



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Court of Appeals Appoints New Bankruptcy Judges for Central District of California

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the appointments of Los Angeles attorneys Richard Neiter and Victoria S. Kaufman as bankruptcy judges for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

Judge Neiter, 68, will serve a 14-year term in office, effective Feb. 18, 2006. He succeeds Judge Robert W. Alberts, who is stepping down from the Central District bankruptcy bench after 14 years of service.

Judge Kaufman, 41, will serve a 14-year term in office, effective May 2, 2006. She succeeds Judge James N. Barr, who is stepping down from the Central District bankruptcy bench after 19 years of service.

Both Judge Neiter and Judge Kaufman will maintain chambers in Los Angeles.

Judge Neiter is an experienced attorney who has practiced bankruptcy law for more than 40 years. He has been in private practice at the Los Angeles law firm of Stutman, Treister & Glatt since his admission to the State Bar of California in 1963.

Born in Los Angeles, Judge Neiter obtained a B.S. in 1959 from the University of California at Los Angeles, and a J.D. in 1962 from the University of Southern California Law School, where he was a member of the Board of Editors for the *Southern California Law Review*.

Judge Neiter has served on the panel of trained mediators for the Central District of California Bankruptcy Court. His numerous professional activities

include serving as chairman of the Debtor/Creditor Relations and Bankruptcy Committee for the State Bar of California, and as a member of the Executive Committee for the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. He is also active in various civic and religious organizations.

Judge Kaufman was recently of counsel in the corporate department of the law firm of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP in Los Angeles. She has experience in bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy litigation, and has held a number of positions in San Diego, New York and Los Angeles.

Born in Indianapolis, Judge Kaufman obtained a B.A. from Bryn Mawr College in 1986, and a J.D. in 1989 from Harvard Law School, where she was an editor of the *Harvard International Law Journal*. While at Harvard, she also was a teaching assistant for an undergraduate course on the Russian Revolution and an instructor in the Foreign Student Orientation Program.

Judge Kaufman is a former law clerk to U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Marilyn Shea-Stonum of the Northern District of Ohio. She was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1989.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California is the nation's busiest with more than 60,000 bankruptcy filings in calendar year 2004. The court has 21 bankruptcy judges and five divisional offices serving seven counties.

Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have statutory responsibility for selecting and appointing the 68 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 the reappointments. Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year, renewable term, at a salary of \$151,984, and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the Bankruptcy Code.

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