



# United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · [mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov](mailto:mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov)

## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Katherine Rodriguez  
[mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov](mailto:mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov)

## **Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Reappoints Bankruptcy Judge Ronald H. Sargis to Eastern District of California**

SAN FRANCISCO — Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have reappointed U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Ronald H. Sargis, of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California, to a second 14-year term that began on Jan. 14, 2024.

Judge Sargis, 66, who maintains chambers in Sacramento and Modesto, was appointed to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California in 2010. Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Sargis was in private practice starting in 1983 with Hefner, Stark & Marois, LLP, where he was a partner in 1989 and a managing partner from 1997 to 1998. He represented business and individual clients in Chapter 11 and Chapter 12 reorganizations, individual debtors in Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 cases, creditors, Chapter 11 trustees and creditors' committees.

Judge Sargis served as the general counsel to the California Association of Collectors, Inc., and was a member of the Sacramento Valley Bankruptcy Forum, where he served as a board member for two terms. He was chancellor and church attorney for the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.

Judge Sargis served as an observer on the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, governing body for the federal courts in nine western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions—Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. He served as chair of the Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges and its Executive Committee and was an ex-officio of the Court-Council Committee on Bankruptcy Appointments. He has also served as a member of the California State – Federal Judicial Council.

Born in Merced, California, Judge Sargis received his Bachelor of Arts in political science from Stanford University in 1979 and his Juris Doctor, with distinction, from McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific in 1982.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California reported 7,824 bankruptcy filings in fiscal year 2023, up 28.3% from FY 2022. The court has six bankruptcy judges, one of whom is a recalled bankruptcy judge, and has four divisional offices in Sacramento, Fresno, Modesto and Bakersfield, serving 36 counties in all.

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Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year renewable term and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. 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. For reappointments, the court conducts a performance review and considers public comment evaluations.

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