

CHRISTOPHER M. KLEIN

Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of California



Judge Christopher M. Klein has been a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge in the Eastern District of California since February 1988 and was Chief Judge 2008-2015. He also served a 10-year term on the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Ninth Circuit (Chief Judge 2007-2008). During that time, he has presided over more than 150,000 cases and appeals under Bankruptcy Code Chapters 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 15.

Prominent recent cases on his docket include the Chapter 9 case of the City of Stockton, California, which culminated in a confirmed Plan for Adjustment of Municipal Debt, and the Chapter 11 case of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Stockton, which culminated in a confirmed Plan of Reorganization.

His judicial duties have included rules committees of the Judicial Conference of the United States. He was a member of Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (2000-2007) and was that committee's liaison member on the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Evidence (2001-2007).

Judge Klein co-chairs the American Bar Association's Chapter 9 Subcommittee, Business Bankruptcy Committee, Business Law Section.

As a member of the International Insolvency Institute, Judge Klein heads that organization's NGO delegation to the U.N. Commission on International Trade Law Working Group V on Cross-Border Insolvency and has been on the III delegation to the UNCITRAL Working Group VI on Security Interests.

He has been elected to the American College of Bankruptcy and the American Law Institute, as well as being a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and the American Bankruptcy Institute.

Admitted to the bars of California, the District of Columbia, Illinois, and Massachusetts, he was Deputy General Counsel-Litigation, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), Associate at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton, Trial Attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division, and a Judge Advocate.

Judge Klein's professional education was at the University of Chicago, where he earned both a Juris Doctor and a Master of Business Administration and was Executive Editor of the Law Review. From Brown University, he holds degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in History.

Lieutenant Colonel Klein, U.S. Marine Corps (ret.), was an artillery officer in Vietnam before becoming a Judge Advocate.

