



# 2024 Annual Report

United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit



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**The Office of the Circuit Executive  
would like to acknowledge the following  
for their contributions to the  
2024 Ninth Circuit Annual Report:**

**The Honorable Mary H. Murguia, Chief Judge  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit**

**Molly C. Dwyer, Clerk of Court  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit**

**Susan Y. Soong, Circuit Executive  
Office of the Circuit Executive  
U.S. Courts for the Ninth Circuit**

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

**Tyler P. Gilman, Clerk of Court  
District of Montana**

**Jennifer K. Walker, Chief U.S. Probation Officer  
Southern District of California**

**Zena Munjid Ajou, Chief U.S. Pretrial Services Officer  
Southern District of California**

**Jodi H. Linker, Federal Public Defender  
Northern District of California**

**Jamie L. McGrady, Federal Public Defender  
District of Alaska**

**Heather E. Williams, Federal Public Defender  
Eastern District of California**

# The 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.



Chief Circuit Judge Mary H. Murguía, Chair  
Senior Circuit Judge Susan P. Graber  
Circuit Judge Morgan Christen  
Circuit Judge Jacqueline H. Nguyen  
Circuit Judge Eric D. Miller  
Circuit Judge Bridget S. Bade  
Chief District Judge Dolly M. Gee  
Chief District Judge Stanley A. Bastian  
Chief District Judge David G. Estudillo  
Senior District Judge Tim Burgess  
Senior District Judge G. Murray Snow

Chief District Judge Brian M. Morris  
Chief Bankruptcy Judge Thomas M. Renn  
Senior District Judge Leslie E. Kobayashi  
District Judge Cathy Ann Bencivengo  
Magistrate Judge Michael J. Bordallo  
District Court Clerk Mark B. Busby  
Bankruptcy Court Clerk Stephen W. Kenyon  
Chief Probation Officer Jennifer K. Walker  
Chief Pretrial Services Officer Zena M. Ajou

Membership as of December 31, 2024



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# Message from the Chief



Chief Judge  
Mary H. Murguia


The 2024 Ninth Circuit Annual Report profiles the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the federal district and bankruptcy courts in the nine most western states, including Alaska, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Territory of Guam.

Looking back on 2024, I remain grateful for and impressed by the commitment of those working for and with the Ninth Circuit to support the administration of justice in the West. My role as chief judge allows me the opportunity to serve this circuit as presiding judge of the 11-judge en banc court, and as chair of both the Executive Committee of the U.S. Court of Appeals and the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit – the policy making bodies within this circuit. Additionally, I represent this circuit at various national meetings and events, including at the Judicial Conference of the United States (JCUS), the national policy making body of the federal courts.

As chief, I also have the privilege to report on the venerable work and judicial milestones occurring within our circuit. It is my honor to acknowledge the judges we welcomed and those we lost in 2024. Congratulations and welcome to District Judges Amy Baggio, Dena M. Coggins, Michelle Williams Court, Anne Hwang, Mustafa T. Kasubhai, Krissa M. Lanham, Eumi K. Lee, Angela M. Martinez, Shanlyn

A. S. Park, Rebecca L. Pennell, Kirk E. Sherriff, Micah W.J. Smith, Cynthia Valenzuela and Noël Wise; Bankruptcy Judge J. Barrett Marum; and Magistrate Judges Maximiliano D. Couvillier III, Chi Soo Kim, Sean C. Riordan, and Benjamin J. Cheeks, who was appointed a U.S. district judge in January 2025. Their biographies are available starting on page 8 of this report. In 2024, we also saw the passing of several judges throughout the circuit. We will miss Senior District Judge Larry R. Hicks, District of Nevada; Senior District Judge Alan C. Kay, District of Hawaii; Senior District Judge Justin L. Quackenbush, Eastern District of Washington; and Magistrate Judge Patricia V. Trumbull (Ret.), Northern District of California. These judges impacted us throughout their storied judicial careers, and a tribute to those judges begins on page 19.

The circuit also welcomes several new chief district judges: Dolly M. Gee, Central District of California; Andrew P. Gordon, District of Nevada, Michael J. McShane, District of Oregon; Troy L. Nunley, Eastern District of California; and Jennifer



G. Zipps, District of Arizona. In addition to their judicial duties, chief judges serve a critical role in the management and the administration of justice in their respective courts.

Many of our judges received awards for their exceptional service, leadership and commitment to our justice system. See page 23 for a listing of awards.

In addition to acknowledging our judges, I also commend the many professionals who support the judges and assist with administrative management of this circuit's immense workload. Our court of appeals continued to be the nation's busiest federal appellate court, accounting for 20.5% of all new appeals nationally, with 8,145 appeals, up 4.6% from fiscal year 2023. There were 64,409 new filings in our district courts, up 15.2% from fiscal year 2023. Bankruptcy filings numbered 83,597, up 25.6% from the previous year, well above the national increase of 16.2% in bankruptcy filings.

This report provides further detailed statistical summaries and emphasizes important events and trends that span the 15 district courts in our circuit, including the 2024 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Sacramento, California, which brought together judges and lawyers from around the circuit. Highlights included visits by U.S.

Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan and Senior Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who addressed the audience on the value of civility in the courts, and Judge Robert J. Conrad, director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, who emphasized teamwork in the pursuit of excellence in the administration of justice. You can read more about the Conference on page 29.

During the Conference, we also celebrated the winners of the 2024 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest. The Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO) Committee sponsors this contest annually for high school students across our circuit. The winning essay and video submissions for the 2024 theme, "When Duty Calls: Why Exercising the Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship is Important to Me," can be found on the civics contest website.

We remain committed to promoting civics education programs across our circuit and nationally. To this end, the PICO Committee held a first-of-its-kind online Community Outreach Symposium wherein civics coordinators, judges, court staff, special guest judges from other circuits and invited educators gathered to review civics education activities and resources across the circuit. This Symposium informed our dedicated civics coordinators who work diligently to facilitate

outreach events in various forms, including teachers' institutes and mock trials at our courthouses. See page 26 for details.

Many judges in the Ninth Circuit also participated in programs aimed at helping defendants reintegrate into society, and this work does not go unnoticed. One example is the Sobriety Treatment and Education Program (STEP) reentry program in the Eastern District of Washington. See page 27 for details.

This annual report provides additional details on the great work of our Ninth Circuit judges, staff and the legal community. It is an honor to collaborate with these colleagues who tirelessly support the administration of justice. I want to extend my sincerest gratitude for their commitment to public service and civic responsibility. I hope that this report provides you with helpful information about the immensely important work that we accomplished in 2024. ♦





# Ninth Circuit Overview

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


The Ninth Circuit encompasses Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington state, 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 continues to be the busiest and largest federal circuit in the nation.

Judges serving on the court of appeals and district courts are known as Article III judges, a reference to the article in the U.S. Constitution establishing the federal judiciary. Nominated by the president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Article III judges serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit is authorized 29 judgeships and ended calendar year 2024 with all of its authorized judgeships filled. The district courts were authorized 112 judgeships, four of which were vacant at the end of 2024.

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, 21 senior circuit judges were at work for most of the year, sitting on motions and merits panels, submitting briefs, serving on circuit and national judicial committees, and performing a variety of administrative matters. In the district courts throughout the circuit, 81 senior judges were at work, hearing cases, presiding over procedural matters, serving on committees and conducting other business in FY 2024.

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 after the court conducts a performance review and considers public comment evaluations.

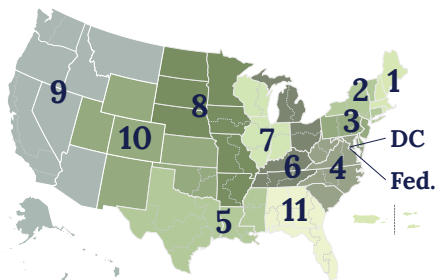
In 2024, bankruptcy courts in the Ninth Circuit were authorized 68 permanent and one temporary judgeship. The district courts were authorized 106 full-time and six part-time magistrate judges, and one combined position of part-time magistrate judge/clerk of court. Several courts also have recalled bankruptcy and recalled magistrate judges, who are retired but consented to return to the bench for a specified period to assist when courts are experiencing an increase in workload.

Overall, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit saw its caseload increase. Total filings in district courts and bankruptcy courts in the circuit were up in FY 2024. Unless otherwise noted, statistics in this report cover FY 2024 ending September 30. 



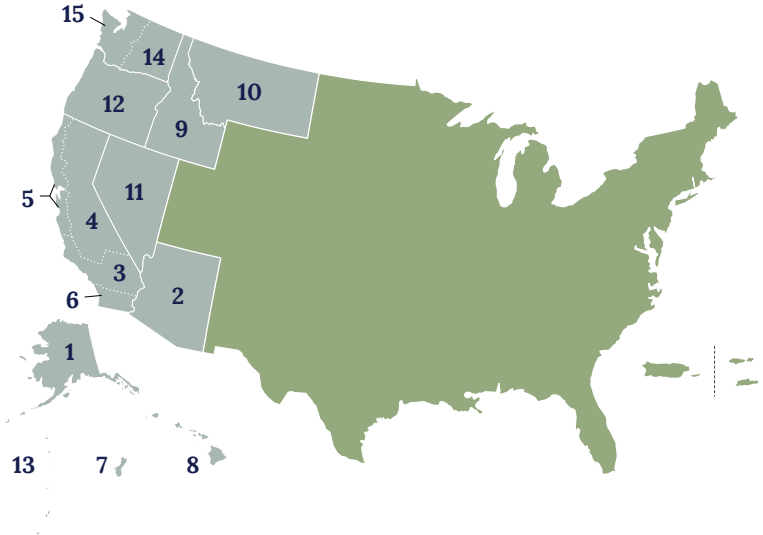
## COURTS OF APPEALS

12 Regional Circuits + Federal Circuit



## NINTH CIRCUIT

15 Districts



- |                       |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Alaska              | 6 Southern California | 11 Nevada                   |
| 2 Arizona             | 7 Guam                | 12 Oregon                   |
| 3 Central California  | 8 Hawaii              | 13 Northern Mariana Islands |
| 4 Eastern California  | 9 Idaho               | 14 Eastern Washington       |
| 5 Northern California | 10 Montana            | 15 Western Washington       |

## Ninth Circuit Article III & Article I Judges

Authorized Judgeships as of December 31, 2024

### Circuit Judges

29

### District Judges

112  
4 Vacancies\*

### Bankruptcy Judges

68 Permanent  
1 Temporary

### Magistrate Judges

106 Full-time  
6 Part-time  
1 Combination\*\*

\* Includes Article I judgeship for District of Guam.

\*\* The District of Northern Mariana Islands is authorized a combined magistrate judge/clerk of court position.



# Judicial Council, Advisory Groups and 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's statutory mission is to support the effective and expeditious administration of justice and the safeguarding of fairness in the administration of the courts. It has statutory authority to "make all necessary and appropriate orders for the effective and expeditious administration of justice within its circuit," [28 U.S.C. § 332(d)(1)].

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, among others.

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 five advisory groups attend council meetings as observers.

In 2024, the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit had three new voting members and seven new observers. New voting members are Senior Circuit Judge Susan P. Graber, Chief District Judge Dolly M. Gee of the Central District of California

and Chief District Judge David G. Estudillo of the Western District of Washington. New observers are Chief District Judge Brian Morris of the District of Montana, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Thomas M. Renn of the District of Oregon, Magistrate Judge Michael J. Bordallo of the District of Guam, District Court Clerk Mark Busby of the Northern District of California, District and Bankruptcy Court Clerk Stephen Kenyon of the District of Idaho, Chief Probation Officer Jennifer Walker of the Southern District of California and Chief Pretrial Services Officer Zena Ajou of the Southern 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 2024, there were 71 petitions for review filed, 57 of which were resolved by the judicial council in 2024. Of those petitions for review that were resolved in 2024, two were filed in 2022 and four were filed in 2023.

## **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 is comprised of the chief district judges of each district. Chief District Judge Brian Morris, of

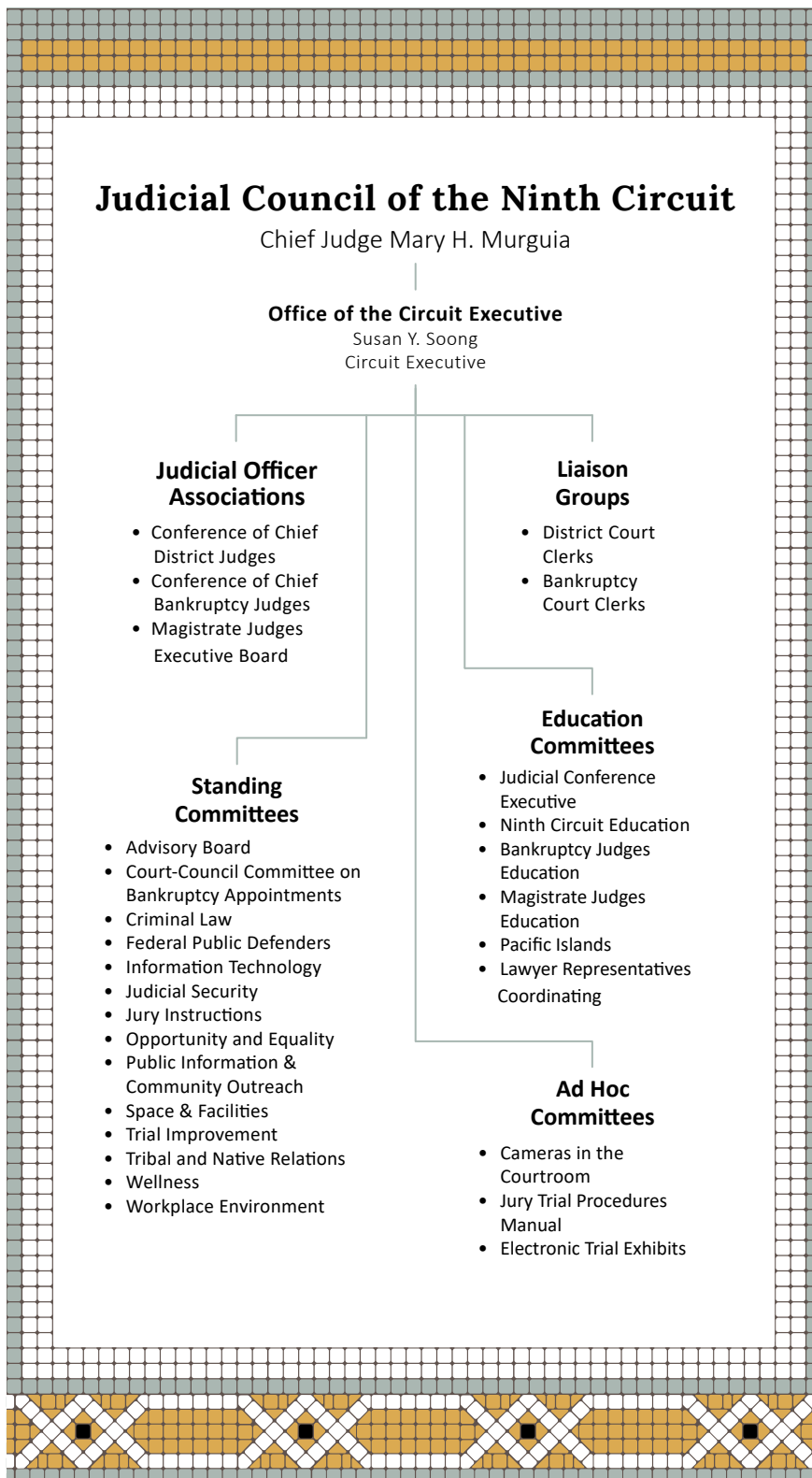
the District of Montana, succeeded Chief District Judge David C. Nye, of the District of Idaho, as chair on Oct. 1, 2024.

## **Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges**

The Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges advises the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit on the administration of bankruptcy courts within the circuit. The conference 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 Thomas M. Renn, of the District of Oregon, succeeded Chief Bankruptcy Judge August B. Landis as chair of the conference on Oct. 1, 2024.

## **Magistrate Judges Executive Board**

The Magistrate Judges Executive Board communicates to the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit on behalf of full-time, part-time and recalled magistrate judges serving in the district courts. The 15-member board holds a session with all magistrate judges at the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. Magistrate Judge Michael J. Bordallo, of the District of Guam, succeeded Magistrate Judge Kendall J. Newman, of the Eastern District of California, as chair on Feb. 8, 2024.



## 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 ensure adequate judicial staff resources. The clerk of the 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 Office of the Clerk for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 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. Federal public defender offices are staffed by federal judiciary employees, and



community defender organizations are nonprofit organizations staffed by nongovernment employees. By statute, judges of the courts of appeals select and appoint the federal public defender, while community defenders are appointed by members of the board of directors in their organization. All but one judicial district in the circuit is served by either federal public defenders or community defenders, who represent financially eligible defendants unable to afford private counsel. Such 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 22 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. Ninth Circuit librarians 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. They also produce a

range of publications and guides to inform the court community and increase the efficiency of court researchers. Library resources are 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 judicial council. The circuit executive and her staff assist in identifying circuit-wide needs; conducting studies; developing and implementing policies; and providing education programming, public information and human resources support. Circuit executive staff also coordinates building and information technology 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.

### **Office of Workplace Relations**

The Office of Workplace Relations serves as a resource on workplace environment matters for the Ninth Circuit. The office implements and provides guidance on the Employment Dispute Resolution (EDR) Policy and all other related

workplace policies. Office staff serves as a contact for employees who experience or witness workplace misconduct and wish to discuss or report such workplace misconduct. The office also consults with judges, court unit executives and staff on workplace environment issues and concerns, and provides support and expert advice on workplace culture matters. The office oversees the development and execution of training programs on workplace relations and conduct for judges and employees.

### **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

## District Judges



Amy Baggio was appointed a U.S. district judge for the District of Oregon and received her judicial commission on Aug. 22, 2024. Before her appointment to the federal bench, Judge Baggio had served as a judge on the Multnomah County Circuit Court since 2019, when Governor Kate Brown appointed her to the bench and was elected to her position in May 2020. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was a solo practitioner at Baggio Law from 2013 to 2019. She was an assistant federal public defender, Office of the FPD for the District of Oregon, from 2005 to 2012, and research and writing attorney for the office from 2002 to 2005. Judge Baggio was a trial attorney for the Metropolitan Public Defender in Portland, Oregon, from 2001 to 2002, and was a law clerk at the FPD's Office in Portland from 2000 to 2001. She maintains chambers in Portland.



Dena M. Coggins was appointed a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of California and received her judicial commission on Sept. 18, 2024. Prior to her appointment to the federal bench, Judge Coggins had served as a judge on the Superior Court of California in Sacramento County since 2021, when Governor Gavin Newsom appointed her to the bench, and had served as the presiding judge of the Sacramento Juvenile Court since 2023. Previously, Judge Coggins was an administrative law judge in the General Jurisdiction Division and the Special Education Division for the State of California's Office of Administrative Hearings from 2018 to 2021 and from 2015 to 2017, respectively. She was the supervising attorney for the California Victim Compensation Board from 2017 to 2018. She served as the deputy legal affairs secretary for the Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. from 2013 to 2015. Judge Coggins was as an associate at Downey Brand LLP in Sacramento, from 2012 to 2013, and was an associate at Morrison & Foerster LLP in San Francisco from 2007 to 2012. She earned her B.S.

degree from California State University, Sacramento, in 2003 and her J.D., with distinction, in 2006 from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, where she was the articles editor of the Global Business and Developmental/The Transnational Lawyer Journal. Following law school in spring 2006, Judge Coggins was a judicial extern for the Honorable Kimberly J. Mueller, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California. Judge Coggins maintains chambers in Sacramento.



Michelle Williams Court was appointed a U.S. district judge for the Central District of California and received her judicial commission on Nov. 7, 2024. Before joining the federal bench, Judge Court had served as a judge on the Superior Court of California in Los Angeles County since 2012, when she was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown. She previously was the assistant supervising judge on the L.A. Superior Court's Civil Division from 2021 to 2022 before becoming the supervising judge of the Civil Division in 2023. Prior to Judge



## District Judges continued

Court's appointment to the bench, she was vice president and general counsel, from 2009 to 2012, for Bet Tzedek Legal Services in Los Angeles, where she also was the director of litigation, from 2004 to 2009, and deputy director of litigation from 2002 to 2004. She was an associate at Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach (now Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman LLC) in Knoxville, Tennessee, from 2000 to 2002. Judge Court earned her B.A. from Pomona College in 1988 and her J.D. in 1993 from Loyola Law School, where she was an adjunct professor in 2006. Following law school, she was an associate at Gilbert, Kelly, Crowley & Jennett LLP (now Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP) in Los Angeles from 1993 to 1994. She was an attorney for the ACLU of Southern California from 1994 to 1995 and was an associate at Litt & Marquez (now McLane, Bednarski + Litt) in Pasadena, California, from 1995 to 1999. Judge Court maintains chambers in Los Angeles.



Anne Hwang was appointed a U.S. district judge for the Central District of California and received her judicial commission on Dec. 6, 2024. Prior to her appointment to the federal bench, Judge Hwang had served as a judge on the

Superior Court of California in Los Angeles County since 2019. Before that, she was chief deputy federal public defender in 2018 for the Office of the Federal Public Defender in the Central District of California, where she held several positions including trial chief deputy FPD, supervising deputy FPD and deputy FPD in Los Angeles and Santa Ana from 2006 to 2018. Judge Hwang was a litigation associate at Irell & Manella LLP in Los Angeles from 2002 to 2006. She earned her B.A. from Cornell University in 1997 and her J.D. in 2002, Order of the Coif, from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, where she was the articles editor of the Southern California Law Review from 2001 to 2002. Judge Hwang maintains chambers in Los Angeles.



Mustafa T. Kasubhai was appointed a U.S. district judge for the District of Oregon and received his judicial commission on Nov. 22, 2024. Previously, Judge Kasubhai had served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Oregon since Sept. 21, 2018. Before his appointment to the federal bench, he was a Lane County Circuit Court judge in Eugene, Oregon, from 2007 to 2018. Previously, he was a board member of the

Oregon Workers' Compensation Board and practiced law in Eugene and Klamath Falls, Oregon. Judge Kasubhai earned his B.S. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1992 and his J.D. in 1996 from the University of Oregon School of Law, where he was an associate editor of the Oregon Law Review from 1995 to 1996; president of the Student Bar Association from 1995 to 1996; editor of The Weekly Dissent in 1995; and co-director of the Minority Law Students Association from 1994 to 1995. He received the Graduate Service Award from the University of Oregon Graduate School and Office of Student Affairs in 1995. Judge Kasubhai maintains chambers in Eugene.



Krissa M. Lanham was appointed a U.S. district judge for the District of Arizona and received her judicial commission on June 3, 2024. Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Lanham had served as chief of the Appellate Division in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona since 2020. She joined the office as an assistant U.S. attorney in 2009 and served previously in the office as the medical marijuana coordinator, from 2010 to 2015; as the human trafficking coordinator from 2012 to 2015; and as deputy

## District Judges continued

appellate chief from 2015 to 2020. Judge Lanham earned her B.A., summa cum laude, from Yale University in 2002 and her J.D. in 2007 from Yale Law School, where she was the student director of the Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, from 2006 to 2007; the student director of the Orville H. Schell, Jr., Center for International Human Rights, from 2005 to 2006; and the senior comments editor, comments editor and editor of the Yale Journal of International Law, from 2004 to 2007. Judge Lanham also was a teaching assistant at Yale Law School, from 2005 to 2006, and at Yale College from 2006 to 2007. Following law school, she clerked for the Honorable Robert N. Chatigny, U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut, from 2007 to 2008, and then for the Honorable Barry G. Silverman, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, from 2008 to 2009. She served as a Ninth Circuit appellate lawyer representative from 2018 to 2024. She has been a member of the Ninth Circuit's Public Information and Community Outreach Committee since 2023. Judge Lanham maintains chambers in Phoenix.



Eumi K. Lee was appointed a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of California and received her judicial commission on May 7, 2024. Before joining the federal bench, Judge Lee had served as judge on the Superior Court of California in Alameda County in Oakland and Hayward, California, since 2018. Previously, she worked at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law (now UC College of the Law, San Francisco), where she was clinical professor of law, from 2011 to 2018; co-director, Hastings Institute for Criminal Justice, from 2010 to 2012; ethics trainer, from 2009 to 2010, and 2012; associate clinical professor of law, from 2008 to 2010; clinical attorney and assistant clinical professor, from 2005 to 2008; and a moot court, legal research and writing instructor in 2001. For over a decade she was in San Francisco as a contract attorney and of counsel at Gonzalez & Leigh (dissolved/defunct), from 2010 to 2012 and from 2006 to 2008; as an associate at Keker & Van Nest LLP (now Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP), from 2002 to 2005; and as an associate at Thelen Reid & Priest LLP (dissolved/defunct), from 2000 to 2001. Judge Lee earned her B.A. from Pomona College in 1994 and her J.D., cum laude, from Georgetown University

Law Center in 1999. She was a corps member for Teach America for two years after graduating from Pomona. While in law school, she was a summer extern for the Honorable Helen Ginger Berrigan, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, in 1997. Following law school, she clerked for the Honorable Jerome Turner, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, from 1999 to 2000, and for the Honorable Warren J. Ferguson, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, from 2001 to 2002. Judge Lee maintains chambers in San Jose.



Angela M. Martinez was appointed a U.S. district judge for the District of Arizona and received her judicial commission on July 2, 2024. Previously, Judge Martinez had served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Arizona since 2023. Before joining the bench, Judge Martinez was senior litigation counsel for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Tucson, Arizona, where she also served as a federal prosecutor for over 12 years prosecuting a wide range of criminal cases, including immigration related offenses, drug trafficking offenses, violent crimes and white-collar offenses. Prior to her career as a prosecutor, Judge Martinez was a law clerk to the

## District Judges continued

Honorable John M. Roll, from 2000 to 2002, and the Honorable Jennifer G. Zipps, from 2013 to 2015, both at the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona. In 2008 and 2009 she served as an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, where she taught legal writing and oral advocacy to first-year law students. She was in private practice at the law firms of Lewis & Roca, from 2002 to 2004, and Farhang & Medcoff, from 2012 to 2013, where she primarily practiced employment law. Judge Martinez earned her B.A., cum laude, from the University of Arizona in 1995 and her J.D. in 2000 from the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law, where she was a member of the Arizona Law Review and an Ares Fellow. Judge Martinez maintains chambers in Tucson.



Shanlyn A. S. Park was appointed a U.S. district judge for the District of Hawaii and received her judicial commission on Oct. 15, 2024. Before her appointment to the federal bench, Judge Park had served as a circuit court judge for the First Circuit of Hawaii since 2021. Before her appointment to the bench, she was of counsel for Gallagher Kane Amai & Reyes in Honolulu in 2021. She

was of counsel then a partner at McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP in Honolulu from 2017 to 2018 and from 2019 to 2021, respectively, and an associate attorney at Hisaka Stone & Goto in Honolulu from 1996 to 1997. Judge Park had served the District of Hawaii since 1997, when she joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender, where she served as a senior litigator, from 2013 to 2017, and as an assistant FPD from 1997 to 2013. She served the District of Hawaii as a lawyer representative from 2019 to 2021, a criminal justice panel attorney from 2017 to 2021 and a pro bono counsel in 2020. Judge Park earned her B.A., cum laude, from Chaminade University of Honolulu in 1991 and her J.D. in 1995 from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, William S. Richardson School of Law, where she was an adjunct professor during the spring semesters from 2001 to 2006. She externed for the Honorable Francis I. Yamashita, U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii, and clerked for Judge Yamashita from 1993 to 1995 and from 1995 to 1996, respectively. Judge Park clerked for the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission from 1994 to 1995. She maintains chambers in Honolulu.



Rebecca L. Pennell was appointed a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Washington and received her judicial commission on Dec. 9, 2024. Before her appointment to the federal bench, Judge Pennell was appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to the Washington State Court of Appeals Division III in Spokane, Washington, and was elected in 2016 and re-elected in 2020. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she worked from 2000 to 2016 for the Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington and Idaho in Yakima, Washington, where she served as a trial and appellate attorney. Judge Pennell was a fellowship attorney for TeamChild in Yakima from 1999 to 2000. She earned her B.A., summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Washington in 1993 and her J.D. in 1996, with distinction and Order of the Coif, from Stanford Law School, where she was a Public Service Fellow in 1996 and was a research assistant from 1995 to 1996. She clerked for the Honorable Robert H. Whaley, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, from 1997 to 1999. Judge Pennell maintains chambers in Spokane.



## District Judges continued



Kirk E. Sherriff was appointed a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of California and received his judicial commission on Feb. 7, 2024. He previously served as the Fresno office chief of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California from 2015 to early 2024, and as chief of the white-collar crime unit from 2013 to 2015. He joined that office as an assistant U.S. attorney in the civil division in 2002 before moving in 2007 to the criminal division. He earned his B.A. from Columbia College, Columbia University, in 1990. Before law school, he worked as a high school teacher in public schools in Mississippi and as an assistant teacher in France. He earned his J.D. in 1995 from Harvard Law School, where he was co-editor in chief of the Harvard Human Rights Journal. After law school, he clerked for the Honorable Deborah T. Poritz, New Jersey Supreme Court, from 1996 to 1997. He was an associate at White & Case LLP from 1995 to 1996 and from 1997 to 2001. Judge Sheriff served on committees of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, including the Judicial Advisory Committee, 2021, and the COVID Jury Trial Committee, from 2020 to 2021, and was chair of the court's Standing Merit Selection Panel in 2020 and 2017. He maintains chambers in Fresno.



Micah W.J. Smith was appointed a U.S. district judge for the District of Hawaii and received his judicial commission on Jan. 31, 2024. Prior to his appointment, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii, from 2018 to 2024, and the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York from 2012 to 2018. Prior to 2012, Judge Smith was counsel at O'Melveny & Myers LLP, in Washington, D.C., and served as a law clerk to the Honorable David H. Souter, U.S. Supreme Court, and to the Honorable Guido Calabresi, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Judge Smith earned his B.A. from Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania and his J.D. from Harvard Law School. He maintains chambers in Honolulu.



Cynthia Valenzuela was appointed as U.S. district judge for the Central District of California. She received her judicial commission on Dec. 16, 2024. Before joining the federal bench, Judge Valenzuela was appointed in 2016 by the California Supreme Court to serve as a judge on the State Bar Court, where she served as the supervising judge from 2020 to 2022. Previously, she was a Criminal Justice Act supervising attorney for the U.S. District Court in the Central District of California from 2011 to 2016. Judge Valenzuela worked for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where she served as the national vice president/director of litigation from 2006 to 2011. She was an assistant U.S. attorney, from 2000 to 2006, for the Office of the U.S. Attorney in the Central District of California, where she was a recipient of the special commendation award for dedication to victim's rights and was appointed as the district elections officer. From 1998 to 2000, she was a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, Voting Section, where she received a certificate of commendation for exceptional work performance. Judge Valenzuela served as special assistant to Vice Chair Cruz Reynoso, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, from 1995 to 1998. She earned her

## District Judges continued

B.A. in 1991 from the University of Arizona, where she was a member of the Golden Key and Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Societies, and her J.D. in 1995 from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law. She was a Ninth Circuit lawyer representative in 2010 and was an extern for the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Judge Valenzuela maintains chambers in Los Angeles.



Noël Wise was appointed a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of California and received her judicial commission on Dec. 19, 2024. Prior to joining the federal bench, Judge Wise had served as a California Superior Court judge in Alameda County since 2014, when she was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown. She had served as the supervising judge for complex civil litigation since 2023 and had served since 2018 in the court's civil division, where she handled a range of cases, including antitrust, employment/labor, environmental, sexual abuse and product liability. From 2021 to 2022, Judge Wise sat on assignment for Division Seven of the California Second District Court of Appeal. Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Wise was a partner and founder of Wise Gleicher in Alameda from 2006 to 2014 and was of counsel

at Stoel Rives LLP in San Francisco from 2002 to 2004. She worked at PG&E Company in San Francisco, where she was acting director/manager of renewable power generation, from 2005 to 2006, and was in-house counsel from 2004 to 2005. Judge Wise was a trial attorney from 1994 to 2002, U.S. Attorney General's Honors Attorney Program, Environmental Division, U.S. Department of Justice, in Washington, D.C., where she received the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award. From 1997 to 1998, she was on special assignment from the U.S. attorney general as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California. Judge Wise earned her B.S. from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in 1989 and her J.D., cum laude, from Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law, in Davie, Florida, in 1993. She earned her Master of the Science of Law from Stanford Law School in 2002. Following law school, she clerked for the Honorable Harry Lee Anstead, Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal, from 1993 to 1994. She was an associate professor for George Washington University Law School from 1995 to 1997; an adjunct professor for Vermont Law School from 1997 to 1998; an adjunct professor for Golden Gate University School of Law from 2000 to 2001; a teaching fellow for Stanford Law School from 2001 to 2002; and a lecturer at U.C. Berkeley School of Law from 2000 to 2006. Judge Wise maintains chambers in San Jose.



## Bankruptcy Judge



J. Barrett Marum was appointed a U.S. bankruptcy judge for the Southern District of California on Aug. 30, 2024. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Marum had a long career at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP, in its San Diego and Silicon Valley offices. His practice focused on bankruptcy matters of all sizes throughout the U.S. and commercial litigation in California. Judge Marum clerked for the Honorable Thomas J. Whelan of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. He was a lawyer representative for the Southern District of California, served as director for the San Diego Bankruptcy Forum and was involved as a long-standing member of the Southern District of California's Bankruptcy Local Rules Committee. During his time in private practice, he regularly provided pro bono services to indigent clients, including among others, veterans, disaster victims and adopting parents. Judge Marum earned his B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley in 2000, graduating in three years with high distinction, and his J.D., Order of the Coif, in 2003 from UCLA School of Law, where he served as a member of the Environmental Law Journal. Judge Marum maintains chambers in San Diego. ♦

## Magistrate Judges



Benjamin J. Cheeks was appointed a U.S. magistrate judge for the Southern District of California on July 19, 2024. He was nominated for a U.S. district judgeship for the Southern District of California on Nov. 18, 2024, and the Senate confirmed his nomination on Dec. 20, 2024. At the end of 2024, Judge Cheek's judicial commission was pending. Before joining the bench, Judge Cheeks was in private practice as a criminal defense attorney in San Diego from 2013 to 2024. He served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of California, from 2010 to 2013, and as an assistant district attorney for New York County District Attorney's Office from 2003 to 2010. Judge Cheeks was an adjunct professor at California Western School of Law from 2014 to 2022 and at Thomas Jefferson School of Law from 2012 to 2013. He earned his B.A. from the University of Miami in 2000 and his J.D. from American University, Washington College of Law, in 2003. Judge Cheeks served as a lawyer representative for the Southern District of California from 2020 to 2024 and on its Selection Committee from 2023 to 2024. He was a member of the Criminal Justice Act Advisory Committee for the Southern District of California from 2022 to 2024 and a member of the Merit Selection Committee

for the Selection of Magistrate Judges for the Southern District of California from 2021 to 2023. He maintains chambers in San Diego.



Maximiliano D. Couvillier III was appointed a U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Nevada on Jan. 8, 2024. Judge Couvillier was a founding partner of Kennedy & Couvillier, PLLC. Prior to establishing Kennedy & Couvillier, PLLC, he was a partner at Lionel Sawyer & Collins and managing partner at Black & LoBello. Judge Couvillier served as the general counsel of The Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, from 2011 to 2013, and then as president of the board of directors from 2014 to 2023. He also served as president of the Nevada Latino Bar Association and chair of the State Bar of Nevada Litigation Section. Judge Couvillier earned his B.A. from the University of California at San Diego, Thurgood Marshall College, and his law degree, cum laude, from California Western School of Law. He maintains chambers in Las Vegas.



## Magistrate Judges continued



Chi Soo Kim was appointed a U.S. magistrate judge for the Eastern District of California on March 29, 2024. Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Kim served in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California from 2012 to 2024. She was an instructor at the University of California at Davis School of Law in 2019 and 2020 and an adjunct faculty at UC Law San Francisco from 2009 to 2011. She engaged in private practice at Nossaman LLP from 2011 to 2012, at Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy in 2009 and Bingham McCutchen LLP from 2004 to 2007. Judge Kim clerked for the Honorable Nandor J. Vadas and for the Honorable William W. Schwarzer, both from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, from 2009 to 2011 and from 2008 to 2009, respectively. Previously, Judge Kim was a staff attorney at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 2007 to 2008. She earned her B.A. from Princeton University in 1999 and her J.D. from Georgetown University in 2004. Judge Kim maintains chambers in Sacramento.



Sean C. Riordan was appointed a U.S. magistrate judge for the Eastern District of California on Aug. 1, 2024. Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Riordan served for six years as a senior staff attorney at the ACLU of Northern California, leading litigation and other advocacy on a range of civil rights and civil liberties issues. Before that, he spent nearly four years as an assistant federal public defender in the Eastern District, representing indigent people accused of federal felony offenses. Judge Riordan began his career as a Skadden Fellow and then as staff attorney at the ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties. Judge Riordan earned a bachelor's degree from Whittier College, a master's degree from the American University in Cairo and a law degree at UCLA School of Law. After graduating from law school, he clerked for the Honorable Marc L. Goldman of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Judge Riordan maintains chambers in Sacramento. ♦

## Senior District Judges



Edward J. Davila was appointed a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of California and received his judicial commission on March 3, 2011. He assumed senior status on Dec. 11, 2024. Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Davila was a judge on the Superior Court of California, Santa Clara County, from 2001 to 2011. Before joining the bench, he was a deputy public defender for Santa Clara County from 1981 to 1988. He was in private practice in San Jose, California, from 1988 to 2001. Judge Davila earned his B.A. from San Diego State University in 1976 and his J.D. from the U.C. Hastings College of the Law (now U.C. College of the Law, San Francisco) in 1979.



Dale S. Fischer was appointed a U.S. district judge for the Central District of California and received her judicial commission on Nov. 5, 2003. She assumed senior status on May 1, 2024. Before joining the

federal bench, Judge Fischer was a judge on the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, from 2000 to 2003. She was a judge on the Los Angeles Municipal Court from 1997 to 2000. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Dale was in private practice in California from 1980 to 1997. She earned her B.A. from the University of South Florida in 1977 and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1980.



Philip S. Gutierrez was appointed a U.S. district judge for the Central District of California and received his judicial commission on Feb. 16, 2007. He served as chief judge of his court from 2020 to 2024 and assumed senior status on Oct. 15, 2024. Judge Gutierrez retired from the bench on Oct. 22, 2024. Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, he was a judge on the Superior Court of California, Los Angeles County, from 1997 to 2007. Before joining the bench, he was in private practice in California from 1986 to 1997. Judge Gutierrez earned his B.A. from the University of Notre Dame in 1981 and his J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, in 1984.



Marco A. Hernández was appointed a U.S. district judge for the District of Oregon and received his judicial commission on Feb. 9, 2011. He served as chief judge of his court from 2019 to 2023 and assumed senior status on Aug. 21, 2024. Before his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Hernández was presiding judge, from 2002 to 2005, on the Oregon Circuit Court, Washington County, where he was appointed judge in 1995. Prior to that, he served as judge on the Oregon District Court, Washington County, from 1995 to 1998. Before joining the bench, Judge Hernández was deputy district attorney for Washington County, Oregon, from 1989 to 1994. He was staff attorney for Oregon Legal Services in Hillsboro, Oregon, from 1986 to 1989. Judge Hernandez earned his B.A. from Western Oregon State College in 1983 and his J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law in 1986.

## Senior District Judges continued



Leslie E. Kobayashi was appointed a U.S. district judge for the District of Hawaii and received her judicial commission on Dec. 22, 2010. She assumed senior status on Oct. 9, 2024. Previously, Judge Kobayashi served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Hawaii from 1999 to 2010. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was in private practice in Honolulu from 1984 to 1999. She served as a deputy prosecutor for the City and County of Honolulu from 1983 to 1984. Judge Kobayashi was appointed by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. to serve on the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of the U.S. (JCUS) in 2022. The Executive Committee serves as the senior executive arm of the JCUS which sets national administrative policy for the federal judiciary, approves the federal judiciary's budget requests for Congress and performs numerous other statutory functions for the administration of the federal courts. Judge Kobayashi earned her B.A. from Wellesley College in 1979 and her J.D. from Boston College Law School in 1983. She was an adjunct professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, William S. Richardson School of Law, in 2000 and 2001.



Kimberly J. Mueller was appointed a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of California and received her judicial commission on Dec. 21, 2010. She served as chief judge of her court from 2020 to 2024 and assumed senior status on Sept. 17, 2024. Previously, Judge Mueller served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the Eastern District of California from 2003 to 2010. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was in private practice in Sacramento, California, from 2000 to 2003 and from 1995 to 2000. She was an adjunct professor at the University of California Davis School of Law in 1999 and an adjunct professor at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, in 1999, 2000 and from 2009 to 2013. She was a member of the Federal Judicial Center Board from 2014 to 2019 and a member of the Ninth Circuit Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution from 2002 to 2008. Judge Mueller earned her B.A. from Pomona College in 1981 and her J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1995.



Douglas L. Rayes was appointed a U.S. district judge for the District of Arizona and received his judicial commission on May 28, 2014, and assumed senior status on June 1, 2024. Before his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Rayes served as judge on the Arizona Superior Court in Maricopa County from 2000 to 2014. At that court, Judge Rayes was the associate presiding civil judge from 2008 to 2010 and the presiding criminal judge from 2010 to 2013. Before his appointment to the bench, he was in private practice in Scottsdale, Arizona, from 1989 to 2000, and from 1982 to 1989. He earned his B.S.E. from Arizona State University in 1975 and his J.D. from the Arizona State University College of Law (now Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law) in 1978. Judge Rayes served as captain for the U.S. Army JAG Corps from 1979 to 1982 and as captain for the U.S. Army Reserve from 1982 to 1985.



## Senior District Judges continued



J. Michael Seabright was appointed a U.S. district judge for the District of Hawaii and received his judicial commission on April 28, 2005. He served as chief judge of his court from 2015 to 2022 and assumed senior status on Jan. 30, 2024. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Seabright served in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii, where he was an assistant U.S. attorney, from 1990 to 2005, and then supervisory assistant U.S. attorney from 2001 to 2005. Before that, he was an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia from 1987 to 1990. Judge Seabright was in private practice in Hawaii from 1984 to 1987. He earned his B.A. from Tulane University in 1981 and his J.D. from George Washington University Law School in 1984. He was an adjunct professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, William S. Richardson School of Law, in 1999, 2000 and 2002.



James A. Soto was appointed a U.S. district judge for the District of Arizona and received his judicial commission on June 9, 2014. He assumed senior status on July 1, 2024. Prior to joining the federal bench, Judge Soto served as a judge on the Arizona Superior Court in Santa Cruz County from 2001 to 2014. Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Soto was in private practice in Nogales, Arizona from 1975 to 2001. Previously, he served as part-time town attorney in Patagonia, Arizona, from 1975 to 1992, and in Nogales from 1975 to 1983 and as part-time deputy county attorney in Santa Cruz County in 1979. He served in the Arizona National Guard from 1971 to 1977. Judge Soto earned his B.S. from Arizona State University in 1971 and his J.D. from Arizona State University College of Law (now Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law) in 1975.



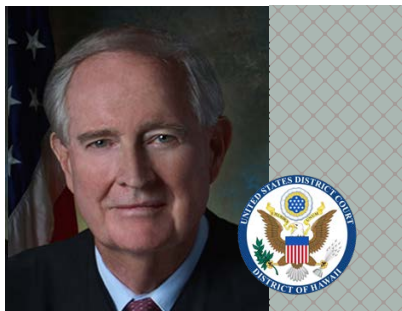
G. Murray Snow was appointed a U.S. district judge for the District of Arizona and received his judicial commission on July 23, 2008. He served as chief judge of his court from 2018 to 2024 and assumed senior status on Oct. 21, 2024. Prior to joining the federal bench, Judge Snow served as a judge on the Arizona Court of Appeals from 2002 to 2008. He was in private practice in Phoenix from 1988 to 2002. Judge Snow earned his B.A. from Brigham Young University in 1984 and his J.D. from Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School in 1987. Following law school, he clerked for the Honorable Stephen H. Anderson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit from 1987 to 1988.



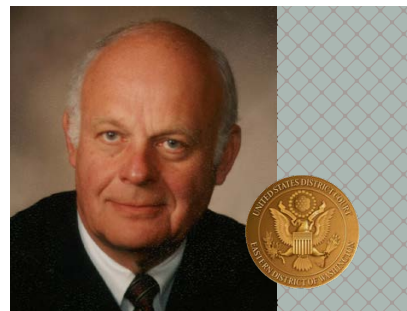
## In Memoriam



Senior District Judge Larry R. Hicks, of the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada, died on May 29, 2024. He was 80 years old. Judge Hicks was appointed a U.S. district judge for the District of Nevada in 2001 and assumed senior status in 2012. Before joining the bench, Judge Hicks was in private practice as a partner with the law firm of McDonald, Carano, Wilson, McCune, Bergin, Frankovich & Hicks LLP (now McDonald Carano), where his practice focused on civil law. In 1975, Judge Hicks was elected district attorney for Washoe County District Attorney's Office in Nevada, where he began his legal career as a law clerk in 1968. Judge Hicks also served as past president of the State Bar of Nevada, as past president of the American Inns of Court Chapter in Reno and as past president of the Nevada District Attorneys Association. Judge Hicks earned his B.S. from the University of Nevada, Reno, in 1965 and his J.D. from the University of Colorado Law School in 1968. Judge Hicks is survived by his wife, Marianne, his children Carrie (Tom), Amy (Mark) and Chris (Nicole), and 10 grandchildren.



Senior District Judge Alan C. Kay, of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii, died on July 30, 2024. He was 92. Judge Kay was appointed a district judge for the District of Hawaii on Sept. 15, 1986. He served as chief judge of his court from 1991 to 1999 and assumed senior status on Jan. 2, 2000. Born in Honolulu, Judge Kay received his Bachelor of Arts from Princeton University in 1957 and his Bachelor of Laws from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, in 1960. Judge Kay served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1953 to 1955. He was a partner at Case Kay & Lynch in Honolulu from 1960 to 1986 and served as director of the Legal Aid Society of Honolulu from 1968 to 1971. He was survived by his wife, Pat, and his three children, Peter, Anna and David.



Senior U.S. District Judge Justin L. Quackenbush, of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, died on Oct. 27, 2024. He was 95. Judge Quackenbush was appointed a district judge for the Eastern District of Washington on June 18, 1980, and served as chief judge of his court from 1989 to 1995. He assumed senior status on June 27, 1995. Before his appointment to the bench, he was a partner at Quackenbush, Dean, Bailey and Henderson in Spokane, Washington, from 1959 to 1980. Judge Quackenbush served as deputy prosecutor for Spokane County from 1957 to 1959. Born in Spokane, Judge Quackenbush received his B.A. from the University of Idaho in 1951 and his LL.B., cum laude, in 1957 from Gonzaga University School of Law, where he was an instructor from 1961 to 1967. He entered active duty in the U.S. Navy in 1951 and released as lieutenant in 1954 after his service in Japan and Korea, and during the Korean conflict. Judge Quackenbush was predeceased by his parents, Marian and Carl; and his two sisters, Marian and Derce. He is survived by his wife, Marie; sons, Karl (Michelle) and Robert (Alicia); daughter, Kathy; grandsons, Samuel (Ashley), Simon (Becca), Daniel, Kyle and Mathew (Rosie) and Paul (Nhung); great-grandchildren, Madison and Jett; and stepsons, Frayne (Randi) and Mark (Dana).

## In Memoriam continued



Magistrate Judge Patricia V. Trumbull, of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, died on Jan. 14, 2024. She was 78. Judge Trumbull was appointed a magistrate judge for the Northern District on April 20, 1987, and was the first woman to serve as chief magistrate judge for the Northern District of California. She served three eight-year terms and retired on Oct. 1, 2010. Before joining the bench, Judge Trumbull was an assistant federal public defender and was the first woman to run the Office of the Federal Public Defender in San Jose, California. Judge Trumbull received her B.A. from the University of California, Davis, in 1967 and her J.D. from Georgetown University in 1973. Following law school, she served as a law clerk for the Honorable Judge Spencer Williams of the Northern District of California from 1973 to 1975. Judge Trumbull is survived by her husband, Terry, and two daughters, Eryn and Morgann. ♦



# Circuit Highlights

## Administrative Changes



Zena Ajou was appointed chief U.S. pretrial services officer for the Southern District of California on Jan. 2, 2024. Ajou began her career in social work as a mental health therapist. She became a U.S. pretrial services officer in 2009. During her career with pretrial services, Ajou has supervised high risk individuals in the location monitoring program as well as individuals with significant mental health and substance use disorders. Ajou was instrumental in the development and success of the Alternative to Prison Solutions Diversion program, as well as the Veteran's Treatment Court Program. She holds a master's degree in social work and a bachelor's degree in sociology.



Candice Duncan was appointed clerk of court for the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska on Jan. 3, 2024. Duncan began her career in the courts working with the Minnesota state court system in the clerk's office in Olmsted and Rice Counties. Her roles included those of a courtroom deputy, judicial assistant and case manager. She later worked for the Minnesota court system as a Guardian ad Litem advocating for the best interests of children in child in need of protection or services and family law cases. In 2013, Duncan relocated to Fairbanks, Alaska, where she was employed by the Alaska State Court System as the director of the Child Custody Investigator's Office for seven years. Duncan expanded her education in court administration during this time by obtaining certification through the National Center for State Courts as a Certified Court Manager and spending a three-week residency with the Fellows Program in Williamsburg, Virginia. In 2020, Duncan was appointed as area court administrator, 4th Judicial District, for the Alaska State Court System where she served until January 2024. She

holds a certificate in legal secretarial studies, bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law.



Sarah R. Johnson was appointed chief U.S. probation officer for the District of Nevada on Dec. 16, 2024. She began her federal career in community corrections with the State of Washington Department of Corrections in 2004. In 2008, she became a U.S. pretrial services officer in the Western District of Washington, where she worked from 2008 until 2020. While in Western Washington, the U.S. Probation and U.S. Pretrial Services Offices consolidated, and Johnson was able to work in all three disciplines (pretrial, presentence and post-conviction) before becoming a supervisor in 2015. In 2019, Johnson was selected as the Leadership Fellow for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in Washington D.C., where she spent a year assisting the Office of Probation and Pretrial Services Criminal Law and Policy Division with the implementation of the First Step Act of 2018. She served as the deputy chief probation officer

in the Eastern District of California from 2020 until her appointment in Nevada in 2024. Johnson was a member of the Probation and Pretrial Services Office National Wellness Working Group from 2009 until 2023. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and a J.D., both from the University of Washington. Prior to her career in community corrections, she practiced civil litigation for a law firm in Seattle and maintains her Washington State law license.



Mark Schnakenberg was appointed clerk of court for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California on Aug. 26, 2024. Prior to his appointment, he served as an attorney for the U.S. Marine Corps for over 23 years, retiring as a colonel. During his military career, he held various leadership and legal roles, including commanding officer, security battalion, at the Marine Corps Base Quantico and officer in charge for the Legal Services Support Section West in Camp

Pendleton. Schnakenberg received his undergraduate degree in sociology from Iowa State University and earned his J.D. from Drake University in 2001. He also holds an LL.M. in international law from the U.S. Army JAG School, and an M.S.S. from the Marine Corps War College.



Beth Wetteland was appointed chief U.S. pretrial services officer for the Eastern District of California on Feb. 23, 2024. She has worked in the federal judiciary for over 17 years in the Eastern District of California, where she has served as the acting chief, the deputy chief from 2017 through 2023, as a supervisory pretrial services officer from 2012 through 2017, and as an officer from 2007 through 2012. Prior to entering the federal system, Wetteland worked for the Sonoma County Probation Department in the juvenile division for almost 10 years. She graduated from California State University, Sacramento, with a bachelor's degree in sociology. ♦

# Award Recipients and Honorees

## **Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals**

Chief Judge Mary H. Murguia, Ruth V. McGregor Award, Arizona Women Lawyers Association, Maricopa Chapter. The award “honors a person for their extraordinary contributions in supporting the goals of AWLA as well as the advancement of women in the legal profession.”

Senior Circuit Judge Marsha S. Berzon, Emerita Chancellor & Dean Mary Kay Kane Excellence Award for Teaching Excellence (Part-Time Faculty), UC Law San Francisco. The award celebrates Dean Kane’s legacy and honors “faculty colleagues who carry on her spirit of service, scholarship and teaching excellence.”

Circuit Judge Consuelo M. Callahan, 100-Year Alumni of Distinction Award, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, in honor of the school’s 100-year anniversary <https://www.pacific.edu/law/centennial/highlighting-100-mcgeorge-alumni>.

Circuit Judge Morgan Christen, Meritorious Service Award, University of Alaska at Anchorage. The award “recognizes individuals who have demonstrated significant public, academic, volunteer or philanthropic service to the university or broader Alaska community.”

Circuit Judge Ana de Alba, Alumni Award, La Alianza at UC Berkeley School of Law’s The Honorable Cruz Reynoso Gala; Cruz Reynoso Champion of Justice Award for Judicial Excellence, Leadership, and Courage in Service to the Judicial

Branch, The California Latino Judges Association; Ohtli Award, Consulate of Mexico in Fresno. The Ohtli Award is administered by the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs and is one of the highest honors given to citizens living outside of Mexico. The award recognizes individuals who have aided, empowered, or positively affected the lives of Mexican nationals who reside abroad. Senior Circuit Judge William A. Fletcher, 2024 Federal Judge of the Year, San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association. The award was presented to Judge Fletcher at the Metreon in San Francisco on Oct. 25, 2024.

Senior Circuit Judge M. Margaret McKeown, 2024 American Inns of Court Lewis F. Powell Jr. Award for Professionalism and Ethics. The award recognizes attorneys, judges, government officials, journalists or others who have rendered exemplary service in the areas of professionalism, ethics, civility and excellence. At a dinner and ceremony in Seattle in September 2024, the Federal Bar Association of the Western District of Washington was renamed the M. Margaret McKeown (M3) Federal Bar Association of the Western District of Washington. See page 36 for the full article

Circuit Judge Johnnie B. Rawlinson, 100-Year Alumni of Distinction Award, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, in honor of the school’s 100-year anniversary <https://www.pacific.edu/law/centennial/highlighting-100-mcgeorge-alumni> and Distinguished Alumni Award for

Distinguished Public Service, Pacific Alumni Association, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. The award honors “alumni who have made exceptional professional contributions to society through civic or public service.”

Senior Circuit Judge N. Randy Smith, Richard C. Fields Civility Award, Professionalism and Ethics Section, Idaho State Bar. The award recognizes “an Idaho lawyer or judge who demonstrates a commitment to professionalism and civility in the profession.”

Circuit Judge Holly A. Thomas, 2023-2024 Yale Law Women+ Alumni Achievement Award, Yale Law. “The award specifically recognizes alumni who demonstrate valor, wisdom, and compassion.”

## **District of Arizona**

Bankruptcy Judge Daniel P. Collins, 2024 Public Service Award, University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law, and “50 Over 50” honoree, Foundation for Senior Living (a Phoenix Catholic Diocese charity).

District Judge Diane J. Humetewa, 2024 Chief Standing Bear Prize for Courage, Chief Standing Bear Project. “The Chief Standing Bear Prize for Courage celebrates Native Americans who do what is right, rather than what is expedient and who have exhibited contemporary acts of political or societal courage in their lifetime.”



## **Central District of California**

Chief District Judge Dolly M. Gee, Spirit of Excellence Award, American Bar Association. The “award honors those who have achieved excellence and supported others within their legal careers.” “Distinguished Alumni in Public Service Award,” UCLA School of Law, honors “individuals whose achievements have made substantial contributions to their profession and community.”

District Judge Mónica Ramírez Almadani, 2024-2025 Distinguished Jurist-in-Residence, Southwestern Law School. “Southwestern’s Distinguished Jurist-in-Residence Program brings prominent judges to Southwestern to engage with our community and share their expertise.”

Bankruptcy Judge Sandra R. Klein, President’s Award, National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, for “Exceptional Service.”

Chief Magistrate Judge Karen L. Stevenson, 2024 Diversity Award, Federal Magistrate Judges Association. The award was bestowed on Judge Stevenson for her “sustained and continuous contribution to promoting diversity within the federal judiciary and the legal profession.”

Magistrate Judge Shashi H. Kewalramani, Judicial Appreciation Award, South Asian American Bar Association of Southern California. The award was presented to Judge Kewalramani in Los Angeles on May 2, 2024.

## **Eastern District of California**

District Judge Dena M. Coggins, Senior District Judge Morrison

C. England Jr. (now Ret.) and Bankruptcy Judge Ronald H. Sargis, 100-Year Alumni of Distinction Award, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, in honor of the school’s 100-year anniversary.

## **Northern District of California**

Senior District Judge William H. Orrick, Lifetime Achievement Award, Justice & Diversity Center, San Francisco Bar Association, “for his dedication to supporting the Mock Trial program since 2014.”

Senior District Judge Claudia A. Wilken, Ethics in Complex Litigation Award, Center for Litigation and the Courts, UC Law San Francisco. The award is bestowed on individuals in “recognition of their excellence in promoting ethics in class actions or other complex litigation.”

Bankruptcy Judge William J. Lafferty III, Excellence in Education Award, Academic Recognition Committee, National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, for his “outstanding contributions to bankruptcy education and his unwavering commitment to the advancement of the field.”

Magistrate Judge Lisa J. Cisneros, Tara L. Riedley Barristers Choice Award, Barristers Club, Bar Association of San Francisco. The award honors Bay Area judges in “recognition of their outstanding efforts to educate and develop newer lawyers.”

## **Southern District of California**

Senior District Judge Anthony J. Battaglia, San Diego Chapter Award, Federal Bar Association, “in recognition and gratitude for

20 years of leadership, unwavering support, and dedicated service to the Judith N. Keep Federal Civil Practice Seminar.”

District Judge Gonzalo P. Curiel, Judicial Service Award, Federal Bar Association, San Diego Chapter. The award “recognizes an exemplary federal jurist who has provided outstanding service to the bench, the Federal Bar Association, and the federal community at large while promoting professionalism and civility.”

Senior District Judge Dana Makoto Sabraw, Japanese American of the Biennium Awards, in the category of politics/public affairs/law, for his years of public service in the court system and his work to ensure the civil and human rights of those in the justice system, Japanese American Citizens League; and 100-Year Alumni of Distinction Award, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, in honor of the school’s 100-year anniversary.

Magistrate Judge Karen S. Crawford, American Inns of Court Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award, American Inns of Court. See page 35 for the full article.

## **District of Hawaii**

Senior District Judge Leslie E. Kobayashi, 2024 Daniel K. Inouye Trailblazer Award, National Asian Pacific Islander Bar Association. The award is NAPABA’s lifetime achievement award highest honor bestowed to individuals who have “made substantial and lasting contributions to the legal profession, as well as the [Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander] AANHPI community.”

### **District of Nevada**

District Judge Cristina D. Silva, Inspira Award, Nevada Latino Bar Association. The Inspira Award recognizes individuals or businesses in Nevada for their outstanding contributions and support of the Latino/Hispanic community and their commitment to fostering diversity in the legal community.

Magistrate Judge Craig S. Denney, the Legion of Merit, Army Reserve. Judge Denney received his retirement award after 30 years of military service. He served as an appellate judge for the Army Reserve for his last three years of military service and before that position, he was a military trial judge for 10 years.

### **District of Oregon**


Chief Bankruptcy Judge Thomas M. Renn, William N. Stiles Award of Merit, for his extraordinary service to the section, outstanding contributions to continuing legal education, promotion of professionalism within the practice and meaningful community involvement, including pro bono work, Debtor-Creditor Section, Oregon State Bar.

### **Eastern District of Washington**

Bankruptcy Judge Frederick P. Corbit, 2024 APEX (Acknowledging Professional Excellence) Outstanding Judge Award, Washington State Bar Association. The award recognizes and honors “legal professionals who have exemplified the WSBA mission and elevated the practice of law in Washington.”

### **Western District of Washington**

District Judge Tana Lin, 2024 Betty Binns Fletcher Leadership and Justice Award, The Mother Attorneys Mentoring Association of Seattle (“MAMA Seattle”), bestowed “to an individual who has paved the way to success for, and has served as an inspiration to, other women attorneys striving to excel in their legal careers while balancing family demands.”

Magistrate Judge Michelle L. Peterson, Pro Bono Champion Award, M. Margaret McKeown Federal Bar Association, Western District of Washington, for her dedication and willingness to support and develop the M. Margaret McKeown FBA Pro Bono Program. 

# Community Outreach Symposium Provides Specific Programs and Advice About Educating Communities on the Federal Courts

The Ninth Circuit's Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO) Committee held a ground-breaking online symposium to share knowledge about how courts and individual judges can inspire involvement and educate the public to understand the role and importance of courts to the general public.

The comprehensive list of invitees included Ninth Circuit appellate, district, bankruptcy and magistrate judges, clerks of court, chief probation and chief pretrial officers and other key staff. Also invited were civic education coordinators in this circuit and others, civic contest coordinators, select educators, Girl Scouts CEOs and lawyer representatives.

The 2024 Community Outreach Symposium held November 8, emceed by PICO Chair and Senior District Judge John A. Kronstadt, U.S. District Court, for the Central District of California, featured panelists from around the country who run a wide variety of successful outreach programs each talking about their program and how they reach their audience.

The audience of about 125 heard from over a dozen judges and law professors. Topics included:

- Helping Teachers Navigate the Courts, Constitution and Law.
- Historic Trial Reenactments: Bringing Learning to Life.


- It's Never Too Late: Civic Education for Adults.
- It's Never too Early: Civic Education for Younger Students.
- Discovering the Law: Building a Court Camp or Summer Institute for Students.
- Civics Contest Promotion: Getting the Word Out.
- Here to Help: Civics Outreach Support from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

"The purpose of the symposium was to expand civic education throughout the Circuit," said Judge Kronstadt. "To achieve this purpose, the presenters from around the Ninth Circuit and from the Second and Third Circuits made short and compelling presentations about the programs in which each has been involved. Those watching were impressed and inspired to adopt them.

Choosing wide-ranging topics took some thought. "The working group felt it was important to include all age groups represented in our civic education programming – elementary, high school and adult civics education," said Kari Kelso Ph.D., public education and community outreach administrator, Office of the Circuit Executive for the Ninth Circuit. "In addition, we wanted to cover both one-day programs with schools and multiday programs such

as court camps and weeklong programs held by universities and nonprofits."

Nyla Rosen, civic education liaison at the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center, Peralta Community College District, in Oakland, California, attended the symposium. "Our particular focus is civil rights, personal and social responsibility through civic participation and protecting and promoting democracy," she said. "Programs highlighted in this symposium present excellent models for expanding popular participation in this branch of government. It is a great model for cross-sector collaboration that may be emulated by other circuits in the country.

Rosen added that a session moderated by District Judge Haywood S. Gilliam Jr., U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, 'Discovering the Law: Building a Court Camp or Summer Institute for Students,' was also very helpful," Rosen continued. "The Freedom Center has carried out civic engagement summer camps for over two decades. They focus on personal transformation through civic participation. Students meet with civic and elected leaders (federal, state and local/municipal), civil rights, tribal, and community leadership and bodies. We are interested in learning from both models – professional development for civics educators, and summer institutes for young people." 



# STEP Program Graduates Build Life Skills and May Get Off Supervised Release Early

The Eastern District of Washington has developed a program to help individuals on federal supervision get their lives on track and leave supervision earlier. The Sobriety Treatment and Education Program (STEP) reentry program is for individuals on federal supervision who have substance addictions. Clients in the program must stay away from drugs and alcohol, try to find employment and stay employed, reestablish relationships with family members, pursue educational opportunities and attend to their overall health and well-being.

Kyle Ward graduated from the program June 5, 2024, and is positive about the program and the boost it has given him: he has his addiction under control and discovered he is good at social work. “I’m now a house manager at a treatment facility and I’ve been here about eight months. It is a paid position and in an in-patient facility. Now, I am on the front lines with everybody. I get to see people who were in my position when I came in. I used to work in manual labor jobs and social work has been pretty good to me,” he said.

The program was founded by Senior District Judge Wm. Fremming Nielsen in 2007 and began as a cooperative effort between the U.S. District Court, the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office, the U.S. Attorney’s Office and the Federal Defender’s Office. The initial program started in Spokane, the seventh such federal reentry program in the United

States. District Judge Mary K. Dimke handles the Richland STEP cases, Magistrate Judge James A. Goeke now handles the Spokane program after a hand-off in fall 2023 from Judge Nielsen, and Magistrate Judge Alexander C. Ekstrom oversees STEP cases in Yakima.

Jose Vargas, deputy chief probation officer in the district, has been a probation officer for 23 years and managed the STEP program for several years. Program entrants must have an identified substance abuse or addiction issue and have to be committed to long term sobriety. “It is a voluntary program so they have to choose to get into the program and they have to have at least one year of supervision remaining. Honesty is a big piece of the program as well,” said Vargas.

From the officers’ point of view, “The most challenging part is trying to gain their trust, to develop that rapport with the client, that we are there to help them as much as possible through the process. That is extremely difficult to do with individuals who are coming into the system on supervision. There is that lack of trust,” he added.

Judge Ekstrom agrees with Vargas that the toughest aspect of the program is “convincing a participant that you actually care about them and thus to trust you. This takes time and it is incumbent on each member of the team to be patient,” he said.

Judge Ekstrom comes at the program with sympathy. “I have family members in recovery and

those who haven’t yet made it,” he said. “I have seen what (recovery) can do for people. I also have no illusions: not everybody makes it. The reward is a person regaining many things they have lost, and for our society, having someone rejoin us. You manage the inherent risk to society of people’s participation, and work with them as long as you can.”

He believes the program is important. “Criminal law is an extraordinarily blunt tool for addressing both chemical dependency and mental health,” he said. “It is all sticks and no carrots. If you send someone back into the community with the same limited resources and protective factors, you can’t be surprised when they return. STEP seeks to change behavior by creating a catalyst for change. By changing the conditions, expectations, and options for participants you can hope for incremental personal change they can build on.”

The toughest piece for clients, said Vargas, is “being able to develop a good support system. It is difficult for them to break away from their old peers and associates—negative peers and associates—and start developing that new peer group that is pro-social,” he said. “Obviously employment and education are also a challenge for them while they are on supervision. Trying to get them engaged with employment services or education services is challenging because it is something new for them.”

For Ward, the hardest part was “moral recognition therapy (MRT)

which is mandatory for STEP court,” he said. “It is a treatment course. We go through 12 steps and the 12 steps are pretty in-depth. They help change our moral values and it takes time. I had class once a week and with the full-time schedule, sometimes it was a little harder to get a step a week but then I also had community service hours so was fitting that in. I feel good about it. I really liked MRT. It places my life in a different perspective.”

One thing that was easier than expected was “staying clean,” Ward said. “I had some good words from Judge Ekstrom. At one point, where I was letting myself use and get high and relapse, he finally gave me the ultimatum of ‘you have to have perfect compliance or you go back to jail’ talk, and then it stopped. I had all my tools and everything there, I just needed that extra little push.”

“It is interesting to hear Kyle’s memory of our interaction in the first few weeks of the program,” said Judge Ekstrom. “My memory is also that we put him on what we call perfect compliance because he would not stop using, and when we have someone like that we eventually have to take them into custody and get them into, or back into, in-patient treatment. However, I recall telling Kyle at length that he was letting himself use, and that he could always find an excuse to use in the world.

“He needed to be able to make a decision to stay clean. I challenged him to not give himself permission. I thought I was being pretty hard on him and was worried that he would overreact. He came back early the next week a different person and I am very proud of him. He is one of the most impressive examples of change I have seen. It does not surprise me that the possibility of going to jail still sticks out as primary to him. In the end, we can catalyze change, but we don’t create it,” said Judge Ekstrom.

To set the client up for success, “We front load the first part of the program for phase one and two for treatment services,” said Vargas. “Whether it is substance abuse or mental health services, we engage them in those services first. In phases three and four the focus starts to shift towards employment and education.

Three U.S. probation officers handle STEP clients and are critical to their successes: Phil Casey in Yakima, Melissa Hanson in Spokane and Maria Balles in Richland.

The program has graduated 166 participants, including Ward. There are currently 20 individuals enrolled in Spokane, seven in Yakima, and five in Richland, and all programs have clients approaching graduation. The program’s success rate is “probably around 65% at this time,” said Vargas. But the

missing 35% did not necessarily relapse. “We have folks that actually drop out for legitimate reasons,” said Vargas. “They obtain new employment and because of the (scheduling) conflict they choose to remove themselves from the program. They continue the treatment services and are engaged in the same treatment programs; they just opt out of the program because they are unable to take time away from their new job.”

Ward ran into that very conflict but chose to stick with the full program. “I was turned down for a promotion because I wasn’t flexible enough with my schedule,” he said. “They required me to have a Sunday-Monday or Friday-Saturday off, but I told them that due to my MRT meetings I couldn’t do it—I had set my boundaries and was not able to do that at the moment. They said that’s fine, that’s okay but later on in life when you are able to, we can look at this other position for you. They have hope for me.”

Ward recommends the program. “If you believe you are ready for it -- when you are sure and ready, this is the place to go,” he said. ♦

# Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference Brings Legal Luminaries and Topical, Robust Discussions to Sacramento

The 2024 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, “Navigating Legal Frontiers: Inspiring Ideas and Innovation,” held July 22-25 in Sacramento, California, was an inspiring, educational gathering for the 714 judges and lawyer representatives who attended. The Ninth Circuit Conference Executive Committee, chaired by Bankruptcy Judge Madeleine C. Wanslee, District of Arizona with assistance of Program Chair Roger M. Townsend of Breskin Johnson & Townsend PLLC, Seattle, identified and developed the programming of the conference.

Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Mary H. Murguia presided over the conference. The Opening Program began with the presentation of the colors by a team from Grant Union High School’s Criminal Justice Academy in Sacramento, followed by the National Anthem sung by Karen J. Kirksey Smith, courtroom deputy to Senior District Judge William B. Shubb, Eastern District of California. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Colin Williams, 2024 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest first-place essay winner from Salem, Oregon.

In her opening remarks, Chief Judge Murguia discussed the importance of staying apprised of innovations in the legal community including the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact as an evolving issue and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit efforts with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit to develop a modern, cloud-based case management system. She also discussed the ongoing effort to ensure fair workplace practices. Finally, she noted that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is more current in caseload processing than it has been in several years due to a full bench of judges and fewer incoming cases, and that she is very proud of the hard-working members of the court including its 22 senior circuit judges.



*Top: Senior District Judge Robert J. Conrad Jr., director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, addressed the conference audience during opening ceremonies. Left Center: Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Mary H. Murguia welcomed lawyers and judges to the 2024 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Sacramento. Right Center: The general session, “Generative AI: Where are we and what legal challenges await us?” addressed the effect of AI on*

*legal practitioners. Pictured are Ruth L. Okediji, Jeremiah Smith Jr. Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Berkman Klein Center, Harvard Law School, and Brad Smith, Vice Chair and President, Microsoft Corporation. Bottom Left: Judges and others met in a variety of business meetings at the conference. Bottom Right: On day three of the conference, Solicitor General Elizabeth B. Prelogar was the keynote speaker for the midday session.*



*Top: FTC Chair Lina M. Khan participated in a discussion with District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, Northern District of California. Middle: The “Native American Tribal Law at an Inflection Point: SCOTUS’s Shifting Dynamics and their Practical Impacts” session featured Chief Justice Angela R. Riley, Supreme Court of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and Professor of Law, Native Nations Law and Policy Center, UCLA School of Law, and moderator Ian Gershengorn, Jenner & Block. Above: Pictured from left are specialty court graduate Samuel Lewis and Senior District Judge Richard A. Jones, Western District of Washington, in the “Innovative Justice: Exploring the Ninth Circuit’s Specialty Courts” session. Judge Jones is presiding judge of DREAM Court.*

Two special awards were presented, the American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Ninth Circuit bestowed on Magistrate Judge Karen S. Crawford, Southern District of California (see page 35), and the John P. Frank Award presented to attorney Stephen Berzon, founding partner at Altshuler Berzon LLP (see page 33).

Chief Judge Murguía spoke movingly about Senior Associate Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, U.S. Supreme Court, who died Dec. 1, 2023. “Justice O’Connor cared very deeply about civil discourse and civil education,” she said. Justice O’Connor was the first woman to serve as the circuit justice for the Ninth Circuit and did so for 20 years, from 1986 to 2006.

Chief Judge Emerita Mary M. Schroeder gave a thoughtful recap of Justice O’Connor’s life and related several poignant memories of her professional and post-Supreme Court life. “With Sandra, it was not about herself, but about service and good citizenship,” she said.

Over the next three days, judges and lawyer representatives attended general sessions including a review of the Supreme Court activities over the last year, discussions on the effect of AI on legal practitioners, the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, specialty courts, the effects of the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision, legal complexities of reality crime shows and the effect of recent Supreme Court decisions on Native American tribal laws. Especially noteworthy was the conversation with Lina M. Khan, chair of the Federal Trade Commission, and District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, Northern District of California, and, as always, there was great interest in

the Conversation with the Justice, featuring U.S. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan, on the final day of the conference.

Elizabeth B. Prelogar, Solicitor General of the United States, was the keynote luncheon speaker. She delivered a warm, humorous and highly informative talk noting some of the challenges of her position and her office’s dedication to the rule of law. She talked about the first case she argued as solicitor general in the Supreme Court which took place only a couple of days after taking her oath. Preparing on short notice was a bit of a trial by fire, but “It was exactly what I signed up to do: tackle hard, high stakes legal questions at the cutting edge of the law,” she said.

Joined by their families, winners of the Ninth Circuit Civics Contest were honored during a special reception (see page 31). Along with essay winner Colin Williams, Charles A. Sprague High School in Salem, Oregon, were the winners of the video portion of the contest, the team of Vivan Patel, Mihir Sahani and Aayush Shah, all from BASIS Chandler in Chandler, Arizona.

Along with the general sessions, a multitude of business meetings were held for various groups of judges, lawyers and other court staff. New lawyer representatives met to learn about the circuit conference and how they can continue their service once their terms as lawyer representatives have ended.

Authorized by law under 28 USC § 333, the Judicial Conference convenes “for the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice within the circuit.”





# Civics Contest Winners Expand on Views, Meet Supreme Court Justices

For the last nine years the Ninth Circuit has held a civics contest awarding cash prizes for essay and video entries from high school students who reside within the geographic boundaries of the Ninth Circuit. Over the years, there have been over 12,000 participants who submitted over 9,000 essays and 900 videos.

Sponsored by the Ninth Circuit Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO) Committee, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the federal courts that comprise the Ninth Circuit, the 2024 contest drew 737 essay and 88 video submissions and winners had to survive three rounds of judging.

The 2024 theme was “70 Years Later—The Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education.” Winners in 2024 were Colin Williams, first place essay winner from Sprague High School, Salem, Oregon, with his essay titled, “The Triumph of Brown v. Board,” and Vivan Patel, Mihir Sahani and Aayush Shah, from BASIS Chandler in Chandler, Arizona, creators of the first-place video, “Brown v. Board of Education and Its Impact on Present Day Society.”

Senior District Judge John A. Kronstadt, Central District of California, chair of the PICO Committee, began the reception by saying “We are truly proud of these high-achieving honorees.”

First-place prize in each category was \$3,000, second place was \$1,700 and third place was \$1,000.



*Civics Contest video winners respond to questions during the panel session of the civics contest reception at the 2024 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Sacramento.*

For video teams, their prize was divided equally. More information about the winners is available on the civics contest website at <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest/>.

The contest culminates each year in a special reception at the annual Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference as a trip to the conference is part of the prize package for winners. In 2024, student-winners met two U.S. Supreme Court justices, Senior Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy and Associate Justice Elena Kagan.

After an introduction by Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Mary H. Murguía, Justice Kennedy, took the podium. “Civics, properly understood, is something we must learn and then that we must teach from the time of childhood, in your early years until and through your adult years,” said Justice Kennedy. “Civics is really an understanding

of what democracy is, what its triumphs were, what its tragedies were, what its destiny is, what its purpose is—and it is to protect freedom. That’s what civics is all about. Civics should teach us—must teach us—that the whole idea of democracy is that we can have a civil, polite conversation. We don’t have to be a hostile, fractious community. We can disagree but do so in a principled decent way where we respect the dignity of each other. That is the freedom that you learn in civics and that is why you are here.

Winners accepted their awards and certificates at the podium, the winning video was played for the audience and students participated in a fascinating panel discussion with District Judge Krissa M. Lanham, District of Arizona, and District Judge Cathy A. Bencivengo, Southern District of California, where they expanded their thoughts on the topic.



*Top: 2024 civics contest winners participated in a panel discussion with District Judge Krissa M. Lanham, District of Arizona, and District Judge Cathy A. Bencivengo, Southern District of California. Above left: Senior District Judge John A. Kronstadt, Central District of California, chair of the Ninth Circuit Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO) Committee, joined Colin Williams, first place essay winner from Sprague High School, Salem, Oregon, for a photo at the reception. Above, right: Judge Kronstadt joined Vivan Patel, Mihir Sahani and Aayush Shah, from BASIS Chandler in Chandler, Arizona, creators of the first place video, for a photo at the civics contest reception.*

“What made Brown so important was that it overruled one of the arguably worst decisions in U.S. history, Plessy v. Ferguson, but the 20 years thereafter were some of the most volatile in American history,” said first-place essay winner Colin Williams. “Brown was an amazing decision, but it did not just flip a switch and turn on racial harmony. Ten years after Brown only 1.2% of all Black students in America were going to school with a white student.”

Following the panel, Chief Judge Murguia again took the podium. “Congratulations, again, to all the winners,” she said. “We are so pleased to have you and to recognize you and your wonderful achievement. You give us hope and inspiration and confidence in the future.” She then introduced Justice Kagan.

Justice Kagan thanked the committee and all who participated in judging. “What you do is

incredibly important in getting all these kids to think about these important issues of our government and our society and our law,” she said. “Mostly, I want to thank the students. How extraordinary was (the panel discussion)? I know that one of you may be thinking about college, maybe the other three—rising sophomores!—I think maybe (you can) just skip to law school. Or who needs law school? I have some openings in my chambers,” she said to appreciative laughter. “That was wonderful, wonderful and so sophisticated, and more than civic minded. Really nuanced and sophisticated and smart and we all learned something from it as we sat here.”

Justice Kagan presented each student with a booklet of the U.S. Constitution and stood for a photo with them.

Chief Judge Murguia returned to the podium and acknowledged the PICO Committee. “They do a lot of work throughout the year to encourage doing this interactive work with the communities,” she said. “There are a lot of mock trial programs going on in courts at district, magistrate and bankruptcy levels. That does not get all the publicity I wish it did. Sometimes we’re focused on the negative and not on the positive, and I just want to put a good word in on the wonderful work that they do.”

# Stephen Berzon Receives the 2024 Ninth Circuit's John P. Frank Award

Stephen Berzon, founding partner of the law firm Altshuler Berzon, received the 2024 John P. Frank Award, the “lawyer’s lawyer award,” as Chief Judge Emerita Mary M. Schroeder described it, at the 2024 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference on July 22 in Sacramento.

The John P. Frank Award, established in 2003 and awarded by the Ninth Circuit Advisory Board, 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 award was “created by our attorney advisory board more than 20 years ago to honor members of the legal profession in the West, who are not only great lawyers but who would have provided notable service to the courts in our circuit,” said Judge Schroeder. “The award is appropriately named for a legendary member of the Arizona Bar, John Paul Frank, who began professional life as an Ivy League professor who migrated to Arizona because of asthma, and who for nearly 50 years represented clients who could not afford representation; clients like Ernesto Miranda and Anita Hill.”

“John believed the courts were the guardians of the Constitution, and the Constitution’s protection of our civil rights and civil liberties,” said Judge Schroeder. “When our

courts were attacked, he defended them. When judges needed advice, he provided it, and when Congress was threatening to take us backwards, he tried to set them straight, and he did. He was a great teacher who helped to build a great law firm.”

“This award is also given for a dedication to the rule of law (and) proficiency as a trial and appellate lawyer,” said Ann O’Leary, a member of the advisory board. “I want to publicly thank Steve on behalf of the Ninth Circuit Advisory Board for his best-in-class advocacy



*Stephen Berzon received the 2024 John P. Frank Award at the 2024 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Sacramento.*

Melinda Haag, Ninth Circuit Advisory Board chair, made the presentation. “It became incredibly clear during our selection process that Steve Berzon has demonstrated throughout his professional lifetime all of the qualities we look for in connection with the John Frank award,” she said. “And he has clearly touched the lives and impacted the careers of many, many people in this room. We received countless nominations on Steve’s behalf and all of them contained long, heartfelt descriptions of his character and integrity, his talents as a lawyer, mentor and teacher and his dedicated service to the courts.”

with victories for DACA recipients, for mine workers for whom he preserved lifetime medical benefits and, of course, the way he has shaped and molded labor law in the Ninth Circuit and throughout our country. We are a stronger country and a stronger circuit because of Steve. I am one of the dozens of attorneys who grew up as a lawyer in the Ninth Circuit and had the opportunity to be inspired, trained and mentored in my legal career and in my life by Steve Berzon.”

“I can’t tell you how moved I am by those remarks,” said Berzon, upon accepting the award. “Thanks to all the lawyers on



the Ninth Circuit Advisory Board who selected me. A very special thanks to my wife, Judge Marsha Berzon. For 58 years her courage, support and love have been my source of inspiration. John Frank was indeed a legend, a superb lawyer and to receive an award in his name is an extraordinary honor. I have also had the good fortune, for more than 58 years, to litigate in circuit and district courts, and the Supreme Court, throughout the country, and to appear before many exceptional judges, so I can say to all of you with some authority that there is no better place to practice law than here in the Ninth Circuit. To receive this award from this body is something I will cherish forever; I am so deeply moved. Thank you so much."

Berzon's practice has consisted primarily of major litigation in the areas of labor and employment, environment and public health, campaign, election and constitutional law. He has practiced both at the trial and appellate levels and has argued groundbreaking cases benefiting

workers, their unions and the environment before the U.S. Supreme Court, the California and Hawaii Supreme Courts, and federal circuit and district courts throughout the country. He has testified before U.S. Senate and U.S. House committees and California Senate and Assembly committees, and has helped develop key legislation involving civil rights, education, unemployment insurance, environmental protection, food safety, at-risk children, union organizing and injunctions in labor disputes.

He has been a member of the Ninth Circuit's Advisory Committee on Rules and Internal Operating Procedures, the national board of directors of the American Constitutional Society, and the board of directors of the national AFL-CIO Lawyers Coordinating Committee. He is currently on the Executive Committee of the Northern District of California Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Before starting Altshuler Berzon, Berzon was a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow at the Contra Costa Legal Services Foundation in Richmond, California, and at the National Housing and Economic Development Law Project of the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. He practiced with the Legal Aid Society of Alameda County and served as the legal director of the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, D.C.

Berzon received his Bachelor of Arts from Cornell University and his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School.

The late John P. Frank was a renowned Phoenix attorney 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 U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, 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. ♦



# Judge Karen S. Crawford Presented with 2024 American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Ninth Circuit



*Magistrate Judge Karen S. Crawford, Southern District of California, receives the American Inns of Court Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award from Chief Judge Mary Murguia.*

Magistrate Judge Karen S. Crawford, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California, received the American Inns of Court Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award during the opening ceremonies of the 2024 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Sacramento, California. During the presentation, Chief Circuit Judge Mary H. Murguia noted the significance of the award and that it is given annually in recognition of professionalism, ethics, civility and legal excellence. She added that Judge Crawford mentors law students and young lawyers in her judicial role, actively participates in the American Inns of Court and generously contributes her time and energy to community service.

"Judge Crawford's commitment to the legal community is truly admirable and she has been recognized before for exceptional commitment to her community," said Chief Judge Murguia. "Judge Crawford was the first woman to receive the A. Sherman Christensen award in 1998 in recognition of her inspiring leadership within the American Inns of Court movement

and her consistent efforts to improve the American legal system," she added.

Judge Crawford was nominated by members of the Louis M. Welsh and Hon. J. Clifford Wallace American Inns of Court. "Judge Crawford's devotion to the American Inns of Court has been unparalleled in our legal community," said William M. Low, president of the Welsh Inn of Court.

"My participation in the American Inns of Court movement has enriched me as both a lawyer and a judge," said Judge Crawford, "and it has offered me a meaningful opportunity to learn and to teach and mentor others including, as mentioned, young lawyers and law students. Giving back to the legal community that I love so much has been deeply rewarding. I'm most grateful and deeply humbled for your recognition."

Judge Crawford is the current president of the Wallace Inn and served as president of the Welsh Inn from 2012 to 2017. She helped found the Hay-Sell Pittsburgh American Inn of Court in Pittsburgh

in addition to three additional Inns in Western Pennsylvania.

Judge Crawford handles both civil and criminal cases in the Southern District of California, where she also participates in the Alternatives to Prison Solutions diversion program. The program allows certain defendants to engage in a year of intensive court supervision as they define and work toward achieving their goals and, upon successful completion, they "graduate" without criminal records.

From 2005 to 2012, Judge Crawford served as chair of litigation at Duane Morris LLP. In 2001, she opened the first west coast office of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC where she served as managing partner. Earlier in her career, Judge Crawford worked in the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California and the Civil Division's Torts Branch.

The American Inns of Court Professionalism Awards are bestowed annually in each circuit and participating federal circuits, on lawyers or judges 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.

Candidates are nominated through circuit-wide open nominations and selected by a panel of representatives from both the circuit and the American Inns of Court. With the concurrence and participation of the chief judge of the circuit, the award is presented at each circuit's judicial conference. ♦

# Judge M. Margaret McKeown Receives American Inns of Court Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Award

The Honorable M. Margaret McKeown of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit received the 2024 American Inns of Court Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Award for Professionalism and Ethics. The award was presented on October 26 at the 2024 American Inns of Court Celebration of Excellence at the U.S. Supreme Court. The award recognizes attorneys, judges, government officials, journalists or others who have rendered exemplary service in the areas of professionalism, ethics, civility and excellence.

Writing in support of Judge McKeown's nomination, Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Mary H. Murguia said, "Simply put, Judge McKeown is a force of nature. Her dedication to justice, to the rule of law and to the administration of justice is truly remarkable. She is the go-to person for difficult issues involving professionalism and the integrity of the judiciary."

"Throughout her life, Judge McKeown has worked to advance equal rights for women," said Victoria Fuller, president of the San Diego Appellate American Inn of Court, who nominated Judge McKeown on behalf of the Inn, which Judge McKeown helped launch. "In one of her memorable speeches, she advises that the mantra should not be 'lean in,' which is internally focused, but instead should be 'lean down and lift up.'"

Judge McKeown has been a model for advancing ethics and professional standards at the circuit, national and global levels. She has served as president of the

Federal Judges Association, where she advocated for pay equity for federal judges. As a nationally recognized expert on judicial ethics, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. appointed her chair of the Codes of Conduct Committee of the Judicial Conference of the U.S. and as a member of the national Judicial Conduct and Disability Committee.



*Ninth Circuit Judge M. Margaret McKeown (center), is joined by fellow judges Consuelo Callahan (left), circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit and Mary H. Murguia, chief judge of the Ninth Circuit, outside the Supreme Court Building in Washington D.C.*

Judge McKeown has also worked to advance the rule of law internationally. She serves on the board of the World Justice Project and was the chair of the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, where she now serves as special advisor. Judge McKeown is also a U.S. delegate to the International Association of Judges. She has worked with judiciaries around the world on ethics, transitional justice, equal rights, human trafficking and intellectual property.

Judge McKeown is the chair of the Ninth Circuit Pacific Islands Committee, which provides judicial education to U.S. territories and former trust territories. In 2022, Judge McKeown received the American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Ninth Circuit.

Before joining the Ninth Circuit in 1998, Judge McKeown was the first woman partner at Perkins Coie LLP in Seattle and Washington, D.C. She also served as the first woman president of the Federal Bar Association in Seattle and cofounded Washington Women Lawyers. She also led a working group for the Ninth Circuit that pioneered innovations, such as a revised employment dispute resolution policy and establishing a first-ever Director of Workplace Relations. Both innovations became models at the national level.

A native of Wyoming, Judge McKeown received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wyoming in 1972 and her Juris Doctor from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1975. She serves on the Board of the Teton Science Schools in Jackson, Wyoming, where her work there was the inspiration for her book, "Citizen Justice: The Environmental Legacy of William O. Douglas—Public Advocate and Conservation Champion."

The American Inns of Court, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, inspires the legal community to advance the rule of law by achieving the highest level of professionalism through example, education and mentoring.



## Work of the Courts

### Minor Increase in New Appeals, Slight Decline in Pending and Terminated Cases

New appeals in the Ninth Circuit increased while terminations declined and pending appeals remained steady in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2024. Case processing times remained constant—within a couple of percentage points up or down depending on how the case was disposed.

New appeals filed numbered 8,145 in FY 2024, up 4.6% from the prior fiscal year. Appellate filings nationwide were 39,788, down .5%. Six of the 12 geographic federal judicial circuits reported fewer filings – the 11th Circuit was only down one case. The Ninth Circuit remained the nation's busiest federal appellate court, accounting for 20.5% of all new appeals filed nationally in FY 2024.

The Ninth Circuit disposed of 8,150 cases in FY 2024, down 5%. The court's total pending caseload, 7,052 cases, dropped by one case from FY 2023. Eight of the 12 geographic circuits reported reductions in terminations, and six of the 12 circuits had fewer pending caseloads compared to FY 2023.

#### Breakdown of New Appeals

Of the new filings, 2,376, or 29.2%, of all new appeals in the Ninth Circuit involved immigration and other administrative agency matters, while 3,502, or 43%, of new filings were pro se cases, or those involving at least one self-represented litigant.

Ninth Circuit district courts, which serve as trial courts in the federal judicial system, accounted for 16.6% of all new appeals originating from district courts nationwide in FY 2024. The district courts generated 5,208 new appeals, up 2.5% from FY 2023. Of the total, 4,258 were civil appeals and 950 were criminal appeals. Prisoner petitions involving habeas corpus, capital habeas corpus, civil rights, prison conditions and other matters accounted for 36.5% of all new civil appeals from district courts.

#### Appellate Caseload Profile

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024
Filings	7,784	8,145	4.6%
Terminations	8,581	8,150	-5.0%
<sup>1</sup> Pending Cases	7,053	7,052	-

<sup>1</sup> Percent change not computed when fewer than 10 cases for the previous period.

Among the 15 district courts of the circuit, the four district courts in California produced 52.3% of new civil appeals and 51.4% of new criminal appeals. The Central District of California, the busiest court in the circuit, generated 1,229 civil and criminal appeals, up 2.8% from FY 2023.

Of all new criminal appeals, 27% were related to drug offenses and 6.7% were immigration offenses. The court reported 256 drug offenses and 64 immigration offenses. Total appeals involving property

offenses and fraud were 136 and 129, respectively. Appeals involving firearms and explosives offenses was 171, of which 42 were alleged to have committed during a violent or drug-trafficking crime. Also reported were 94 appeals involving sex offenses and 100 for violent offenses.

Appeals of decisions by the Board of Immigration Appeals, or BIA, and other executive branch agencies continue to make up a substantial portion of the court's caseload. Appeals of agency decisions

increased by 14.5% to 2,376 cases in FY 2024. The BIA accounted for 94.4% of agency appeals and 27.6% of the court's total new filings. The Ninth Circuit had 57.6% of the total BIA appeals filed nationwide in FY 2024.

Original proceedings and miscellaneous applications commenced in FY 2024 were 439 down from 477 during FY 2023. The bulk of original proceedings cases involved second or successive habeas corpus petitions, 162, and mandamus appeals, 129.

## Cases Commenced, Terminated and Pending by Nature of Proceeding

Type of Appeal	2023 Filings	2024 Filings	Change 2023-2024	% of Circuit Total	2023 Terminations	2024 Terminations	Change 2023-2024	2023 Pending	2024 Pending	<sup>1</sup> Change 2023-2024
Civil										
U.S. Prisoner Petitions	275	325	18.2%	4.0%	323	355	9.9%	238	208	-12.6%
Private Prisoner Petitions	1,311	1,230	-6.2%	15.1%	1,298	1,379	6.2%	1,067	920	-13.8%
Other U.S. Civil	549	575	4.7%	7.1%	597	519	-13.1%	485	541	11.5%
Other Private Civil	2,016	2,128	5.6%	26.1%	2,033	2,107	3.6%	1,730	1,748	1.0%
Criminal	932	950	1.9%	11.7%	848	974	14.9%	971	947	-2.5%
Other										
Bankruptcy	148	122	-17.6%	1.5%	149	155	4.0%	158	125	-20.9%
Administrative Agency Appeals	2,076	2,376	14.5%	29.2%	2,843	2,229	-21.6%	2,293	2,446	6.7%
Original Proceedings and Miscellaneous Applications	477	439	-8.0%	5.4%	490	432	-11.8%	111	117	5.4%
<b>Circuit Total</b>	<b>7,784</b>	<b>8,145</b>	<b>4.6%</b>		<b>8,581</b>	<b>8,150</b>	<b>-5.0%</b>	<b>7,053</b>	<b>7,052</b>	<b>-</b>
National Appellate Total	39,987	39,788	-0.5%		40,636	40,086	-1.4%	32,039	31,972	-0.2%
Ninth Circuit as % of National Total	19.5%	20.5%	1.0%		21.1%	20.3%	-0.8%	22.0%	22.1%	0.2%

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

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.

## Median Time Intervals in Months for Cases Terminated on the Merits

By Stage of Appeal	Number of Months			
	Ninth Circuit		National	
	2023	2024	2023	2024
<sup>1</sup> From Filing of Notice of Appeal or Docket Date to Filing of Appellee's Last Brief	7.4	7.1	5.9	6.0
From Filing of Appellee's Last Brief to Oral Argument or Submission on Briefs	6.3	5.6	4.7	4.4
From Oral Argument to Last Opinion or Final Order	1.4	1.3	2.6	2.6
From Submission on Briefs to Last Opinion or Final Order	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3
<sup>1</sup> From Filing of Notice of Appeal or Docket Date to Last Opinion or Final Order	13.7	12.7	9.8	9.7
From Filing in Lower Court to Last Opinion or Final Order in Appeals Court	33.3	33.7	33.5	33.4

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 applications not included previously. Cases terminated include appeals, original proceedings and miscellaneous applications.

<sup>1</sup> Docket date is used when computing the mean time intervals for original proceedings, miscellaneous applications and appeals from administrative agencies.



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

District	Commenced	% of Total
Alaska	110	1.4%
Arizona	485	6.0%
C. Calif.	1,229	15.1%
E. Calif.	419	5.1%
N. Calif.	729	9.0%
S. Calif.	339	4.2%
Guam	9	0.1%
Hawaii	92	1.1%
Idaho	133	1.6%
Montana	176	2.2%
Nevada	494	6.1%
Northern Mariana Islands	7	0.1%
Oregon	341	4.2%
E. Wash.	164	2.0%
W. Wash.	481	5.9%
Bankruptcy	122	1.5%
Administrative Agencies, Total	2,376	29.2%
IRS	25	0.3%
NLRB	16	0.2%
BIA	2,244	27.6%
Other Administrative Agencies	91	1.1%
Original Proceedings and Miscellaneous Applications	439	5.4%
<b>Circuit Total</b>	<b>8,145</b>	

## Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals En Banc Ballots

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
2024	619	28	11	17
2023	650	30	14	16
2022	701	24	12	12
2021	886	19	7	12
2020	820	29	7	22

### Terminations and Pending Cases

The Ninth Circuit terminated 8,150 cases in FY 2024, down 5% from FY 2023. The total includes 4,360 civil and 974 criminal appeals

originating in the district courts and 2,816 appeals of agency decisions.

Of the total case terminations, 5,020 cases, or 61.6%, were terminated on the merits, and 180

of those cases were terminated by consolidation. The remaining 3,130 cases were terminated on procedural grounds. Of the merit decisions, 1,189 came after oral arguments, up 5%, and 3,066 after submission on briefs, down 24.9% from FY 2023. Excluding cases terminated by consolidation, total merit terminations included 1,193 prisoner cases, 712 criminal cases and 1,109 administrative agency appeals.

In FY 2024, cases terminated on the merits that were affirmed or enforced, which includes appeals affirmed in part and reversed in part, numbered 3,202; 391 reversed, 36 remanded and 686 dismissed. The overall reversal rate was 8.3%, down from 8.5% in FY 2023. The FY 2024 national average is 7.6%. Reversal rates were mostly down. The Ninth Circuit reversal rate was 10.9% for criminal cases; 16.5% for civil cases involving the federal government, up from 14.6% in 2023; 13.7% for other private civil cases; and 3.9% for administrative agency cases. Percent reversed are not computed for original proceedings because of their difference from appeals, nor are original proceedings included in the percentage of total appeals reversed.

In FY 2024, judicial panels produced 350 signed opinions, all published, and 4,489 unsigned opinions, of which 21 were published.

The court's pending caseload decreased again in FY 2024. Pending cases numbered 7,052, down one case from FY 2023. Of the pending caseload in FY 2024, 34.7% involved administrative appeals; 32.5% involved other private and other U.S. civil matters; 16% for U.S. prisoner petitions and

private prisoner petitions; 13.4% for criminal matters; and 1.8% for bankruptcy matters. Of the pending caseload, 45% had been pending less than six months, 28% pending six to 12 months and 27% 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 2024, the median time interval in months for cases terminated on the merits from filing of a notice of appeal to final disposition was 12.7 months, down from 13.7 months in FY 2023. The median time interval from the filing of a case in a lower court or final disposition was 33.7 months, slight increase from 33.2 months in FY 2023. The total national median time interval from filing of a notice of appeal to final disposition in FY 2024 was 9.7 months and 33.4 months from the filing of a case in a lower court to final disposition by a circuit court.

For panel decisions from oral argument to last opinion or final order, the median time interval was 1.3 months in FY 2024, down from 1.4 months in FY 2023. Median time interval from filing of appellee's last brief to oral argument or submission on briefs was 5.6 months, down from 6.3 months in FY 2023.

### **Pro Se Filings and Terminations**


Pro se appeals involve at least one party who is not represented by counsel. In FY 2024, new appeals by pro se litigants numbered 3,502, up 9.7% from FY 2023. Pro se litigants accounted for 43% of all appeals opened during FY 2024. Pro se appeals involving U.S. and private prisoner petitions numbered 1,295. Pro se appeals involving agency appeals numbered 677, making up 19.3% of all new pro se filings.

The court terminated 3,374 pro se appeals in FY 2024, one more than in FY 2023. Total pro se appeals terminated on the merits was 1,940—1,902 of which were after submission on briefs, 21 by consolidation and 17 after oral arguments.

### **En Banc Cases**

En banc courts, which consist of 11 judges rather than three, convene quarterly to resolve intra-circuit conflicts of law or other legal questions of exceptional importance. During calendar year 2024, 12 en banc courts convened. Eleven oral arguments were heard in person, and one was submitted on the briefs. During FY 2024, 10 en banc courts were convened. Nine oral arguments were heard in person, and one was submitted on the briefs.

### **Contributions by Active, Senior and Visiting Judges**

At the end of 2024, the court had 29 active circuit judges and 23 senior circuit judges. Of the 5,020 written opinions issued by the court in FY 2024, excluding consolidations, 63.3% were authored by active circuit judges, 30.7% by senior judges and 6% by visiting judges who sat by designation. 

# District Courts See Filings and Terminations Increase in 2024

U.S. 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 throughout the U.S. Four U.S. territories have courts that hear federal cases, including bankruptcy cases, in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands which are under the jurisdiction of the Ninth Circuit, and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The combined caseload for the 15 district courts within the Ninth Circuit increased in fiscal year 2024. Total new civil and criminal filings numbered 64,409, up 15.2% from FY 2023. Number of cases terminated was 65,577, up 20.1% and total pending cases were down 1.5% to 60,065. The circuit accounted for 18.5% of all filings nationwide, up from 14.2% in 2023. Total new civil and criminal filings nationwide in 2024 were 347,984, down 11.4%, or 44,895 fewer filings compared to FY 2023.

## **Criminal Caseload and Defendants**

District courts in the Ninth Circuit reported an increase in criminal case filings, up 52.7% with 16,493, while cases terminated during the year were also up significantly 42.2% to 16,229 cases. Combined pending criminal caseload in the district courts was 15,324, up 2.0%.

Nine of the 15 district courts in the nine western states comprising the Ninth Circuit reported more criminal case filings in FY 2024. The biggest increase percentagewise

was in the District of Arizona, up 116.4%, an increase of 5,588 filings. The District of Arizona had the most filings of any district at 10,388. The Northern District of California had the second highest increase, rising 38.7% from 279 to 387 filings. The District of Northern Marianas Islands had the third largest increase, up 33.3% going from 15 to 20 filings. District of Alaska followed with a 27.1% increase, and three other districts had increases of over 10%: Montana, Oregon and Guam. The Eastern District of Washington and Central District of California had increases of 7.9% and 3.2% respectively.

The greatest decrease in criminal filings in the Ninth Circuit was in the District of Hawaii with 29.3% fewer case filings than in FY 2023. The District of Idaho had a drop of 8%, and the District of Nevada had a drop of 7.3%. The districts of Western Washington, Eastern California and Southern California were down 5.3%, 3.4% and 2.7%, respectively.

The Ninth Circuit accounted for 30% of the new criminal case filings nationally, which numbered 57,088, up 7.4% from 53,148 in FY 2023.

In the Ninth Circuit, the total number of defendants involved in criminal cases, excluding transfers, was 18,812, up 47.2% from FY 2023. A majority of the defendants, 18,447, were charged with felony offenses. Defendants charged with drug offenses, excluding transfers, numbered 3,662. They accounted

for 19.5% of total criminal defendants in the circuit. Of the total drug offenses, 36 involved marijuana and 3,626 involved all other drug offenses.

Criminal defendants charged with immigration offenses numbered 11,346, up 95.8%, in FY 2024. Immigration offenses accounted for 60.3% of all criminal defendants. Of the total, 8,960 defendants were charged with improper reentry into the United States.

The District of Arizona had the largest total number of defendants, 10,825, of whom 10,095 were charged with immigration and drug offenses, 93.3% of the total. The district reported 9,530 defendants charged with immigration offenses, up 140% from FY 2023.

Defendants charged with drug offenses in the District of Arizona rose from 560 to 565 in FY 2024, up less than 1%. The district had 84.2% of all defendants in the circuit charged with immigration offenses and 15.4% of all defendants with drug offenses in the circuit.

The district with the second highest number of defendants, the Southern District of California, with 3,204 total defendants, of whom 2,806 were charged with immigration and drug offenses, 87.6% of their total. The Southern District of California had 14.5% of all defendants in the circuit charged with immigration offenses and 32% of all defendants with drug offenses in the circuit.

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

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024
Civil Filings	45,131	47,916	6.2%
Criminal Filings	10,802	16,493	52.7%
Total Filings	55,933	64,409	15.2%
Civil Terminations	43,002	49,348	14.8%
Criminal Terminations	11,410	16,229	42.2%
Total Terminations	54,412	65,577	20.5%
Pending Civil Cases	45,925	44,741	-2.6%
Pending Criminal Cases	15,026	15,324	2.0%
Total Pending Cases	60,951	60,065	-1.5%
Civil Case Termination Index (in months)	12.82	10.88	-15.1%
Criminal Case Termination Index (in months)	15.80	11.33	-28.3%
Overall Case Termination Index	13.40	11.00	-17.9%
Median Time Intervals in Months from Filing to Disposition			
Civil Cases Average	6.3	7.1	12.7%
Criminal Defendants Average	7.8	3.9	-50.0%
Civil Cases National Average	8.7	13.7	57.5%
Criminal Defendants National Average	10.4	9.5	-8.7%

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. Median computed only for 10 or more defendants. 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 time intervals are not computed when fewer than 10 cases reported. This table excludes land condemnations, prisoner petitions, deportation reviews, recovery of overpayments and enforcement of judgments. Includes cases filed in previous years as consolidated cases that thereafter were severed into individual cases. For fiscal years prior to 2001, this table included data on recovery of overpayments and enforcement of judgments.

Ninth Circuit district courts reported 987 defendants charged with property offenses, up 6.2%. Under this category, defendants charged with fraud were most numerous, totaling 752, followed by burglary, larceny or theft, 156; embezzlement, 36; forgery and counterfeiting, 17; and 26 for other property offenses.

In the Ninth Circuit, defendants charged with firearms and explosives offenses numbered 1070. Total number of defendants

charged with violent offenses, which includes homicide, robbery, assault and other violent offenses, was 475, up from 474 in FY 2023.

Total pending criminal caseload numbered 15,324, up 2% from FY 2023. Nine of the 15 district courts in the circuit reported fewer pending criminal cases.

### Civil Caseload

During FY 2024, Ninth Circuit district courts reported more new

civil filings, and terminated more cases, ending the year with fewer pending cases. New civil filings rose by 6.2% to 47,916. Total cases terminated was 49,348, up 14.8% from FY 2023. Pending caseload was 44,741, down 2.6%. New civil filings accounted for 74.4% of total caseloads in the district courts.

New private civil cases numbered 38,553 and accounted for 80.5% of all new civil filings in the Ninth Circuit. Major categories of new private civil cases were civil rights, 9,163 cases; prisoner petitions, 8,019; personal injury, 5,343; contracts cases, 4,899; intellectual property, 2,734; and labor matters, 2,080.

The U.S. was a party to 9,363 new civil cases, accounting for 19.5% of the total new civil caseload in the district courts. Among the matters involving the government, Social Security cases were most numerous, 3,270 or 34.9% of the total U.S. civil cases in the Ninth Circuit. Prisoner petitions followed with 904 cases or 9.7%. Other categories were tort actions, 520 cases; civil rights, 383 cases; and forfeitures and penalties, 105 cases.

Prisoner petitions totaled 8,923 or 18.6% of all new Ninth Circuit civil filings. About 87.4% or 7,798 of all prisoner petitions were initially filed pro se. The federal trial courts in Arizona, California and Nevada had the most prisoner petitions, 7,148, accounting for 83.5% of the circuit's total prisoner petitions.

New civil filings increased in 10 of the 15 district courts of the Ninth Circuit. The District of Montana increased 26.8%, that of Hawaii 25.4% and Oregon by 13.6%. The Eastern District of California




increased by 11.9%, Idaho by 10.8%, Nevada by 10.7% and Arizona by 10.2%. The Central District of California increased civil filings by 6.9%, the Western District of Washington increased 1.5% and the Northern District of California by 0.1%. The District of Guam had the largest drop, percentage-wise, decreasing 13.8%, from 29 to 25 filings, NMI dropped 10%, down two filings. The District of Alaska filings decreased by 7.9%, the Eastern District of Washington filings dropped by 5.1%, Southern District of California saw a 3% reduction.

“In our district the civil filing increase occurred across the board, with no particular category driving the increase,” said Clerk of Court

Tyler Gilman, District of Montana. “Our greatest gains were in the pro se prisoner, contract, and tort categories, with the latter two boosted in part by a small MDL case, In re: Snowflake Data Security Breach Litigation.”

### Case Processing Times

Civil case processing times in the district courts of the Ninth Circuit from filing to disposition of civil cases terminated with no court action were up from 6.3 to 7.5 months compared to the prior fiscal year, 1.2 months better than the national median time of 8.3 months. For those cases with court action, the median interval in months was 31.6 months, the same as the national average.

Many criminal cases are disposed of either through a guilty plea or dismissal of the charges. In the Ninth Circuit the median time intervals from filing to termination for criminal defendants was 3.7 months for guilty pleas, down from 7.3 in FY 2023, and 14.7 months for dismissals, down from 15.9 months the prior fiscal year. Median times for the 163 criminal defendants who went to trial decreased in FY 2024 to 16.7 months from 28.1 months in FY 2023 for a bench trial and decreased from 31.9 months in 2023 to 23.2 months in FY 2024 for jury trials. The median time for all criminal dispositions in the Ninth Circuit was 3.9 months, down from 7.8 months in 2023; nationally the median is 9.5 months for all criminal dispositions. 

## 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	2024 Total	2023 Total	Change 2023-2024	Civil	Criminal	Supervision Hearings	2024 Total
Alaska	3	101	128	0.0	229	195	14.7%	107	79	-	173
Arizona	13	276	456	8.4	740	532	39.1%	321	832	105.0	798
C. Calif.	28	612	68	2.5	580	596	-2.6%	568	41	30.4	587
E. Calif.	6	684	100	6.2	790	712	11.0%	819	64	66.0	839
N. Calif.	14	517	58	4.5	682	568	20.1%	556	36	56.2	628
S. Calif.	13	185	255	9.1	449	458	-1.9%	178	246	111.4	551
Hawaii	4	171	35	2.6	209	190	9.9%	163	22	31.3	193
Idaho	2	289	246	6.3	541	492	10.0%	307	171	76.5	515
Montana	3	213	238	9.4	461	401	14.9%	229	155	65.0	383
Nevada	7	407	43	3.6	454	397	14.2%	413	35	41.3	441
Oregon	6	336	127	5.1	468	410	14.1%	365	83	62.3	465
E. Wash.	4	156	126	9.4	291	278	4.7%	197	78	105.0	421
W. Wash.	7	400	68	3.5	472	474	-0.5%	440	69	35.6	540

Note: Case weights are based on the 2015 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.

U.S. District Courts - Criminal Felony Defendants Commenced  
(Excluding Transfers) by Offense and District

	AK	AZ	C. Calif.	E. Calif.	N. Calif.	S. Calif.	GU	HI	ID	MT	NV	NMI	OR	E. Wash.	W. Wash.	Total 2023	Total 2024	Change 2023-2024
<b>Violent Offenses</b>																		
Homicide	0	27	3	0	2	1	0	1	1	6	1	0	0	1	2	54	45	-16.7%
Robbery	8	9	8	4	3	2	0	0	1	4	1	0	12	1	1	43	54	25.6%
Assault	4	67	9	4	3	28	1	0	3	24	10	0	6	23	5	190	187	-1.6%
Other	7	8	60	9	13	6	0	2	6	8	2	0	8	17	5	151	151	0.0%
<b>Property Offenses</b>																		
Burglary, Larceny & Theft	1	24	26	10	11	4	2	1	10	7	4	0	14	2	3	110	119	8.2%
Embezzlement	5	5	6	2	2	0	1	0	0	4	2	0	3	3	1	32	34	6.3%
Fraud	26	80	185	65	83	108	5	2	23	25	18	1	41	31	46	637	739	16.0%
Forgery & Counterfeiting	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	2	3	0	1	0	3	2	0	8	17	112.5%
Other	0	1	4	0	2	2	2	0	1	0	5	0	5	0	1	22	23	4.5%
<b>Drug Offenses</b>																		
Marijuana	2	1	1	1	2	4	0	1	2	15	0	0	1	1	0	29	31	6.9%
All Other Drugs	92	562	473	157	248	1,172	22	40	169	181	64	3	198	115	108	3,567	3,604	1.0%
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	35	235	204	50	65	75	8	10	24	133	54	0	101	31	39	907	1,064	17.3%
Sex Offenses	24	70	51	26	13	43	6	14	35	33	17	2	53	45	43	402	475	18.2%
Justice System Offenses	0	21	6	6	6	31	0	1	3	2	1	0	10	6	6	100	99	-1.0%
<b>Immigration Offenses</b>																		
Improper Reentry	1	8,171	4	10	1	655	0	0	40	3	50	0	9	10	6	3,830	8,960	133.9%
Other	1	1,355	2	1	2	974	3	0	4	0	0	26	0	1	11	1,936	2,380	22.9%
General Offenses	11	26	60	19	23	45	2	9	6	8	2	0	8	13	10	197	242	22.8%
Regulatory Offenses	14	88	36	2	6	32	0	2	8	6	3	1	13	6	5	154	222	44.2%
Traffic Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.0%
<b>All Offenses Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>10,751</b>	<b>1,141</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>3,182</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>12,370</b>	<b>18,447</b>	<b>49.1%</b>

# Bankruptcy Filings Increase for Second Straight Year

Almost all bankruptcy courts in the Ninth Circuit experienced an increase in new filings ranging from 0.9% to 35.3% in fiscal year 2024, the second year of an overall increase in filings. The District of Guam had an 18.2% drop in cases, from 22 to 18, and the District of the Northern Marianas Islands dropped from one case in 2023 to zero filings for 2024.

New bankruptcy filings in the circuit numbered 83,597—up 25.6% from FY 2023 when filings were 66,568. Filings nationwide were up 70,454 new cases, or 16.2%, from 433,658 in FY 2023 to 504,112 in FY 2024.

The Central District of California, which again ranked first in bankruptcy filings nationwide, had the largest numerical increase in the circuit, going from 19,702 in FY 2023 to 24,983 in FY 2024, up 5,281 cases, or 26.8%.

Of the 15 judicial districts in the Ninth Circuit, 13 are served by a bankruptcy court—district judges preside over bankruptcy cases in the districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Western District of Washington had the highest percentage increase in filings at 35.3%, followed by the Eastern District of California with a 30% increase, and the Southern District of California rose from 3,860 to 4,938, up 27.9%.

New filings in the District of Oregon rose from 5,232 to 6,601 new filings, up 26.2%, followed by the Eastern District of Washington which rose 25.4%. The District of Nevada rose 24.2%, which went from 6,436 to 7,992 or 1,556 more cases than the prior fiscal year.

## Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Courts

District	2023 Total Filings	2024 Total Filings	Change 2023-2024
Alaska	214	216	0.9%
Arizona	9,176	10,861	18.4%
C. Calif.	19,702	24,983	26.8%
E. Calif.	7,824	10,168	30.0%
N. Calif.	4,600	5,692	23.7%
S. Calif.	3,860	4,938	27.9%
Guam	22	18	-18.2%
Hawaii	1,038	1,172	12.9%
Idaho	1,677	2,006	19.6%
Montana	626	774	23.6%
Nevada	6,436	7,992	24.2%
<sup>1</sup> N. Mariana Is.	1	0	-
Oregon	5,232	6,601	26.2%
E. Wash	1,612	2,022	25%
W. Wash.	4,548	6,154	35.3%
<b>Circuit Total</b>	<b>66,568</b>	<b>83,597</b>	<b>25.6%</b>

## Business and Nonbusiness Bankruptcy Cases Commenced by Chapter of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code

Predominant Nature of Debt	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024
Business Filings			
Chapter 7	2,240	2,937	31.1%
Chapter 11	765	965	26.1%
Chapter 13	260	304	16.9%
<sup>1</sup> Other Chapters	22	47	113.6%
Nonbusiness Filings			
Chapter 7	49,472	63,091	27.5%
Chapter 11	110	120	9.1%
Chapter 13	13,699	16,133	17.8%
Total	66,568	83,597	25.6%
Terminations	68,374	80,398	17.6%
Pending Cases	67,579	70,795	4.8%

NOTE: The nature of debt is business if the debtor is a corporation or partnership, or if debt related to the operation of a business predominates. Nonbusiness debt includes consumer debt, as defined in Section 101 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, or other debt that the debtor indicates is not consumer debt or business debt. The United States territorial courts assume the jurisdiction of the U.S. bankruptcy courts within their respective territories, which do not have separate bankruptcy courts.

<sup>1</sup>Other Chapters includes cases filed under Chapters 9 (0), 12 (30) and 15 (17) as well as Section 304 (0).

The Northern District of California rose from 4,600 to 5,692, an increase of 23.7%; the District of Montana rose from 626 to 774 filings, a 23.6% increase; the District of Idaho had an increase of 329 filings, or 19.6%; the District of Arizona rose to 10,861 filings, up 18.4%; the District of Hawaii had an increase of 12.9%, going from 1,038 filings to 1,172; and the District of Alaska had a slight increase of 0.9%, going from 214 to 216 filings.

New bankruptcy filings by nonbusiness filers were up across the board in the Ninth Circuit in fiscal year 2024. Total nationwide nonbusiness filings, which involves individual debtors, numbered 481,350 or 95.5% of all new bankruptcy filings in the U.S. Total nonbusiness filings in the Ninth Circuit were up by 25.4% to 79,334 new filings, accounting for 95% of all new filings in the circuit.

New business and nonbusiness Chapter 7 filings were most numerous in the Ninth Circuit, where filings numbered 66,028 or 22.1% of all Chapter 7 filings in the nation and 79% of all new filings in the circuit.

Chapter 13 filings, which allow individuals with regular income to develop a plan to repay all or part of their debts, numbered 195,971 nationally a 10% increase over FY 2023. In the Ninth Circuit, new Chapter 13 filings were 16,437, up 17.8% from FY 2023 and 19.7% of all bankruptcy filings in the circuit. Chapters 11 filings made up the remainder.

## **Pro Se Bankruptcy Filings**

Bankruptcy cases filed by parties who do not have legal counsel are pro se filers, whose cases result in frequent dismissals because they often are not familiar or lack understanding of the law and legal procedures. In general, pro se filers require more staff time to process their cases.

Bankruptcy filings by pro se debtors in the Ninth Circuit were up by 20% to 9,064 in fiscal year 2024. Pro se filers accounted for 10.8% of all bankruptcy filings in the circuit. The Central District of California reported the second-highest number of pro se bankruptcy cases nationwide with 2,970 new filings, accounting for 32.8% of all pro se bankruptcy filings in the circuit.

The District of Arizona ranked sixth nationwide with 1,479 pro se filings, up 25.2% from the prior fiscal year. Filings in the Eastern District of California were up by 22.4% to 1,381, and the District of Nevada was up 20.6% to 551 cases. More cases were reported in all other districts except Alaska which went from 58 cases in 2023 to 49 cases a drop of 15.5%.

## **Termination and Pending Cases**

In the Ninth Circuit, bankruptcy cases terminated totaled were up 17.6% to 80,398 or 16.3% of the 494,468 bankruptcy cases closed nationwide in fiscal year 2024.

The Central District of California terminated 23,958 cases or 29.8% of all cases closed in the circuit.

The District of Arizona had 10,316 cases closed or 12.8%; the Eastern District of California had 9,435 cases closed or 11.7%; the District of Nevada had 7,655 cases closed or 9.5%; the District of Oregon had 6,303 cases closed or 7.8%; the Northern District of California had 5,769 cases terminated or 7.2%; and the Western District of Washington had 6,006 cases closed or 7.5%. The districts of Alaska, Southern California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Northern Mariana Islands and Eastern Washington made up the remaining 10,956 cases terminated in the circuit.

Pending cases in the circuit increased from 67,579 in FY 2023 to 70,795, an increase of 4.8% cases in fiscal year 2024. The Central District of California had 16,254 pending cases, up 6.8%; the District of Arizona with 12,043 cases, up 4.7%; the Northern District of California with 6,772 cases, down 1.2% and the Eastern District of California with 8,042 cases, up 10%. Total pending cases nationwide numbered 664,827, up 1.5% from FY 2023. ♦



# United States Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Ninth Circuit

The BAP operates under authority of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit to hear appeals from the bankruptcy courts of the circuit. All district courts within the Ninth Circuit have issued general orders providing for the automatic referral of bankruptcy appeals to the BAP. However, if any party files a timely election, the appeal is transferred to the appropriate district court according to the consent rule.

Six bankruptcy judges from the circuit are appointed to serve seven-year terms on the BAP; each BAP judge may be reappointed to an additional three-year term. In their appellate capacity, BAP judges are precluded from hearing matters arising from the districts in which they are designated to hear bankruptcy cases.

## New Filings

For the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2024, total new bankruptcy appeals filed in the circuit was 398, a decrease of 3% when compared to FY 2023. The BAP handled 46% of all bankruptcy appeals and the district courts handled 54%.

## Dispositions

The BAP disposed of 179 appeals. Of those, 68 appeals were merits terminations. Oral argument was held in 56 appeals. Twelve appeals were submitted on briefs. The BAP published seven opinions, 10% of merits decisions. The reversal rate was 3%. The percentage of cases either reversed or remanded was 10%. The median time for an appeal decided on the merits was 8.8 months. Of the remaining 92 closed cases, four were terminated by consolidation and 24 were transferred to the district courts after appellee elections or in the interest of justice. The remaining 83 closed appeals were terminated on procedural grounds, such as for lack of prosecution, lack of jurisdiction or voluntary dismissal. The BAP ended FY 2024 with 114 appeals pending, up 33% compared to FY 2023.

## Pro Se Appeals

BAP pro se filings equaled 52% of new appeals in FY 2024. Fifty percent of BAP cases closed were

initiated by pro se parties. At fiscal year's end, the BAP pro se caseload equaled 59% of pending appeals, up from 55% at the end of FY 2023.

## Appeals to the Ninth Circuit

Appeals from a bankruptcy decision of either the BAP or a district court may be filed with the court of appeals for second-level appellate review. In FY 2024, 120 second-level appeals were filed, a decrease of 18% compared to FY 2023. Of these, 46 were appeals from decisions by the BAP and 74 were from decisions by the district courts. Thus, of the 179 appeals that were disposed of by the BAP, roughly 74% were fully resolved, with only 26% seeking second-level review.

## Oral Arguments

The BAP conducted oral arguments in person, by video, and in hybrid formats to resolve cases as expeditiously as possible. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit assisted with the

## Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appeal Filings, 2022-2024

Year	Bankruptcy Appeals Total	Raw Bankruptcy Appeals Received by BAP <sup>1</sup>	Net Bankruptcy Appeals BAP <sup>2</sup>	Net Bankruptcy Appeals District Court <sup>3</sup>	Election Rate <sup>4</sup>	Percentage of Appeals Heard by BAP
FY 2022	449	273	225	224	50%	50%
FY 2023	410	217	177	233	57%	43%
FY 2024	398	207	183	215	54%	46%

<sup>1</sup>Number 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.)

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

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

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

video and livestreamed BAP oral arguments, enabling widespread access to the proceedings.

### Pro Tem Judges

The BAP used two newer bankruptcy judges on a pro tem basis, providing them the opportunity to review trial work from the appellate perspective.

### New BAP Chief Judge


In July 2024, Judge William J. Lafferty III, of the Northern District of California, was selected as the BAP's chief judge, succeeding Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris, of the District of Hawaii, who served as the BAP's chief judge from 2022 to 2024.

### Outreach

The BAP continued its outreach efforts to current and future bar members, including luncheons with local bankruptcy attorneys in conjunction with oral argument sittings in Honolulu and Seattle. The BAP participated in the Bankruptcy Appeals 101 Program sponsored by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, including pre- and post-argument video conference discussions with bankruptcy court externs and law clerks from throughout the judiciary. Local students and externs were hosted

at the Richard H. Chambers U.S. Court of Appeals building in Pasadena for arguments while others watched via livestream.

BAP judges and the BAP clerk also played important roles in the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Annual Meeting and Conference in Seattle. Judge Lafferty served as educational chair for the program, which included

several sessions addressing bankruptcy appeals. Judge Faris ran a pre-conference practical appellate skills program, supported by the BAP clerk, with circuit, district, and BAP judges from throughout the country, including four Ninth Circuit BAP judges, providing feedback to participants on oral argument sessions and briefs. 

### New Bankruptcy Appeal Filings

District	Bankruptcy Appellate Panel	District Court <sup>1</sup>	Total
Alaska	0	4	4
Arizona	20	20	40
C. Calif.	58	98	156
E. Calif.	19	12	31
N. Calif.	20	24	44
S. Calif.	8	17	25
Hawaii	7	1	8
Idaho	2	0	2
Montana	1	0	1
Nevada	22	21	43
Oregon	2	5	7
E. Wash.	3	4	7
W. Wash.	21	9	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>183 (46%)</b>	<b>215 (54%)</b>	<b>398</b>

<sup>1</sup> The 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.

# Magistrate Judges See Significant Increase in Workload

Magistrate judges make substantial contributions to the work of the federal trial courts involving a variety of judicial matters. Their work includes presiding over preliminary hearings and detention hearings, issuing search and arrest warrants, conducting settlement conferences in civil cases and pretrial conferences in criminal cases, handling petty offenses and taking felony pleas. Magistrate judges decide trial jurisdiction matters, review prisoner petitions and perform other duties. They may preside over civil trials with consent of the parties.

The largest category of matters presided over by magistrate judges is felony preliminary proceedings, which include complaints, initial appearances, search warrants, arraignments, detention hearings, arrest warrants, preliminary hearings, summonses, bail reviews, forfeitures, Nebbia hearings, attorney appointments and material witness hearings. Magistrate judges disposed of 135,383 felony preliminary proceedings, or 25.2% of the national total, up 32.5% from FY 2023.

Miscellaneous matters handled by magistrate judges of the Ninth Circuit totaled 19,180, up 13.9% from FY 2023. Calendar calls, grand jury and other jury matters, and non-dispositive motions made up 15,475 of those matters, 80.7% of the circuit total.

Additional duties related to criminal pretrial matters disposed of in FY 2024 numbered 53,507 up 19.5%. Non-dispositive and dispositive motions, pretrial conferences, evidentiary hearings, probation and supervised release revocation hearings, guilty plea and evidentiary proceedings, motion hearings, reentry/drug court proceedings, writs and mental competency proceedings fall under this category. Non-dispositive motions total was 26,424, up 5.5% from 25,058, while dispositive motions total was 168, down 14.3% from 196, in FY 2024.

Additional duties involving civil pretrial matters were up 11.6% from 29,909 to 33,386. This category includes non-dispositive motions/grants of in forma pauperis, or IFP, status, other pretrial conferences, settlement conferences/mediations, other civil dispositive motions, evidentiary proceedings, social security appeals, special master references, summary jury/other ADR/early neutral evaluations, motion hearings and fee applications.

Class A misdemeanor and petty offenses cases disposed of by magistrate judges increased 102.6% from 10,597 to 21,473. Class A misdemeanors were up 19.1%, from 556 to 662 in FY 2024. Petty offenses were up 107% from 10,041 to 20,811, 55.3% of the national total of 39,047. Over half, 11,356, or 53.3% were immigration offenses as opposed to only

34.4% of the national total due to immigration offenses. Of the total, 62%, or 12,897 were convicted, all but 12 pled guilty.

Civil consent cases terminated, in which a magistrate judge presides at the consent of the parties, were up 3% from 4,819 to 4,963. All but 45 cases under this category were disposed of without trial.

Prisoner petitions were up 3.7% from 8,263 to 8,567. The bulk of the work under this category involves civil rights prisoner petitions, down 0.4%. State habeas prisoner petitions rose by 5.2% in FY 2024.



## Matters Disposed of by Ninth Circuit Magistrate Judges

	2023	2024	Percent Change 2023-2024
<b>Total Matters</b>	<b>225,784</b>	<b>285,233</b>	<b>26.3%</b>
<b>Felony Preliminary Proceedings</b>	<b>102,147</b>	<b>135,383</b>	<b>32.5%</b>
Search Warrants	25,251	32,924	30.4%
Arrest Warrants	7,057	8,082	14.5%
Summonses	1,104	996	-9.8%
Complaints	12,517	15,859	26.7%
Initial Appearances	18,817	25,629	36.2%
Preliminary Hearings	6,515	10,926	67.7%
Arraignments	11,472	16,084	40.2%
Detention Hearings	13,109	18,214	38.9%
Bail Reviews/Forfeitures/Nebbia Hearings	1,615	1,670	3.4%
<sup>1</sup> Other	4,690	4,999	6.6%
<b>Trial Jurisdiction Defendants</b>	<b>10,597</b>	<b>21,473</b>	<b>102.6%</b>
Class A Misdemeanor	556	662	19.1%
Petty Offense	10,041	20,811	107%
<b>Civil Consent Cases Terminated</b>	<b>4,819</b>	<b>4,963</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
Without Trial	4,778	4,918	2.9%
Jury Trial	29	30	3.4%
Bench Trial	12	15	25.0%
<b>Criminal Pretrial Matters</b>	<b>44,768</b>	<b>53,507</b>	<b>19.5%</b>
Reports and Recommendations on Dispositive Motions	196	168	-14.3%
Non-Dispositive Motions	25,058	26,424	5.5%
Pretrial Conferences	6,964	7,106	2.0%
Evidentiary Hearings	108	149	38.0%
Guilty Plea Proceedings	7,988	13,488	68.9%
Probation and Supervised Release Revocation Hearings	1,868	1,887	1.0%
Reentry/Drug Court Proceedings	1,355	2,755	103.3%
<sup>2</sup> Other	1,427	1,530	7.2%
<b>Civil Pretrial Matters</b>	<b>29,909</b>	<b>33,386</b>	<b>11.6%</b>
Reports and Recommendations on Dispositive Motions	2,128	2,390	12.3%
Orders on Non-Dispositive Motions	17,997	19,843	10.3%
Settlement Conferences/Mediations	2,880	3,090	7.3%
Other Pretrial Conferences	3,977	4,080	2.6%
<sup>3</sup> Fee Applications and Grants of IFP Status	727	910	25.2%
<sup>4</sup> Other	2,200	3,073	39.7%
<b>Reports and Recommendations</b>	<b>16,526</b>	<b>17,134</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
Prisoner Petitions	8,263	8,567	3.7%
State Habeas	1,567	1,649	5.2%
Federal Habeas	292	418	43.2%
Civil Rights	3,808	3,575	-6.1%
Social Security Appeals	272	367	34.9%
Special Master References	0	0	-
Other Civil Dispositive Motions	2,128	2,390	12.3%
Criminal Dispositive Motions	196	168	-14.3%
<b>Evidentiary Proceedings Conducted</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>15%</b>
<sup>5</sup> Miscellaneous Matters	<b>16,838</b>	<b>19,180</b>	<b>13.9%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes attorney appointment hearings and material witness hearings.

<sup>2</sup>Includes mental competency proceedings, motion hearings and writs.

<sup>3</sup>Beginning in September 2021, this category no longer includes grants of in forma pauperis status in cases involving prisoners and Social Security.

<sup>4</sup>Includes summary jury/other and ADR/early neutral evaluations, and motion hearings/oral arguments. Beginning in September 2021, the motion hearings/oral arguments category includes evidentiary hearings.

<sup>5</sup>Includes seizure/inspection warrants and orders of entry, IRS enforcement, judgment debtor exams, extradition hearings, contempt matters, CJA fee applications, international prisoner transfer proceedings, calendar calls, voir dire, grand jury/other jury, naturalization proceedings and non-dispositive motions.



# Federal Public Defenders Increases in Opened and Closed Cases Reflect National Trend

The Office of the Federal Public Defender was created by Congress to fulfill the constitutional requirement that financially eligible individuals be guaranteed the right to representation by counsel. Criminal defendants facing prosecution in federal courts are provided with legal representation at no cost. Congress provides funds to the Defender Services Division of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts for this purpose.

Federal public defender offices, which are staffed by federal judiciary employees, and community defender organizations, which are nonprofit organizations staffed by nongovernment employees, 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 the courts of appeals select and appoint the federal public defender for a renewable four-year term. In the Ninth Circuit, FPD applicants are evaluated by both a local screening committee and the court's Standing Committee on Federal Public Defenders, applying Equal Opportunity guidelines. The court makes its initial appointment after a nationwide recruitment and the use of its local screening committee. An incumbent 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. Community defenders are appointed by members of the board of directors in their organization, and their performance are reviewed periodically.

we identified every California Eastern defendant still in the Bureau of Prisons to determine whether they might benefit from the US Sentencing Commission's retroactive application of its Zero Point subtraction and the change

## Ninth Circuit Federal Defender Organizations: Cases Opened, Closed and Pending

Cases	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2023-2024
Opened	27,940	21,670	22,384	23,250	28,495	22.6%
Closed	24,809	23,680	24,404	25,038	27,676	10.5%
Pending	16,151	14,123	12,100	10,304	11,125	8.0%

Federal defenders and community defenders in the Ninth Circuit opened 28,495 cases, up 22.6% in fiscal year 2024. Total cases opened nationwide numbered 114,490 in FY 2024, up 37.3% from FY 2023.

Reflecting the national numbers, federal defenders and community defenders in the Ninth Circuit reported more cases opened in every district in FY 2024. Percentage wise, the FPD Office in the Eastern District of California had the largest increase, up 50% from 919 to 1,378. Next was the District of Guam up 47% from 115 to 169 cases, followed by the Northern District of California, up 46.8% from 1,812 to 2,660, the District of Alaska, up 39.9% from 313 to 438 and the Southern District of California up 34.2% from 4,907 to 6,583.

"The increase of FD-CAE cases opened between FY 2023 and FY 2024 is primarily due to Guideline retroactivity consultations, where

to Criminal History status points amendments effective November 1, 2023," said FPD Heather Williams, Eastern District of California.

"These consultations don't carry a high case weight, so, while the number of cases opened increased, our case weights actually fell between FY 2023 at 1,073 and FY 2024 to 1,024. (This is) vital work which might help some clients spend less prison time but would not help with staffing our office," she said.

The District of Alaska had substantial increases in both openings and closings. "We opened several cases regarding the retroactive application of USSC's Guidelines Amendment 821, Sentencing Guidelines Retroactivity (SGR); specifically, 128 SGR cases were opened, and we closed 115," said FPD Jamie McGrady, District of Alaska.

## Federal Defender Organizations: Summary of Representations by District

District	Opened 2023	Opened 2024	Change 2023-2024	Closed 2023	Closed 2024	Change 2023-2024	Pending 2024
Alaska	313	438	40%	305	415	36.1%	279
Arizona	6,266	6,852	9.4%	6,611	6,872	3.9%	1,354
C. Calif.	2,976	3,142	5.6%	3,014	3,258	8.1%	2,071
E. Calif.	919	1,378	50%	1,391	1,083	-22.1%	628
N. Calif.	1,812	2,660	46.8%	1,879	2,579	37.3%	792
<sup>1</sup> S. Calif.	4,907	6,583	34.2%	5,484	6,265	14.2%	1,620
Guam	115	169	47%	124	155	25.0%	65
Hawaii	394	451	14.5%	410	451	10.0%	174
Idaho	396	474	19.7%	401	447	11.5%	237
<sup>1</sup> Montana	748	891	19.1%	754	848	12.5%	298
Nevada	862	1,018	18.1%	943	1,070	13.5%	932
Oregon	1,436	1,894	32%	1,900	1,348	-29.1%	1,699
<sup>1</sup> E. Wash.	1,056	1,176	11.4%	1,069	1,242	16.2%	512
W. Wash.	1,050	1,369	30.4%	1,061	1,335	25.8%	464
<b>Circuit Total</b>	<b>23,250</b>	<b>28,495</b>	<b>22.6%</b>	<b>25,346</b>	<b>27,368</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>11,125</b>
National Total	83,302	114,490	37.4%	89,521	108,614	21.3%	57,091
Circuit Total as % of National Total	27.9%	24.9%	-3.0%	28.3%	25.2%	-3.1%	19.5%


<sup>1</sup>Community Defender Organizations

Note: 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.

“The Northern District of California has historically experienced significant year-to-year fluctuations in case filings, and the dramatic increase from last year to this year is yet another example of that pattern,” said FPD Jodi Linker, Northern District of California. “The primary driver of the increase in caseloads is the continued over-federalization of cases involving low-level hand-to-hand drug sales. These cases, which traditionally were filed primarily in state court unless certain extenuating factors were present, are being regularly filed

in our district. Indeed, we saw a dramatic increase in such cases in FY 2023, and they went up even more in FY 2024.

Federal defenders and community defenders in the circuit closed 27,676 cases, up from 25,038 cases in FY 2024, a 10.5% increase in closed cases. Pending cases in the Ninth Circuit were up 8% from 10,304 to 11,125 in FY 2024. Cases closed nationwide totaled 108,614 up 23.6% from 87,900, while pending caseload nationwide rose 11.5% to 57,091 from 51,192 cases in FY 2024.

Percentage wise, the FPD Office in the Northern District of California had the largest increase, closing 37.3% more cases than FY 2023, going from 1,879 to 2,579. The next greatest increase was in the District of Alaska with 36.1% more closed cases, going from 305 to 415, followed by the Western District of Washington, up 25.8%, going from 1,061 to 1,335 cases closed, and followed closely by the District of Guam which closed 25% more cases, going from 124 to 155 cases in FY 2024. 

# U.S. Probation in the Ninth Circuit

U.S. probation offices continue to face challenges presented during the COVID era including a heavier workload, significant budget challenges and the resulting issues in recruiting. Despite these challenges, probation officers throughout the Ninth Circuit continue to take pride in their work and fulfill their mission to serve the federal courts and the public by helping ensure the fair administration of justice and protecting the community.

## Presentence Reports

U.S. probation offices in the Ninth Circuit submitted 9,603 presentence reports in 2024. This number is down about 1,400 reports from the prior year. The number of reports submitted covers 17% of all reports submitted in the nation. There is a wide range of offenses for the reports but there are a few that stand out. Immigration offenses cover 3,547 of the reports and drug offenses are 3,126 of the reports. These two types of offenses cover 69% of all the reports. Firearms and property offense are the next tier with 903 and 878 respectively. The third tier of offenses is violence with 457 reports and sex offenses with 380 reports. Escape/obstruction, public order and other round out the list.

## Post-Conviction Supervision

Total persons under post-conviction supervision by Ninth Circuit probation offices was 23,250, down 1.6% from FY 2023 but still makes up 19% of the total number in the nation. The Ninth Circuit has three of the five offices nationwide supervising the highest number of

people in the District of Arizona, Central District of California and Southern District of California.

## Early Termination

U.S. probation offices in the Ninth Circuit significantly increased their early terminations in FY 2024 with a total of 2,553 cases, which is about 800 more than FY 2023. The early terminations in the circuit make up 27% of the national total. The significant increase is due in part to an organizational change in the U.S. Probation Office in the Southern District of California to eliminate an administrative caseload and to evaluate all cases for possible early termination. The Southern District of California led the nation with 759 early termination cases followed by the District of Arizona with 591 cases.

## District Activities

The U.S. Probation Offices in the Ninth Circuit provide the courts with objective information to support fair sentences; to protect their communities; and to promote change in the people they supervise. They are proud of their individual and joint contributions to the judicial system. Each district throughout the Ninth Circuit has their individual projects and focus, a few of which are described below.

### District of Arizona

The District of Arizona continues to invest in specialty courts. The Veterans Court Program in Phoenix assists eligible persons involved with pretrial or probation, who have served in the military.

The direct access to veterans' services, at no cost to the court, is a critical component of the success of participants. There is a collaborative case management approach, which helps veterans efficiently find the services and supports they need.

The Northern Arizona Re-Entry Courts in Chinle and Page, Arizona, provide people under supervision with unique and local access to the federal court while respecting their culture and heritage, along with creating partnerships to promote positive and lasting change through a culturally informed approach.

The Arizona Supervision to Aid in Reentry specialty court is targeted for high-risk individuals on supervision. The program addresses barriers like financial hardship, limited resources, and geographic isolation, and collaborates with community partners to reduce recidivism and promote long-term stability.

### Eastern District of California

In 2024, the Eastern District of California supported other districts in need, raising funds for displaced persons under supervision affected by the fire in the District of Hawaii; serving on interview panels for the Northern District of California and District of Alaska; and providing critical support in a multidistrict effort for staff in the Southern District of California after losing a fellow officer. The Eastern District also received valuable assistance from the Northern and Southern Districts of California to help address the district's presentence report backlog.

## Probation: Persons Under Post-Conviction Supervision by District

District	From Courts	From Institutions			Persons Under Supervision, 2023	Persons Under Supervision, 2024	Change 2023-2024
	<sup>1</sup> Probation	Supervised Release	<sup>2</sup> Parole	<sup>3</sup> BOP Custody			
Arizona	930	3,774	11	0	4,723	4,715	-0.2%
C. Calif.	533	4,922	17	0	5,470	5,472	0.04%
E. Calif.	125	1,542	9	6	1,736	1,682	-3.1%
N. Calif.	135	1,346	1	4	1,648	1,486	-9.8%
S. Calif.	239	3,578	3	0	3,986	3,820	-4.2%
Guam	14	65	0	4	95	83	-12.6%
Hawaii	27	391	1	5	452	424	-6.2%
Idaho	80	610	0	9	706	699	-1.0%
Montana	70	728	1	5	802	804	0.25%
Nevada	116	996	3	1	1,101	1,116	1.4%
N. Mariana Is.	1	25	0	1	25	27	8.0%
Oregon	97	915	7	13	1,000	1,032	3.2%
E. Wash	39	583	0	0	618	622	0.6%
W. Wash.	86	833	15	0	967	934	-3.4%
<b>Circuit Total</b>	<b>2,519</b>	<b>20,612</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>23,640</b>	<b>23,250</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes conditional release, probation and the former categories known as judge probation and magistrate judge probation.

<sup>2</sup>Includes parole, special parole, mandatory release and military parole.

<sup>3</sup>BOP accounts for Bureau of Prisons Federal Location Monitoring and Elderly Home Confinement (effective Jan. 26, 2020).

## Probation: Persons Under Post-Conviction

Post-Conviction Supervision	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024
<sup>1</sup> From Courts	2,638	2,519	-4.5%
<sup>2</sup> From Institutions	21,002	20,731	-1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,640</b>	<b>23,250</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes conditional release, probation and the former categories known as judge probation and magistrate judge probation.

<sup>2</sup>Includes parole, special parole, mandatory release and military parole. BOP accounts for Bureau of Prisons Federal Location Monitoring and Elderly Home Confinement (effective Jan. 26, 2020).


The district has established two post-conviction specialist units to support its highest-risk and needs persons under supervision. The district also continues a successful Employee Recognition Program, with nominations solicited year-round, and participated in multi-agency initiatives such as Reentry Court, Wellness Court, and Resource and Employment Fairs.

### Northern District of California

The Northern District of California hosted a three-day Ninth Circuit Safety Instructor Training held Sept. 24-26, 2024. Officers from the Central District of California, Eastern District of California, Southern District of California, Arizona, Idaho and Oregon districts participated in the training.

The Northern District of California also selected four venues for community outreach. The office volunteered at the Bay Area Rescue Mission in Richmond, Loaves and Fishes Family Kitchen in San Jose, the Restorative Justice Ministry in San Francisco and the Sonoma County Redwood Empire Food Bank.

### Southern District of California

The Southern District of California is the only U.S. Probation Office with a chaplain program, staffed by two local volunteer firefighter chaplains. A peer support program was also developed in 2024, and together the two programs support staff in their times of need and well-being. 



# Pretrial Services Offices Remaining Mission Focused and Data Driven

U.S. Pretrial Services offices in the Ninth Circuit remain mission focused, and data driven, enabling the offices to monitor outcomes, adjust practices, and continuously improve the effectiveness of pretrial services. Remaining mission focused has meant managing risk, providing accurate information to judges and supporting defendants through the pretrial process and beyond. Officers collect and verify information to provide accurate, objective and comprehensive recommendations to the court.

## Defendants Under Pretrial Supervision

A defendant’s first interaction with the court system is through pretrial services officers who are tasked to interview defendants, verify their information and prepare reports with a recommendation on release or detention. Upon release, officers ensure defendant compliance through community-based supervision and partnerships. Officers’ strategies to mitigate defendants’ risk and need, minimizing their likelihood of rearrest.

## Case Activations

In fiscal year 2024, U.S. Pretrial Services in the Ninth Circuit activated 21,066 new cases, representing a 15.9% increase in activations. Comparatively, case activations nationwide were 72,587, up 1.8% from FY 2023. In FY 2024, the Ninth Circuit ranked first in cases activated, accounting for 29% of all new cases.

## Pretrial Services Caseload

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024
Reports	17,964	20,885	16.3%
Interviews	7,275	7,369	1.3%
Cases Activated	18,163	21,066	16.0%

## Pretrial Bail Reports and Supervision

U.S. Pretrial Services in the Ninth Circuit ranked first nationally in prebail reports prepared which totaled 20,647. Bail reports were completed in 98% of all cases activated. Excluding immigration cases, officers made recommendations for initial pretrial release to the court in 56.6% of cases, the highest rate of any circuit nationally, while assistant U.S. attorneys in the circuit recommended release in 42.9% of cases.

During FY 2024, 4,985 defendants were supervised by pretrial services, an increase of 1.7% from the 4,889 defendants in FY 2023. Defendants who were supervised by pretrial services included 3,602 for regular supervision, 1,336 on a courtesy basis from another district or circuit, and 47 for pretrial diversion supervision, including courtesy supervision diversion cases.

## Detention Summary

The Ninth Circuit detained 23,108 defendants during FY 2024. Defendants were detained an average of 283 days during this same period. The courts located

along the U.S.-Mexico border, the Southern District of California and the District of Arizona, reported the highest number of defendants detained and collectively accounted for 70.4% of all defendants detained in the circuit. The Southern District of California detained 3,625 defendants, and the District of Arizona detained 12,643 defendants. The Ninth Circuit accounted for 18.2% of the total days of defendant incarceration nationally.

## Violations

Of the 11,462 cases in release status during FY 2024, cases with violations reported to the court numbered 1,883 (16.4% of all cases in release status). They included 48 violations due to a felony rearrest, 47 violations due to a misdemeanor rearrest and 130 for failure to appear. The remaining violations included 1,753 technical violations for noncompliance with court ordered conditions of release, such as violations of location monitoring conditions, positive urine tests for illicit substances, possession of contraband, or failure to report to a supervising officer. The circuit experienced a reduction in the percent of cases with violations from FY 2023.

## Pretrial Services Caseload by District

District	Defendant Contact		Written Reports		No Reports Made	Total Cases Activated 2023	Total Cases Activated 2024	Change 2023-2024
	Interviewed	<sup>1</sup> Not Interviewed	<sup>2</sup> Prebail	Postbail				
Alaska	78	131	205	0	4	172	209	21.5%
Arizona	2,051	9,158	11,132	20	57	8,571	11,209	30.8%
C. Calif.	1,253	124	1,367	9	1	1,245	1,377	10.6%
E. Calif.	196	237	417	10	6	443	433	-2.3%
N. Calif.	331	224	430	123	2	426	555	30.3%
S. Calif.	1,920	2,691	4,512	60	39	4,591	4,611	0.4%
Guam	42	7	48	1	0	47	49	4.3%
Hawaii	91	14	103	0	2	135	105	-22.2%
Idaho	137	214	346	0	5	357	351	-1.7%
Montana	335	136	470	1	0	460	471	2.4%
Nevada	256	86	336	0	6	333	342	2.7%
N. Mariana Is.	29	0	29	0	0	37	29	-21.6%
Oregon	280	208	478	1	9	476	488	2.5%
E. Wash.	137	204	299	3	39	321	341	6.2%
W. Wash.	233	263	475	10	11	549	496	-9.7%
<b>Circuit Total</b>	<b>7,369</b>	<b>13,697</b>	<b>20,647</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>18,163</b>	<b>21,066</b>	<b>16.0%</b>
National Total	40,238	32,349	67,792	1,624	3,171	73,690	72,587	-1.5%
Circuit % of National	18.3%	42.3%	30.5%	14.7%	5.7%	24.6%	29.0%	4.4%

### Evidence-Based Practices for Pretrial Services

Pretrial Services offices in the circuit continue to utilize evidence-based practices to mitigate a defendant's risk of non-appearance and danger to the community. Specifically, these practices include the use of the Pretrial Services Risk Assessment (PTRA) instrument and Staff Training Aimed at Reducing Re-Arrest (STARR).

The Pretrial Risk Assessment (PTRA) is an objective and validated assessment tool which predicts a defendant's risk of failure-to-appear, rearrest and revocation of pretrial release. The instrument is used to make informed, least restrictive, bail recommendations to the court and to assess the appropriate level of supervision for defendants.

Another evidence-based practiced utilized in the Ninth Circuit is Staff Training Aimed at Reducing Re-Arrest (STARR). STARR focuses on building rapport with defendants by actively listening and targeting interventions to thought patterns. Using STARR not only supports communication between the officer and the defendant but also provides the defendant the opportunity to learn skills to change maladaptive thinking patterns, resulting in long-term behavior changes that reduce the likelihood of recidivism. The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts continues to support extensive training opportunities for officers to learn and enhance STARR skills, including training for new users and coaches.

### Specialty Court Programs

In FY 2024, pretrial services offices in the Ninth Circuit continued to operate specialty courts. Specialty courts in the circuit provided defendants with an alternative to traditional prosecution by focusing on rehabilitation. Defendants in these courts are given the opportunity to address underlying issues such as substance use disorders, mental health disorders, and significant trauma in exchange for reduced or dismissed charges upon successful completion.

The Southern District of California has operated the longest running pretrial diversion program in the Ninth Circuit commencing in November 2010. The Alternative to Prison Solutions Diversion Program (APSD) involves

voluntarily participation in a court-supervised, intensive pretrial supervision program aimed at early intervention, rehabilitation, employment and education. The APSD program requires 12 months of compliance, including attending regular court hearings where the participant's progress is discussed with a magistrate judge. All participants enter a guilty plea before a magistrate judge. The plea is held, and proceedings are suspended. Upon successful completion of the period of supervision, the government moves to dismiss the charges.

The APSD program's primary goal of utilizing an early intervention approach to reduce recidivism has historically yielded favorable results. During the initial 10-year period, 936 individuals entered the program with 88% successfully completing it. Of note, there is a 4.8% recidivism rate for program graduates. During FY 2024, 154 participants entered the program with 90% of participants graduating from the program.

Additionally, the Southern District of California operates a Veteran's Treatment Court. Formed in 2016, it offers an alternative to conviction and incarceration for veterans who suffer from significant service-related injuries and entered the federal criminal justice system. The Southern District of California's Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) co-administered by the U.S. Attorney's Office and U.S. District Court, is an intensive, multiphase diversion program leveraging federal, state, and local resources to provide participating veteran-defendants with access to expanded pretrial supervision services, wraparound support and rehabilitation

programming, and the opportunity to avoid the consequences of a federal felony conviction through dismissal of charges with prejudice upon graduation. Veterans returning home from service face unique and significant challenges that can impact their behavior and interaction with the criminal justice system, and this program affords veterans the opportunity to change the trajectory of their lives.

The Northern District of California continues to be one of the leaders in Alternative to Incarceration (ATI) programs, offering an array of unique programs to meet the needs of the local defendant population. Since 2015, the district has operated the Conviction Alternatives Program (CAP), a post-plea/presentence drug court program with over 135 graduates to date. The Leading Emerging Adults to Develop Success (LEADS) deferred sentencing program serves young adults between the ages of 18 and 26, providing participants assessment and targeted support services that focus on skill building, addressing criminogenic needs and achieving personal goals. The district implemented a new Veterans Court deferred sentencing program to assist defendants with a history of active-duty service to address their identified risks and needs. Additionally, the district approved the implementation of a Restorative Justice Court to reach defendants with unique needs or who are not otherwise eligible for other ATI programs. Participants of these ATI programs will work closely with an assigned officer and a social worker for resource support and case management. Successful ATI participants are eligible to receive a non-custodial

sentence, a dismissal of their charges, or a reduction in the sentence imposed by the court.

Through FY 2024, the District of Nevada continued its collaboration with the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Public Defender's Office, and judicial partners in the Recovery, Inspiration, Support & Excellence (RISE) Program. This court-led, treatment-centered program is designed to focus on defendants with a documented history of substance use disorder whose history of criminal justice involvement is linked to the substance use disorder. The RISE Program completed its fourth year as a permanent program in the District of Nevada and its sixth year since inception as a pilot program. Eight individuals participated in the RISE Program throughout the year, and FY2024 celebrated graduations of the RISE Program's 12th and 13th participants, a culmination of months of rigorous effort resulting in dismissal of the pending charges. A highlight during the year was a "friends and family" event held during a regularly scheduled RISE hearing, which provided an opportunity for loved ones of participants to join the program to offer their support and gain a deeper understanding of this important aspect of the participants' lives.

The District of Oregon continues to operate its Court Assisted Pretrial Services (CAPS) program. CAPS provides resources and active supervision for criminal defendants whose criminal history, charged crimes, and other relevant data would make it unlikely for that defendant to be released based on typical considerations under the Bail Reform Act. The program

involves collaboration between the defendant, the court, an AUSA, an assistant FPD and a pretrial services officer. The district also completed a pilot deferred sentencing program, which is an alternative to incarceration court. It is a post-guilty plea program, for select defendants, designed to enhance community safety and reduce recidivism by focusing on the correlation between thinking and behavior.

The District of Arizona continues to operate the ICAN (Incarceration and Conviction Alternatives Network) in Tucson, under the direction of District Judge Rosemary Márquez and Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Rateau. It is a post-guilty plea diversion program created in conjunction with the court, U.S. Attorney's Office, FPD's Office and the Pretrial Services Division. The program takes a team approach to address both positive and negative behavior to facilitate positive prosocial change. In 2024, the program had eight participants.

### **Community Outreach and Notable Recognitions**


U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services officers in the Southern District of California participated in the May 2024 Torch Run supporting the Special Olympics in their community.

In partnership with Courage to Call, the Southern District of California participated in an annual military holiday toy drive spreading the holiday cheer by donating toys to military families in their community.

In November 2024, Program Development Specialist Gustavo Rangel, of the Northern District of California Pretrial Services, was inducted into the California Social Work Hall of Distinction where he was recognized for his role in the district's ATI programs, addressing the whole-person needs of individuals, and pioneering the district's Master's In Social Work (MSW) Forensic Student Internship Program.

The District of Oregon's Pretrial Services Office remains mindful of the impact of its work on the community. The office continues its partnership with a local community agency to sponsor underprivileged children for the holidays. This has been a fulfilling tradition for staff and a positive way to engage with the community.

For the fourth year in a row, U.S. Pretrial Services partnered with U.S. Probation in Oregon to run the Hood to Coast Relay to benefit cancer research in a 196-mile relay.

In April 2024, Brenda Aguilar, intensive supervision specialist from the District of Arizona, was awarded the John M. Roll Award for excelling in the administration of justice for her unwavering dedication and commitment to the ICAN program. 



# District by District Caseload

## District of Alaska

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	484	491	1.4%	164
Terminations	491	456	-7.1%	152
Pending	679	704	3.7%	235
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	214	216	0.9%	108
Terminations	236	214	-9.3%	107
Pending	195	197	1.0%	99

Authorized Judgeships	
District	3
Bankruptcy	2
Magistrate	
Full-time	2
Part-time	2

Authorized places of holding court: Anchorage, <sup>1</sup>Fairbanks, <sup>1</sup>Juneau

<sup>1</sup>Fairbanks and Juneau apply only to the district court.

## District of Arizona

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	8,673	14,657	69.0%	1,127
Terminations	8,321	13,502	62.3%	1,039
Pending	6,075	7,220	18.8%	555
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	9,176	10,861	18.4%	1,552
Terminations	10,210	10,316	1.0%	1,474
Pending	11,497	12,043	4.7%	1,720

Authorized Judgeships	
<sup>1</sup> District	13
Bankruptcy	7
Magistrate	
Full-time	14
Part-time	1

Authorized places of holding court: <sup>2</sup>Bullhead City, Flagstaff, Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma

<sup>1</sup>Includes one authorized temporary judgeship.

<sup>2</sup>Bullhead City applies only to the bankruptcy court.

# District by District Caseload continued

## Central District of California

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	15,904	16,973	6.7%	606
Terminations	15,586	17,174	10.2%	613
Pending	13,117	12,920	-1.5%	461
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	19,702	24,983	26.8%	1,190
Terminations	19,405	23,958	23.5%	1,141
Pending	15,223	16,254	6.8%	774

Authorized Judgeships	
<sup>1</sup> District	28
Bankruptcy	21
Magistrate	
Full-time	24
Part-time	1

Authorized places of holding court: Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Ana, <sup>2</sup>San Fernando Valley, <sup>2</sup>Santa Barbara

<sup>1</sup>Includes one authorized temporary judgeship.

<sup>2</sup>San Fernando Valley and Santa Barbara apply only to the bankruptcy court.

## Eastern District of California

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	4,668	5,188	11.1%	865
Terminations	4,567	5,190	13.6%	865
Pending	7,841	7,841	0.0%	1,307
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	7,824	10,168	30.0%	1,695
Terminations	7,845	9,435	20.3%	1,573
Pending	7,308	8,042	10.0%	1,340

Authorized Judgeships	
District	6
Bankruptcy	6
Magistrate	
Full-time	12
Part-time	0

Authorized places of holding court: Bakersfield, Fresno, <sup>1</sup>Modesto, Redding, Sacramento, <sup>2</sup>Yosemite

<sup>1</sup>Modesto applies only to the bankruptcy court.

<sup>2</sup>Yosemite applies only to the district court.

## Northern District of California

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	8,620	8,740	1.4%	624
Terminations	6,809	10,749	57.9%	768
Pending	13,851	12,019	-13.2%	859
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	4,600	5,692	23.7%	632
Terminations	5,139	5,769	12.3%	641
Pending	6,852	6,772	-1.2%	752

Authorized Judgeships	
District	14
Bankruptcy	9
Magistrate	
Full-time	12
Part-time	0

Authorized places of holding court: <sup>1</sup>Eureka, Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose, <sup>2</sup>Santa Rosa

<sup>1</sup>Eureka applies only to the district court.  
<sup>2</sup>Santa Rosa applies only to the bankruptcy court.

## Southern District of California

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	5,257	5,107	-2.9%	393
Terminations	5,830	5,313	-8.9%	409
Pending	4,508	4,304	-4.5%	331
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	3,860	4,938	27.9%	1,235
Terminations	3,941	4,935	25.2%	1,234
Pending	3,169	3,172	0.1%	793

Authorized Judgeships	
District	13
Bankruptcy	4
Magistrate	
Full-time	12
Part-time	0

Authorized places of holding court: <sup>1</sup>El Centro, San Diego

<sup>1</sup>El Centro applies only to the district court.

# District by District Caseload continued

## District of Guam

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	66	67	1.5%	67
Terminations	53	77	45.3%	77
Pending	352	333	-5.4%	333
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	22	18	-18.2%	18
Terminations	56	27	-51.8%	27
Pending	47	38	-19.1%	38

Authorized Judgeships	
District	1
Bankruptcy	0
Magistrate	
Full-time	1
Part-time	0

Authorized places of holding court: Hagåtña

Note: The chief district judge in Guam also handles all bankruptcy cases.

## District of Hawaii

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	659	772	17.1%	193
Terminations	720	776	7.8%	194
Pending	802	799	-0.4%	200
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	1,038	1,172	12.9%	1,172
Terminations	1,071	1,159	8.2%	1,159
Pending	1,650	1,663	0.8%	1,663

Authorized Judgeships	
<sup>1</sup> District	4
Bankruptcy	1
Magistrate	
Full-time	3
Part-time	0

Authorized places of holding court: Honolulu

<sup>1</sup>Includes one temporary judgeship.



## District of Idaho

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	849	887	4.5%	444
Terminations	827	826	-0.1%	413
Pending	1,060	1,130	6.6%	565
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	1,677	2,006	19.6%	1,003
Terminations	1,682	1,782	5.9%	891
Pending	1,515	1,738	14.7%	869

Authorized Judgeships	
District	2
Bankruptcy	2
Magistrate	
Full-time	2
Part-time	0

Authorized places of holding court: Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Pocatello

## District of Montana

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	908	1,094	20.5%	365
Terminations	858	1,035	20.6%	345
Pending	1,078	1,130	4.8%	377
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	626	774	23.6%	774
Terminations	697	779	11.8%	779
Pending	887	883	-0.5%	883

Authorized Judgeships	
District	3
Bankruptcy	1
Magistrate	
Full-time	3
Part-time	0

Authorized places of holding court: Billings, Butte, Great Falls, <sup>1</sup>Helena, Missoula

<sup>1</sup>Helena applies only to the district court.

# District by District Caseload continued

## District of Nevada

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	2,901	3,175	9.4%	454
Terminations	3,107	3,234	4.1%	462
Pending	4,105	4,091	-0.3%	584
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	6,436	7,992	24.2%	1,998
Terminations	6,082	7,655	25.9%	1,914
Pending	5,287	5,625	6.4%	1,406

Authorized Judgeships	
District	7
<sup>1</sup> Bankruptcy	4
Magistrate	
Full-time	7
Part-time	0

Authorized places of holding court: Las Vegas, Reno

<sup>1</sup>Includes one authorized temporary judgeship.

## District of Northern Mariana Islands

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	<sup>1</sup> Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	35	38	8.6%	38
Terminations	39	45	15.4%	45
Pending	91	95	4.4%	95
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	1	0	-	0
Terminations	0	0	-	-
Pending	6	6	-	6

Authorized Judgeships	
District	1
Bankruptcy	0
Magistrate	
Full-time	0
Part-time	0
<sup>2</sup> Combination	1

Authorized places of holding court: Saipan

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

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

<sup>2</sup>Heather Kennedy holds the combined position of magistrate judge/clerk of court.

## District of Oregon

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	2,321	2,634	13.5%	439
Terminations	2,593	2,589	-0.2%	432
Pending	2,947	2,971	0.8%	495
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	5,232	6,601	26.2%	1,320
Terminations	5,235	6,303	20.4%	1,261
Pending	6,434	6,734	4.7%	1,347

Authorized Judgeships	
District	6
Bankruptcy	5
Magistrate	
Full-time	6
Part-time	1

Authorized places of holding court: Eugene, <sup>1</sup>Medford, <sup>1</sup>Pendleton, Portland

<sup>1</sup>Medford and Pendleton apply only to the district court.

## Eastern District of Washington

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	1,098	1,070	-2.6%	268
Terminations	1,129	1,122	-0.6%	281
Pending	1,067	1,020	-4.4%	255
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	1,612	2,022	25.4%	1,011
Terminations	1,703	2,060	21.0%	1,030
Pending	1,854	1,816	-2.0%	908

Authorized Judgeships	
<sup>1</sup> District	4
Bankruptcy	2
Magistrate	
Full-time	2
Part-time	0

Authorized places of holding court: <sup>1</sup>Richland, Spokane, Yakima

<sup>1</sup>Richland applies only to the district court.

# District by District Caseload continued

## Western District of Washington

Caseload Measure	2023	2024	Change 2023-2024	Per Judgeship Unweighted 2024
District Court				
Filings	3,490	3,516	0.7%	502
Terminations	3,482	3,489	0.2%	498
Pending	3,378	3,488	3.3%	498
Bankruptcy Court				
Filings	4,548	6,154	35.3%	1,231
Terminations	5,072	6,006	18.4%	1,201
Pending	5,655	5,812	2.8%	1,162

Authorized Judgeships	
<sup>1</sup> District	7
Bankruptcy	5
Magistrate	
Full-time	6
Part-time	1

Authorized places of holding court: Seattle, Tacoma, <sup>1</sup>Vancouver

<sup>1</sup>Vancouver applies only to the bankruptcy court.







## Office of the Circuit Executive

Susan Y. Soong, Circuit Executive  
P.O. Box 193939, San Francisco, CA 94119-3939  
Ph: (415) 355-8900  
<https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov>