



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · (415) 355-8901 Fax

NEWS RELEASE

July 9, 2013

Contact: David Madden, (415) 355-8800

New Bankruptcy Judge Appointed for District of Nevada

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced today the appointment of Las Vegas attorney Laurel Elizabeth Davis to serve as a judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada.

Ms. Davis, 57, will maintain chambers in Las Vegas. She fills a judgeship being vacated by Judge Bruce A. Markell, who will retire on July 10, 2013. Ms. Davis is scheduled to receive the oath of office from Bankruptcy Judge Linda B. Riegle in a ceremony scheduled for July 12, 2013, in the Foley Federal Building in Las Vegas.

“Ms. Davis is an experienced practitioner who is well regarded by the bench and bar. She will be an asset to the bankruptcy court in Nevada,” Judge Kozinski said in announcing the appointment.

Ms. Davis has practiced law in Nevada and Arizona for 26 years. Since 2007, she has been a director of the Las Vegas law firm of Fennemore Craig, P.C., where her practice focuses on Chapter 11 business bankruptcy, representing debtors, secured creditors, large unsecured creditors, unsecured creditor committees, equity holders, trustees, indenture trustees and parties seeking to buy assets or businesses out of bankruptcy. She had worked previously with the Las Vegas law firm of Lionel Sawyer & Collins, as a partner from 1994 to 2007, and as an associate from 1987 to 1993.

A native of Salt Lake City, Utah, Judge Davis received her B.S. degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in 1983. She received her J.D., magna cum laude, in 1987 from the University of San Diego School of Law, after transferring in 1985 from California Western School of Law. She was a finalist in moot court competitions at

California Western School of Law in 1985 and at USD School of Law in 1986. Judge Davis received American jurisprudence awards in legal method and legal skills, civil procedure and legal skills, criminal procedure, admiralty, trusts and estates, and remedies at California Western and USD Law.

Ms. Davis served as chair of the Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Nevada from 2010 to 2011. She has served as master of the Howard D. McKibben Inn of Court since 2008 and as a member of the CM/ECF Advisory Committee and Rules Subcommittee for the U.S. district and bankruptcy courts for the District of Nevada from 2007 to 2009.

Ms. Davis served as a Nevada lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference from 2001 to 2004 and as co-chair of the Nevada lawyer representative delegation on the Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee in 2004.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada received 17,823 filings in calendar year 2012. The court is authorized four bankruptcy judges.

Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have statutory responsibility for selecting and appointing bankruptcy judges in the nine western states that comprise the Ninth Circuit. The court uses a comprehensive merit selection process for the initial appointment and for reappointments. Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year, renewable term, at a salary of \$160,080, and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the Bankruptcy Code.

#