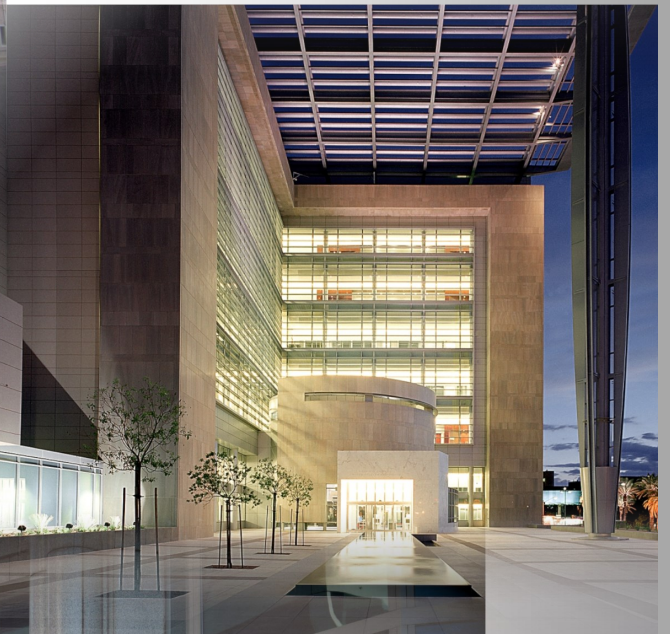




United States District Court District of Nevada



2022
Annual Report

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Foreword

It is my pleasure to share with you the 2022 State of the Court report for the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. This report reflects the hard work, dedication, and shared vision of our entire court community to be one district, unified by our commitment to equal justice for all under the law.

The past few years have not been easy, but our District has risen to the challenge. Despite repeated surges from new variants of COVID-19, our District has responded by developing innovative methods to allow for court proceedings to occur, including installing video conferencing systems and increasing access to video conferencing, and implementing protocols to improve safety when in person proceedings are required. And on top of the unique public health challenges we have faced recently, our District has had to manage for the past several years with two U.S. District Judge seats vacant. Without the commitment from our Senior Judges and U.S. Magistrate Judges—some of whom have agreed to be recalled from retirement—serving Nevada as we have would not have been possible.

I am particularly pleased to welcome the U.S. Magistrate Judges appointed in the past several years. The depth of experience our Magistrate Judges bring to the bench includes years of service as federal and state public defenders, county district attorneys and assistant U.S. Attorneys, and attorneys in private civil and criminal practice in state and federal court. We are honored to have such talented and skilled individuals serving our District, working not only to efficiently administer justice in civil cases, but also implementing special court programs that assist the District in better serving litigants who are incarcerated, indigent, and without counsel.

But our vision for equal justice for all would be unachievable by judges alone. The tireless work of our staff in the Clerk's Office, Probation, Pretrial Services, and chambers ensure the District is ready to adapt and continue to contribute to our shared goals of serving our community and administering justice despite new challenges. Likewise, we value the continued support from the Nevada legal community. In particular, collaborations with the U.S. Attorney's and Federal Public Defender's offices on several key administrative issues have allowed us to more smoothly and quickly expand virtual hearings to avoid delays in criminal cases and proceed with jury trials, even while working through the significant disruptions caused by COVID-19. In the broader Nevada legal community, attorney volunteers throughout the state have enabled a much-needed expansion of our Pro Bono Program and have continued to support Nevada's youth in a multitude of civic education programs run in conjunction with our District. We look forward to continuing these partnerships and welcoming new opportunities to better serve our shared community.

Even as I write with hope and optimism for the years to come, grounded in the progress we have made, we face a renewed surge of the COVID-19 virus. And those who struggle the most with accessing justice through the courts may face the greatest challenges from the virus and related economic disruptions. In short, we have our work cut out for us. But our mission remains to provide justice equally, as one District, for all who seek it. Working together, I am confident that we will succeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Miranda Du', with a stylized, flowing script.

Miranda Du
Chief United States District Judge

In Memorium – Lloyd D. George



Judge Lloyd D. George was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Nevada by President Ronald Reagan in May 1984. He served as Chief United States District Judge from 1992 to 1997 and assumed senior status in December 1997. Judge George passed away peacefully on October 7, 2021. He was 90 years old.

Judge George devoted his life to his family and to serving his country and the rule of law. Born in Montpelier, Idaho, he was raised in Las Vegas. His passion for this city was readily apparent from his stories of his youth, which he was always willing to share. He graduated from Las Vegas High School and Brigham Young University, serving both institutions as a student body president. After earning his wings as a jet fighter pilot in the Air Force, he earned his law degree in 1961 from the University of California at Berkeley (Boalt Hall). Upon graduating, he returned to Las Vegas where he built a successful private practice.

In 1974, Judge George was appointed to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada. During his ten years of service as a bankruptcy judge, he served on and was instrumental in the creation of bankruptcy appellate panels, which permits panels of three bankruptcy judges to hear appeals directly from bankruptcy courts.

In 1996, Judge George was selected to represent the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit as a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the national policymaking and management body of the federal judiciary. That year, Chief Justice Rehnquist appointed him to the Conference's Executive Committee. Prior to his appointment to the Judicial Conference, he served for several years on three Judicial Conference committees and was the chair of two.

Judge George distinguished himself as an expert in the organization of the judiciary. While serving on the International Judicial Relations Committee from 1993 to 1997, he and other judicial colleagues from various countries participated in numerous seminars and lectured on constitutional issues and court structure in Eastern Europe and the nations of the former Soviet Union. In 1996, he chaired a committee that worked to update the long-range national plan for the judiciary. He was also a board member of the Federal Judicial Center (the education and research arm of the federal judiciary) where he served for four years with Chief Justice Warren Burger.

He further authored articles on the administration of the federal judiciary, ethics, and insolvency.

He won many awards, including the Brigham Young University Alumni Distinguished Service Award, the Notre Dame Club's John C. Mowbray Humanitarian of the Year Award, and the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award. At the commencement at BYU in 2001, Judge George was the recipient of the Presidential Citation. In 2005, he received the Jensen Public Service Award from Boalt Hall, University of California.

The extent of Judge George's public service is, perhaps, best reflected in an honor bestowed upon the Entire District of Nevada: the naming of the federal courthouse, situated between the Fifth Street Elementary School and Las Vegas High School Judge George attended as a youth, as the Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse.

Judge George will be remembered as a judges' judge and a mentor to all of us on the federal bench. In honor of Judge George, the flags at the federal courthouse in Nevada were flown at half-mast on October 7-8, 2020.

The Court paid further tribute to Judge George one year later, October 7, 2021, in a memorial ceremony. Personal and professional tributes were given by August B. Landis, Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge; Patricia Gray, former Clerk of United States Bankruptcy Court; Cynthia K. Jensen, former Chief Deputy Clerk; James C. Mahan, Senior United States District Judge; Kent J. Dawson, Senior United States District Judge; Daniel J. Albregts, United States Magistrate Judge; Johnnie B. Rawlinson, Ninth Circuit Judge; Gloria M. Navarro, United States District Judge, who also read excerpts from letters of the U.S. Attorney and the Federal Public Defender; Garon D. Salway, former Law Clerk to Judge George; Howard D. McKibben, Senior United States District Judge; Harry M. Reid, former United States Senator; and Steven L. George, Henderson Justice Court Judge, and son of Judge George.

Judge George will be remembered for his hard work and accomplishments, but he will also be remembered for dedicating his life to caring about others more than himself, helping people see their potential, and making those around him feel valued, supported, and loved.

Judge George is survived by his wife of 64 years, four children, 12 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, and younger brother.

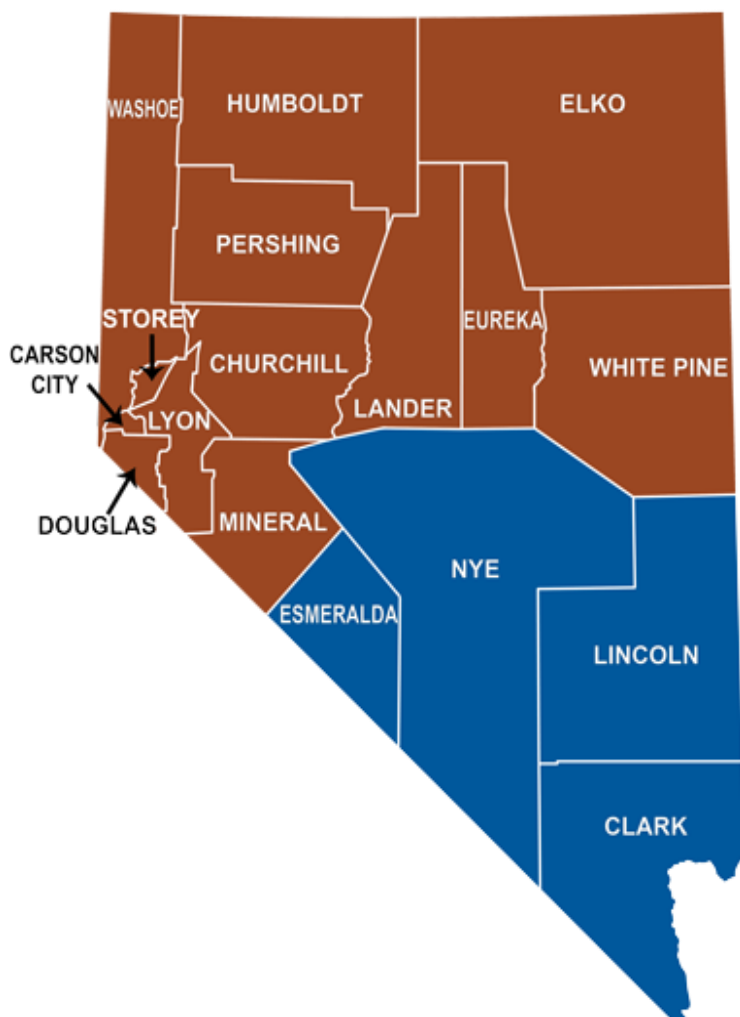
District of Nevada

Overview of the District of Nevada

Nevada became the 36th State on March 21, 1864. Alexander White Baldwin became Nevada's first federal judge on March 11, 1865. Nevada was first part of the tenth circuit from 1865-1866 and added to the Ninth Circuit on July 23, 1866. Additional information about the historical timeline of the District Court can be found at the Ninth Circuit Library: [historical timeline](#).

The U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada is the federal district court whose jurisdiction is the state of Nevada. The court has locations in Las Vegas and Reno. The District Court has five active district judges, five senior judges, seven magistrate judges, and one recalled magistrate judge. There are currently two district judge vacancies.

The District of Nevada is part of the United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit which consists of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the federal district and bankruptcy courts within its 15 judicial districts and associated administrative units that provide various services to the courts. Judicial districts under the jurisdiction of the Ninth Circuit include the districts of Alaska, Arizona, Central California, Eastern California, Northern California, Southern California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Eastern Washington, Western Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



Judges serving on the district courts are known as Article III judges, a reference to the article in the Constitution establishing the federal judiciary. Nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, Article III judges serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. Federal courts also rely on senior district judges to assist with their workload. These are Article III judges who are eligible to retire but have chosen to continue working with reduced caseloads. In addition to Article III judges, the federal bench includes Article I judges, who serve as magistrate judges in the district courts. Magistrate judges are appointed by the judges of each district court and hold their positions for eight years. Magistrate judges may be reappointed after the court conducts a performance review and considers public comment evaluations.

The jurisdiction of the federal courts has been defined by the Constitution, congressional statutes, and decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States. Article III provides that the judicial power "shall extend" to nine types of "cases" and "controversies": all cases in law and equity arising under the Constitution, laws, and treaties of the United States; all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls; all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; controversies to which the United States is a party; controversies between two or more states; controversies between a state and citizens of another state; controversies between citizens of different states; controversies between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states; and controversies between a state or its citizens and foreign states, citizens, or subjects.

Courthouses



Lloyd D. George United States Courthouse

Las Vegas, NV

The Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse creates a symbolic corner within downtown Las Vegas. Its giant articulated column is a powerful totem that will no doubt become a signature in a city of signs and symbols. In addition to symbolizing a federal presence, the building responds to its urban surroundings, establishing a design precedent for large-scale public buildings.



Bruce R. Thompson Federal Building

Reno, NV

Completed in 1996, the Reno landmark features Sierra white granite used for the facade on the ground level. The upper floors are cast concrete colored to simulate the granite. Bruce R. Thomson was a federal judge born in Nevada.



Foley Federal Building

Las Vegas, NV

Constructed in the early 1960s, the four-story Foley Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse underwent a major renovation that was completed in 2004. Roger D. Foley and his father, Roger Thomas Foley, were both senior U.S. District Court judges for the District of Nevada. The building is named for the Foley family.



C. Clifton Young Federal Building

Reno, NV

Completed in 1965, the Federal Building was renamed for Clarence Clifton Young in 1988. Young served as a U.S. Congressman, in the Nevada Senate, on the Nevada Supreme Court, and as president of the National Wildlife Foundation

United States District Judges



Miranda M. Du, Chief Judge

Chief Judge Miranda M. Du was nominated by President Barack Obama and took the oath of office on April 23, 2012.

Judge Du was born in Viet Nam and left with her family by boat when she was eight years old. Judge Du and her family immigrated to the United States and ultimately settled in Oakland, California. Judge Du graduated with honors in History and Economics from the University of California, Davis. She obtained her JD from the University of California, Berkely, Berkeley School of Law in May 1994.



Gloria M. Navarro

Judge Gloria M. Navarro was appointed to the U.S. District Court of Nevada by President Barack Obama and took the oath of office on May 25, 2010. Judge Navarro served as Chief Judge from January 2014 until September 2019. She was appointed to the Ninth Circuit IT Committee where she enjoyed creating several presentations for judges about her paperless chambers and how to leverage technology including iPads, Remote Access, Apple TV, Courtroom Technology, and the Microsoft Word iPad App. In 2015, she was appointed by Chief Justice Roberts to the Information Technology Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States and served two terms until 2021.

Judge Navarro has also served as a Patent Pilot Program Judge since 2011, the inception of the Patent Pilot Program, which was established pursuant to Pub. L. No. 111-349.

Judge Navarro is the first Hispanic woman appointed to the U.S. District of Nevada, the first Hispanic chief judge, and the first female chief judge in the U.S. District of Nevada.

Andrew P. Gordon

Judge Andrew P. Gordon was nominated by President Barack Obama and took the oath of office on April 15, 2013.

Judge Gordon graduated from Claremont McKenna College, cum laude, in 1984 and received his JD from Harvard Law School in 1987.

Judge Gordon has been a Program Director and faculty member for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy's Deposition Skills seminars for many years. He also served as Chair of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' Lawyer Representative Coordinating Committee and served on several federal court committees. Further, he chaired the State Bar committee that drafted the Nevada Recommended Jury Instructions (Civil). Judge Gordon is admitted to practice in the state and federal courts of Nevada and Arizona, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court of the United States. Judge Gordon has been recognized in Best Lawyers in America, Mountain States Super Lawyers, and The Chambers USA Guide. He holds an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell.

Jennifer A. Dorsey

Judge Jennifer A. Dorsey was nominated by President Barack Obama and took the oath of office on August 2, 2013. A native Las Vegas, Judge Dorsey earned her bachelor's degree in Communications from UNLV and her law degree from Pepperdine Law School.

While in private practice, Judge Dorsey was selected to serve on the Nevada Supreme Court's Committee on Professionalism, was listed among the Top Women in Litigation and Nevada's Legal Elite and held Martindale-Hubbell's highest AV rating for competency and ethics.

United States District Judges

Judge Dorsey sits on the Pepperdine Caruso School of Law's Board of Advisors and was honored as her law school's Distinguished Alumnus in 2016. She teaches writing as an adjunct professor at UNLV's Boyd School of Law and at the Pepperdine Caruso School of Law. Judge Dorsey is a member of the American Law Institute, and she serves as one of this district's judges for the drug-diversion program known as RISE (Recovery, Inspiration, Support, and Excellence) Court.



Richard F. Boulware II

Judge Richard Franklin Boulware II was nominated by President Barack Obama on January 16, 2014, and took the oath of office on June 12, 2014. Judge Boulware received an AB degree cum laude in 1993 from Harvard College and received his JD in 2002 from Columbia Law School where he was on the Law Review.

Judge Boulware is a past president of the Las Vegas chapter of the National Bar Association, as well as a former member of the National Board of Governors of the National Bar Association. He received a special President's Award from the national president of the National Bar Association in 2011 as well as the Medal of Justice award from the State Bar of Nevada in 2012. In 2013, Judge Boulware received the Dedicated Service award from Nevada Attorneys for Criminal Justice. He has served on numerous nonprofit boards and community committees focusing on education reform and other issues facing disadvantaged, indigent or at-risk individuals in the community.



Howard D. McKibben

Howard D. McKibben was appointed by President Ronald Reagan and took the oath of office on October 12, 1984. He was Chief Judge of the District from December 1, 1997, until October 12, 2002. He assumed senior status on April 1, 2005.

Judge McKibben received his Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Bradley University in 1962. He then attended the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and received a master's degree in 1964. He received his J.D. degree in 1967 from the University of Michigan Law School. He was admitted to the Nevada Bar in 1968 where he was in private practice until he was elected District Attorney of Douglas County in 1970. He served as District Attorney from 1971 to 1977. Governor O'Callaghan appointed Judge McKibben to the Ninth Judicial District Court in 1977 where he served until 1984.

Judge McKibben has served as president of the Ninth Circuit District Judges Association and the Nevada State District Judges Association. He has been a member of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council and was the chair of the Ninth Circuit Jury Committee. Judge McKibben is the former chair of the Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction. He served on the Nevada State Board of Bar Examiners. Judge McKibben was a past President of the Howard D. McKibben Inn of Court, and he is one of the founders of the Bruce R. Thompson Inn of Court. In 2010, Judge McKibben was the recipient of the Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Ninth Circuit. He has served for many years on the faculty of the National Judicial College. Judge McKibben has participated with the American Bar Association's Central and Eastern European Law Initiative Program and has participated in seminars in Eastern Europe. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Eagle Valley Children's Home.

United States District Judges



Kent J. Dawson

Judge Dawson was confirmed by the United States Senate in May 2000 and took the oath of office on July 7, 2000. He received his undergraduate degree in 1969 from Weber State College in Ogden, Utah, which he attended on athletic and music scholarships. After graduating from the University of Utah Law School in 1971, he clerked for Judge James Guinan in the Second Judicial District Court.

Judge Dawson was the Henderson City Attorney between 1972 and 1979. During that time, he was instrumental in the creation of the Henderson Public Improvement Trust, an issuer of tax-exempt bonds. Judge Dawson represented the city in attracting Ethel M. Chocolates, Levi Strauss, Breyer's Ice Cream, and many other businesses. He was also instrumental in the first issuance of industrial development bonds for the cities of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas. The infrastructure for the master-planned communities of The Lake at Las Vegas, Green Valley Ranch, McDonald Ranch and Seven Hills was financed with tax exempt bonds during his tenure. Those communities are the driving force behind Henderson becoming one of the fastest growing large cities in the United States for the past several years. Judge Dawson served as legal counsel for the Trust until he became a full-time judge.

Judge Dawson was in private practice from 1979 until 1995 where he focused primarily in civil law. He was recognized by the Clark County Pro Bono Project for Outstanding Contribution by a Law Firm. In 1995 he was appointed Justice of the Peace for Henderson and subsequently elected to a six-year term. Judge Dawson was for many years an elected officer and director of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, having served as President and having received the "Member of the Year" award. In 2009, he received the City of Henderson Mike O'Callaghan Public Sector Person of the Year Award for outstanding service and advancement of the City's economic development goals. From 2013 through 2020, Judge Dawson served on the U.S. Judicial Conference Court Security Committee where he was chairperson of the Operations and Technology subcommittee.

He has donated his time in the creation of numerous charitable and community organizations. He has also been licensed as a private pilot with instrument and multiengine ratings. He is admitted to practice in Utah and Nevada.



Larry R. Hicks

Larry R. Hicks was appointed by President George W. Bush and was sworn in as United States District Court Judge for the District of Nevada in 2001.

Judge Hicks received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1965 and his law degree from the University of Colorado in 1968. In 1968 he commenced his legal career as a prosecutor in the Washoe County District Attorney's Office in Reno. He became the Chief Criminal Deputy District Attorney in 1972 and was elected and served as Washoe County District Attorney from 1974 through 1978.

Judge Hicks joined the statewide law firm of McDonald, Carano, Wilson, McCune, Bergin, Frankovich & Hicks LLP. as a partner in 1979 and practiced primarily in the fields of commercial litigation and personal injury. He tried numerous civil jury and non-jury cases in state and federal court and was the chair of his law firm's litigation section from 1986 until joining the Court in 2001.

Judge Hicks is a past president of the following: The State Bar of Nevada (1993-1994), the Bruce R. Thompson Chapter of the American Inns of Court in Reno (1999-2000), and the Nevada District Attorneys Association (1977-1978). He served on the Board of Governors of the Nevada State Bar from 1988 to 1994. He was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1998. In 2020, he was awarded the Nevada State Bar President's Award for lifetime achievement.

Judge Hicks assumed senior status as a District Court Judge in 2013 and continues to carry an active caseload with the Court in Reno.

United States District Judges



James C. Mahan

Judge Mahan is a longtime resident of Las Vegas, having lived and practiced law there continuously since 1973. Judge Mahan attended the University of Charleston, West Virginia, and following graduation, he served in the United States Navy from 1966 to 1969.

Upon receiving his honorable discharge, Judge Mahan attended Vanderbilt University Law School where he was selected for Vanderbilt's national moot court team. Following graduation from law school, Judge Mahan was admitted to practice in Nevada, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the United States Tax Court, and the United States Supreme Court.

In 1982, Judge Mahan and Frank A. Ellis III formed the law firm of Mahan & Ellis, Chartered, where they practiced law primarily in the areas of business and commercial litigation for seventeen years. Judge Mahan was named to "Who's Who in America" and "Who's Who in the World," as well as "Who's Who in American Law."

In February 1999, Governor Kenny Guinn appointed Judge Mahan to the Clark County Eighth Judicial District Court. In the biennial Review Journal poll of lawyers in Clark County, he was the highest rated district judge in 2000 and 2002.

In 2001, Judge Mahan was nominated to the United States District Court. Judge Mahan took the Oath of Office on February 1, 2002. From 2005 – 2012, he served as an adjunct professor at the William H. Boyd School of Law. He has served on the Board of Advisors for the Vanderbilt Law School since 2014.



Robert C. Jones

Judge Robert Clive Jones was appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Nevada by President Bush in June 2003, and confirmed by the Senate in October 2003. He was sworn in on December 1, 2003. He was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada.

He graduated from Brigham Young University with honors in accounting and then attended UCLA School of Law where he was associate editor of the law review, member of the Order of the Coif, and member of the Order of Barristers. He also served in the Nevada and California National Guard.

Judge Jones passed the CPA examination in 1971 and obtained his CPA Certificate in November of 1976. He clerked for Judge J. Clifford Wallace, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and practiced law from 1976 to 1983. He is a member of the State Bars of California and Nevada and has been admitted to the United States Tax Court.

Judge Jones was appointed as United States Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Nevada in February of 1983. He was appointed to the United States Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Ninth Circuit in November 1986 and served on that Panel until 1999. Judge Jones served as a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on Codes of Conduct from October 1989 until 1995.

United States Magistrate Judges



Cam Ferenbach

Magistrate Judge Cam Ferenbach has presided as a trial and settlement judge over hundreds of civil cases, including Employment, Personal Injury, Intellectual Property, Real Property, Contract, Civil Rights, Construction, and Business Disputes.

Judge Ferenbach graduated from Princeton University in 1969 and served in the United States Navy as a line officer from 1969 until 1973. After the Navy, Judge Ferenbach settled in Arizona where he managed a community owned water utility before beginning law school in 1977. He graduated from ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law in December 1979 and began working as an associate at Lionel Sawyer & Collins in Las Vegas, Nevada, in March of 1980.

Except for a six month leave of absence, during which he served as a deputy public defender with the Maricopa County Public Defender's Office in Phoenix, Arizona, Judge Ferenbach was an associate and then a litigation partner at Lionel Sawyer & Collins until his appointment to the bench. Judge Ferenbach practice over 30 years included all areas of civil practice, representing individuals, small businesses, and large corporations. He tried cases to juries in state and federal court. Judge Ferenbach was the Pro Bono coordinator for his firm and regularly handled and supervised associates handling Pro Bono cases. While practicing law, Judge Ferenbach served on the boards of Nevada Legal Services, the Nevada Law Foundation, Clark County Legal Services (now Legal aid Center of Southern Nevada), the Clark County Bar Association, The Meadows School, and the State Bar of Nevada. Judge Ferenbach served as President of the County Bar in 2002 and President of the State Bar in 2010-2011.



Nancy J. Koppe

Magistrate Judge Nancy J. Koppe has been on the bench since 2013. Judge Koppe has acted as a settlement judge in hundreds of civil cases, including intellectual property, civil rights, employment, personal injury, and business disputes.

Judge Koppe is the Chair of this Court's Criminal Local Rules Committee and Attorney Admission Fund Committee. She also serves on other committees within this Court. Judge Koppe served as Chair of the Ninth Circuit's Magistrate Judges Education Committee from 2016 to 2017, and as a member of that committee from 2014 to 2016.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Koppe was an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Nevada for over 12 years. Judge Koppe tried criminal cases before nearly every District Judge in this District, including child exploitation, complex white-collar matters, and gang homicide cases. Many of these trials involved forensic analysis of computers and the evidence that arose therefrom. Judge Koppe also wrote appellate briefs and argued before the Ninth Circuit, including one argument before an en banc panel. In her capacity as an Assistant United States Attorney, Judge Koppe served as the Project Safe Childhood Coordinator for the District. Judge Koppe served as a lawyer representative for the District of Nevada and as a representative from this District to the Ninth Circuit's Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee. Judge Koppe also served as Vice Chair, Chair-Elect, and Chair of the Ninth Circuit's Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee. Judge Koppe has served as a member of the Ninth Circuit's Conference Executive Committee.

Before joining the United States Attorney's Office, Judge Koppe was an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for almost eight years. In that capacity, she tried hundreds of bench and jury trials. Judge Koppe prosecuted both adults and juveniles for crimes ranging from attempted murder to sexual assault to insurance fraud.

In 2006, Judge Koppe was awarded the Department of Justice's Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney. In 2011, Cornell Law School awarded Judge Koppe its Exemplary Public Service Award.

Judge Koppe received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her J.D. from Cornell Law School.

United States Magistrate Judges



Carla B. Baldwin

Carla Baldwin presides over a variety of criminal and civil matters. Prior to her elevation to the bench, Judge Baldwin gained extensive and varied trial experience in both federal criminal and complex civil law. From 2010 until to her appointment to the bench, Judge Baldwin served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the criminal division of the United States Attorney's Office in Nevada. During her tenure as an AUSA, Judge Baldwin specialized in prosecuting crimes against children, human trafficking, complex white-collar cases, immigration, election crimes and public corruption. Judge Baldwin tried numerous jury and bench trials and argued several cases before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. As an AUSA, Judge Baldwin served is the

District of Nevada's coordinator for the Project Safe Childhood initiative, the coordinator for the Northern Nevada Financial Crimes Task Force, the District of Nevada's Professional Responsibility Officer, and the District's Elections Officer.

Prior to becoming a federal prosecutor, Judge Baldwin was an associate attorney with the law firm of McDonald Carano Wilson LLP from 2005 until 2010. While at the firm, Judge Baldwin's practice focused primarily in the areas of appellate law and complex commercial and civil litigation. As an associate, Judge Baldwin tried a four-month long complex civil jury trial and argued numerous cases before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Nevada Supreme Court, and various state and federal courts in Las Vegas and Reno. Prior to her time at MCW, Judge Baldwin served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Procter R. Hug, Jr. on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Honorable Peter I. Breen on the Second Judicial District Court for Washoe County, Nevada.

Judge Baldwin has been active in various legal organizations and pro bono projects. Currently, she is a Master Emeritus of the Bruce R. Thompson Inns of Court in Reno, a volunteer for the We the People program, and a member of Federal Magistrate Judge's Association. Previously, Judge Baldwin served on the Board of Directors for Step 2, Inc., a drug and alcohol recovery center in Reno, an ASECNT mentor for Hug High School, and was an active member of the Ninth Circuit's Pro Bono program.

Judge Baldwin received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Speech Communications with a minor in Business Administration from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1997. In 2007, Judge Baldwin was awarded the Outstanding Young Alumni award for UNR. In 2003, Judge Baldwin received her juris doctorate degree, with great distinction, from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. Upon graduation, she was awarded the Outstanding Student Achievement Award and inducted into both the Order of the Coif and Order of the Barristers. In 2008, Judge Baldwin was named one of McGeorge's Top 80 Alumni in 80 years.



Brenda N. Weksler

Magistrate Judge Brenda Weksler joined the Court in 2019 following 16 years as a trial attorney at the Federal Public Defender Office. Prior to that, she served as a judicial law-clerk to Chief J. Kathy Hardcastle in the Eighth Judicial District Court. Judge Weksler has a wide array of litigation experience in federal court representing indigent clients charged with various federal crimes. In addition to her substantial experience with evidentiary hearings, she has tried numerous bench and jury trials. She has also represented her clients in the Ninth Circuit. She taught seminars on several topics across the country, including evidentiary and procedural issues, and was the Trial Training Director for the Federal Public Defender's Office from

2012-2019.

Judge Weksler was born in Buenos Aires and moved to Las Vegas when she was 14 years old. She is a member of several organizations geared to improving the practice of law and preserving access to justice, and has served on several boards, including the Clark County Bar, the Federal Bar Association, and the Federal Court Pro Bono Program.

Judge Weksler graduated from Boyd School of Law, University of Las Vegas, Nevada in 2002. She received her undergraduate degree in English with a minor in Philosophy from University of Las Vegas, Nevada.

United States Magistrate Judges



Daniel J. Albregts

Magistrate Judge Daniel J. Albregts was appointed to the bench effective August 5, 2019. Prior to his appointment, Judge Albregts was in private practice for 26 years handling civil and criminal matters in State and Federal Court. Judge Albregts handled all types of criminal cases, including death penalty cases, large complex, multi-defendant criminal cases, and was lead counsel in some of the largest white collar criminal cases ever prosecuted in Southern Nevada. Judge Albregts was lead attorney in over 125 jury trials in state and federal court and argued cases before the Nevada Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to private practice, Judge Albregts served as an Assistant Deputy Public Defender in the Federal Defender's Office for the District of Nevada from 1990-1993, and as a Deputy Assistant Public Defender for the Colorado Public Defender's Office from 1987-1990.

Judge Albregts served as the Lawyer Representative to the Federal District Court for the District of Nevada from 2001-2003 and 2017-2019, was the Criminal Justice Act Lawyer Representative for the United States District Court, District of Nevada from 1999-2008 and 2015-2019, and was a member of the National eVoucher Working Group for the Administrative Offices of the United States Courts.

Judge Albregts served on the Southern Nevada State Bar Disciplinary Committee from 1995-2004, serving as Vice Chairman from 1999-2004. Judge Albregts received his undergraduate degree in History/Political Science in 1984 and his Juris Doctorate in 1987, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Elayna J. Youchah

Magistrate Judge Elayna Youchah was a private civil litigator for approximately 25 years after completing a clerkship with the Honorable Lawrence R. Leavitt (Ret.) in the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada. Immediately prior to joining the bench, Judge Youchah was an equity partner with Jackson Lewis, where her practice focused on labor and employment law.

During and before Judge Youchah's many years in the civil practice of law, she has been a dedicated advocate for children through Guardian ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates Office, and the Children's Aid Program sponsored by the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. Judge Youchah is also involved in animal rescue when time allows.

Judge Youchah graduated Order of the Coif from the University of Southern California School of Law in 1993. She graduated with distinction with a A.B from the University of Michigan in 1980 and received a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Washington in 1983. Among the positions Judge Youchah held as a social worker were Director of the Wake County Juvenile Delinquency Project in Raleigh, North Carolina, Foster Home Coordinator for Casey Family Foundation in Seattle, Washington, and the social worker for one of King County's (Seattle, Washington) public defender offices, creating and coordinating alternative sentencing options for adjudicated juvenile offenders.

United States Magistrate Judges



Craig S. Denney

Magistrate Judge Craig S. Denney was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He and his family have lived in Northern Nevada since 1999.

Judge Denney has a bachelor's degree in Economics and Business Administration from Ohio Dominican College in Columbus, Ohio. Judge Denney received his juris doctorate from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio. He has a master's degree in business administration from Saint Martin's College in Lacey, Washington. He also has a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Prior to his appointment to the federal court on January 24, 2022, Judge Denney held the following positions: Assistant United States Attorney, with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nevada; Counsel with Downey Brand LLP; Counsel and Partner with Snell & Wilmer LLP.

In 2016, Judge Denney was appointed as Administrative Law Judge with the Social Security Administration ("SSA"). He later served as the Chief Administrative Law Judge for SSA's Reno Hearing Office before his selection as a Magistrate Judge.

Prior to moving to Nevada in 1999, Judge Denney served on active duty for six years in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps ("JAG"). He has also served in the Army Reserve JAG Corps for more than twenty years. During his time in the Reserve, Judge Denney served as a Military Judge from 2011 to 2021. He also currently serves as an Associate Judge (Army Reserve) on the Army Court of Criminal Appeals.



Robert A. McQuaid, Jr. – Recalled

Judge McQuaid earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1968. He received his law degree from Willamette University College of Law in 1971, and was admitted to the State Bar of Nevada that year.

Judge McQuaid served as a lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference (1987-1989) and was active in the State Bar of Nevada serving on the Fee Dispute Committee, the Disciplinary Committee, and the Medical-Legal Screening Panel.

Before his appointment to the bench in 1996, Judge McQuaid was a partner in the law firm of Georgeson, McQuaid, Thompson & Angaran in Reno.

Judge McQuaid is a member of the State Bar of Nevada and the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a master in the Bruce R. Thompson American Inn of Court.

United States Bankruptcy Judges



August B. Landis, Chief Judge

August B. Landis was sworn in as a Nevada Bankruptcy Judge on November 27, 2013. He became Chief Judge for the District on April 1, 2020.

Chief Judge Landis served in the U.S. Trustee Program of the U.S. Department of Justice and was acting U.S. Trustee for Region 17 from 2010 until being appointed as a judge to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada.

Prior to his government service, Chief Judge Landis engaged in private practice as an associate attorney at Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C., in Des Moines, Iowa, from 1990 to 1995, and as a member attorney from 1996 to 2005. He handled commercial and bankruptcy litigation from case inception through resolution by arbitration, mediation, settlement, or trial. Chief Judge Landis also worked as an associate at Neiman, Neiman, Stone & Spellman, P.C., in Des Moines, from 1987 to 1989, representing debtors, creditors, and a Chapter 7 panel trustee in contested matters and adversary proceedings.

A native of Springfield, Illinois, Chief Judge Landis received his B.S. degree in business administration from Drake University in 1984 and his J.D. in 1987 from Drake Law School, where he served as a staff member of the Drake Law Review.



Mike K. Nakagawa

Judge Nakagawa was appointed to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada in September 2006 and was reappointed in 2020. He served as the Chief Bankruptcy Judge from October 2008 through September 2015. He received his B.A. in political economy from the University of the Pacific in 1977. He received his J.D. from the University of California at Davis in 1980, where he was a member and editor of the law review. After law school, he clerked for the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.

Judge Nakagawa was admitted to the California and Nevada bars, and primarily practiced bankruptcy and business law. Before relocating to Nevada, he taught bankruptcy law and reorganizations in Sacramento at McGeorge School of Law as well as Lincoln Law School. Judge Nakagawa currently teaches courses in bankruptcy law and remedies at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. He has been a presenter at numerous continuing legal education programs offered by the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Norton Institutes on Bankruptcy Law, and other organizations.



Natalie M. Cox

Natalie M. Cox was appointed to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada in January 2020.

Originally from Kodiak, Alaska, Judge Cox attended Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, where she played on both the Women's Basketball and Softball teams. After graduating with a B.A. in History in 1997, Judge Cox attended the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV, graduating in the inaugural class in 2001.

After graduating from law school, Judge Cox entered private practice in Las Vegas with the law firms of Jolley, Urga, Wirth & Woodbury, and Kolesar & Leatham, Chtd.. Prior to her appointment, Judge Cox served in the Office of the U.S. Trustee in Wilmington, Delaware and Nashville, Tennessee.

United States Bankruptcy Judges



Gregg W. Zive

Judge Zive was sworn in as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Nevada in its Reno office on January 23, 1995 and was reappointed in 2009. He was the Chair of the Ninth Circuit Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges from October 2005 to September 2006. He retired effective December 31, 2010 and has been recalled on a full-time basis since January 1, 2011.

Judge Zive graduated from the University of Nevada in 1967 with a B.A. in journalism. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1973 where he was a member and an editor of the law review. He was admitted to the bars of California (1973) and Nevada (1976) and to the bar of the

Supreme Court of the United States.

Judge Zive is a past president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. He is a Fellow of The American College of Bankruptcy (inducted in 2005). He has been a director of the American Bankruptcy Institute from (2008–2014). He is a member of the Washoe County Bar Association (president, 1992-1993), Nevada State-Federal Judicial Council, State Bar of Nevada Advisory Commission on Law Related Education and Master Emeritus of the Bruce R. Thompson Chapter of the American Inns of Court. He has been a member of the Ninth Circuit Public Information & Community Outreach Committee and the Ninth Circuit Standing Committee on ADR. He is an adjunct professor at Boyd Law School.

Inactive and Retired Judges



Roger L. Hunt – Inactive U.S. District Judge

Judge Roger L. Hunt was nominated to the United States District Court for the District of Nevada by President Bill Clinton on March 27, 2000 and took office on May 26, 2000. He served as Chief Judge of the District of Nevada from January 2007-May 2011. He took Senior Status in May 2011. Judge Hunt served as a Magistrate Judge from 1992 - 2000 and was chair of the Executive Board of the Ninth Circuit Magistrate Judges Conference at the time of his confirmation.

Judge Hunt received his undergraduate degree in history from Brigham Young University in 1966 and received his J.D. degree, with honors, in 1970 from George Washington University.

Judge Hunt served on the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council. He served as the judicial liaison for the Criminal Justice Act Panel for 15 years where he coordinated the Court Appointed Attorneys Panel. He served on the Ninth Circuit Model Jury Instruction Committee for seven years, was also a member of the Ninth Circuit Library Committee, was co-chair of the District's CM/ECF Implementation Committee, and chair of the Case Management Subcommittee.



Philip M. Pro, Retired

Philip M. Pro was nominated to the United States District Court for the District of Nevada by President Ronald Reagan and took office on July 23, 1987. Judge Pro served as Chief Judge for the District of Nevada from 2002 to 2007. Prior to appointment as District Judge, he served as United States Magistrate Judge from 1980 to 1987. Judge Pro assumed senior status on December 31, 2011 and retired on January 23, 2015.

Judge Pro received his J.D. degree from Golden Gate University School of Law in June 1972 and received his LL.M. from Duke University School of Law in 2014. Pro began his federal judicial career in 1980 and was appointed to a full eight-year term as a federal magistrate judge in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. Pro served seven years before being appointed as an Article III judge in 1987.

Judge Pro served as chair of the Committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System of the Judicial Conference of the United States from October 1998 through January 2007. Chief Justice Roberts appointed Judge Pro to the Board of Directors for the Federal Judicial Center. He served on the Board of the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution at the William S. Boyd School of Law. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Judges Association from 1992 to 2001 and served as Vice President from 1997 to 2001. Judge Pro participated in a variety of International "Rule of Law" programs in the countries of Hungary, Republic of Georgia, Netherlands, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Jordan, South Africa, Norway, and Spain.



Valerie P. Cooke, Retired

Valerie P. Cooke served as a United States Magistrate Judge from November 1, 1999 to July 31, 2018. A third generation Nevada lawyer, Judge Cooke graduated cum laude from the University of Nevada, Reno, and she received her J.D. degree from Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College.

Judge Cooke served on the Ninth Circuit's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee from 2001 to 2013, and as its chair from 2008 to 2013. She created an inmate early mediation program in the District of Nevada by which all Section 1983 inmate cases are sent to early mediation after the court screens the complaint.

Judge Cooke co-chaired the Ninth Circuit's 2015 Corrections Summit, which was the first of its kind in the nation. As a result of the summit, each district in the Ninth Circuit created a working group of stakeholders who are committed to addressing inmate litigation issues of particular interest to that district.

Judge Cooke also welcomed international visitors to her court and her home through the Northern Nevada International Center and the U.S. State Department. The goal of these visits is to teach individuals from emerging nations about our judicial system and the rule of law in the United States.

Inactive and Retired Judges



Peggy A. Leen, Retired

Peggy A. Leen was appointed United States Magistrate Judge on January 16, 2001 and served until her retirement on April 30, 2019. A Nevada resident for more than thirty years, she attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, graduating with a degree in political science in 1976, and received her J.D. from the University of San Diego Law School in 1979.

Judge Leen left private practice in 1995 and joined the Clark County District Attorney's Office where she prosecuted capital and other murder cases as a member of the major violators unit. Just prior to her appointment, she defended the County in eminent domain and tort cases as a Deputy District Attorney in the civil division.

She is the only woman lawyer from the State of Nevada who has been elected a fellow of the International Society of Barristers, the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, and the American College of Trial Lawyers.



George W. Foley, Retired

George Foley, Jr., was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge in August 2005 and served until his retirement on August 5, 2019.

A fourth generation Nevada lawyer, Judge Foley graduated from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in 1980 where he was class valedictorian and a member of the Order of the Coif. Judge Foley served as a member and vice-chairperson of the State Bar of Nevada Southern Disciplinary Board, as a member and vice-chairman of the Standing Committee on Judicial Ethics and Election Practices, and was also a member of the Nevada Board of Bar Examiners



Carl W. Hoffman, Retired

Carl Hoffman was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge for the federal District of Nevada on August 5, 2011 and served until his retirement on August 4, 2019. He graduated from the University of Colorado in 1974 with a B.A. degree in political science. He received his J.D. degree from the University of San Diego in 1981, and his L.L.M degree in 1989 from the Army Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia. He is also a distinguished graduate of the National War College in Washington, D.C.

Prior to his appointment, he was the General Counsel of the Clark County School District. He served for seven years on Nevada's Commission on Judicial Discipline and served as a hearing officer for the Nevada Department of Personnel. He was an adjunct instructor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Nova Southeastern University in Las Vegas, teaching courses on Education Law for over 10 years.

Prior to his arrival in Las Vegas, he served in the United States Marine Corps as an infantry officer and then a judge advocate in assignments, including criminal prosecutor and defense counsel, Special Assistant United States Attorney, and a legal advisor to the United Nations Military Armistice Commission in the Republic of Korea. He also served as a legal counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and as the operational law advisor for military operations, including international counter-narcotics and counter-terrorism operations at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

Inactive and Retired Judges



William G. Cobb, Retired

William Cobb was appointed a United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Nevada on September 4, 2011, and was reappointed to a second eight-year term in 2019. A native of Nevada, he attended the University of Nevada, Reno, and Lewis & Clark Law School. He served in the US Army Reserves (Captain, Air Defense Artillery). He was previously elected to the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Cobb was a deputy district attorney in the Washoe County District Attorney's office. He later joined the civil litigation law firm of Erickson, Thorpe & Swainston, Ltd., where he practiced law for 33 years and was the firm's senior and managing partner. During his career as a civil and criminal trial attorney, Judge Cobb tried approximately 50 jury trials to verdict and was elected to membership in Trial Attorneys of America. Judge Cobb was a Nevada lawyer delegate to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference (Chair, 1991). He is a former president of the Bruce R. Thompson Inn of Court and was honored as a Master Emeritus of the Inn. He served as a Nevada Supreme Court Settlement Judge for 14 years and was also a Judge Pro Tempore of Nevada's "Short Trial" program. He remains a member of the State Bars of Nevada and California, the Washoe County Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, and the American Board of Trial Advocates.

In his capacity as the District of Nevada's senior Magistrate Judge, he serves as the district's representative to the Ninth Circuit Magistrate Judges Executive Board. He is chair of the State and Federal Judicial Council of Nevada.

Judge Cobb retired on January 4, 2022, and is serving as a recalled magistrate judge.



Bruce T. Beesley, Retired

Judge Beesley was appointed as a bankruptcy judge for the District of Nevada on Jan. 2, 2011, and served as chief bankruptcy judge of his court from Oct. 1, 2015 – March 31, 2020. He retired in August 2021.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was a partner and served as the bankruptcy group leader for the Lewis and Roca LLP offices in Reno, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was a partner at Beckley Singleton, Ltd., in Las Vegas, from 2006 to 2007, and was a shareholder and president of Beesley, Peck & Matteoni, Ltd., in Reno from 1995 to 2006.

Judge Beesley received his bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada, Reno, in 1975 and his juris doctorate from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, where he graduated with distinction.

Chambers Staff

The District Court has five active district judges, five senior judges, seven magistrate judges, and one recalled magistrate judge. The district judges are assisted in their work daily by forty-three chambers staff and nine pro se staff attorneys. Each active district judge has three chambers staff positions and each magistrate judge has two chambers staff positions. The Bankruptcy Court has four active judges, one recall judge and three visiting judges. The bankruptcy judges are assisted in their daily work with two chambers staff positions. The chambers positions for district and bankruptcy judges are filled by a mixture of judicial assistants, paralegals, term law clerks, and career law clerks.

Chambers staff have a wide range of responsibilities including: assisting the judge in preparing for hearings, trials and other calendar matters; managing chambers' internal case management system; preparing workload and statistical reports; monitoring and managing caseloads; drafting written memoranda, orders, legal documents, and other materials for the judge's review and signature; providing legal counsel and support to the judge; and researching and analyzing substantive issues of federal and state law, both civil and criminal. They also serve as liaisons between attorneys, the public and the judge.

In addition to chambers staff, the District Court has nine permanent staff attorneys and two temporary staff attorneys (plus an additional temporary position starting at the end of January 2022) who work solely on prisoner litigation. Three permanent staff attorneys and one temporary staff attorney work on litigation filed by prisoners under 42 U.S.C. 1983. Four permanent staff attorneys and one temporary staff attorney focus on non-capital habeas corpus petitions filed by state prisoners under 28 U.S.C. 2254. The Court has two death penalty habeas corpus staff attorneys who assist with all of the Court's pending capital state habeas cases and also work on some non-capital habeas corpus petitions filed under section 2254. The Bankruptcy Court has one temporary law clerk to assist all the bankruptcy judges.

In prisoner civil rights cases, the staff attorneys screen all newly filed section 1983 complaints, address motions to proceed in forma pauperis, and draft orders either ordering service of the complaint, or alternatively dismissing all or part of the claims sua sponte under the Prison Litigation Reform Act where appropriate. In both capital and non-capital habeas cases, the staff attorneys work on the entire case from start to finish including screening all newly filed section 2254 petitions and drafting orders on substantive motions and the merits. The pro se staff attorneys are instrumental in the Court's management and resolution of prisoner cases.

District Court Clerk's Office



The District Court Clerk's Office is led by Debra Kempf, the Clerk of Court. Ms. Kempf became the Clerk of Court on January 3, 2017, after serving as the Chief Deputy of Operations in the Southern District of Florida.

The Clerk's Office is responsible for providing courtroom support and case management, maintaining accurate and timely records, and providing a wide range of customer service internally as well as to the bar and the public. The Clerk's Office is divided into administrative areas and operational areas. The administrative areas include budgeting, procurement, information technology, finance, human resources, jury management, continuity of operations planning ("COOP"), etc. The operational areas include intake, records, docketing, quality control, CM/ECF help desk, case management, courtroom support, court recording and reporting, etc. The Clerk's Office continually looks for ways to improve customer service and increase efficiency through the use of technology, innovations, and ongoing review of daily operations and processes.

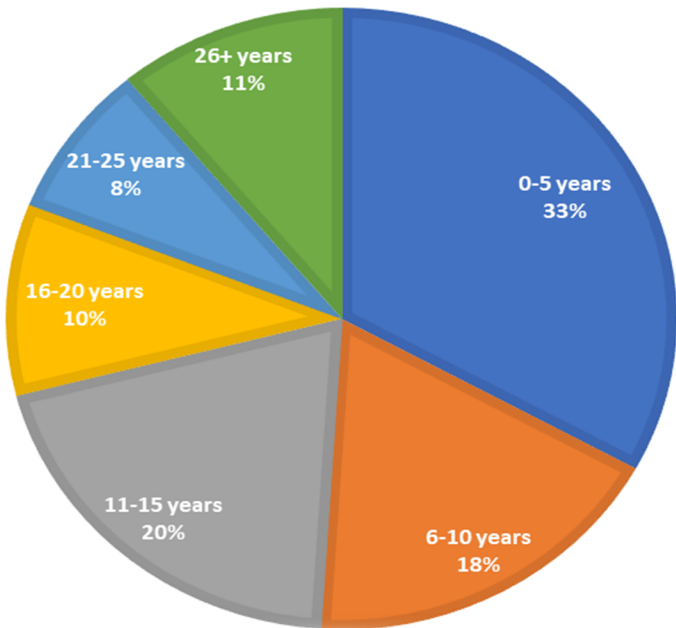
The employees of the Clerk's Office support the work of the court despite ongoing challenges related to serious budget cuts at a national level. The amount of money allocated for our Clerk's Office salaries and operational expenses such as automation, supplies and equipment, travel, etc. is received from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and determined primarily through formulas (filings, workload, number of judges, etc.). The money allocated for Clerk's Office salaries and expenses was reduced by 9.4% in fiscal year (FY) 2020, 10.4% in FY 2021, and is anticipated to be cut up to 14% for the current FY 2022.

The employees of the Clerk's Office adjusted to numerous challenges and changes to sustain court operations during COVID-19. Their collective efforts, hard work and dedication continue to be greatly appreciated.

As of January 2022, the Clerk's Office consists of 61 employees, 42 in the Las Vegas division and 19 in the Reno division. The chart below indicates the breakdown of the years of service and reflects the significant number of "newer" employees in the Clerk's Office.

NV DISTRICT COURT - CLERK'S OFFICE
YEARS OF SERVICE

0-5 years 6-10 years 11-15 years 16-20 years 21-25 years 26+ years



Clerk's Office Years of Service as of January 2022

District Court Clerk's Office

Year 2021

Criminal Cases Filed in 2021

378

Count of Case Number

Criminal Cases Closed in 2021

417

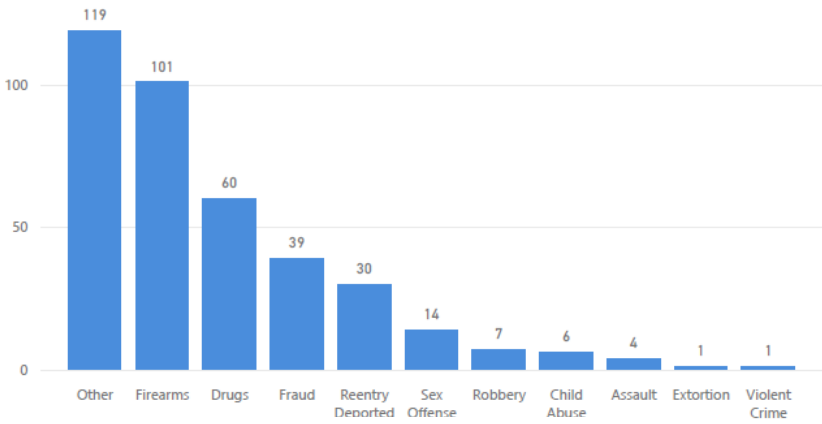
Count of Case Number

Criminal Motions Resolved in 2021

6031

Count of Motions

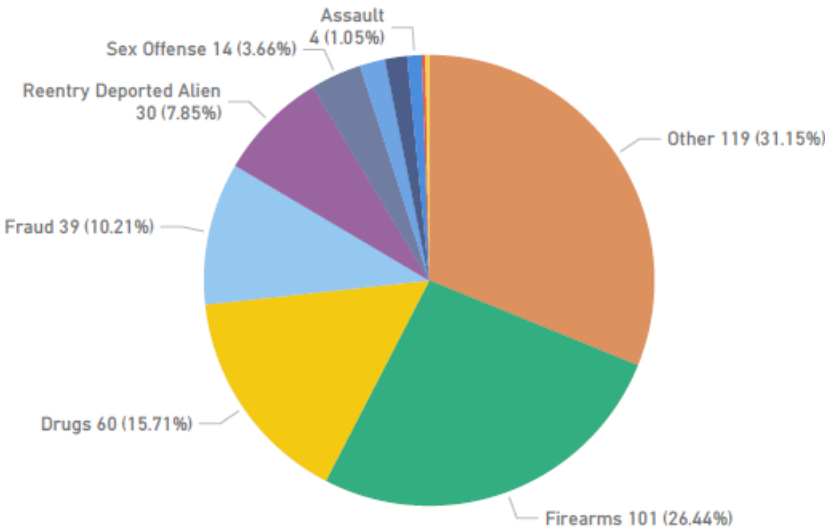
Cases by Criminal Type



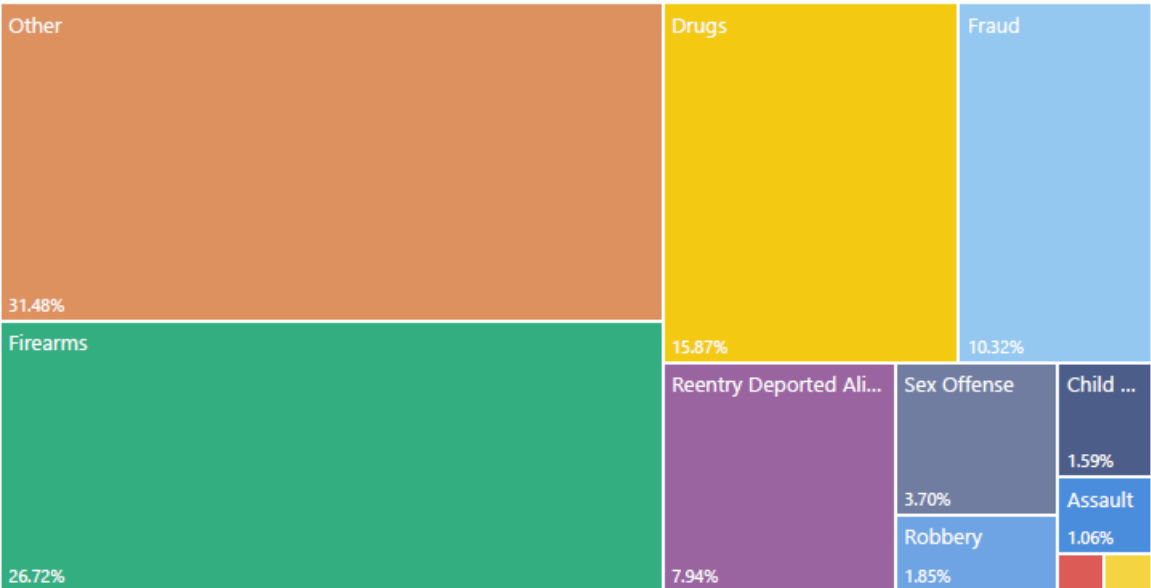
Cases by Criminal Type

Origin

- Other
- Firearms
- Drugs
- Fraud
- Reentry Deported Alien
- Sex Offense
- Robbery
- Child Abuse
- Assault
- Extortion
- Violent Crime



Cases by Criminal Type



District Court Clerk's Office

Year 2021

Civil Cases Filed in 2021

2810

Count of Case Number

Civil Cases From State Court in 2021

614

Count of Case Number

Civil Cases Closed in 2021

3182

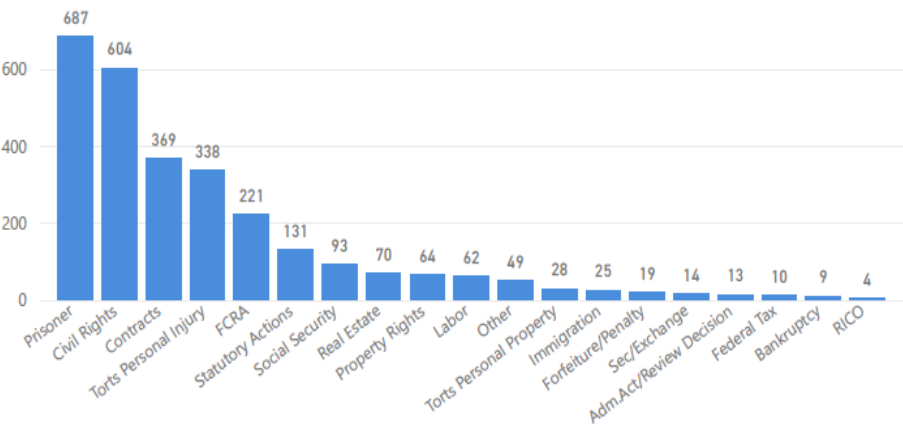
Count of Case Number

Civil Motions Resolved in 2021

23313

Count of Motions

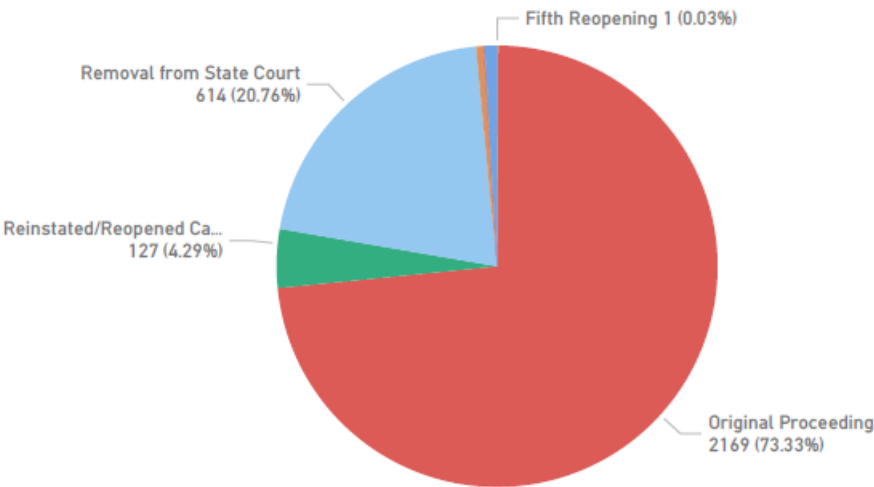
Civil Cases Filed in 2021 - By Nature of Suit



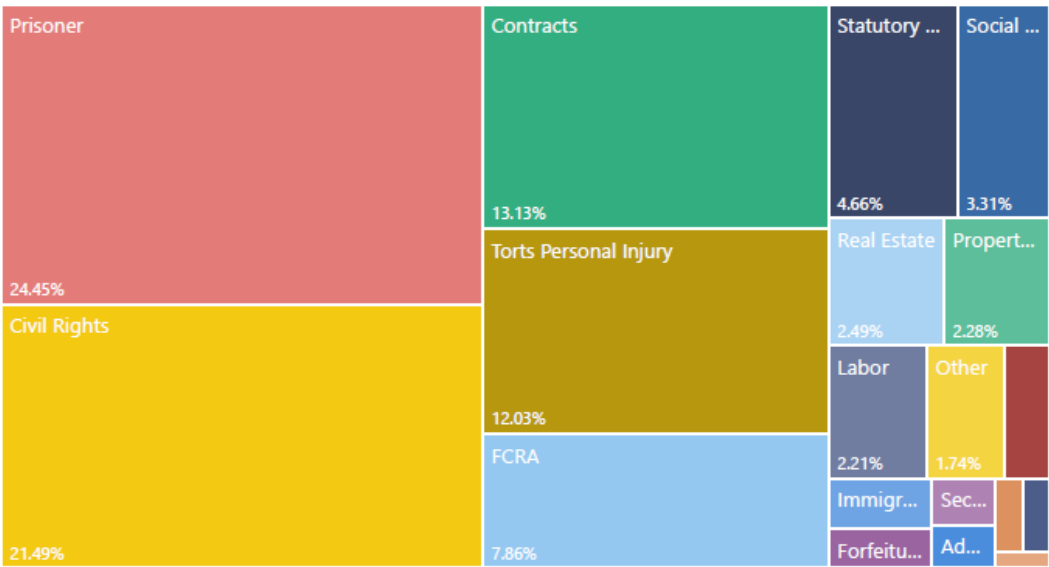
Civil Cases Filed in 2021 - By Origin

Origin

- Fifth Reopening
- Fourth Reopening
- Multidistrict Litigation - Direct Filed
- Original Proceeding
- Reinstated/Reopened Case
- Removal from State Court
- Second Reopening
- Third Reopening
- Transfer-in from Other District

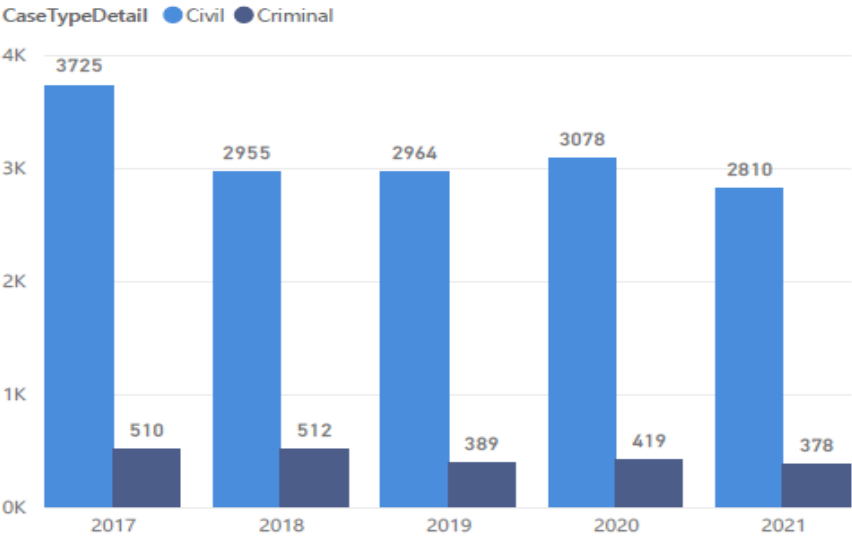


Civil Cases Filed in 2021 - By Nature of Suit

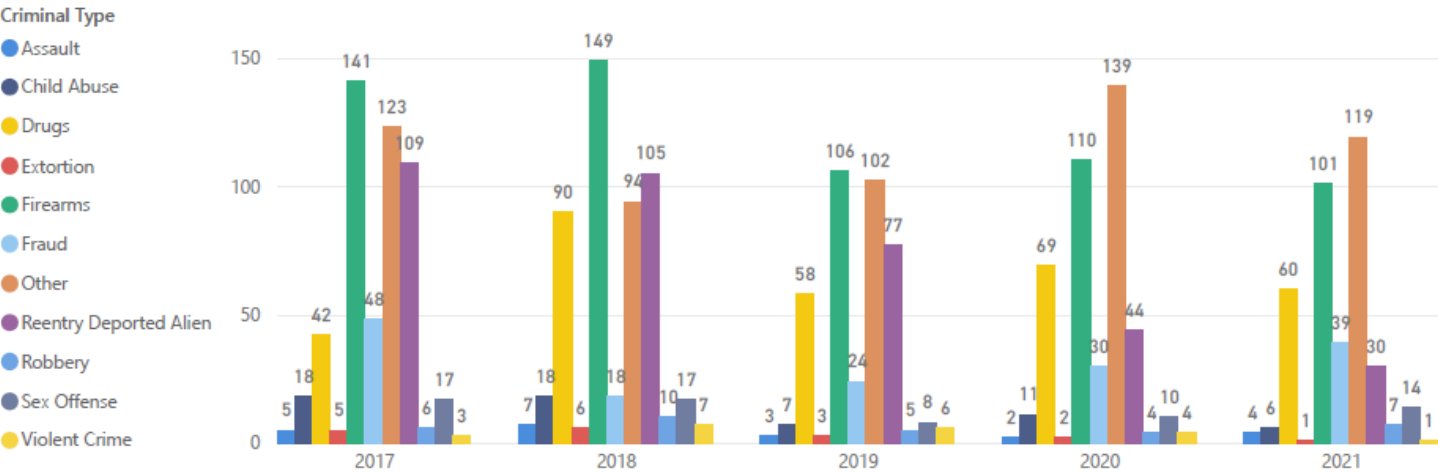


District Court Clerk's Office

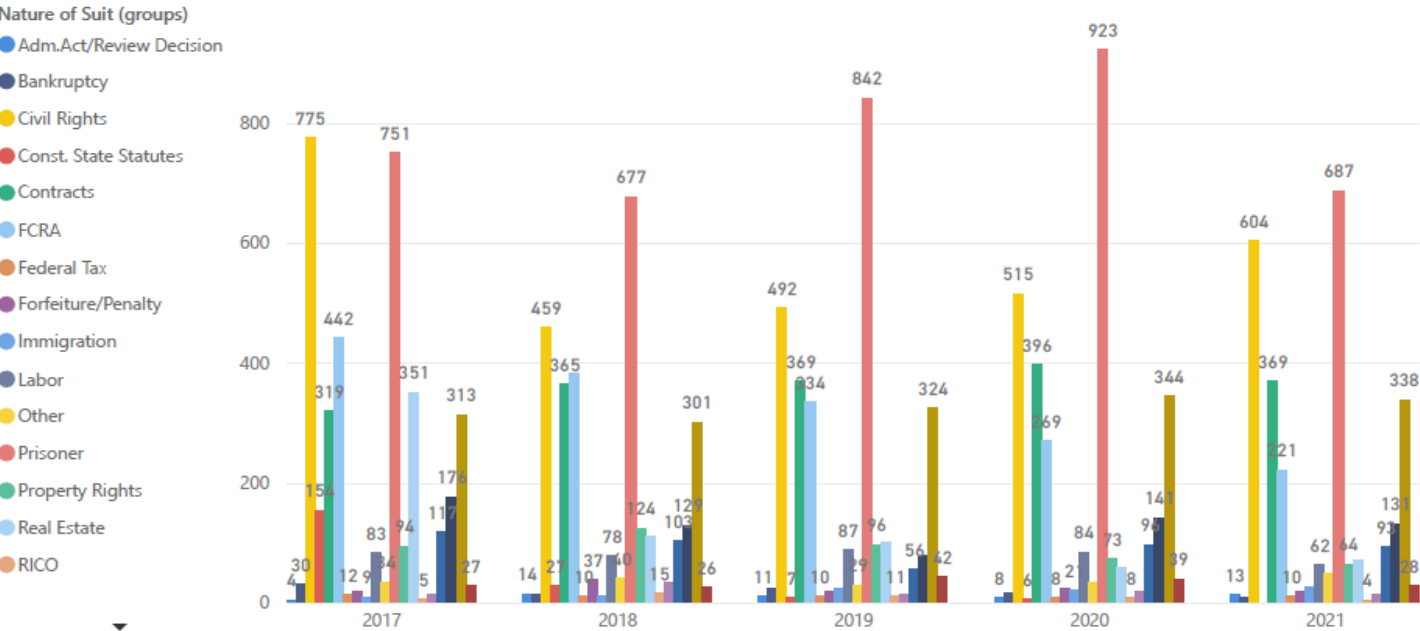
Cases by Year and Type



Criminal Cases by Year and Criminal Type



Civil Cases by Year and Nature of Suit (groups)



Employees of the Clerk's Office

Clerk of Court – Debra K. Kempf

Administration – The Chief Deputy's primary focus is oversight of the operational and administrative management of the Clerk's Office. The Divisional Manager oversees the administrative and operational functions of the divisional office in Reno. The Chief Deputy and Divisional Manager also act as the Clerk's liaison to district and magistrate judges, other court units, government agencies, bar associations, attorneys, litigants, and the public. The Assistant to the Clerk of Court is responsible for providing a variety of support and technical services essential to the direction and operations of the Clerk of the Court. The Administrative Assistant is responsible for attorney discipline, attorney admissions and naturalizations.

Vicente Angotti, Chief Deputy Clerk
Lia Griffin, Divisional Manager
Sharon Hardin, Assistant to the Clerk of Court
Lorena Quintero, Administrative Assistant

Docketing/Intake/QC – Docket/Intake Clerks perform various functions and are responsible for docketing, maintaining, and processing case information, and managing the progression of cases to final disposition, in accordance with approved internal controls, procedures, and rules. Quality Control ("QC") Clerks assist in ensuring the integrity and efficiency of the court's case information database by extracting and analyzing data from unit databases and making corrections.

Darci Reich-Smith	Lesia Ettinger
Daniel Morgan	Kelly Ferris
Heather Magennis	Wayne Julian
Jeff Callo	Erin D. Smith
Hunter Lenz	Monica Reyes
Sandra Ramos	Shelly Denson
Yelena Williams	

Financial Administrators - Financial Administrators ensure the court's compliance with internal controls and regulations affecting financial and budget processes and their interaction with other court processes. Financial Administrators prepare, update, and analyze a variety of accounting records, financial statements, and budget reports; and oversee and assist with accounts payable and accounts receivable activities.

Pat Albers	Patti Smythe-White
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Human Resources – Human Resources ("HR") develops, implements, and administers fair and effective policies, procedures, practices, and standards. HR provides advice and recommendations to managers, unit executives, and judges that are well-supported and consistent with unit goals; provides guidance to managers and supervisors on how to address issues related to performance management, attendance, and policy violations; and provides employee relations and human resources counseling to employees.

Latisa Carter

Employees of the Clerk's Office

Jury Administrators – Jury Administrators oversee the overall jury system for both petit and grand juries and are responsible for the system's efficient operation, in accordance with approved internal controls, procedures, rules, and regulations. They oversee and perform duties related to the selection, qualification, summoning, orientation, management, and payment of jurors, while ensuring a random selection from a cross section of community wherein the court convenes.

Summer Rivera

Audra Davis

Operations Managers/Supervisors – Operation Managers and Supervisors perform professional and managerial work related to supervision and oversight, operations management, case management, and operations support. They direct supervisors and employees, and ensure compliance with the appropriate guidelines, policies, and approved internal controls.

Amber Freeman

Dionne Negrete

Aaron Blazeovich-Gonzalez

Procurement Specialists – Procurement Specialists perform activities which include preparing complicated specifications, negotiating service contracts, and preparing significant and large purchase orders. They procure supplies, equipment, services, and furnishings from government and non-government sources through new contracts, competitive bids, or existing government contracts.

Andrea Krlickova

Samantha Crostic

Alona Candito

Courtroom Administrators – Courtroom Administrators' responsibilities include managing the their assigned judge's caseload, attending, and logging court proceedings, and processing orders. They are responsible for court calendars and regulate the movement of cases, which involves setting dates and times for hearings, trials, and conferences, and attending court sessions and conferences. They assist with the orderly flow of proceedings, including setting up the courtroom, assuring the presence of all necessary participants, assisting with the selection of juries, and managing exhibits. They act as a liaison between the clerk's office, the bar, and the judge to ensure that cases proceed smoothly and efficiently.

Ari Caytuero

Karen Walker

Blanca Lenzi

Katie Sutherland

Danielle Cacciabauda

Lesia Ettinger

Denise Saavedra

Lisa Mann

Elvia Garcia

Paris Rich

Jeff Miller

Peggie Vannozzi

Jerry Ries

Ashlyn Bye

Melissa Johansen

Nicholas Vaglio

Tawnee Renfro

Angela Reyes

Employees of the Clerk's Office

Court Reporters/ECRO – Court Reporters perform court reporting services for judicial proceedings as required. At the request of a party or by order of the court, Court Reporters provide transcripts within the time prescribed by the court and cost requirements of the Judicial Conference. Court Reporters must maintain accurate, legible records which are subject to audits. The Electronic Court Recorder Operator (“ECRO”) performs specialized courtroom functions such as electronic court recording, calendaring and similar courtroom services work involving attending and logging court proceedings, and processing orders.

Amber McClane

Araceli Berish

Paige Christian

Samantha McNett

Kathy French

Margaret Griener

Patty Ganci

Court Interpreter – The Court Interpreter primarily interprets for the court at all proceedings from arraignments, through motions, trials, and sentences; translates written documents to and from the court that may be introduced into evidence or transmitted to other parties; and provides telephone and over-the-counter assistance to non-English speakers. The interpreter also performs administrative duties such as scheduling contract interpreters.

Cristine Sanchez

IT Systems Department – The Information Technology (“IT”) Department is responsible for overseeing and managing automated systems within the court, including operation, coordination, and integration of all Judiciary and local applications. IT manages courtroom technology and telecommunications capabilities; and maintains oversight of the quality of web development and management to ensure user needs are consistently met.

Shawn Knox

David Vazquez

Nicole Joseph

Thomas Pyle

Justin Farris

Robert Anderson

Guillermo Rojas

Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office

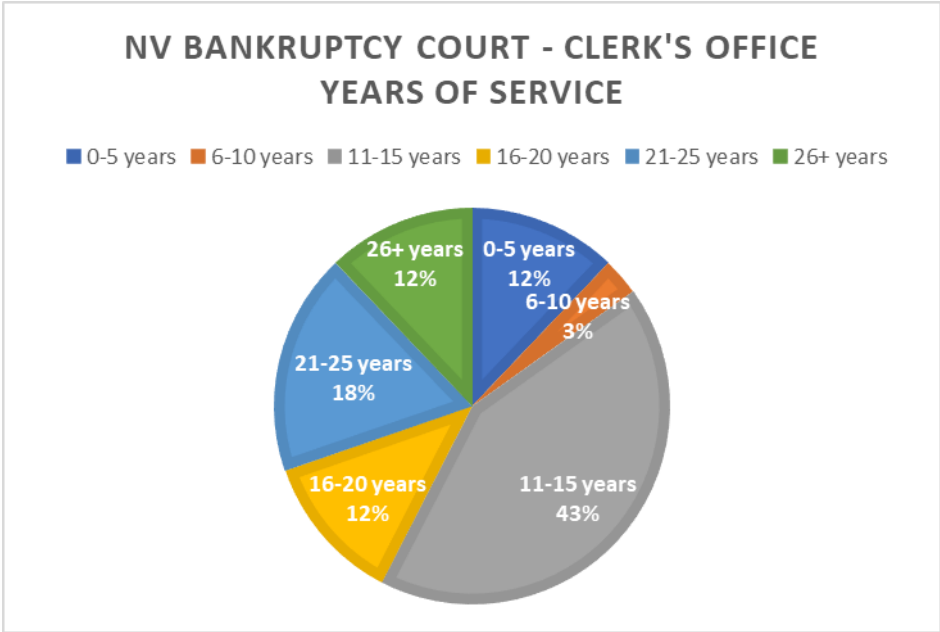
The Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office is led by Mary Schott, the Clerk of Court. The Clerk's Office is responsible for managing the non-judicial administrative activities of the court. This includes maintaining accurate records and dockets, managing the accounting activities of the court, case management, providing courtroom support, and providing a high level of customer service to the bar and the public.

The Clerk's Office is divided into administrative areas and operational areas. The administrative areas include finance, procurement, and human resources. The operational areas include intake, docketing, quality control, CM/ECF help desk, case management, and courtroom services. The Department of Information Technology department is shared with the U.S. Probation office.

The employees of the Clerk's Office support the work of the court despite ongoing challenges related to serious budget cuts at a national level. The amount of money allocated for our Clerk's Office salaries and operational expenses such as automation, supplies and equipment, travel, etc. is received from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and determined primarily through formulas (filings, workload, number of judges, etc.). The money allocated for Clerk's Office salaries and expenses was reduced by 9.4% in fiscal year (FY) 2020, 8.9% in FY 2021, and is anticipated to be cut up to 14% for the current FY 2022.

The hard work and dedication of the Court employees during COVID-19 continues to be appreciated. Court operations have had to be adjusted quickly and sometimes with little notice.

As of January 2022, the Clerk's Office consists of 33 employees. The chart below indicates the breakdown of the years of service.



Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office

EMPLOYEES OF THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Clerk of Court – Mary A. Schott

Administration - The Chief Deputy acts on behalf of the Clerk of Court in her absence and shares responsibility for the management of the Clerk's office. This includes oversight of the administrative services and operational areas of the Court. The Legal Analyst analyzes changes in procedures and rules affecting operational areas of the Court, and provides guidance and assistance to Clerk's staff in procedural and case management issues.

Finance - The Finance department ensures the court's compliance with internal controls and regulations affecting financial and budget processes and their interaction with other court processes. This department also include Procurement. The Procurement Administrator ensures procurement compliance and is responsible for the preparation of purchase orders for the procurement of supplies needed by the Court, participates in the yearly budget, acts as a liaison to General Services Administration, and participates in the formation and regulation of the yearly budget. Financial Specialists maintain the accounting records and applicable reports for all receipted funds and maintain accounts receivable for fees to be collected by the Clerk. The Administrative Specialist maintains the statistical data for the Court, including the various monthly and yearly reports that are generated by this data, prepares, and ensures travel vouchers and travel cards are accurate, and oversees the budget preparation and implementation of the Court's annual Spending Plan.

Human Resources – The Human Resources Manager performs duties related to benefits administration, recruitment, payroll, and ensures local policies are in compliance with Judiciary policies. The Human Resources Manager also assists with the coordination of training programs, and updates personnel policies, procedures, and guidelines.

Operations Supervisors – In Las Vegas, the Resource Coordinator Supervisor of Case Administration, the Resource Coordinator of Court Services, and the Operations Support Supervisor oversee the operations of the Court. In Reno, this is done by the Operations Manager. This includes Intake, Electronic Case Filing (ECF) Support, and Court Services.

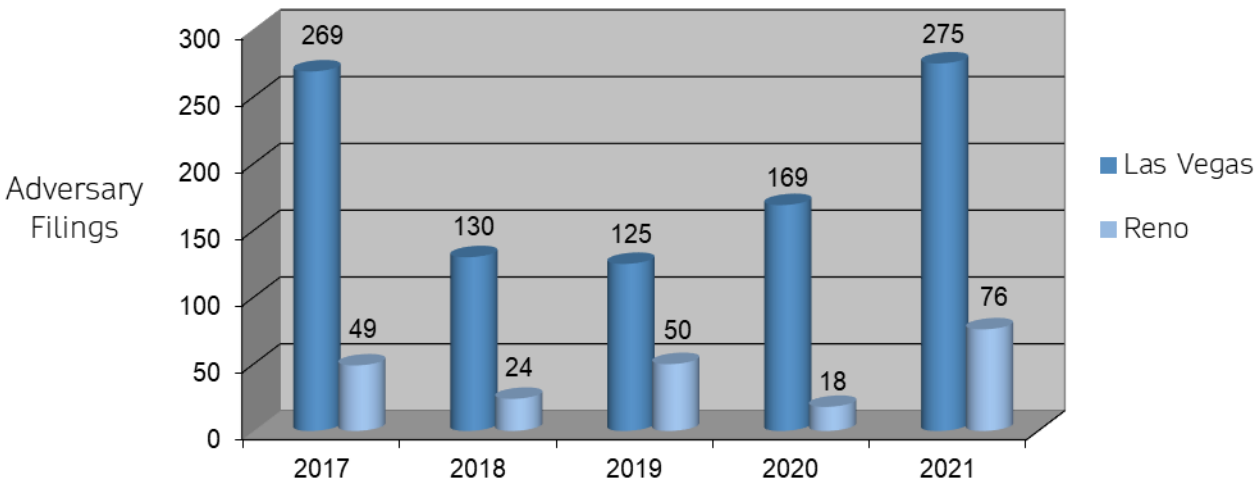
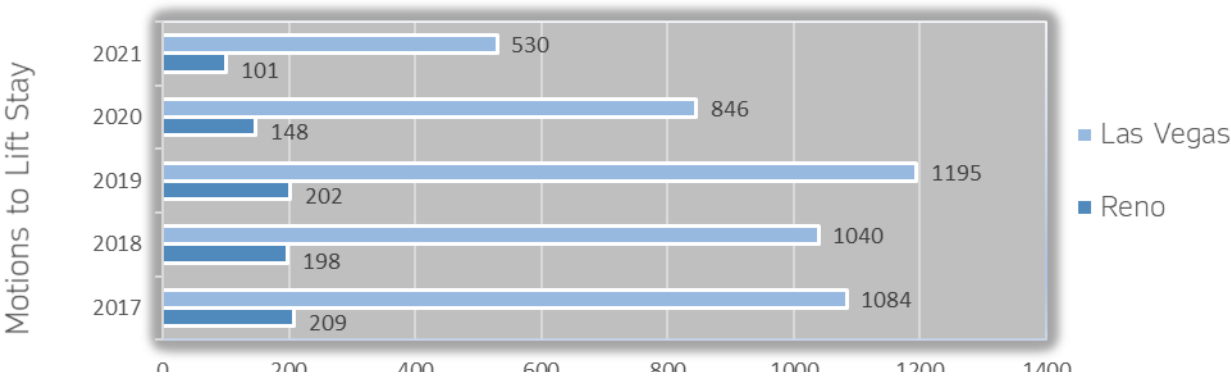
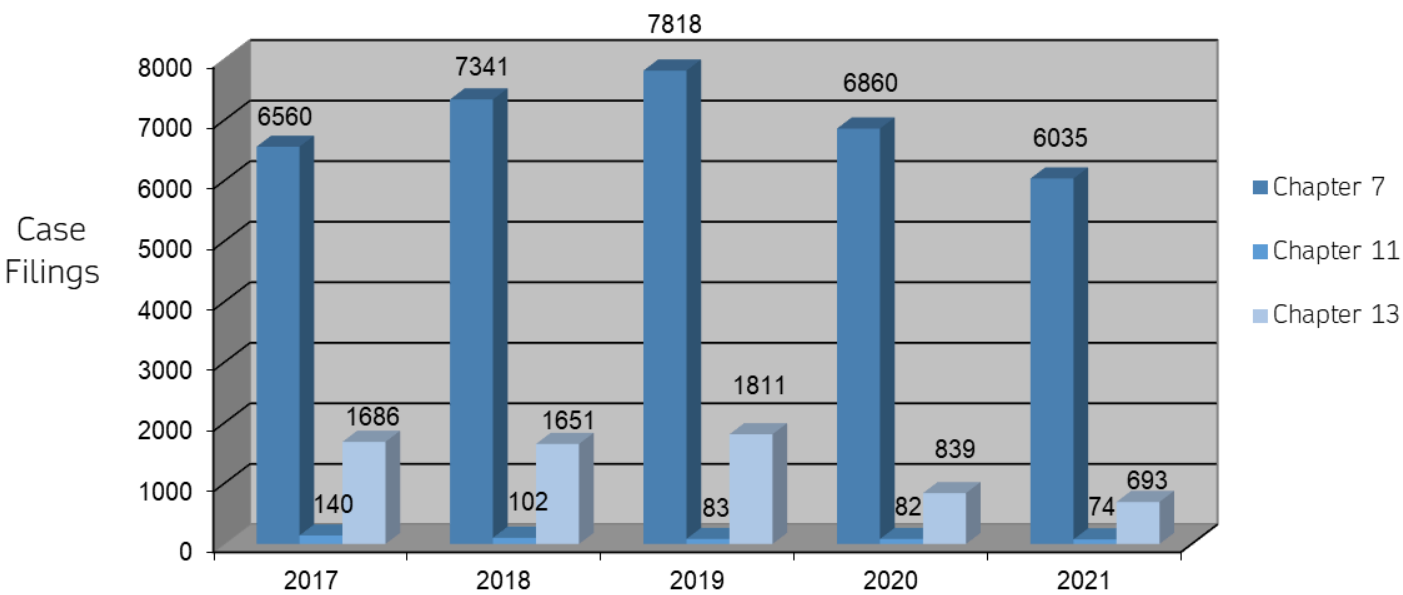
Case Administrators/QC/ECF Support – Case Administrators manage the bankruptcy cases and adversary cases filed. They are responsible for the management of cases filed over the counter or electronically filed, scanning paper filed documents, docketing, quality control of e-filed documents, and monitor cases for discharge and closing. Case Administrators are also responsible for mail duties, and processing funds received over the counter or in the mail. ECF Support provides quality control, audits docket activity, and advises supervisors of input errors.

Court Services- Court Services manages exhibits, assists with visiting judges, processes hearing dates and times, reviews documents for calendar preparation, prepares weekly duty judge calendars, performs quality control of new e-filed petitions, manages the courtroom, processes orders timely, ensures all hearings are being recorded properly, and prepares CDs of hearings when requested.

Department of Information Technology – The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) is responsible for all aspects of information technology within the U.S. Bankruptcy Court and U.S. Probation Office, District of Nevada. The Director of Information Technology evaluates the departments technology and needs, and develops and implements short and long-term improvement plans that anticipate future requirements. The Department is responsible for formulating and implementing appropriate IT policies, procedures, and standards. The Department also performs data backups, manages audit visual equipment, assists in technical service requests, manages the computer network infrastructure, maintains the CM/ECF case management system and all related programs, prepares user manuals, and designs and updates the website.

Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office

United States Bankruptcy Court - District of Nevada



United States Pretrial Services Office

Shiela Adkins, Chief United States Pretrial Services Officer

Staffing

There are eighteen staff members in the Pretrial Services Office. The office anticipates adding 1-2 additional officers in calendar year 2022. The law enforcement staff includes three Senior Pretrial Services Officers, six Pretrial Services Officers, and one Pretrial Services Officer Assistant. There are also two Supervising U.S. Pretrial Services Officers. The office's administrative staff is comprised of an Administrative Manager, an Information Systems Technology Manager, a Data Quality Analyst, an Administrative Specialist, and an Operations Assistant.

Workload Statistics

During fiscal year 2020, the office's workload in the area of pretrial investigations and reports dropped as compared to fiscal year 2019, primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During fiscal year 2021, the overall workload was stable however, the number of defendants under pretrial supervision increased.

Pretrial Services Cases Activated

FY2019 Pretrial Services Investigations & Reports	FY2020 Pretrial Services Investigations & Reports	FY2021 Pretrial Services Investigations & Reports
584	486	481

Defendants Under Supervision

2019 Defendants Under Supervision	2020 Defendants Under Supervision	2021 Defendants Under Supervision
320	374	384

Pretrial Release Rate

FY 2019 Release Rates	FY 2020 Release Rates	2021 Release Rates
48.8%	53.7%	51.3%

Major Initiatives and Accomplishments in 2021

Program Review

The work of the United States Pretrial Service Office was reviewed by the Probation and Pretrial Services Office, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in April 2021. The operational audit included a review of the following areas in terms of Judicial Conference policy compliance:

Pretrial Services Investigations and Reports

General Pretrial Services Supervision

United States Pretrial Services Office

Supervision of Location Monitoring Cases

Supervision of Defendants Charged with a Sex Offense

Supervision of Defendants with Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders

Treatment Services Contracting and Procurement

Firearms and Safety Program

In each of the areas above, the U.S. Pretrial Services Office met the national standards and established policies. In all seven areas, the office *exceeded* the national outcomes in terms of policy compliance as compared with other U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation offices reviewed. This achievement places the District of Nevada's Pretrial Services Office in the 95th percentile in terms overall policy compliance as compared with other Districts.

Leadership Development Program Graduate

During 2021, one Senior U.S. Pretrial Services Officer graduated from the Federal Judicial Center's Leadership Development Program.

New Officer Training

During 2021, the U.S. Pretrial Services Office had three officers graduate from the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services National Training Academy (Federal Law Enforcement Training Center). Two of our officers were awarded the Academic Award for their *respective classes achieving the highest academic grades during their program.*

Technology

During 2021, the office continued to embrace and use technologies aimed at enhancing communication. The pandemic required continued creativity to ensure we stayed connected, and that key information was shared internally. Virtual defendant interviews and court hearings allowed us to access defendants and attend court remotely. We also expand the use of ZOOM operationally. Further, we used other video-based tools to assist us with defendant supervision. We also embraced the full functionality of Microsoft Office to include Teams and SharePoint.

Communicating Well

During 2021, the U.S. Pretrial Services Office participated in a series of programs and seminars focused on enhancing communication, engagement, and teamwork.

Wellness

During 2021, the U.S. Pretrial Services focused on enhancing its wellness program for staff. Numerous programs were held, and wellness initiatives were established during the year to assist staff with stress management and overall physical and mental wellness.

In December 2021, the Chief U.S. Pretrial Services Officer completed her 2-year term as the elected Pretrial Services Chief for Region II on the Administrative Office's Probation and Pretrial Services Chief's Advisory Group. She also completed her term on the Federal Judicial Center's Probation and Pretrial Services Education Committee.

United States Probation Office

Chad Boardman, Chief United States Probation Officer

Staffing

The Probation Office ended calendar year 2021 with 49 full-time employees and one part-time employee (43.5 in Las Vegas and six in Reno). Our current staff consists of 35 sworn law enforcement officers, 8.5 officer support positions, and a four-member administrative operations team. In addition, the Probation Office shares a six-member Information Technology (IT) team with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court; the Probation Office pays the full salary of two positions and 50% of the IT Director's salary.

In 2021, four probation officers retired, one transferred to another district, and a probation officer assistant resigned. Two new probation officers started in December 2021. Due to attrition and budget cuts, probation staffing is at the lowest level in 28 years. For comparison, at the high-water mark in 2002, the Probation Office had 73 full-time employees. We anticipate recruiting a supervisory probation officer, at least two probation officers, and a probation officer assistant in 2022.

Despite the staffing shortages, probation staff in 2021 demonstrated remarkable dedication and resilience as they performed their duties and responsibilities in the face of a worldwide pandemic, budget cuts, short and long-term illnesses, injuries, medical leave, family tragedies, and significant loss. Despite these challenges, probation staff banded together and persevered.

Workload Comparison for Fiscal Years 2019-2021 (October 1 to September 30)

	Fiscal Year 2019	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2021
Presentence Investigations Completed	450	294	301
New Supervision Cases Received	559	564	510
Total Supervision Cases	1158	1190	1125

Offender Population by Supervision Type (As of 01/04/2022)

	Nevada		9th Circuit		National	
Supervision Type	Persons Under Supervision	Percent All Persons Under Supervision	Persons Under Supervision	Percent All Persons Under Supervision	Persons Under Supervision	Percent All Persons Under Supervision
Supervised Release	979	86.9%	19,746	87.3%	108,453	88.5%
Probation	140	12.4%	2,627	11.6%	12,517	10.2%
Parole	4	0.4%	83	0.4%	696	0.6%
Bureau of Prisons	3	0.3%	89	0.4%	408	0.3%
Other	0	0.0%	69	0.3%	496	0.4%
Total Persons Under Supervision	1,126	100.0%	22,614	100.0%	122,570	100.0%

United States Probation Office

Persons Under Post-Conviction Supervision, by Offense (As Of 2021/09/30)

	Violence	Drugs	Immigration	Firearms/ Weapons	Sex Offenses	Property	Public Order	Escape/ Obstruction	Other
Nevada	86	348	20	215	210	203	27	10	6
9th Circuit	1,518	9,996	2,382	2,314	2,490	3,057	393	292	89
National	7,488	52,931	6,968	20,263	12,213	18,406	1,706	1,966	517

Cases Closed with and Without Revocation (1/1/21 - 12/31/21)

	Total Cases Closed	Total w/o Revoc #		Early Term		Term Expired		Other		Total Cases Revoked		Technical		Minor		Major		Other	
	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Nevada	461	302	65.5%	98	21.3%	174	37.7%	30	6.5%	159	34.5%	148	32.1%	4	0.9%	7	1.5%	0	0.0%
9th Circuit	9,841	6,212	63.1%	1,486	15.1%	4,248	43.2%	478	4.9%	3,629	36.9%	3,009	30.6%	142	1.4%	424	4.3%	54	0.5%
National	50,861	34,871	68.6%	8,556	16.8%	24,240	47.7%	2,075	4.1%	15,990	31.4%	10,712	21.1%	1,387	2.7%	3,654	7.2%	237	0.5%

Work Performed by Probation Staff in 2021

- Scheduled and reviewed over 400 polygraph examinations (sex offender cases)
- Completed three-year treatment vendor solicitation
- Completed nine-month compassionate release data mining project for Chief Judge Du
- Completed 301 Presentence Investigations (FY21)
- Supervised a combined caseload of over 1100 people
- Completed 560 Collateral Investigations (investigations to assist other districts)
- Completed 38 immigration Fast-Track Presentence Investigations
- Conducted over 12,500 personal contacts with people under federal supervision
- Submitted 1,123 supervision progress and violation reports to judges
- Completed 338 Prerelease Investigations for Federal Bureau of Prisons
- Completed 89 Pretransfer Investigations (requesting supervision transfer to NV)
- Enforced 7,228 hours of court-ordered community service
- Provided treatment services to nearly 1,300 people (FY21)
- Provided district-wide training in Employee Dispute Resolution, Feedback Jiu-Jitsu, Feedback Matching, Firearms Qualifications, and Safety
- Performed 10 reasonable suspicion searches (USPO Search Team)

Lawyer Representatives

Lawyer Representatives provide vital input to the Court on myriad issues affecting the operations of the federal courts including but not limited to rule changes; development of new programs; planning of conferences; and the expenditure of funds from the non-appropriated account.

The Court has nine lawyer representatives who ensure the lines of communication stay open between the Court and the Bar. The Court holds quarterly meetings with the lawyer representatives and informal meetings as needed. Each year, the Court solicits applications to fill vacant lawyer representative terms, which are three years in duration. The terms are staggered so that one-third of the lawyer representatives are selected each year. The following is a roster of the lawyer representatives in our Court:

2021-2022

Michael Large
Holly Parker
Lauren Gorman
Lindsay Liddell
James Kemp
Amanda Perach
Travis Barrick
Richard Tanasi
Elham Roohani
Lindsay Agerⁱ

2020-2021

Leslie Bryan Hartⁱⁱ
Kathryn Newmanⁱⁱⁱ
James Kemp
Michael Large
Holly Parker
Amanda Perach
Travis Barrick
Richard Tanasi
Lauren Gorman

2019-2020

Leslie Bryan Hart
Kathryn Newman
Michael Large
Holly Parker

James Kemp
Amanda Perach
Lauren Gorman
Richard Tanasi
Travis Barrick

2018-2019

Michael C. Van
Michael D. Knox
Brenda Weksler
Daniel Albregts
Leslie Bryan Hart
Kathryn Newman
Holly Parker
Michael Large
James Kemp

2017-2018

Debbie Leonard
Molly M. Rezac
Russell E. Marsh
Michael C. Van
Michael D. Knox
Brenda Weksler
Daniel Albregts
Leslie Bryan Hart
Kathryn Newman

ⁱ Lindsay Ager replaced Elham Roohani when Ms. Roohani became a state court judge.

ⁱⁱ Leslie Bryan Hart's three-year term was extended one-year due to COVID.

ⁱⁱⁱ Kathryn Newman's three-year term was extended one year due to COVID.

District Court Highlights

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS DURING COVID-19

During COVID, everyone in the Court worked diligently and cohesively as a team doing things outside of their normal job duties to make sure all functions of the Court continued to run effectively and efficiently. This enabled the Court to make and frequently adjust plans as needed to address numerous challenges related to COVID-19. The following are a few milestones and accomplishments that highlight efficiencies, solutions and creativity the Court used to perform daily operations while addressing numerous changes related to COVID-19.

Video Conferencing - With minimal notice or guidance, the Court implemented video conferencing to help ensure court matters could continue during COVID-19. Zoom/video conferencing was widely used for hearings, settlement conferences, mediations, etc. In custody hearings (with consent) were conducted via video conferencing connections with the Washoe County Detention Facility (Reno) and the Southern Nevada Detention Center in Pahrump. The Court also installed video conferencing in all magistrate judge courtrooms. In addition, the Court installed video conferencing in all district judge courtrooms in Las Vegas so all judges would have their own systems.

Public Access - To provide public access during COVID, the Clerk's Office established drop boxes for payments and filings that were not done through CM/ECF. The Clerk's Office also added a new email address as an additional means for the public to submit filings that could not be filed via CM/ECF. And the court expanded the use of AT&T phone lines to provide public access to hearings.

Expanded Telework - With very little notice telework was expanded throughout the district court to allow employees to work remotely during COVID-19. Judges limited when hearings were scheduled to allow for more telework for employees and to minimize the number of people in the courthouses. All desktop computers were replaced with laptops to further promote court employees' ability to telework during COVID as well as a part of our plans to prepare for other Continuity of Operations Plan ("COOP")- type situations, such as a natural disaster or period of acute civil unrest. Even now that court operations have resumed, Clerk's Office employees are still able to telework up to two days a week if their job permits.

Remote Court Reporting - To support court matters with limited staff resources, the Court has used remote court reporting to provide coverage when on site staff reporters are not available. The Court's remote court reporting program has been very successful in both Las Vegas and Reno and has utilized out of state court reporters as well as staff court reporters to allow for inter-division coverage .

PPE – The Court made extensive efforts to find and procure personal protective equipment ("PPE"), despite limited supplies, to help ensure the safety of employees, jurors, and the public at the courthouses.

Plexiglass – The Court equipped the jury boxes in two courtrooms in Reno and Las Vegas with plexiglass to help protect jurors. Free standing plexiglass was also used in courtrooms for the protection of witnesses, attorneys and clients, and employees and judges. Plexiglass was also installed in one of the Las Vegas grand jury rooms.

District Court Highlights

Court Reopening Planning Group – This group developed and modified various recommendations and plans to prepare for resuming in person jury trials and hearings. Voir dire was conducted in the main courtroom with video conferencing to an overflow courtroom to provide for social distancing. The Court coordinated with the United States Attorneys’ Office (“USAO”) to hold grand jury proceedings. Grand jury rooms were joined via video conferencing in Las Vegas. Jury questionnaires were expanded to address COVID concerns. Post jury service online questionnaires were created. Resuming jury trials required a tremendous amount of work from many employees. It would not have been possible without their dedication and hard work.

Naturalization Ceremonies – While naturalization ceremonies could not be held in person, the Court held remote video ceremonies. Since the pandemic began, approximately 15,753 people have been naturalized. In Reno, naturalization ceremonies were also held in parking lots. In addition, the court worked with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to clear a backlog of close to 3,000 cases. Prior to COVID, candidates frequently had to wait three to six months to be naturalized after they completed the requirements to become a U.S. citizen. Currently, candidates only must wait one or two weeks.

Electronic Submission of NDOC Prisoner Documents - All federal cases, including civil rights and habeas corpus cases, filed by inmates housed at Northern Nevada Correctional Center, Lovelock Correctional Center, Ely State Prison, and High Desert State Prison continue to be filed by electronic means. The Clerk’s Office worked with the Nevada Department of Corrections and the Nevada Attorney General’s Office to set up Florence McClure Women’s Correctional Center, Warm Springs Correctional Center, and Southern Desert Correctional Center for electronic filing beginning January 2022.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIRECT ASSIGNMENT

How Consent Jurisdiction Works - Pursuant to 28 USC § 626(b)(4), the parties in a civil action in federal district court have the option of consenting to have their case handled by a United States magistrate judge. On January 1, 2020, the Court began a two-year pilot program randomly assigning social security appeals to magistrate judges for final disposition. Consent procedures are set forth in General Order 2019-8. At certain early stages of the litigation, notices are sent to the parties reminding them of the option of consenting to have the case handled, in its entirety, by the assigned magistrate judge. If all parties consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction, then the assigned magistrate judge presides over all aspects of the case—and any appeals from the magistrate judge’s rulings are made directly to the Court of Appeals—just like rulings by district judges.

Benefits of Consenting to a Magistrate Judge - Magistrate Judges in this district have much shorter backlogs of pending motions than District Judges. When parties consent to have their case handled by a magistrate judge, they can expect dispositive motions to be resolved more quickly. Parties can also expect trials to begin on dates set by magistrate judges. Further, cases will likely proceed to trial more quickly. Decision speed and certainty as to trial dates are two of the advantages of having a case handled by a magistrate judge rather than a district judge. Civil cases assigned to magistrate judges generally move along at a quicker pace. Magistrate judges may well be able to schedule trial within one year of the filing of the complaint.

District Court Highlights

RISE COURT



The Court established Recovery Inspiration Support and Excellence (“RISE”) Court in February 2019. RISE is a pre-adjudication court-led program. Participants enter a negotiated guilty plea, and their sentencing is held in abeyance while completing a comprehensive substance use disorder program. Participation in RISE Court is for a period of up to 24 months. RISE participants undergo intensive supervision by the United States Pretrial Services Office. Under the supervision of U.S. Pretrial Services, RISE participants are required to attend specialized treatment and group meetings. Participants are also required to submit to regular drug and alcohol testing. Each

month, RISE participants attend a RISE Court hearing before the Honorable Jennifer A. Dorsey and the Honorable Nancy J. Koppe. Participants are required to complete assignments and actively engage in various other endeavors related to education, job readiness, life skills, wellness, and employment. Each month, the judges spend time speaking with every RISE participant to discuss their progress. These discussions help participants focus on key tasks and goals. The desired outcome of RISE is to set the participants on a path that will help them lead successful and sober lives both during and after RISE Court, and to remain free from any further involvement in the criminal justice system. Successful completion of the RISE program also results in the dismissal of the underlying criminal case.

RISE Court is staffed by the United States Pretrial Services Office. The RISE Executive Team is comprised of District Judge Jennifer Dorsey and Magistrate Judge Nancy Koppe; Shiela Adkins, Chief U.S. Pretrial Services Officer; Chad Boardman, Chief U.S. Probation Officer; Christopher Burton, U.S. Attorney’s Office; Rebecca Levy, Office of the Federal Public Defender; and Jennifer Yim, CJA Resource Counsel.

Highlights - The program has grown since its inaugural year in 2019--from two participants--to eight participants in 2021. There have been a total of four graduates since the program’s inception, two in 2020 and two in 2021. It is contemplated that there will be 2-3 graduations in calendar year 2022. The program was featured in a Ninth Circuit Newsletter at the end of 2020 regarding sentence mitigation and in an article for UNLV Law Magazine in November 2021 regarding Administering Justice in a New Era.

INMATE MEDIATION PROGRAM

In 2009, the Court approved a one-year pilot program in the unofficial northern division in Reno for inmate early mediations in 42 U.S.C. 1983 cases to address a burgeoning caseload. The Court found the program to have merit and a permanent program was implemented in the District of Nevada by General Order 2010-03. The Court recruited local attorneys to serve as pro bono mediators. Magistrate Judge Carla Baldwin leads the inmate mediation program.

After a case is filed and screened, a notice is filed in the case requiring the parties to provide information about the case, their interest in mediation, and other section 1983 cases the plaintiff may have pending. The magistrate judge assigned to the case decides whether to refer the matter to mediation. During this period, the defendants do not have to answer or otherwise appear. The mediation panel is notified of a pending mediation, and mediators volunteer to serve. A mediation order is issued to the parties, which explains the process and requires the parties to submit confidential mediation statements. Those statements are sent to the court’s chambers and forwarded to the assigned mediator.

Mediations are held on Fridays. Prior to COVID, inmates appeared via teleconference from the prison, and the mediator, deputy attorney general and NDOC representative appeared in the court. All parties now appear via Zoom. If a settlement is reached, it is placed on the record with the deputy court clerk. If no settlement is reached, this is also placed on the court record.

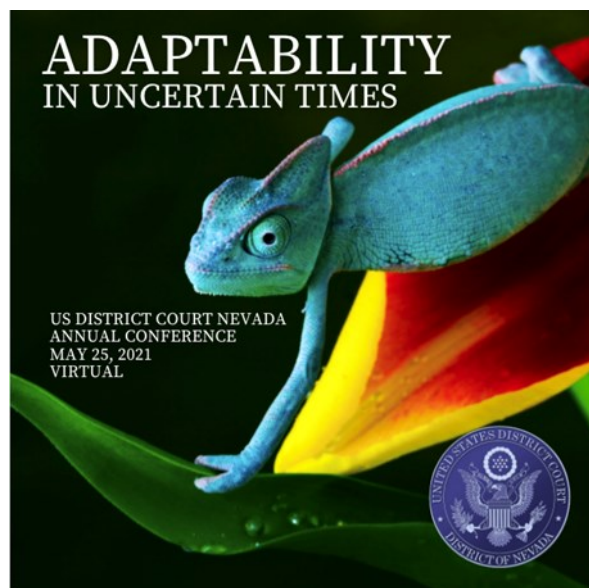
As of December 2021, 161 mediations have been held. 35 cases settled. Between 2016 and 2020, 754 cases were ordered to mediation and 198 cases settled.

District Court Highlights

PRO BONO REPRESENTATION AND COLLABORATION WITH LAW FIRMS

Over the past five years, the Pro Bono Program has been able to recruit attorneys to provide free legal services to indigent civil litigants. In 2021, the Court received commitments from Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck and McDonald Carano to take pro bono cases on a regular basis. In January 2022, the Court also received commitments from Snell & Wilmer, Hutchinson & Steffen, Holland & Hart, Holley Driggs, Richard Harris Law Firm, Marquis Aurbach Chtd., Kummer Kaempfer Bonner Renshaw & Ferrario, and Wilson Elser to take pro bono cases. The Court is reaching out to other firms in the community to provide similar commitments. The judges also authorized an increase in the maximum amount of cost reimbursements available for pro bono counsel. Pursuant to Amended General Order 2019-07, expenses incurred by pro bono counsel may now be reimbursed up to \$7,500. The Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada continues to provide outstanding support for this effort. The Court looks forward to working with them to improve access to justice in the District of Nevada. The Pro Bono Program is supported by the Court's Attorney Admissions Fund ("AAF"). The Pro Bono Committee is chaired by Magistrate Judge Cam Ferenbach and Magistrate Judge Carla Baldwin. Magistrate Judge William Cobb also served as co-chair in past years.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE



In 2020, the District Conference was cancelled due to COVID. In 2021, COVID protocols were still in place. Rather than forego the District Conference, the District Conference Committee, chaired by Chief Bankruptcy Judge August Landis and Magistrate Judge William Cobb, decided to hold a virtual conference on May 25, 2021. The theme was Adaptability in Uncertain Times. Highlights included Dean Chemerinsky speaking on Recent Supreme Court Decisions; Judge Carla Baldwin speaking on Substance Abuse; and Civil, Criminal and Bankruptcy Breakout Sessions hosted by judges and lawyer representatives. The response far exceeded any other District Conference. 322 people attended. The Court's AAF supports this event.

District Court Highlights

CIVICS EDUCATION



The court also engages in civics education. Several examples of the court's engagement are highlighted below.

Ninth Circuit Civics Contest - The Ninth Circuit Civics contest, sponsored by the Ninth Circuit Public Information and Community Outreach Committee, is an annual event. The 2021 theme was "What Does Our American Community Ask of Us?" The contest is open to high school students in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. Students from public, private, parochial, charter schools, and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status may enter. Individual students can express their thoughts and ideas in an essay of between 500 and 1,000 words. Individuals or teams of up to three students can produce a 3-5 minute view on the theme. A student may submit both an essay and a video, but only one of each. The 2022 theme is "What are students' free speech rights – and responsibilities – on and off campus?"

Cash prizes are awarded at the local and circuit levels in both the essay and video competition. The Court's AAF contributes to help fund the contest. Lawyer representatives and judges vote and select the local winners. Cash prizes for both the essay and video consist of \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place and \$500 for third place. The winners at the local level go on to compete at the circuit level. The District of Nevada has made a good showing in the circuit competition over the past five years:

In 2017, Joshua Riel, a senior at the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts in Las Vegas, Nevada won first place in the video competition. The theme in 2017 was "Not to Be Forgotten: Legal Lessons of the Japanese Internment."

In 2019, the team of Matthew Lovering, Colton Massic, and Jason Mueller was awarded first place in the video competition. Students were asked to discuss the Fourth Amendment in the 21st century, "What is an "Unreasonable Search and Seizure" in the Digital Age?"

In 2020, two teams from Las Vegas were awarded first and third place in the video competition. First place was awarded to a team of three students from West Career & Technical Academy: Mandy Jiang, Cathleen Liang and Michelle . Third place was awarded to a team of three students also from West Career & Technical Academy: Sandar Aung, Amina Boulakhras and Nesrine Maidi. The topic for 2020 was "The Right to Vote: Milestone Anniversaries."

Youth Law Day - Youth Law Day was the inaugural session of the Court's new civics program. The court, represented by Magistrate Judge Brenda Weksler, partnered with Jobs for Nevada Graduates to identify high-achieving and motivated high school students from underprivileged backgrounds and expose them to career paths in public service. The program consisted of an educational component, presentations by the judges and various government agencies, and a hands-on component, which culminated in a contest in which the students submitted presentations about the career paths they researched. The participating schools evaluated and submitted their top three presentations. The Court, with the assistance of the Lawyer Representatives, identified the winners and cash prizes were awarded to the winning students: \$750 was awarded for first place; \$500 was awarded for second place; and \$250 was awarded for third place. AAF supported this program.

District Court Highlights

We the People Program – On behalf of the Court, Magistrate Judge Brenda Weksler is partnering with the Nevada Center for Civic Engagement. This organization hosts the “We the People” program. In order to provide instruction for the teachers who prepare the students for this competition, the organization holds the “Teaching Institute for Teachers” every year. Attorneys in the district have volunteered to lead some of these forums.

OTHER PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY AAF

As noted, the AAF consists of funds from attorney admissions fees. The AAF Committee, chaired by Magistrate Judge Nancy Koppe, advises the Court on matters concerning AAF and makes recommendations to the Court concerning the expenditure of funds from AAF. In addition to some of the above programs and events supported by AAF, the following are additional programs supported by AAF:

Clark County Law Foundation’s Memorial Services - The Clark County Law Foundation organizes a memorial service for attorneys who passed away the previous year. Due to COVID, one was not held in 2020. A memorial was held in 2021 recognizing those who passed in 2020 and 2021. A reception, funded by AAF, was held following the ceremony. This year Judge Lloyd D. George’s life was celebrated. The memorial service was well attended and appreciated by the legal community and family members.

Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society - The Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society is continuing to publish Western Legal History, and to increase their collection of oral histories. They have been working with retired Nevada Magistrate Judge Robert J. Johnston to update and expand their collection of biographies of Nevada District Judges. The Western Legal History Editorial Board is also looking at an issue on gaming law, which will have a Nevada focus.

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada - The Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada is a private, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization serving individuals who cannot afford an attorney by providing free civil legal aid and pro bono services throughout Clark County and Southern Nevada. In 2020, they assisted over 162,600 people.

Federal Court Pro Bono Program - In 2014, the Legal Aid Center partnered with the Pro Bono Committee formed by then Chief Judge Navarro, through the leadership of Magistrate Judges Cobb and Ferenbach, to create and operate the Federal Court Pro Bono Program. At any time during litigation, the assigned judge can refer a case to the program for appointment of pro bono counsel. The case is then referred to the Legal Aid Center for screening and placement with one of the volunteer attorneys who practices in the case’s subject matter area. Once the volunteer attorney and the prospective client reach an agreement on the scope of the representation, a court order is entered appointing the attorney. Between September 2020 and August 2021, 218 attorneys volunteered to learn about federal court pro bono opportunities, 82 different attorneys have accepted appointments since the program’s inception, and eight cases have been placed with pro bono attorneys. More attorneys were recruited on August 18, 2021, at an event hosted by Magistrate Judge Brenda Wexler: The POWER Act – Impact of Domestic Violence in Dependency Hearings.

District Court Highlights

Bankruptcy Facilitator Program - In this program, which was implemented in 2007, the Bankruptcy Facilitator, a Legal Aid Center attorney, assists unrepresented individuals (both pro se creditors and pro se debtors) by providing information and forms. They refer some individuals for placement with volunteer pro bono counsel when appropriate. As the pandemic winds down, the number of people needing assistance from the Bankruptcy Facilitator Program is likely to increase significantly. Between September 2019 and August 2020, 23 cases were placed with pro bono attorneys. Six mid-stream cases were placed with a pro bono attorney. Thirty-three were assisted by the Legal Aid Center.

Washoe Legal Services - Washoe Legal Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit legal aid organization in Reno, Nevada, which provides free and low-cost legal services to vulnerable populations throughout Northern Nevada. In addition to direct representation, Washoe Legal Services assists self-represented litigants so they are better able to represent themselves. In 2020, they assisted approximately 8,500 individuals. During the last few years, Washoe Legal Services' involvement with court programs expanded to include the coordination and planning of the U.S. District Court POWER Act Program CLE.

Project Real – Project REAL's statewide Sequential Education Program organizes virtual court field trips, Constitution Day activities, lessons improving students' understanding of the difference between state and federal laws, and the state and federal court systems.



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