United States probation officers aim to reduce recidivism by utilizing “evidence-based practices”

to make informed decisions about the supervision risks offenders may pose. The process known as Post-Conviction Risk Assessment, or PCRA, is undertaken to improve post-conviction supervision. PCRA helps direct allocation of resources, directing attention and services to the highest risk offenders.

Along with this assessment tool, evidence-based practices include the use of low-risk supervision caseloads and reentry programs, which include reentry courts, workforce development activities, and cognitive behavioral therapy programs. Furthermore, to enhance the bond and strengthen offender success, techniques such as motivational interviewing and the Strategic Techniques Aimed at Reducing Re-arrest

program have been implemented. These areas focus on skills most helpful to an officer in trying to change offender behavior. The utilization of Second Chance Act funding has allowed districts to connect with much needed services in allowing individuals under supervision in becoming successful. Some examples of funding use include: employment/training programs, financial literacy classes, availability of transitional housing, and more.

Challenges

Since sequestration in FY 2013, Probation and Pretrial Services offices have been working well under budget to ensure no disruption in court services and/


Ninth Circuit Federal Probation System: Persons Under Post-Conviction Supervision by District, 2014-2015

District	From Courts	Referred by Institutions Supervised			Persons Under Supervision, 2014	Persons Under Supervision, 2015	Change 2014-2015
	¹ Probation	Release	² Parole	³ BOP Custody			
Alaska	83	303	0	4	352	390	10.8%
Arizona	674	3,258	15	1	4,014	3,948	-1.6%
C. Calif.	725	4,865	33	0	5,642	5,623	-0.3%
E. Calif.	170	1,539	16	1	1,683	1,726	2.6%
N. Calif.	319	1,526	6	0	1,836	1,851	0.8%
S. Calif.	253	2,537	15	0	2,609	2,805	7.5%
Guam	69	100	2	3	170	174	2.4%
Hawaii	111	607	3	0	778	721	-7.3%
Idaho	97	441	6	3	535	547	2.2%
Montana	115	814	6	5	859	940	9.4%
Nevada	192	975	5	0	1,153	1,172	1.6%
N. Mariana Is.	6	29	0	0	38	35	-7.9%
Oregon	253	930	11	2	1,130	1,196	5.8%
E. Wash.	105	558	1	4	646	668	3.4%
W. Wash.	166	1,159	14	0	1,362	1,339	-1.7%
Circuit Total	3,338	19,641	133	23	22,807	23,135	1.4%

¹Includes conditional release, probation, and the former categories known as judge probation and magistrate judge probation.

²Includes parole, special parole, mandatory release, and military parole.

³BOP (Bureau of Prisons)

or no compromise to community safety. A new funding formula implemented in FY 2016 resulted in further loss of authorized staffing positions. Furthermore, space continues to be a challenge with all district courts with the mandated release of space to reduce the amount of rent accrued by the courts. Probation offices continue to be challenged by the number of retroactive drug cases being released pursuant to federal sentencing guidelines Amendment 782 beginning November 2015, as well as facilitating the successful reentry of these inmates into the community. On the horizon is another potential group of individuals who may be released due to recent case law decisions. Some of them have extensive criminal records and will require significant supervision resources. 

PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICERS

United States pretrial services officers have significant roles in the federal judicial system. In the Ninth Circuit, pretrial services officers contribute to the fair administration of justice, protect their communities, and seek to bring about positive, long-term change to individuals under supervision.

of diverted defendants who are deemed appropriate and accepted into the program.

Case Activations

Pretrial services offices in the Ninth Circuit continue to rank first nationally in new cases activated. In fiscal year 2015, case activations in the circuit numbered 32,911, a decrease of 11.7 percent from FY 2014. New case activations nationwide totaled 94,276, down 5.1 percent

in 33.9 percent of these cases during this period.

During FY 2015, a total of 4,855 defendants were received for supervision which was down 3.2 percent from 5,017 in FY 2014. Of these, 3,601 were received for regular supervision; 1,119 were supervised on a courtesy basis from another district or circuit; and 135 were on pretrial diversion caseloads which include courtesy supervision of diversion cases.

Pretrial Services Cases Activated in Ninth Circuit Courts, 2014-15

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015
Reports	36,918	32,550	-11.8%
Interviews	8,541	8,274	-3.1%
Cases Activated	37,264	32,911	-11.7%

Note: Total pretrial services cases activated includes complaints, indictment/information, material witness, superseding, and other cases, and includes data reported for previous periods as "transfers received."

Pretrial services officers investigate defendants charged with federal crimes, recommend to the court whether to release or detain them, and supervise those who are released to the community while awaiting trial. While the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty, pretrial services officers must balance this presumption with the reality that some persons, if not detained before their trial, are likely to flee or to pose a danger to the community.

Pretrial services officers also conduct pretrial diversion investigations and prepare written reports about a diversion candidate's suitability for the Office of the U.S. Attorney's Pretrial Diversion Program. They are responsible for supervision

from the prior year. The Ninth Circuit accounts for 34.9 percent of all case activations.

Pretrial Bail Reports, Supervision

Pretrial services officers in the Ninth Circuit prepared 32,080 written pre-bail reports and 470 post-bail reports over the course of the fiscal year. Bail reports were prepared in 97.5 percent of the cases activated. Officers conducted 8,274 pretrial bail interviews.

Excluding immigration cases, officers made recommendations for initial pretrial release to the court in 41.7 percent of cases. Assistant U.S. attorneys in the circuit recommended release

Detention Summary

In the Ninth Circuit, judicial officers detained a total of 23,449 defendants in FY 2015, the highest in the nation. Excluding immigration cases, 65.7 percent of defendants were detained and never released. Defendants were detained an average of 211 days. The U.S.-Mexico border courts in the districts of Arizona and Southern District of California reported the highest numbers of defendants detained. Total number of defendants detained in the Arizona district was 9,478, while defendants detained in the Southern District of California numbered 5,941. The Ninth Circuit accounted for 20.2 percent of the total days of defendant incarceration nationally.

Violations

Of 10,691 cases in release status, cases with violations reported to the court numbered 1,294. They included 38

violations due to felony re-arrests, 56 violations resulting from misdemeanor re-arrests, 29 for “other” re-arrest violations, and 119 for failure to appear. Technical violations, including positive urine tests for illegal substances, violation of location monitoring conditions, possession of contraband, and failure to report to a supervising pretrial services officer, accounted for the remaining violations.

Evidence-Based Practices

Pretrial Services Offices in the Ninth Circuit have incorporated the Pretrial Services Risk Assessment, or PTR, into its business practices. The PTR

is an objective instrument that provides a consistent and valid method of predicting risk of failure to appear, new criminal arrest and revocations due to technical violations. Pretrial services officers are using this tool to improve their ability to assess risks and make informed recommendations to the court on release or detention. The PTR has also been used as a tool to assess the level of supervision appropriate for defendants released on pretrial supervision.

Another evidence-based practice being implemented in the Ninth Circuit is Staff Training Aimed at Reducing Re-Arrest, or STARR. Use of STARR communication

techniques improve the quality of the interaction between the officer and defendant to effect long-term behavioral change. The techniques have a cognitive behavioral foundation with the premise that thinking controls behavior. STARR training has been provided by the Probation and Pretrial Services Office of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. It is an extensive training program requiring ongoing coaching and assessment of officers’ use of STARR skills. The districts of Arizona, Central California, Guam, Hawaii, and Eastern Washington have introduced and incorporated STARR, at various stages, into their business practices.

Pretrial Workload, 2014-2015

District	Defendant Contact		Written Reports		No Reports Made	Total Cases Activated 2014	Total Cases Activated 2015	Change 2014-2015
	Interviewed	¹ Not Interviewed	² Prebail	Postbail				
Alaska	76	123	193	0	6	151	199	31.8%
Arizona	1,674	19,135	20,725	45	39	24,001	20,809	-13.3%
C. Calif.	1,082	436	1,503	7	8	1,603	1,518	-5.3%
E. Calif.	344	341	666	13	6	807	685	-15.1%
N. Calif.	446	375	484	326	11	936	821	-12.3%
S. Calif.	2,965	2,516	5,414	16	51	5,994	5,481	-8.6%
Guam	92	16	107	0	1	91	108	18.7%
Hawaii	141	43	180	4	0	299	184	-38.5%
Idaho	191	145	274	0	62	282	336	19.1%
Montana	117	263	363	5	12	437	380	-13.0%
Nevada	382	228	608	2	0	678	610	-10.0%
N. Mariana Is.	15	2	16	0	1	23	17	-26.1%
Oregon	230	283	495	4	14	662	513	-22.5%
E. Wash.	141	218	210	4	145	412	359	-12.9%
W. Wash.	378	513	842	44	5	888	891	0.3%
Circuit Total	8,274	24,637	32,080	470	361	37,264	32,911	-11.7%
National Total	50,537	43,739	88,980	2,390	2,906	99,355	94,276	-5.1%
Circuit % of National	16.4%	56.3%	36.1%	19.7%	12.4%	37.5%	34.9%	-2.6%


Note: This table includes data for the District of Columbia and includes transfers received.

¹Includes cases in which interviews were refused, includes defendants not available for interview, and includes transfer-received cases in which defendants were interviewed in other districts.

²Includes prebail reports both with recommendations and without, and includes types of reports categorized in previous periods as “other reports.”

Specialty Courts and Pre-entry Programs

In FY 2015, several pretrial services offices in the Ninth Circuit were involved in innovative specialty courts. These programs give defendants a chance to have their cases dismissed or sentences reduced upon successful completion of supervision. Programs in the Ninth Circuit include the Alternative to Prison Solution Diversion Program in the Southern District of California; the Conviction and Sentencing Alternatives Program, a presentence and post-conviction diversion program in the Central District of California; and the Veterans Court in Arizona, a diversionary and post-sentence program that assists military veterans.

“Pre-entry” programs throughout the Ninth Circuit are offered to defendants awaiting sentencing. The program is designed to educate such defendants and their family members about Bureau of Prisons services and general rules to help reduce the level of stress and anxiety of going to prison. The District of Nevada started The Compass which also includes a presentation by an ex-offender to share their experiences in prison with the group. These programs help establish a solid foundation for future success and compliment the post-conviction reentry efforts. 

JUROR UTILIZATION

Juror Utilization, 2014-2015

District	Grand Juries Empaneled, 2015	Petit Juries Selected, 2015	Petit Juror Utilization Rate		
			¹ Percent Not Selected or Challenged		
			2014	2015	Change 2014-2015
Alaska	1	15	36.1	38.4	2.3
Arizona	14	77	27.5	32.2	4.7
C. Calif.	29	155	36.2	47.2	11.0
E. Calif.	9	69	39.6	37.6	-2.0
N. Calif.	9	74	39.8	40.0	0.2
S. Calif.	7	93	38.7	43.4	4.7
Guam	1	3	64.6	18.8	-45.8
Hawaii	1	19	46.6	41.1	-5.5
Idaho	6	10	44.0	47.4	3.4
Montana	4	24	34.2	31.3	-2.9
Nevada	4	39	33.9	40.1	6.2
N. Mariana Is.	2	2	55.2	24.2	-31.0
Oregon	10	27	20.3	18.5	-1.8
E. Wash.	6	22	33.4	22.4	-11.0
W. Wash.	4	44	31.3	27.0	-4.3
Circuit Total	107	673	***	***	
Circuit Average	13	84	38.8	34.0	-4.8
National Total	749	4,149	***	***	
National Average	8	44	37.4	36.8	-0.6

Note: This table includes data on jury selection days only. Data on juror service after the selection day are not included.

¹Includes jurors who completed pre-screening questionnaires or were in the courtroom during the conducting of voir dire but were not selected or challenged. Includes other jurors not selected or challenged who were not called to the courtroom or otherwise did not participate in the actual voir dire.

COURT INTERPRETERS

Interpreter Usage by District Courts, 2015

Language	AK	AZ	CAC	CAE	CAN	CAS	GU	HI	ID	MT	NV	NMI	OR	WAE	WAW	2014 Total	2015 Total
Arabic	0	15	52	0	4	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	50	92
Armenian	0	0	81	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	186	91
Cantonese	2	1	19	85	102	9	0	3	0	0	11	0	3	0	8	225	243
Farsi	0	3	31	0	2	26	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	47	68
Japanese	0	0	2	0	0	7	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	34	16
Korean	34	0	97	26	1	9	19	10	0	0	1	0	0	1	14	249	212
Mandarin	2	3	135	8	94	9	20	11	0	2	16	0	1	0	25	384	326
Navajo (Certified)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	2
Navajo (Non-Certified)	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	33
Russian	0	3	64	210	14	4	0	0	31	0	5	0	0	0	13	207	344
Sign (American)	0	0	0	3	7	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	6	48	22
Sign (Mexican)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Spanish Staff	0	43,885	1,005	698	208	15,252	0	0	0	0	402	0	482	0	0	76,428	61,932
Spanish (Certified)	35	9,993	1,214	922	850	557	0	25	213	7	227	0	157	387	526	12,827	15,113
Spanish (Non-Certified)	0	0	0	0	3	0	13	26	94	61	84	0	47	7	0	417	335
Tagalog	7	0	18	1	4	1	3	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	67	40
Vietnamese	23	0	35	0	52	4	0	12	0	0	2	0	1	0	44	215	173
All Others	6	167	94	96	20	149	8	12	17	8	34	0	2	9	40	969	662
Total	109	54,105	2,847	2,059	1,361	16,048	63	110	356	78	787	0	693	406	682	92,393	79,704

DISTRICT CASELOADS

District of Alaska

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	450	463	2.9%	154
Terminations	413	463	12.1%	154
¹ Pending	539	537	-0.4%	179
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	458	426	-7.0%	213
Terminations	557	485	-12.9%	243
Pending	583	524	-10.1%	262

¹2014 total pending cases revised.

Authorized Judgeships	
District	3
Bankruptcy	2
Magistrate	
Full-time	2
Part-time	3
Authorized places of holding court: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Nome	

District of Arizona

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	12,210	8,964	-26.6%	690
Terminations	12,304	8,889	-27.8%	684
¹ Pending	5,166	5,221	1.1%	402
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	20,907	17,448	-16.5%	2,493
Terminations	27,469	23,575	-14.2%	3,368
¹ Pending	30,995	24,869	-19.8%	3,553

¹2014 total pending cases revised.

²Includes one authorized temporary judgeship.

³Bullhead City and Kingman apply only to the bankruptcy court.

Authorized Judgeships	
² District	13
Bankruptcy	7
Magistrate	
Full-time	14
Part-time	1
Authorized places of holding court: ³ Bullhead City, Flagstaff, Kingman, Phoenix, Prescott, Tucson, Yuma	

Central District of California

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	15,390	15,241	-1.0%	544
Terminations	15,695	15,367	-2.1%	549
¹ Pending	11,959	11,790	-1.4%	421
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	60,545	48,487	-19.9%	2,020
Terminations	66,508	53,817	-19.1%	2,242
¹ Pending	48,613	43,285	-11.0%	1,804

¹2014 total pending cases revised.

²Includes one authorized temporary judgeship.

³Includes three authorized temporary judgeships.

⁴San Fernando Valley and Santa Barbara apply only to the bankruptcy court.

Authorized Judgeships	
² District	28
³ Bankruptcy	24
Magistrate	
Full-time	24
Part-time	1
Authorized places of holding court: Los Angeles, Riverside, ⁴ San Fernando Valley, Santa Ana, ⁴ Santa Barbara	

Eastern District of California

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	5,424	5,214	-3.9%	869
Terminations	5,469	5,396	-1.3%	899
¹ Pending	7,541	7,374	-2.2%	1,229
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	22,383	17,681	-21.0%	2,526
Terminations	26,528	21,799	-17.8%	3,114
¹ Pending	25,533	21,415	-16.1%	3,059

¹2014 total pending cases revised.

²Includes one authorized temporary judgeship.

³Modesto applies only to bankruptcy court.

Authorized Judgeships	
District	6
² Bankruptcy	7
Magistrate	
Full-time	12
Part-time	0
Authorized places of holding court: Bakersfield, Fresno, ³ Modesto, Redding, Sacramento, Yosemite National Park	

Northern District of California

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	6,431	6,277	-2.4%	448
Terminations	6,864	6,169	-10.1%	441
¹ Pending	6,121	6,216	1.6%	444
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	15,430	11,892	-22.9%	1,321
Terminations	19,884	16,275	-18.2%	1,808
¹ Pending	29,695	25,313	-14.8%	2,813

¹2014 total pending cases revised.

Authorized Judgeships	
District	14
Bankruptcy	9
Magistrate	
Full-time	11
Part-time	0
Authorized places of holding court: Eureka, Oakland, Salinas, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Rosa	

Southern District of California

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	7,138	6,562	-8.1%	505
Terminations	7,184	6,502	-9.5%	500
¹ Pending	5,365	5,321	-0.8%	409
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	10,992	8,889	-19.1%	2,222
Terminations	11,747	10,667	-9.2%	2,667
¹ Pending	11,007	9,226	-16.2%	2,307

¹2014 total pending cases revised.

²El Centro applies only to the district court.

Authorized Judgeships	
District	13
Bankruptcy	4
Magistrate	
Full-time	11
Part-time	0
Authorized places of holding court: ² El Centro, San Diego	

District of Guam

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	83	127	53.0%	127
Terminations	128	107	-16.4%	107
Pending	122	140	14.8%	140
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	147	133	-9.5%	385
Terminations	143	120	-16.1%	271
¹ Pending	166	179	7.8%	327

Note: The chief district judge in Guam also handles all bankruptcy cases.
¹2014 total pending cases revised.

Authorized Judgeships	
District	1
² Bankruptcy	0
Magistrate	
Full-time	1
Part-time	0
Authorized places of holding court: Hagatna	

District of Hawaii

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	921	736	-20.1%	184
Terminations	1,037	853	-17.7%	213
¹ Pending	949	848	-10.6%	212
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	1,805	1,593	-11.7%	1,593
Terminations	1,920	1,783	-7.1%	1,783
¹ Pending	2,624	2,434	-7.2%	2,434

¹2014 total pending cases revised.
²Includes one temporary judgeship.

Authorized Judgeships	
² District	4
Bankruptcy	1
Magistrate	
Full-time	3
Part-time	1
Authorized places of holding court: Honolulu	

District of Idaho

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	781	865	10.8%	433
Terminations	780	827	6.0%	414
¹ Pending	977	1,014	3.8%	507
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	4,976	4,162	-16.4%	2,081
Terminations	5,947	4,818	-19.0%	2,409
¹ Pending	4,026	3,370	-16.3%	1,685

¹2014 total pending cases revised.
²Twin Falls applies only to the bankruptcy court. One of the bankruptcy judges also holds court in Twin Falls once a month.

Authorized Judgeships	
District	2
Bankruptcy	2
Magistrate	
Full-time	2
Part-time	0
Authorized places of holding court: Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Pocatello, ² Twin Falls	

District of Montana

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	1,126	901	-20.0%	300
Terminations	1,065	948	-11.0%	316
¹ Pending	872	828	-5.0%	276
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	1,625	1,310	-19.4%	1,310
Terminations	2,017	1,753	-13.1%	1,753
¹ Pending	2,473	2,030	-17.9%	2,030

¹2014 total pending cases revised.

Authorized Judgeships	
District	3
Bankruptcy	1
Magistrate	
Full-time	3
Part-time	1
Authorized places of holding court: Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Missoula	

District of Nevada

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	3,204	3,533	10.3%	505
Terminations	3,281	3,316	1.1%	474
¹ Pending	4,053	4,255	5.0%	608
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	11,676	9,902	-15.2%	2,476
Terminations	15,553	14,102	-9.3%	3,526
¹ Pending	16,311	12,111	-25.7%	3,028

¹2014 total pending cases revised.

²Includes one authorized temporary judgeship.

Authorized Judgeships	
District	7
² Bankruptcy	4
Magistrate	
Full-time	7
Part-time	0
Authorized places of holding court: Carson City, Elko, Ely, Las Vegas, Lovelock, Reno	

District of Northern Mariana Islands

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	² Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	52	35	-32.7%	35
Terminations	54	38	-29.6%	38
¹ Pending	90	85	-5.6%	85
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	5	6	-	1
Terminations	4	7	-	2
¹ Pending	13	12	-7.7%	1

Note: The chief district judge in Northern Mariana Islands also handles all bankruptcy cases.

¹2014 total pending cases revised.

²Percent change not computed when fewer than 10 cases reported for the previous period.

³Heather Kennedy serves as part-time magistrate judge and clerk of court.

Authorized Judgeships	
District	1
² Bankruptcy	0
Magistrate	
Full-time	0
Part-time	0
³ Combination	1
Authorized places of holding court: Saipan	

District of Oregon

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	2,698	2,794	3.6%	466
Terminations	2,985	2,704	-9.4%	451
¹ Pending	2,620	2,723	3.9%	454
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	12,660	11,134	-12.1%	2,227
Terminations	15,135	13,116	-13.3%	2,623
¹ Pending	15,845	13,863	-12.5%	2,773

¹2014 total pending cases revised.

²Bend, Coos Bay, Redmond, Roseburg, and Salem apply only to the bankruptcy court.

Authorized Judgeships	
District	6
Bankruptcy	5
Magistrate	
Full-time	6
Part-time	1
Authorized places of holding court: ² Bend, ² Coos Bay, Coquille, Eugene, Klamath Falls, Medford, Pendleton, Portland, ² Redmond, ² Roseburg, ² Salem	

Eastern District of Washington

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	1,088	1,071	-1.6%	268
Terminations	1,266	1,063	-16.0%	266
¹ Pending	953	988	3.7%	247
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	4,840	4,450	-8.1%	2,225
Terminations	5,169	4,674	-9.6%	2,337
¹ Pending	5,085	4,861	-4.4%	2,431

¹2014 total pending cases revised.

²Richland and Walla Walla apply only to the district court.

Authorized Judgeships	
District	4
Bankruptcy	2
Magistrate	
Full-time	2
Part-time	0
Authorized places of holding court: ² Richland, Spokane, ² Walla Walla, Yakima	

Western District of Washington

Caseload Measure	2014	2015	Change 2014-2015	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2015
District Court				
Filings	3,995	3,925	-1.8%	561
Terminations	4,349	4,047	-6.9%	578
¹ Pending	3,283	3,216	-2.0%	459
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	17,380	14,567	-16.2%	2,913
Terminations	19,183	16,554	-13.7%	3,311
¹ Pending	19,145	17,157	-10.4%	3,431

¹2014 total pending cases revised.

Authorized Judgeships	
District	7
Bankruptcy	5
Magistrate	
Full-time	5
Part-time	2
Authorized places of holding court: Bellingham, Seattle, Tacoma, Vancouver	



The Hatfield Courthouse features outdoor terraces, including one with a sculpture garden composed of whimsical bronze statues such as this computer and sheet of paper.



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