



United States District Court District of Nevada



2024
Annual Report

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Foreword

It is my pleasure to share with you the 2024 State of the Court report for the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. As I reflect on this past year, the theme of public service is top of mind.

I begin by thanking Magistrate Judge Cam Ferenbach for his exemplary service as a Magistrate Judge since 2011. And I welcome his successor, Maximiliano D. Couvillier III.

Among many accomplishments, Judge Ferenbach was instrumental in expanding the Court's pro bono program, through which the Court recruits attorneys to provide free legal services to indigent civil litigants. With this theme of public service in mind, I particularly thank him for his contribution to the growth and success of that program.

The Court's pro bono program has grown substantially during my time as Chief Judge. The Court's pro bono committee is currently chaired by District Judge Anne Traum and Magistrate Judge Brenda Weksler. Over 30 law firms have participated in the Court's pro bono program to date, but I ask for more law firms to join them, and attorneys who already participate to deepen their involvement. Public service is so rewarding. As the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg put it, "[i]f you are going to be a lawyer and just practice your profession, well, you have a skill so you are very much like a plumber, but if you want to be a true professional, you will do something outside yourself, something to repair tears in your community, something to make life a little better for people less fortunate than you." I take those words to heart, and hope you do, too.

And beyond the personal fulfillment it can bring, pro bono service delivers real justice for real people. I have seen this in my own courtroom, where bono counsel have helped indigent civil litigants prevail at trial, bringing them substantial damages awards to help compensate them for violations of their constitutional rights. From these experiences, it is clear to me that effective representation goes a long way. Indeed, the experiences I have had with pro bono counsel in cases I preside over make me optimistic for the future. I encourage all of you who are able to join in so that the Court's pro bono program continues to grow.

But even as I write with hope and optimism, I also acknowledge that we continue to face the challenges presented by an uncertain world. And those who struggle the most with accessing justice through the courts face the greatest challenges. Yet our mission remains to provide justice equally, as one District, for all who seek it.

Sincerely,

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

Miranda Du
Chief United States District Judge

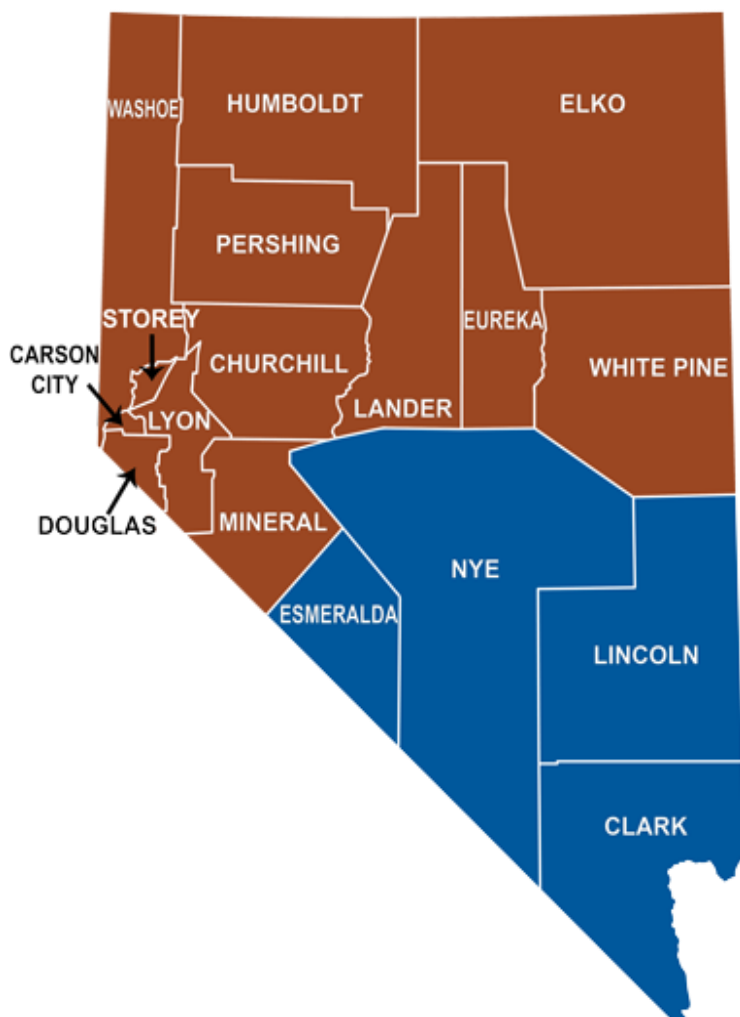
District of Nevada

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 seven active district judges, five senior judges, seven magistrate judges, and one recalled magistrate judge.

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

She served as Chief Judge from January 2014 until September 2019. Most recently, Judge Navarro was appointed by Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Mary Murguia to the Ninth Circuit IT Committee and currently serves as its Chair. In 2015, she was appointed by U.S. Supreme Court 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 Judge since 2011, the inception of the Patent Pilot Program, until the program ended in 2022. She was appointed to the U.S. District Court of Nevada by President Barack Obama on December 21, 2009, confirmed by a 98-0 vote of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and took the oath of office on May 25, 2010.

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 Team Leader and faculty member for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy's Deposition Skills and Trial Skills seminars for many years. He chaired the Ninth Circuit ADR Committee and the Nevada State Bar committee that drafted the Nevada Recommended Jury Instructions (Civil). He also served as Chair of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' Lawyer Representative Coordinating Committee and served on several federal court committees. 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 of 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.

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.

United States District Judges



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.



Anne R. Traum

Judge Traum was nominated by President Biden in 2021 and took the oath of office on April 8, 2022.

Prior to taking the federal bench, Judge Traum was a law professor with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law beginning in 2008, and is now Emerita Professor of Law. She previously served as an Assistant United States Attorney from 2000-2002, then as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Federal Public Defender's Office for the District of Nevada from 2002-2008. She served as Special Counsel in the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Access to Justice, from 2015-2016.

Judge Traum received her Bachelor of Arts, with honors in history, from Brown University in 1991 and received her Juris Doctor cum laude from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, in 1996.



Cristina D. Silva

United States District Judge Cristina D. Silva was nominated by President Biden in 2021 and took the oath of office on April 8, 2022. Prior to taking the federal bench, Judge Silva was a judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court in Las Vegas, Nevada. She previously served as an Assistant State Attorney for the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office and as an Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Nevada from 2011 -2019. She was the first woman and Latina to serve as the Criminal Chief for that office. Judge Silva received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Wellesley College in 2001 and went on to receive her law degree from the American University Washington College of Law in Washington D.C. in 2007. She is a native of El Paso, Texas.

United States District Judges



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.



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 assumed senior status on July 9, 2012. He received his undergraduate degree in 1968 from Weber State College in Ogden, Utah, where 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 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 Lake at Las Vegas, Green Valley Ranch, McDonald Ranch and Seven Hills was financed with tax exempt bonds during his tenure. Those communities were the driving force behind Henderson becoming one of the fastest growing large cities in the United States for 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.

United States District Judges



Larry R. Hicks

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

Judge Hicks received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nevada, Reno (1965) and his law degree from the University of Colorado (1968). He then served in the Washoe County District Attorney's Office in Reno as a Deputy District Attorney (1968-1971), as Chief Criminal Deputy District Attorney (1971-1974), and as elected District Attorney (1974-1979). He tried numerous felony jury trials.

Upon conclusion of his term as District Attorney in 1979, Judge Hicks joined the statewide law firm of McDonald, Carano, Wilson, McCune, Bergin, Frankovich & Hicks LLP as a partner and practiced civil law until going onto the Bench in 2001. He practiced primarily in the areas of commercial and complex litigation, employment law, and personal injury. He tried numerous civil jury and non-jury cases and was the chair of McDonald Carano's Litigation Section. He was also appointed and served as a Settlement Judge by the Nevada Supreme Court (1997-2001).

Judge Hicks is a past president of the Nevada State Bar, a past president of the American Inns of Court Chapter in Reno, and a past president of the Nevada District Attorney's Association. In 1998, he was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers. In 2020, Judge Hicks was honored to receive the Nevada State Bar's Presidential Award as a member practicing 20 years or more whose conduct, honesty, and integrity represents the highest standards of the legal profession.

Judge Hicks is an active Senior Judge today and is based in the Bruce R. Thompson Federal Courthouse in Reno.



James C. Mahan

Judge Mahan is a longtime resident of Las Vegas, having lived here and practiced law continuously since 1973. Judge Mahan graduated from 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 in 1973, 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 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 court judge in 2000 and 2002.

In 2001, Judge Mahan was nominated to the United States District Court. He took the Oath of Office on February 1, 2002. From 2005 – 2012, he served as an adjunct professor in trial advocacy at the William H. Boyd School of Law. He served on the Board of Advisors for the Vanderbilt Law School from 2014 to 2019.

United States District Judges



Robert C. Jones

Judge Robert Clive Jones was appointed United States District Judge by President Bush in October 2003. He was sworn in on December 1, 2002. He assumed senior status on January 1, 2016. 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



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.



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 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 as 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

United States Magistrate Judges

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.



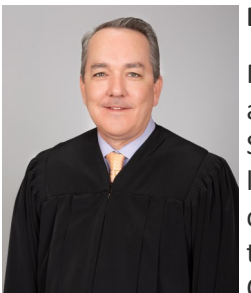
Brenda N. Weksler

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.



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, the Criminal Justice Act Lawyer Representative for the United States District Court, District of Nevada from 1999-2008 and 2015-2019 and 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.

United States Magistrate Judges



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 (Seattle, Washington) public defender offices creating and coordinating alternative sentencing options for adjudicated juvenile offenders.



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. Judge Denney will retire from the Army Reserve in February 2024 after 30 years of military service.

United States Magistrate Judges



Maximiliano D. Couvillier III

Judge Couvillier assumed the position of U.S. Magistrate Judge on January 8, 2024.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Couvillier was a Founding Partner of Kennedy & Couvillier, PLLC. Prior to establishing Kennedy & Couvillier, PLLC, he was a Partner at Lionel Sawyer & Collins and Managing Partner at Black & LoBello. Judge Couvillier served as the General Counsel of The Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (2011-2013) and then as President of the Board of Directors (2014-2023).

Judge Couvillier also served as President of the Nevada Latino Bar Association and Chair of the State Bar of Nevada Litigation Section.

Judge Couvillier received his law degree from California Western School of Law, graduating cum laude, and his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California at San Diego (Thurgood Marshall College).



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 as 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.

Prior to her appointment, Judge Cox had served as an assistant U.S. trustee in the Office of the U.S. Trustee in Nashville, Tennessee. She oversaw Chapter 7 and 11 cases, and supervised Chapter 7 trustees. Prior to being promoted to that position, Judge Cox was a trial attorney since 2015 in the Office of the U.S. Trustee's field office in Wilmington, Delaware, where she oversaw and litigated Chapter 11 cases. Previously, she engaged in private practice in Las Vegas as an associate then partner at Kolesar & Leatham, Chtd., from

2006 to 2008 and from 2008 to 2015, respectively, and as an associate at Jolley, Urga, Wirth, Woodbury & Standish from 2001 to 2005.

Originally from Kodiak, Alaska, Judge Cox attended Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, on a full basketball scholarship, graduating with a bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, in 1997. She received her juris doctorate, cum laude, from the University of Nevada, William S. Boyd School of Law, in 2001.

United States Bankruptcy Judges



Hilary L. Barnes

Hilary Barnes began her term as a bankruptcy judge on March 31, 2023. Although her duty station is Reno, she handles cases in both Reno and Las Vegas. Immediately prior to joining the bench, Judge Barnes was a member of Allen Barnes & Jones, PLC, a bankruptcy boutique in Arizona, where she primarily focused on bankruptcy and out-of-court workouts on behalf of both debtors and creditors. During her legal career, she practiced with international, national, and regional law firms, and represented myriad constituencies in different chapters of bankruptcy.

Judge Barnes served as chair of the Arizona State Bar Bankruptcy Section, president of the Arizona Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, and Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representative, including on the Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee for the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. She earned her B.A. in Art History (with honors) from the University of Chicago and her J.D. from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, where she served as executive editor of the *Jurimetrics Journal of Law, Science & Technology* and was honored with the ABA Editorial Excellence Award.



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). Since 2008 he has been a director of the American Bankruptcy Institute. 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.

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 to 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.



Cam Ferenbach - Retired

Judge Cam Ferenbach served as a U.S. Magistrate Judge in this district from October 2011 through January 2024. He 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.

Chambers Staff

The District Court has seven 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-seven 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 five authorized judgeships, three of which are active, one temporary and one recalled. 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 eight permanent staff attorneys who work solely on prisoner litigation. Three permanent staff attorneys work on litigation filed by prisoners under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Three 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 the Court's pending capital state habeas cases and also work on some non-capital habeas corpus petitions filed under § 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 § 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 § 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 overseen by Deb Kempf, the Clerk of Court. Ms. Kempf became the Clerk of Court on January 3, 2017.

The employees of the Clerk's Office identified six core values that reflect the meaning of the Court's vision statement: "One District Unified by Our Commitment to Equal Justice Under the Law". The core values are Integrity, Respect, Accountability, Professionalism, and Work/Life Balance.

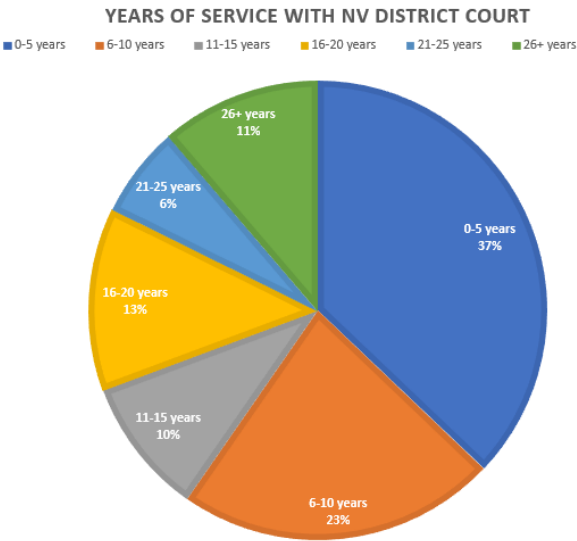
The Clerk's Office is responsible for providing courtroom support and case management, maintaining accurate and timely records, and providing a wide range of customer service internally as well as to the bar and the public. The Clerk's Office is divided into administrative areas and operational areas.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

The employees of the Clerk's Office support the work and vision of the Court despite ongoing challenges related to budget cuts at the 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 largely through formulas (filings, workload, number of judges, etc.). Due to national budget constraints, additional reductions are usually made before the local funds are allocated. The Clerk's Office budget has been reduced approximately 10% for the past three years. Despite a 9.6% reduction, the final 2023 budget surpassed expectations, providing an opportunity for network upgrades, renovations to the jury deliberation and jury assembly rooms, and updating the furniture in the Clerk's Office.

The Clerk's Office continued to work on projects to improve courtroom automation. The systems department was involved in national projects including moving data centers, implementing multi-factor authentication, and migrating to the National Active Directory (NAD). These initiatives will enhance security, centralize some oversight at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and reduce hardware/software costs. The Clerk's Office also supported an increase in civics events at our Court including mock trials, and various tours.

The employees of the Clerk's Office continue to look for ways to improve customer service and increase efficiency through the use of technology, innovations, and ongoing review of daily operations and processes.

During 2023, the Clerk's Office welcomed a number of new employees in both divisions. As of December 2023, the Clerk's Office consists of 63 employees, 44 in the Las Vegas division and 19 in the Reno division.



District Court Clerk's Office

Year 2023

Criminal Cases Filed

276

Count of Case Number

Criminal Cases Closed

439

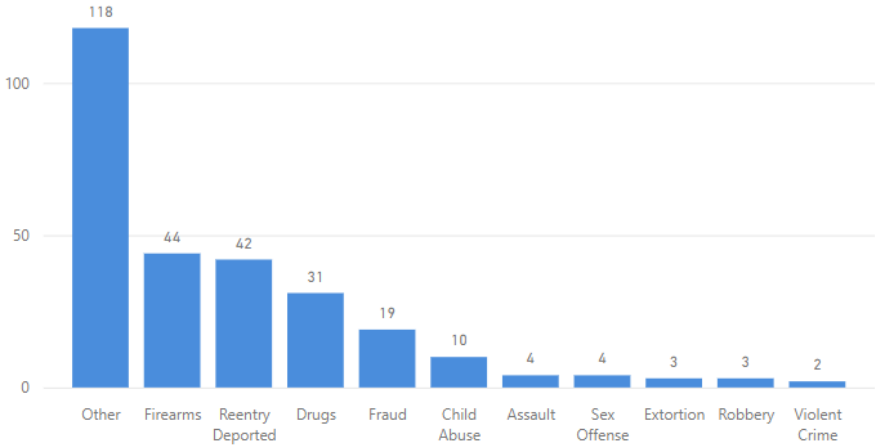
Count of Case Number

Criminal Motions Resolved

5093

Count of Motions

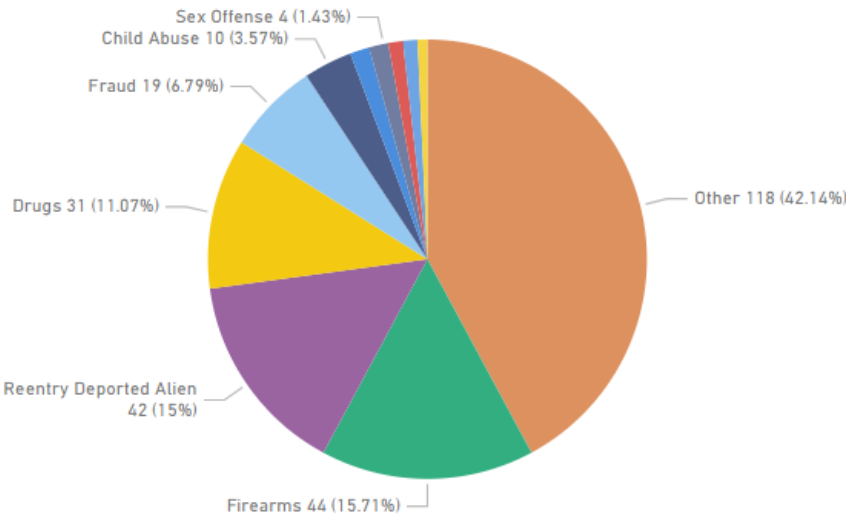
Cases by Criminal Type



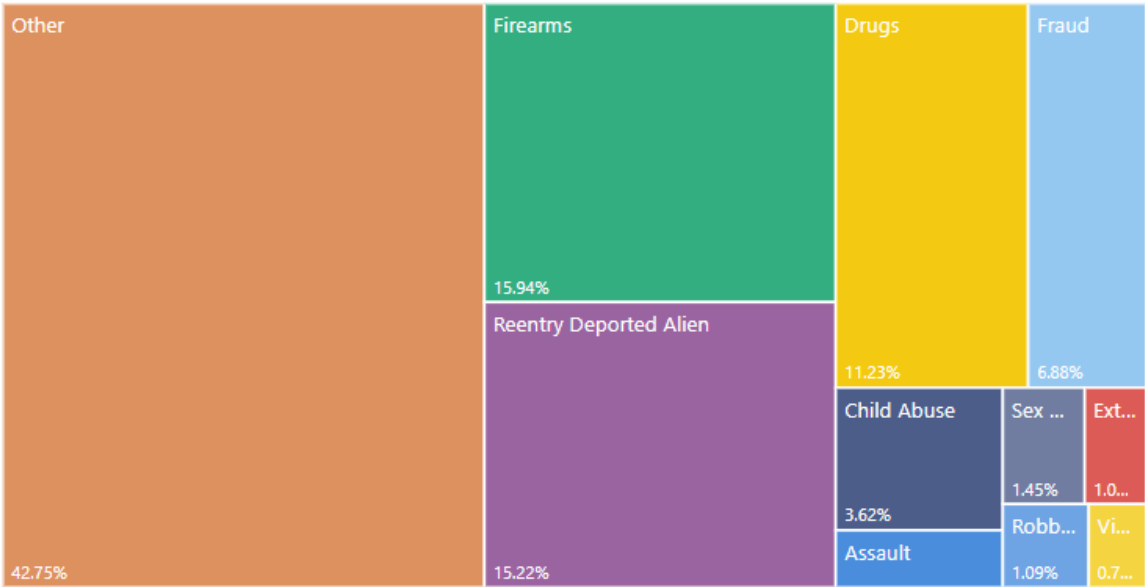
Cases by Criminal Type

Origin

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



Cases by Criminal Type



District Court Clerk's Office

Year 2023

Civil Cases Filed

2791

Count of Case Number

Civil Cases From State Court

488

Count of Case Number

Civil Cases Closed

2666

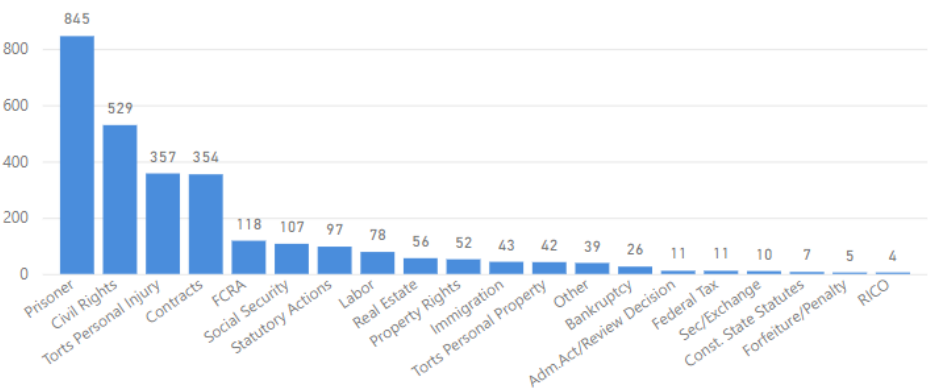
Count of Case Number

Civil Motions Resolved

21975

Count of Motions

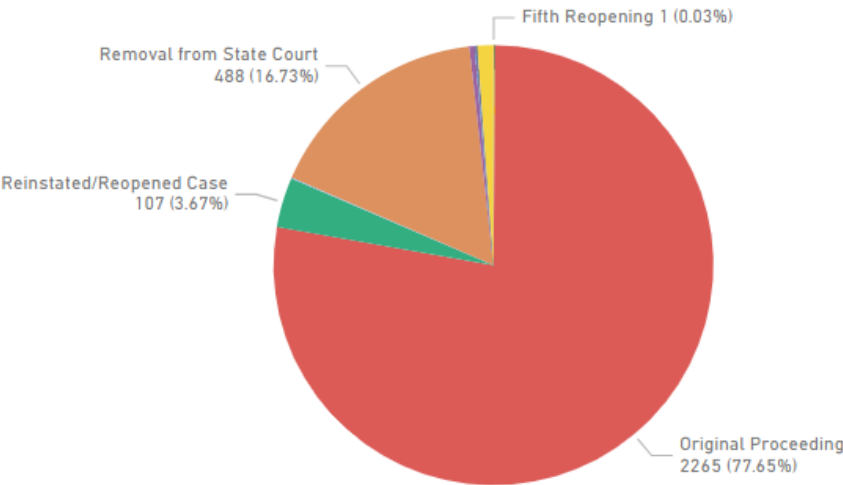
Civil Cases Filed - By Nature of Suit



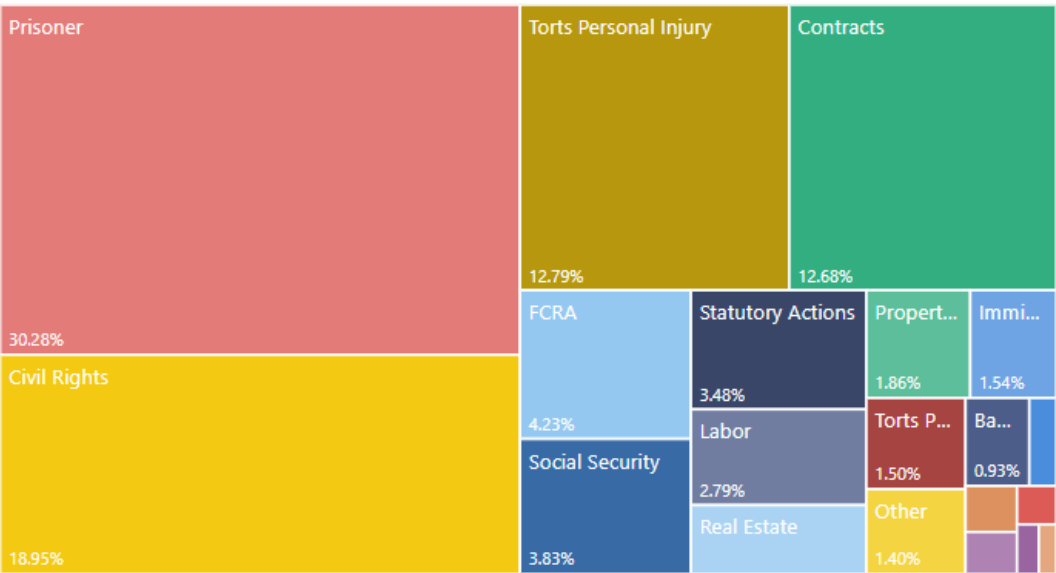
Civil Cases Filed - By Origin

Origin

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



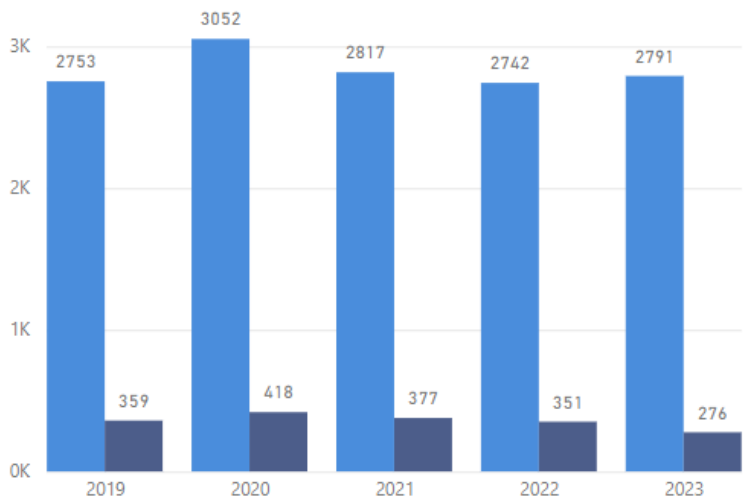
Civil Cases Filed - By Nature of Suit



District Court Clerk's Office

Cases by Year and Type

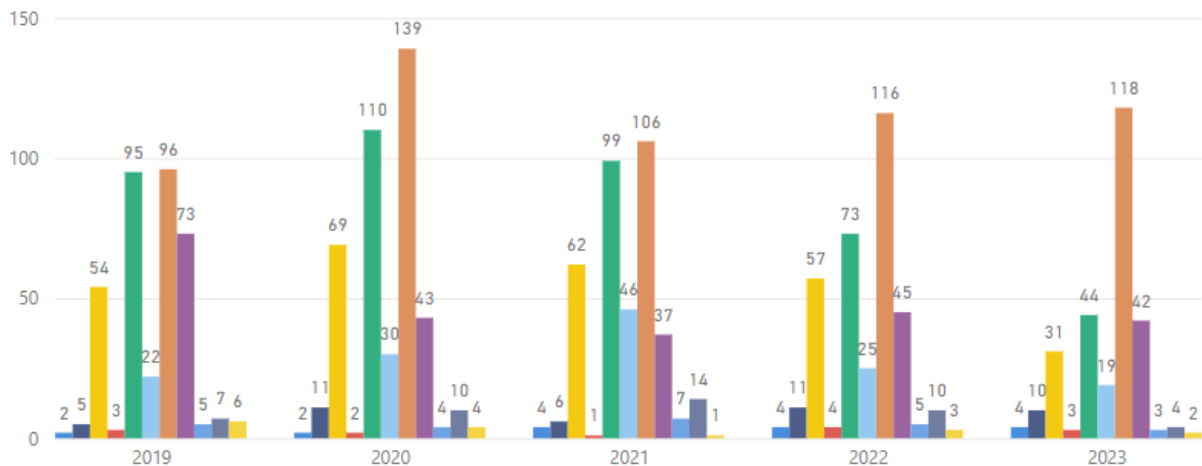
CaseTypeDetail Civil Criminal



Criminal Cases by Year and Criminal Type

Criminal Type

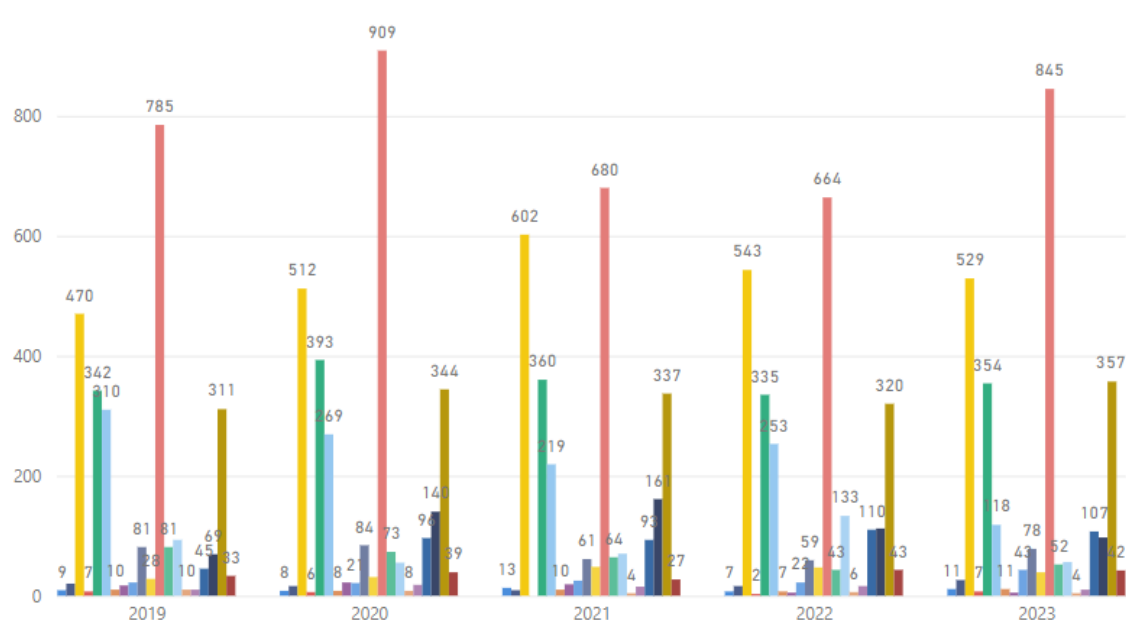
- Assault
- Child Abuse
- Drugs
- Extortion
- Firearms
- Fraud
- Other
- Reentry Deported Alien
- Robbery
- Sex Offense
- Violent Crime



Civil Cases by Year and Nature of Suit (groups)

Nature of Suit (groups)

- Adm.Act/Review Decision
- Bankruptcy
- Civil Rights
- Const. State Statutes
- Contracts
- FCRA
- Federal Tax
- Forfeiture/Penalty
- Immigration
- Labor
- Other
- Prisoner
- Property Rights
- Real Estate
- RICO



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.

Vicente Angotti, Chief Deputy Clerk

Lia Griffin, Divisional Manager

Sharon Hardin, Assistant to the Clerk of Court

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.

Daniel Morgan

Destiny Santiago

Heather Magennis

Angel Zamora

Jeff Callo

Kelly Ferris

Christopher Harrington

Gulya Alexander

Alexandria Miller

Erin D. Smith

Royce Gador

Chantal Torres

Wayne Julian

Carrie Smith

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.

Patti Smythe-White

Monica Reyes

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.

Hunter Lenz

Lorena Quintero

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

Dionna 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 Krlichka-Drew

Bill Duffy

Alona Candito

Courtroom Administrators – Courtroom Administrators' responsibilities include managing 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

Angela Reyes

Katie Sutherland

Danielle Cacciabauda

Lisa Mann

Denise Saavedra

Paris Rich

Elvia Garcia

Peggie Vannozzi

Jeff Miller

Ashlyn Bye

Jerry Ries

Nicholas Vaglio

Melissa Johansen

Summer Rivera

Tawnee Renfro

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

Patty Ganci

Donna Prather

Judy Moore

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.

Cristina 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

Stokely Leggett

Justin Farris

Robert Anderson

Guillermo Rojas

Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office

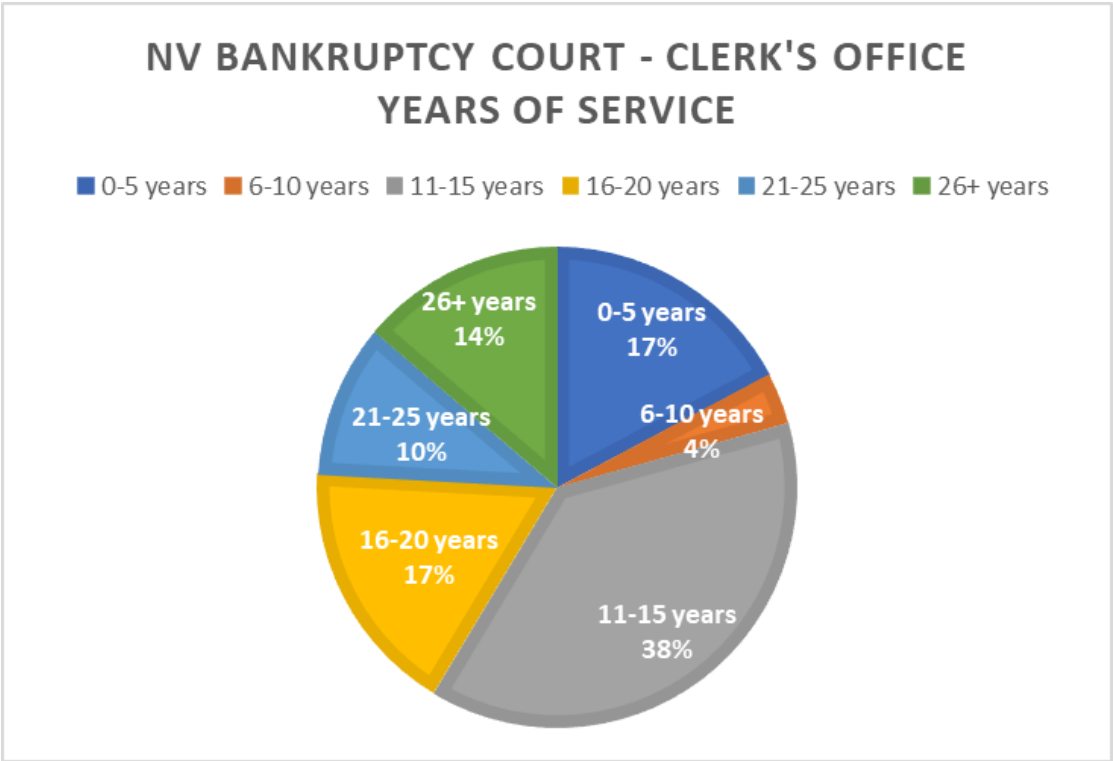
The Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office is led by Mary Schott, the Clerk of Court. The Clerk's Office is responsible for managing the non-judicial administrative activities of the court. This includes maintaining accurate records and dockets, managing the accounting activities of the Court, case management, 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, operational areas, and information technology 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 manages the technology requirements for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court and 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 the same amounts as the other court units.

The hard work and dedication of the Bankruptcy Court employees has been extraordinary in adapting to changing bankruptcy laws, national software, local requirements and assuming duties due to loss of staff. Court operations have had to be adjusted quickly and sometimes with little notice.

As of January 2024, the Clerk's Office consists of 29 employees in Las Vegas and Reno. 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 includes 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, prepares travel expense documents, 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.

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.

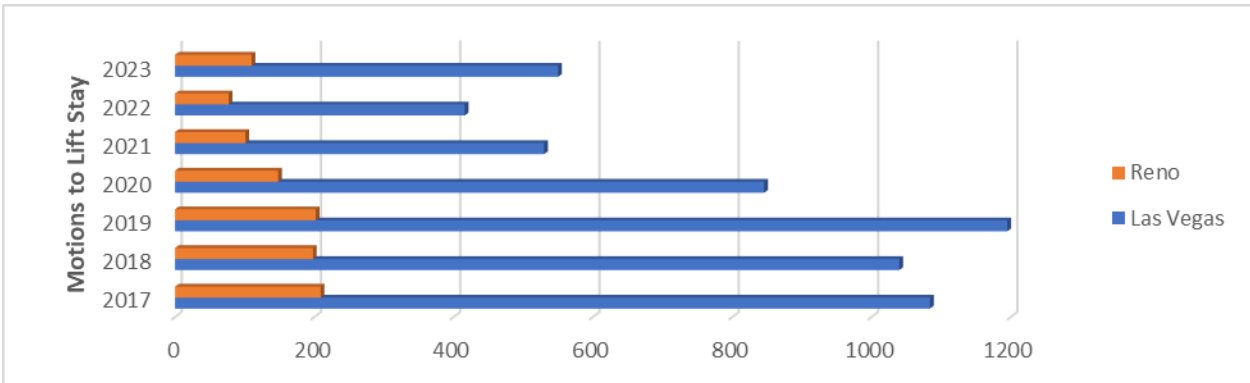
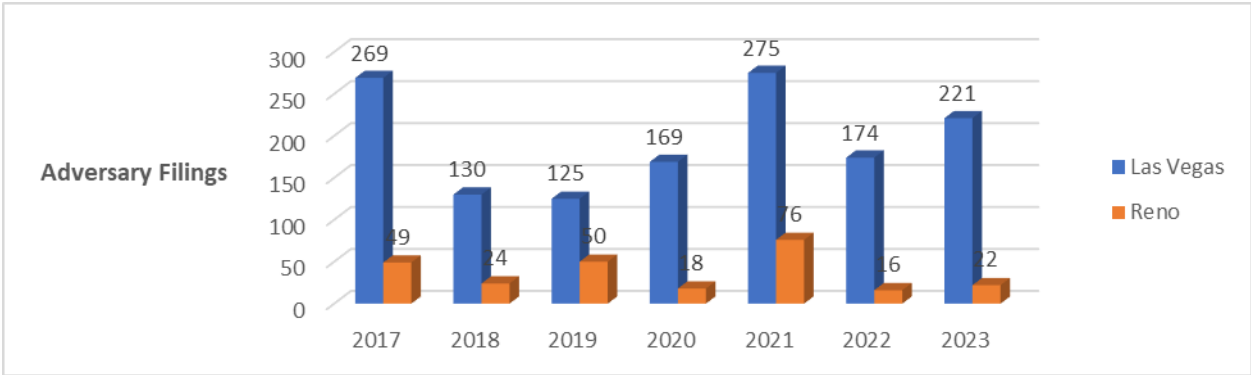
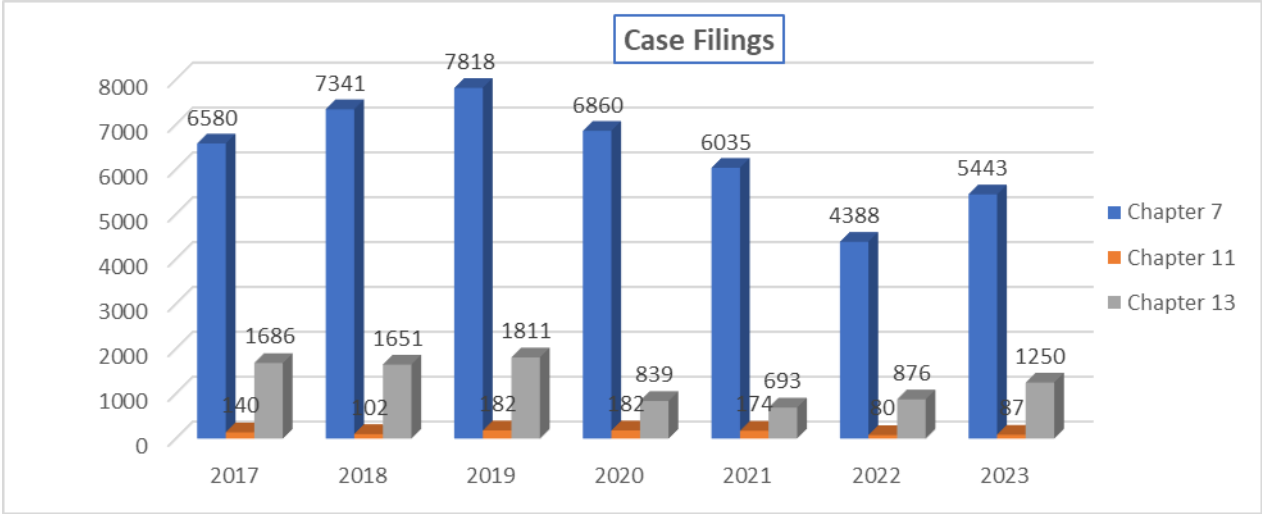
Operations Supervisors – In Las Vegas, the Resource Coordinator Supervisor of Case Administration, the Resource Coordinator of Court Services, and the Operations Support Supervisor oversee the operations of the Court. In Reno, this is done by the Operations Manager. This includes Intake, Electronic Case Filing (ECF) Support, and Court Services. Statistical data for the Court, including various monthly and yearly reports, is prepared.

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 processing funds received over the counter, in the mail or online. These employees answer the help desk for the public to provide information and technical assistance, but not provide legal advice. 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 department's 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 audio 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 Pretrial Services Office



Denise Jansen, Chief United States Pretrial Services Officer

Staffing

The Pretrial Office ended calendar year 2023 with 20 full-time employees (17 in Las Vegas and three in Reno). Our current staff consists of 16 sworn law enforcement officers and four officer support positions. The law enforcement staff includes the Chief, Deputy Chief, three Supervising Officers, five Pretrial Services Officer Specialists, and six Officers. Administrative staff include an Administrative Manager, an Information Systems Technology Manager, a Personnel and Financial Specialist, and a Contracts and Training Specialist.

Workload Statistics

Pretrial Services Cases Activated

FY2021 Pretrial Services Investigations & Reports	FY2022 Pretrial Services Investigations & Reports	FY2023 Pretrial Services Investigations & Reports
481	466	333

Defendants Under Supervision

2021 Defendants Under Supervision	2022 Defendants Under Supervision	2023 Defendants Under Supervision
384	362	299

Pretrial Officer Release Recommendations

FY 2021 Release Recs	FY 2022 Release Recs	FY 2023 Release Recs
45.3%	44.1%	65.7%

Pretrial Actual Release Rates

FY 2021 Release Rates	FY 2022 Release Rates	FY 2023 Release Rates
51.3%	46.7%	61.2%

United States Pretrial Services Office

Initiatives and Accomplishments in 2023

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

In 2023, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, continued their efforts to create a work environment where all staff are valued, feel empowered to express their opinions, and are treated with dignity and respect. In June, the committee sponsored a climate survey which was sent to all staff and received 100% participation. The purpose of the survey was to gauge perceptions, opinions, and feelings about diversity and inclusion within our organization, and to identify areas of strength, and opportunities for improvement. The results of the survey were used to shape several in-district initiatives including the completion of an office-wide welcome document for new employees containing onboarding information and staff bios, civility training, core values workshops, and completion of the JRNIE (Judicial Roadmap Navigating Inclusion and Equity) modules. Additionally, two staff members attended a five-day training in May geared toward training facilitators in the complexities faced when using the JRNIE curriculum and providing DEI training.

In July, our office joined the 26 districts across the nation who are participating in the A.I.D.E. Peer Mentorship Program (Assistance • Inclusion • Diversity • Equity). One staff member currently serves on the National A.I.D.E. Working Group as part of the Recruitment and Marketing Subcommittee. In August, the Deputy Chief spoke on an executive leadership panel at the DEI + Leadership Conference in Minnesota.

In September, the Chief and Deputy Chief attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the EmployNV Youth Hub at the Alexander Library in North Las Vegas. The hub aims to assist those facing educational deficiencies, financial insecurity, disabilities, or juvenile justice system involvement. The Chief continues as a member of the National DEI Working Group, assisting in building a DEI curriculum for managers.

Wellness

The Wellness Committee has continued to encourage participation in national wellness initiatives and organize quarterly office events to encourage team building.

Additionally, two committee members became certified in Stress First Aid this year. Stress First Aid was adapted from the United States Navy's Combat and Operation Stress First Aid Field Operations Manual and adapted to address the specific stressors that pretrial and probation officers and staff face. It was developed to help reduce the likelihood that these stress reactions will develop into more severe or long-term problems. SFA offers a flexible set of tools for addressing stress reactions, and can be used for self-care, or to help coworkers to either prevent the progression of stress reactions, or bridge affected individuals to other resources. The Wellness Committee will implement Stress First Aid training officewide in 2024, along with other district wellness initiatives.

United States Probation Office

Chad Boardman, Chief United States Probation Officer

Staffing

The U.S. Probation Office ended 2023 with 51 full-time employees and two temporary, part-time employees; 46 of our staff work in the Las Vegas office, while seven work in Reno. The current staff consists of 37 sworn law enforcement officers, ten officer support positions, and a four-member administrative operations team. The probation office also shares a seven-member Information Technology (IT) team with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The shared services agreement has the probation office paying the full salary of two IT positions and 50% of the IT Director's salary.

In 2023, Deputy Chief Probation Officer Mike Mastrangioli retired after a 28-year career in Nevada; Supervisory Probation Officer Todd Fredlund was promoted to Deputy Chief to take his place. Additionally, Senior Probation Officer Steve Goldner was promoted to Supervisor, backfilling the vacancy created by Todd Fredlund's promotion. Probation Officers Erica Strome, Matthew Martinez, and Annis Seopaul-Sones were all promoted to Senior Officer in 2023. Nimra Nawaz (NV), Zachary Warner (AZ), and Elijah Ray (FL) were hired as probation officers, while Ayanah Howard (SC) was hired as a Probation Support Technician. Finally, Human Resources Manager Theresa Waters also retired in 2023 and Chinyere Okoro (CA) was selected to fill the HR Administrator vacancy.

Due to continued budget cuts over many years, the probation office is unable to hire the full staff allocated by the workload formula; therefore, overall staffing remains lower than workload demands. With heavy financial cuts expected in FY24, we anticipate backfilling vacancies only, rather than adding additional staff. Despite the budget challenges, the probation staff continues to meet or exceed expectations, all while demonstrating remarkable commitment and dedication to the mission.

Fiscal Year Workload Comparison (FY 2020-2023)

	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2021	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Year 2023
Presentence Investigations	294	301	389	350
New Supervision Cases Received	564	510	480	495
Total Supervision Cases	1,190	1,125	1,124	1,111

Offender Population by Supervision Type (FY 2023)

Supervision Type	Nevada		9th Circuit		National	
	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	992	89.3%	20,835	88.1%	109,967	89.3%
Probation	114	10.3%	2,602	11.0%	12,031	9.8%
Bureau of Prisons	2	0.2%	54	0.2%	178	0.1%
Parole	2	0.2%	75	0.3%	536	0.4%
Other	1	0.1%	88	0.4%	456	0.4%
Total Persons Under Supervision	1,111	100.0%	23,654	100.0%	123,168	100.0%

United States Probation Office

Persons Under Post-Conviction Supervision, By Offense (FY 2023)

	Violence	Drugs	Immigration	Firearms/ Weapons	Sex Offenses	Property	Public Order	Escape/ Obstruction	Other
Nevada	93	338	23	217	229	170	22	6	3
9th Circuit	1,412	11,000	2,676	2,398	2,572	2,799	431	273	79
National	7,334	51,889	7,568	21,720	13,003	16,807	2,197	1,775	531

Cases Closed With and Without Revocation (FY 2023)

	Total Cases Closed		Total w/o Revoc #		Early Term		Term Expired		Other		Total Cases Revoked		Technical		Minor		Major		Other	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Nevada	444		298	67.1%	109	24.5%	163	36.7%	26	5.9%	146	32.9%	137	30.9%	1	0.2%	8	1.8%	0	0.0%
9th Circuit	9,845		6,268	63.7%	1,698	17.2%	4,198	42.6%	372	3.8%	3,577	36.3%	3,050	31.0%	141	1.4%	368	3.7%	18	0.2%
National	51,180		34,199	66.8%	8,646	16.9%	23,368	45.7%	2,185	4.3%	16,981	33.2%	11,493	22.5%	1,393	2.7%	3,854	7.5%	241	0.5%

Initiatives

The Probation Office will be partnering with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and University of Nevada, Reno to renew our internship program in FY24. Our goal is to expose talented college students to a challenging and rewarding career path in community corrections, and perhaps encourage future employment interest with the Federal Probation and Pretrial Services System.

Additionally, the Probation Office is planning to reconstitute officer-led Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) programming, which is an evidenced-based, structured approach to help clients take incremental steps toward positive behavior change. Several probation officers have completed certification training and will be instrumental in the program design and implementation.

Work Performed by Probation Staff in FY 2023

- Scheduled and reviewed over 330 polygraph examinations (sex offender cases).
- Completed 350 presentence investigations (FY 2023).
- Supervised a combined caseload of over 1100 people.
- Completed 548 collateral investigations (investigations to assist other districts).
- Completed 44 immigration fast-track presentence investigations.
- Completed over 12,100 contacts with individuals under federal supervision.
- Submitted 1,221 supervision progress and violation reports to the court.
- Completed 330 prerelease investigations for the Federal Bureau of Prisons.
- Completed 88 pretransfer investigations (for individuals requesting a transfer to NV from another district).
- Performed 43 reasonable suspicion searches.

Lawyer Representatives

Lawyer Representatives provide vital input to the Court on a myriad of 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:

2023-2024

Lindsay Liddell
Jonathan J. Tew
Adam Hosmer-Henner
Richard Tanasi
Lindsay Ager
Leslie Nino Piro
Mark Weisenmiller
Kelsey E. Stegall
Gil Kahn

2020-2021

Leslie Bryan Hart^{iv}
Kathryn Newman^v
James Kemp
Michael Large
Holly Parker
Amanda Perach
Travis Barrick
Richard Tanasi
Lauren Gorman

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

2022-2023

Holly Parker
Jonathan J. Tewⁱ
Lindsay Liddell
Adam Hosmer-Henner
Amanda Perach
Travis Barrick
Richard Tanasiⁱⁱ
Lindsay Ager
Leslie Nino Piro

2019-2020

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

2021-2022

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

2018-2019

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

ⁱJonathan J. Tew agreed to extend his term two years to stagger the expiration date of future Lawyer Representatives' terms.

ⁱⁱRichard Tanasi's agreed to extend his term one year to stagger the expiration date of future Lawyer Representatives' terms.

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

^{iv}Leslie Bryan Hart's three-year term was extended one-year due to COVID.

^vKathryn Newman's three-year term was extended one year due to COVID.

District Court Highlights

U.S. District Court Judge Anne R. Traum Investiture

A formal investiture ceremony was held for U.S. District Court Judge Anne R. Traum on October 13, 2023, at The Beverly Theater in Las Vegas, Nevada.

It was well attended by family, friends, colleagues, and other members of the bar. A reception followed the ceremony.



U.S. District Court Judge Cristina D. Silva Investiture

A formal investiture ceremony was held for U.S. District Court Judge Cristina D. Silva on October 19, 2023, in the historic courtroom inside of The Mob Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada.

It was well attended by family, friends, colleagues, and other members of the bar. A reception followed the ceremony.

Retirement of United States Magistrate Judge Cam Ferenbach



The United States District Court for the District of Nevada announced that United States Magistrate Judge Cam Ferenbach will retire on January 7, 2024. He assumed his duties on October 8, 2011. Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Ferenbach was a partner with the firm of Lionel Sawyer & Collins. His tenure there exceeded 30 years. During his legal career, he served as president of the Clark County Bar Association, the State Bar of Nevada, and the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada.

The Court extends its gratitude to Judge Ferenbach for his years of service to the federal judiciary and to the community.

District Court Highlights

Appointment of Maximiliano D. Couvillier III as United States Magistrate Judge



Maximiliano D. Couvillier III was selected to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Cam Ferenbach, United States Magistrate Judge in Las Vegas.

Judge Couvillier was a Founding Partner of Kennedy & Couvillier, PLLC. Prior to establishing Kennedy & Couvillier, PLLC, he was a Partner at Lionel Sawyer & Collins and Managing Partner at Black & LoBello. Judge Couvillier served as the General Counsel of The Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (2011-2013) and then as President of the Board of Directors (2014-2023). Judge Couvillier also served as President of the Nevada Latino Bar Association and Chair of the State Bar of Nevada Litigation Section.

Judge Couvillier received his law degree from California Western School of Law, graduating *cum laude*, and his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California at San Diego (Thurgood Marshall College).

Judge Couvillier was sworn in on December 27, 2023. He will assume the position of United States Magistrate Judge on January 8, 2024.



Deputy Chief U.S. Pretrial Services Officer

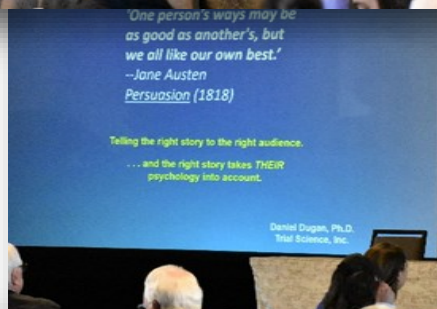


William (Bill) Hicks, Jr., was selected as the Deputy Chief Pretrial Services Officer in March 2023. Bill started his career in the Eastern District of Virginia in 1998 and was an integral member of the Probation and Pretrial Services Office (PPSO) pretrial team since 2014. During his tenure at PPSO, Bill was a passionate champion of efforts to eliminate unnecessary pretrial detention, working with stakeholders across the pretrial justice community to incorporate data and evidence-based practices into local practices. Bill was the PPSO lead with the Pretrial Services Working Group and the founder of the Detention Reduction Outreach Program (DROP); he also worked extensively with the Federal Judicial Center to educate judges across the national system. With his extensive knowledge and expertise in pretrial services, his commitment to the field, and his collaborative leadership, he is a huge asset to the District of Nevada.

District Court Highlights

District Conference

The District Conference was held at the Renaissance Reno Downtown Hotel & Spa in Reno, Nevada on May 11, 2023. The theme was Federal Practice Basics and Beyond. The conference focused on the federal practice of law from the use of artificial intelligence as evidence to mastering the art of persuasion. Highlights included U.S. Circuit Judge Jay Bybee, who spoke on Recent Supreme Court Decisions; former Judge Paul Grimm and Professor Maura Grossman, who spoke on AI as Evidence; Professor Barbara Barron, who spoke on Witness Selection and Preparation; Dr. Dan Dugan, who spoke on the Science of Persuasion; and Civil, Criminal and Bankruptcy Breakout Sessions hosted by judges and lawyer representatives. The room was filled to its capacity of 200.



District Court Highlights

Magistrate Judge Direct Assignment

Pursuant to General Order 2023-11, magistrate judges continue to exercise jurisdiction over civil matters and enter final judgments in civil cases. A percentage of all newly filed civil cases are randomly assigned to magistrate judges except for bankruptcy appeals, bankruptcy withdrawals, prisoner habeas petitions, prisoner civil rights cases, and cases in which a motion for preliminary injunction or temporary restraining order is filed simultaneously with the complaint. General Order 2023-12 governs the assignment of Social Security Appeals to magistrate judges.

When parties appear in a lawsuit, they are sent a notice reminding them of the option to decline having the assigned magistrate judge preside over the entirety of the case. If any party declines to consent, a district judge will be assigned to preside over the case, and the magistrate judge will continue to handle pretrial and discovery proceedings. If no party declines to consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction, then the assigned magistrate judge presides over all aspects of the case. Any appeal from the magistrate judge's rulings is made directly to the Court of Appeals, just like rulings by district judges.

Decision speed and certainty as to trial dates are two of the advantages of having a magistrate judge preside over a case rather than a district judge. Civil cases assigned to magistrate judges generally move along at a quicker pace because magistrate judges have shorter backlogs of pending motions than district judges. Dispositive motions can be resolved more quickly. Cases will likely proceed to trial more quickly. And because magistrate judges do not preside over criminal cases (which have shorter timelines), they are better able to schedule a firm trial setting. Magistrate judges may well be able to schedule trial within one year of the filing of the complaint.

RISE Court

The Court established Recovery Inspiration Support and Excellence ("RISE") Court in February 2019. RISE is a pre-adjudication court-led drug-diversion program for qualifying defendants with a substance-use disorder. Participants enter a negotiated guilty plea, and their sentencing is held in abeyance while completing a comprehensive treatment program. Participation in RISE Court is typically for a period of up to 24 months. RISE participants undergo intensive supervision by the United States Pretrial Services Office and are required to attend specialized treatment and group meetings and submit to regular drug and alcohol testing. They are also required to complete assignments and actively engage in various other endeavors related to education, job readiness, life skills, wellness, and employment. Each month, RISE participants attend a RISE Court hearing before the Honorable Jennifer A. Dorsey and the Honorable Nancy J. Koppe to talk about their progress in the program. 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, clean, and sober lives during and long after graduating from 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. Since the program began, more than a dozen participants have graduated from the program and earned the dismissal of their charges.

District Court Highlights

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 Tuesdays and Fridays. Prior to COVID, inmates appeared via teleconference from the prison, and the mediator, deputy attorney general and Nevada Department of Corrections' 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 and the case is returned to the normal litigation track.

As of December 31, 2023, 183 mediations have been held. Of those mediations, 65 cases were settled for a 36% settlement rate. Between 2009 and 2023, 1,480 cases were ordered to mediation and 407 cases were settled.

State Bar of Nevada High School Mock Trial

On February 3, 2023, the State Bar of Nevada held its Nevada High School Mock Trial Competition at the Lloyd D. George Courthouse. Nineteen teams competed in the southern regional competition. Over 130 students participated in the event and another 100 people volunteered to act as judges and administrators. A civil case was argued over the course of three rounds in nine different courtrooms. The winners of the event were:

First Place - Advanced Technologies Academy

Second Place - West Career & Technical Academy

Third Place - Canyon Springs High School

Fourth Place - Bishop Gorman High School

Fifth Place - Faith Lutheran High School

District Court Highlights

Pro Bono Representation and Collaboration with Law Firms

Pro Bono Appointments in 2023: 41

Pro Bono Appointments since 2014: 167

Firms added to Pro Bono Volunteer List in 2023: 11

Total firms on Pro Bono Volunteer List: 37

Over the past six years, the Pro Bono Program has recruited 37 law firms in the community to provide free legal services to indigent litigants. The list below demonstrates the commitment by firms in this community to pro bono work and the needs of those less able to advocate for themselves. Numerous firms have committed to taking pro bono cases on a regular basis and the court extends its gratitude to the following firms for their commitment:

Armstrong Teasdale	Holley Driggs	McDonald Carano
Backus Burden	Hutchison & Steffen	McLetchie Law
Bailey Kennedy	Jackson Lewis P.C.	Ogletree Deakins
Ballard Spahr	Kaempfer Crowell	Paul Padda Law
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck	Kamer Zucker Abbott	Pyatt Silvestri
Campbell & Williams	Kathleen Bliss Law	Pisanelli Bice PLLC
Claggett & Sykes	Kemp Jones, LLP	Reid Rubinstein & Bogatz
Clark Hill	Lagomarsino Law	Richard Harris Law Firm
Dickinson Wright	Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith	Snell & Wilmer
Fox Rothschild	Lewis Roca	Vieira Law
Garman Turner Gordon	Littler Mendelson P.C.	Wilson Elser
Greenberg Traurig	Maier Gutierrez & Associates	
Holland & Hart	Marquis Aurbach Chtd.	

There are many attorneys, some who have solo practices and others whose firms cannot undertake a large-scale commitment, who have also been instrumental to the program's success. While not listed here, their effort and dedication has not gone unnoticed.

This year pro bono counsel tried two civil rights cases before a jury. It was a rewarding experience for counsel, who had the opportunity to continue to sharpen their trial skills. Special thanks to Andrea Vieira, Travis Barrick, Meng Zhong, and Eckley Keach. It was also fruitful for plaintiffs, who were able to present their claims to a jury.

The Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada continues to provide outstanding support for this effort. At this year's Pro Bono Luncheon, the following firms were recognized for their unwavering commitment and the number of cases they agreed to undertake on a pro bono basis: Bailey Kennedy, Brownstein Hyatt, and Snell & Wilmer. LACSN honored Attorney Meng Zhong of Lewis & Roca with Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, citing his work on behalf of an inmate client in federal district court. The court looks forward to working with everyone willing to improve access to justice in the District of Nevada.

The Pro Bono Program is supported by the Court's Attorney Admissions Fund.

The Pro Bono Committee is chaired by District Judge Traum and Magistrate Judge Weksler.

District Court Highlights

Visit of Labor Law Organization of the Judges, Republic of Korea

The Labor Law Organization of the Judges, sponsored by the Supreme Court of Korea, visited the Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse on December 1, 2023. The members of the organization are exclusively judges from the Republic of Korea, which consists of 530 judges throughout Korea. It is an annual event that provides an opportunity for the judges to learn different legal issues from an international comparative perspective, as well as a chance to get to know fellow judges and scholars from around the world. This year's focus was labor/employment law.

Three Republic of Korea judges met with Magistrate Judge Cam Ferenbach and Magistrate Judge Brenda Weksler:

Judge Sangmin Lim – Senior Judge, Busan High Court of Korea,
Judge Byungjoon Jang – Senior Judge, Busan District Court of Korea, and
Judge Seunghoon Song – Judge, Seoul District Court, Western Division.

CIVICS EDUCATION

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

Youth Law Day

Youth Law Day is sponsored by the Court's Civics Education Program.

In 2023, the Court, together with Jobs for Nevada Graduates, organized two panel presentations (one virtual and the second in person) to high-achieving, high school students from underprivileged backgrounds that focused on career opportunities in law and justice.

Judge Youchah and the Court's Lawyer Representatives (including, but not limited to, Lindsay Ager, Lindsay Liddell, and Leslie Nino Piro) were able to reach hundreds of high school seniors through these presentations that included real and obtainable jobs with the city, county, state, and federal government.

This is the third time this program was sponsored by the Court. Youth Law Day culminates in a contest in which high school seniors participating in Jobs for Nevada Graduates may submit a short video presentation regarding their chosen career paths.

The Court, with the assistance of the Lawyer Representatives, reviews the videos, identifies winners, and awards cash prizes to five high school seniors. \$2,000 is awarded to the first-place winner; \$1,500 is awarded to the second-place winner; \$1,000 is awarded to the third-place winner; \$750 is awarded to the fourth-place winner; and \$500 is awarded to the fifth-place winner. An in-person award ceremony, held at the Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse, will occur in early spring of 2024.

Court personnel, teachers, parents, and students are invited.

AAF supports this program.

District Court Highlights

Roadways to the Bench

The Roadways to the Bench is a national event organized by the Judicial Conference Committees on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System and Magistrate Judges System through their diversity subcommittees, in coordination with the Administrative Office of United State Courts. Its goal is to promote diversity on the bench by attracting the broadest possible pool of qualified applicants from which to select future bankruptcy and magistrate judges. Diversity on the bench benefits both the bench and the bar.

On April 3, 2023, the event was held in 38 major cities across the country, including Las Vegas, Nevada. It began with a keynote address and panel discussion live-streamed from Washington, DC, followed by local rotating roundtable sessions with participating federal judges, bar members and law students, and concluded with a catered reception.

Roadways to the Bench was well received. Fifty-eight people attended, along with 13 judges. AAF supported the event.



District Court Highlights

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 2023 theme was “The 28th Amendment: What Should Our Next Amendment Be?” 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 video on the theme. A student may submit both an essay and a video, but only one of each.

Cash prizes are awarded at the local and circuit levels in both the essay and video competitions. 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 \$1,500 for first place, \$850 for second place and \$500 for third place.

The winners of the essay contest at the local level were:

- 1st Place — Weston Raydon, Reno High School
- 2nd Place — Kalista Kingsbury, Southwest Career and Technical Academy
- 3rd Place — Samantha Phelan, Southwest Career and Technical Academy

The winners of the video contest at the local level were:

- 1st Place — Charity Caday, Southwest Career and Technical Academy
Annie Lin, Southwest Career and Technical Academy
Samantha Manuel, Southwest Career and Technical Academy
- 2nd Place — Danah Gaspar, Southwest Career and Technical Academy
Breanna Anton, Southwest Career and Technical Academy
Kaitlyn Landry, Southwest Career and Technical Academy
- 3rd Place — Grace Li, West Career and Technical Academy

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 few years.

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 Jiang. 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.”

In 2022 Dominico Granieri from Reno High School was the first-place winner of the District of Nevada essay contest. His essay was one of 12 essays for final consideration by the circuit. The topic for the 2022 contest was “The First Amendment and the Schoolhouse Gate: Students’ Free Speech Rights.”

AAF supports this program.

District Court Highlights

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.

Clark County Law Foundation's Memorial Services

The Clark County Law Foundation organizes a memorial service for attorneys who passed away the previous year. A memorial was held in 2023 recognizing those who passed during the year. A reception, funded by AAF, was held following the ceremony.

Washoe County Bar Memorial Services

The Washoe County Bar also organizes a memorial service for attorneys who passed away the previous year. A memorial was held in 2023 recognizing those who passed during the year. A reception, funded by AAF, was held following the ceremony.

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 2022, they provided over 189,323 services.

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. Since the inception of the program, statistics show that 298 attorneys have volunteered to learn about federal court pro bono opportunities and 126 different attorneys have accepted cases since the program's inception.

Bankruptcy Facilitator Program

Since its launch in Las Vegas in 2007, Nevada's Bankruptcy Facilitator Program has become a vital resource for bankruptcy court judges, bankruptcy trustees, individuals appearing before the court without an attorney, and even private bankruptcy attorneys dealing with unrepresented parties. The Bankruptcy Facilitator, a Legal Aid Center attorney, assists unrepresented individuals (both pro se creditors and pro se debtors) by providing information and forms and by referring those individuals for placement with volunteer pro bono counsel when appropriate. After several years of declines, the number of debtors filing bankruptcy in Nevada has started to increase slightly. Because the Bankruptcy Facilitator is still assisting fewer individuals than in previous years, the Facilitator now has more time to provide in-depth assistance to unrepresented parties, which has been especially effective in chapter 13 bankruptcy cases.

District Court Highlights

Northern Nevada Legal Aid

Northern Nevada Legal Aid, previously known as 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, Northern Nevada Legal Aid assists self-represented litigants, so they are better able to represent themselves. In 2022, they assisted approximately 10,500 individuals.

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. Since first opening their doors in 2004, Project REAL has served over 200,000 young Nevadans across the state.



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