



Lawyer Representative Selection Procedures August 2022

Lawyer Representatives are members of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference who are chosen by the District Court with the input of local bar associations. Lawyer Representatives serve for staggered three-year terms, during which time they participate in meetings within the district, and also attend and participate in the annual District Conference as well as the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.

The Order of the Judicial Council sets out five criteria for the selection of Lawyer Representatives. Each representative shall be:

1. A lawyer admitted to practice in the district court and actively involved in federal practice.
2. A lawyer interested in the purposes and work of the conference.
3. A lawyer willing and able to contribute actively to the purposes and work of the conference.
4. A lawyer willing to assist in implementing conference programs with the local bar.
5. A lawyer who, together with others selected, will constitute a fair cross section of practitioners before the federal courts of the district. The selection committee should consider the gender, ethnic, racial, and religious diversity and the diverse geographic and practice backgrounds of those who practice before the federal courts.

Lawyer Representatives for the Southern District of California are selected according to the following procedures.

1. The Court will post a notice on its website, and distribute such notice to local bar associations, soliciting applications for new Lawyer Representatives, and setting a deadline for submission of those applications.

2. Applications will be sent to the Clerk of Court, to be forwarded to a Lawyer Representatives Selection Committee (“Committee”). The Lawyer Representatives Selection Committee includes the President (or such other person as the President designates) of the San Diego Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, who will serve as Committee Chair, the President (or such other member as the President designates) of the San Diego County Bar Association, the President (or such other person as the President designates) of the Bankruptcy Forum, the Chair of the Court’s Criminal Justice Act Panel (or such other person as the Chair designates), and the outgoing Lawyer Representative co-chair.
3. The Committee will review the applications and make recommendations to the Court. The Committee will assign each candidate to one of three categories – (1) highly recommended, (2) recommended, and (3) not recommended – in order of preference within the three general practice areas of civil, criminal, and bankruptcy law. The Committee’s recommendation will briefly explain why each candidate has been assigned to a particular category and what qualifications the candidate possesses to serve as a Lawyer Representative.
4. Upon receipt of the Committee’s recommendations, the District Judges, as well as a Circuit Judge residing in the district, will select the new Lawyer Representatives.
5. Out of the 17 total Lawyer Representative positions, 1 position will be designated for an Assistant United States Attorney, and 1 position will be designated for an Assistant Federal Defender.
6. In addition, the Court will select three alternate Lawyer Representatives to serve for a term of one year. Alternate Lawyer Representatives will participate in local district meetings and attend the District Conference, but will attend the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference only if a regular Lawyer Representative is unable to attend. Alternate Lawyer Representatives who wish to continue their service will ordinarily be selected to become Lawyer Representatives, for a regular three-year term, upon completion of their one-year term as an alternate.