



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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San Diego Attorney Laura Taylor Appointed to U.S. Bankruptcy Court for Southern California

SAN FRANCISCO – San Diego attorney Laura Taylor has been appointed to serve as a judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California. The appointment, announced today by Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, is contingent upon approval of background clearances. She will succeed Bankruptcy Judge John J. Hargrove, who is scheduled to retire January 4, 2008.

Ms. Taylor, 49, is an administrative partner in the banking and finance practice group in the San Diego office of the law firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP. She manages 32 lawyers, legal assistants and support personnel and also serves on the firm's recruiting and diversity committee. She specializes in commercial and bankruptcy law with an emphasis on the representation of lenders holding real or personal property, agricultural lenders, and creditors' committees. She has primarily represented secured creditors, but also has represented Chapter 11 debtors and senior secured lenders in a large public Chapter 11 case.

Ms. Taylor has been a partner, associate or of counsel with Sheppard, Mullin since 1983 after her graduation from law school. She took a leave of absence from 1995 to 1998 to work for the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (SDVLP) in support of programs for children with special educational needs. During this time, she authored a law practice manual, "Protecting the Rights of the Differently Abled Child, A Guide for SDVLP Volunteer Attorneys." In 1993, she authored "Litigating in the Shadow of Bankruptcy," an action guide for the Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB).

A native of Winston Salem, N.C., Ms. Taylor received her B.A. in English and political science in 1979, graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received her J.D. in 1983 from Duke University, where she served on the school's moot court board.

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Ms. Taylor is an active member of professional, community and public service organizations. She was an at-large member of the 2007 Ninth Circuit Conference Executive Committee, and a member of the Circuit's Pro Se Committee. She is a former co-chair of the lawyer representatives from the Southern District of California and a former member of the Ninth Circuit's Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee.

Ms. Taylor is the founder of the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program's Special Education Project. In recognition of her extensive pro bono work, she received the 1996 San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program Pro Bono Attorney of the Year award, the 1996 San Diego Bar Community Service award, and the 1997 State Bar President's Pro Bono Service award for District 9. She also participates in her children's day school activities and in her church.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California is authorized four judges and handled 4,338 bankruptcy filings in 2006.

Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have statutory responsibility for selecting and appointing bankruptcy judges in the nine western states that comprise the Ninth Circuit. The court uses a comprehensive merit selection process for the initial appointment and for reappointments. Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year, renewable term, at a salary of \$151,984, and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the Bankruptcy Code.

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