United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit
Central District of California – Los Angeles & Santa Ana
Bankruptcy Judgeship Opportunities: Three Positions

The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit invites applications from highly qualified candidates for three Bankruptcy Judgeships for the Central District of California beginning November 23, 2026. These positions are available immediately. The selection process may take up to 18 months to complete. The official duty stations for these positions are Los Angeles, California (2 positions), and Santa Ana, California (1 position).

The term of office is 14 years with a possible renewal appointment subject to reappointment procedures. Bankruptcy judge salaries are set by Congress to equal 92% of the salary of a United States district judge. The current salary is $229,908 per annum. Relocation expenses are not reimbursable.

The Court of Appeals uses an open and competitive selection process. All applications are screened by a Merit Screening Committee, which selects a limited number of applicants for interview and reference checks. From the initial group of interviewees, selected applicants will be referred for additional interviews by a joint Judicial Council and Court of Appeals committee, which then submits a recommendation of nomination to the Court of Appeals. The selected nominee will be required to satisfy FBI and IRS background investigations prior to appointment, as well as comply with the financial disclosure requirements pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, Pub. L. No. 95-521, 92 Stat. 1824 (1978) (codified as amended at 5 U.S.C. app. § 101-111).

Basic qualifications for consideration include: (1) admission to practice before the highest court of at least one state, the District of Columbia, or one of the United States territories; (2) membership in good standing in every bar in which membership is held; and (3) at least five years of legal practice experience (certain other legal experience may be substituted).

Applicants are considered without regard to race, sex, gender (including pregnancy, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, and parenthood), color, creed, national origin, citizenship, ancestry, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, or past, current, or prospective service in the uniformed forces, in addition to any other status or characteristic protected under applicable federal law.

The Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Judge Application Instructions and Application Form are available on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals website at www.ca9.uscourts.gov. A copy may also be obtained by emailing personnel@ce9.uscourts.gov. The application is lengthy, so applicants are advised to allow sufficient time to complete and submit the application. Letters of reference are optional. To be considered, a maximum of three letters may be submitted with the electronic application and supporting materials.

Once completed and signed, the application and supporting materials must be sent by email to personnel@ce9.uscourts.gov. Applicants must submit their own applications in the format required by the Bankruptcy Judge Application Instructions.

Deadline for receipt of all application materials via email: 5:00 p.m. (Pacific) on Thursday, February 18, 2027.

The United States Courts is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to equity and inclusion in its hiring practices.