



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit Appoints New Bankruptcy Judge to 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 appointment of United States Trustee Maureen A. Tighe as a judge on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California. The position was previously held by Kathleen P. March, who has returned to private practice.

Ms. Tighe will begin her 14-year term on November 24. She will maintain her chambers in Los Angeles.

Ms. Tighe has served as a U.S. trustee for the Department of Justice in Los Angeles since 1998, and in that position she managed and administered bankruptcy cases in the Central District of California. She also has served since March 2002 as interim U.S. trustee in the region which includes the Districts of Southern California, Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The U.S. Trustee Program of the Department of Justice monitors the conduct of bankruptcy parties and private estate trustees and acts to ensure compliance with applicable laws and procedures. It also identifies and helps investigate bankruptcy fraud and abuse in coordination with U.S. attorneys, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other law enforcement agencies.

Previously, Ms. Tighe served as an assistant U.S. attorney in Los Angeles from 1988 to 1998. In that position, she served as deputy chief of the Major Frauds Section and chairperson of the Bankruptcy Fraud Task Force. She also engaged in private practice at Sullivan and Cromwell in New York City from 1986 to 1988, and served as law clerk to U.S. District Judge Harold Ackerman of the District of New Jersey from 1984 to 1986.

Ms. Tighe received her undergraduate degree *Phi Beta Kappa* from Douglass College of Rutgers University in 1979 and her juris doctorate in 1984 from Rutgers Law School, where she served as editor-in-chief of the *Rutgers Law Review* from 1983 to 1984.

Ms. Tighe established the National Bankruptcy Fraud Working Group, which provides a national network of U.S. trustee attorneys, law enforcement agents, and prosecutors to address criminal bankruptcy fraud issue.

The judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit are charged with the statutory responsibility for selecting and appointing the judges for the 65 authorized bankruptcy judgeships 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 reappointment of bankruptcy judges. Bankruptcy judges serve for 14-year, renewable terms, at a salary of \$142,324 and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the United States Bankruptcy Code.

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