



# United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Judge Jennifer E. Niemann Selected to Serve on Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Bankruptcy Judge Jennifer E. Niemann, of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California, has been selected to serve on the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, or BAP, which hears appeals of decisions made by federal bankruptcy courts in the western states.

Judge Niemann will serve a seven-year term on the BAP, commencing on Aug. 18, 2025. She will succeed Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris, of the District of Hawaii, who has served on the BAP since 2015 and served as its chief judge from 2022 until 2024.

Judge Niemann, who maintains chambers in Fresno, was appointed to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California in 2020. Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Niemann was of counsel from 2012 to 2020 at Felderstein Fitzgerald Willoughby Pascuzzi & Rios LLP in Sacramento, California, where she represented business Chapter 11 debtors in pre-bankruptcy consultation and filing the bankruptcy case, during the case and post-confirmation. The remainder of her practice involved representing Chapter 11 trustees and creditors. Previously, Judge Niemann worked as a long-term judicial law clerk for Judges Thomas E. Carlson, Arthur S. Weissbrodt and James R. Grube of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California. Judge Niemann was in private practice at Heller, Ehrman, White & McAuliffe in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and was a senior legal auditor at Stuart, Maue, Mitchell & James, Ltd., in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a member of the Ninth Circuit's Bankruptcy Judges Education Committee from 2022 to 2024.

Born in Evanston, Illinois, Judge Niemann graduated with a bachelor's degree, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in 1986 and earned her Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School in 1989.

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Page 2 of 2

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

Headquartered in the Richard H. Chambers U.S. Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena, California, the BAP has historically handled between 45% and 60% of all bankruptcy appeals in the Ninth Circuit (district courts hear the remainder). In fiscal year 2024 ending September 30, 398 new bankruptcy appeals were filed in the circuit. The BAP disposed of 179 appeals and handled 46% of all bankruptcy appeals, and the district courts handled 54%.

The Ninth Circuit was the first federal circuit to establish a bankruptcy appellate panel. For more information, visit <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/bap>.

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