



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Judge Erithe A. Smith Reappointed to U.S. Bankruptcy Court for Central District of California

SAN FRANCISCO – Bankruptcy Judge Erithe A. Smith of Santa Ana has been reappointed to a second 14-year term on the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California. The reappointment is effective May 2, 2008.

Judge Smith, 50, was first appointed to the court in 1994 and served previously in the Los Angeles division. She also recently completed three years of service on the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, which hears appeals of bankruptcy decisions from courts in nine western states.

“Judge Smith has performed admirably and is an asset to her court. I am pleased to announce her reappointment,” said Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which has statutory authority for appointments to the federal bankruptcy bench in the western states.

Judge Smith received her undergraduate degree in 1979 from Loyola Marymount University and her J.D. in 1982 from the University of California Boalt Hall School of Law. Judge Smith was a law clerk to Judge Marcus Kaufman of the California Courts of Appeal from 1982 to 1983, and to Judge Peter Elliott of the Central District bankruptcy court in Santa Ana from 1983 to 1985. Her private practice experience was as an associate with McKittrick, Jackson, DeMarco & Peckenpaugh in Newport Beach from 1985 to 1987, and with Lobel Winthrop & Broker as an associate/partner from 1987 until her appointment to the bench.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, one of the busiest bankruptcy courts in the nation, is authorized 24 judges and received 17,802 bankruptcy filings in 2006.

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Office of the Circuit Executive

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Judges of the United States 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 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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