

## HOW AND WHEN DO I APPLY?

In early March, the Court will issue and post on its website ([www.cacd.uscourts.gov](http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov)) a Notice from the Clerk soliciting applications to serve as a lawyer representative, along with the application form and other related materials. The application period will last approximately until the end of April.

To be eligible to serve as a lawyer representative, you must be a lawyer who is:

- Admitted to practice in the District Court of the Central District of California and actively involved in federal practice;
- Interested in the purposes and work of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference;
- Willing and able to contribute actively to the purposes and work of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference; and
- Willing to assist in implementing Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference programs with the local bar.

Applications are reviewed by a Nomination Committee consisting of the current presidents (or their designees) of various bar associations within the District. The Nomination Committee will submit a list of nominees to a Selection Committee not later than June 1. The Selection Committee consists of at least two district judges, one bankruptcy judge, and one magistrate judge who are members of the Court's Attorney Liaison Committee, and a circuit judge chosen by the circuit administrative judge.

Together, those selected will constitute a fair cross section of practitioners before the federal courts of the Central District of California. The Nomination and Selection Committees will consider the gender, ethnic, and racial diversity and the diverse geographic and subject matter practice backgrounds of those who practice before the Court. The lawyer representatives are announced at the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.

## HOW CAN I OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION?

For more information on lawyer representatives, please visit the official website of the Ninth Circuit's lawyer representatives at [www.ce9.uscourts.gov/lawyer\\_reps/](http://www.ce9.uscourts.gov/lawyer_reps/)



# BE A LAWYER REPRESENTATIVE

To the  
Ninth Circuit  
Judicial Conference  
for the  
Central District  
of California

Serving as a lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference is one of the most rewarding and enjoyable professional experiences that a federal practitioner can have. It provides an excellent opportunity for attorneys practicing in the Central District of California to assist the Ninth Circuit and the District in improving the administration of justice within their borders.

### **WHAT IS A LAWYER REPRESENTATIVE?**

The Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference is held pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 333, which permits each circuit to hold a conference “for the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice within such circuit.” In addition to the active circuit, district, magistrate, and bankruptcy judges, Section 333 provides for the “representation and active participation at such conference by members of the bar of such circuit.”

Each year, a small group of federal practitioners is selected to serve a three-year term to represent attorneys practicing in the Central District of California at the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. (The U.S. Attorney and Federal Public Defender of the District hold permanent positions.) These lawyer representatives come from all practice areas and from firms of all sizes, and are meant to reflect the tremendous diversity of practice within the District. Throughout their terms, lawyer representatives work to foster open communication between the federal bench and bar, and provide support and advice in connection with the functioning of the courts.

Lawyer representatives are appointed in proportion to the authorized active district judgeships in the District, the current formula being the number of active authorized judgeships multiplied by 1.28, rounded to the nearest whole number. One-third of the number of authorized lawyer representatives are appointed each year.

### **WHAT DOES A LAWYER REPRESENTATIVE DO?**

Lawyer representatives play their most visible role in the business of the Circuit and the District by actively participating in the annual Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, organizing and participating in the annual Central District of California Judicial Conference, and participating in the year-long activities undertaken by the Central District of California leading up to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. In addition, lawyer representatives serve on Ninth Circuit committees, Court committees, and lawyer representative committees, working to achieve the goals of the federal courts and the attorneys who practice before them. Through these committees, lawyer representatives recently have provided valuable assistance to the Court by supporting its congressional outreach efforts, reviewing attorney settlement officer applications, and soliciting input from frequent litigators to aid in the development of recommendations for technological improvements that would enhance trial presentations.

Other duties include:

- Attending and participating in lawyer representative meetings in the District. (The Judicial Council requires two or more such meetings each year.)
- Attending and participating in joint meetings of lawyers and judges in the District, including the Central District of California Judicial Conference. (Two or more meetings are required each year.)
- Voting in lawyer representative elections and in balloting for Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference resolutions.
- Participating actively in the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference resolution process (i.e., proposing, drafting, and debating resolutions).
- Educating members of the bar about the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference and soliciting their reviews.

- Speaking up at District meetings and the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference to assure that the views of the District’s lawyers are heard.
- Continuing to attend and participate in all District meetings for two years after the expiration of their term as a lawyer representative.

### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A LAWYER REPRESENTATIVE?**

Serving as a lawyer representative is a rewarding and enjoyable professional experience that:

- Provides an opportunity to meet and interact with other respected federal practitioners within the District;
- Affords the unique opportunity to meet and interact with federal judges on an informal basis at conferences, committee meetings, and other planned events, such as the annual Chinatown dinner; and
- Serves as a springboard to involvement in other federal committees.

