



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Appoints New Bankruptcy Judge for Central District of California

SAN FRANCISCO — Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have appointed Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux as the next bankruptcy judge on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California. Her 14-year term began Jan. 18, 2022, when Chief Bankruptcy Judge Theodor C. Albert administered her oath of office. She succeeds Bankruptcy Judge Thomas Donovan, who retired on March 24, 2017. Judge Reyes Bordeaux maintains chambers in Riverside.

“We at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Central District, are excited to welcome Judge Reyes Bordeaux as the newest member of our extraordinary team in service to the American people,” said Chief Judge Theodor C. Albert of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Reyes Bordeaux had been a senior supervising staff attorney at Public Counsel since 2012. She supervised and managed the firm’s Debtor Assistance Project, which is “the nation’s largest and most successful pro bono bankruptcy program that provides services to over 2,000 self-represented and represented litigants annually.” She advised fellow colleagues at Public Counsel on bankruptcy and consumer law issues. Judge Reyes Bordeaux provided guidance to attorneys, pro bono program staff and judges on access to justice issues in the courts.

Previously, Judge Reyes Bordeaux practiced bankruptcy law for over 20 years and has worked extensively with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, Office of the United States Trustee, and private bankruptcy attorneys on bankruptcy matters affecting the courts. She served as an appointed member of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference Executive Committee and was an adjunct professor of law at Loyola Law School. She has written numerous articles on bankruptcy issues and was featured on two covers of the Los Angeles Lawyer Magazine. She is a frequent speaker at bankruptcy educational panels and has received several awards recognizing her work and scholarship in bankruptcy law.

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Judge Reyes Bordeaux received her Bachelor of Arts in political science and humanities from the University of California, Irvine, in 1993 and her Juris Doctor in 1997 from UCLA School of Law, where she was co-founder and managing editor of the UCLA Journal of Law & Technology.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California had 24,248 bankruptcy filings in fiscal year 2021 ending September 30. The court is authorized 21 permanent judgeships.

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 and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

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