



Arbitration & Mediation Services

Hon. Catherine E. Bauer, Ret.

United States Bankruptcy Court



Judge Catherine E. Bauer served as a United States Bankruptcy Judge in the Central District of California (in both the Riverside and Santa Ana divisions) for over a decade. Prior to her appointment to the bench she served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Los Angeles for nine years. As an AUSA she handled, among other things, all civil, non-tax, bankruptcy matters for the United States and its agencies in the five Bankruptcy Court divisions of the Central District.

Judge Bauer has extensive experience in all chapters of bankruptcy. In addition, having been an Assistant General Counsel for Bank of America for 16 years, she is an expert on financial disputes, problem loans, loan modifications, bank liability, foreclosures, compliance, distressed real estate and other complex financial issues. While at BofA, she was tasked with testifying in front of the California legislature regarding proposed changes to the State's foreclosure and anti-deficiency statutes.

A strength that Judge Bauer brings to every situation is her understanding of Southern California. As a proud graduate of both UCLA (undergrad) and USC (Law School) Judge Bauer knows the community on a granular level. She utilizes her wealth of local knowledge in every mediation/arbitration, which compliments her legal expertise.

In 1995, Judge Bauer was in the first graduating class of bankruptcy mediators from Pepperdine's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. She returned to obtain an Advanced Certificate in mediation from the Straus Institute in 2005.

Judge Bauer served as a panel mediator for both the Central District of California's District Court and Bankruptcy Court. Over her many years as a mediator, Judge Bauer was honored on numerous occasions as the Most Frequently Chosen Mediator and the Mediator With The Most Conferences Settled.

Judge Bauer is a former Chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section's Bankruptcy Committee and was a member of its Executive Committee. She helped found and then chaired the Central District of California's Debtor Assistance Program, which assists self-represented debtors in bankruptcy. On the state level, she served as a member of the California State Bar's Insolvency Committee for

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numerous years. She also served as Chair of the American Bar Association's Commercial Services Committee's Secured Creditors Subcommittee and as a Director and Board Member of the International Womens Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation.

Articles written by Judge Bauer have appeared in the American Bankruptcy Institute Journal, the Consumer Bankruptcy News, the International Womens Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation Newsletter, Bankruptcy Court Decisions Weekly News and Comment, Successful Restructurings and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Newsletter, among others.

Judge Bauer is the past recipient of both Public Counsel's Hon. William J. Lasarow Award for Outstanding Service and its Advocate of the Year Award.

While on the bench, Judge Bauer served on a multitude of committees on the local, district and national levels. She served as the Chair of the Central District of California's Bankruptcy Court's Self-Represented Litigant Committee and Chapter 13 Committee. She served on the Central District of California's District Court Pro Se Committee. She co-chaired the Santa Ana Court's Space and Security Committee. And, as a member of the Ninth Circuit's Pro Se Committee, she edited that Committee's newsletter *The Gideon*. On the national level, Judge Bauer was a member of numerous National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges committees, including its International Relations Committee, Newsletter Committee and NexGen Committee.

Judge Bauer has been a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars, including those of the American Bankruptcy Institute, California Bankruptcy Forum, Beverly Hills Bar Association, Orange County Bar Association, Orange County Bankruptcy Forum, Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum, Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum, Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Association and National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees. Judge Bauer has been a guest speaker on National Public Radio and she also filmed several updates on legal developments in the Ninth Circuit for distribution nationwide by the Federal Judicial Center.

Labeled "The Smiley Judge" by the lawyers who appeared in front of her, Judge Bauer truly enjoys engaging with attorneys and litigants. She firmly believes that every individual has merit, deserves to be heard and has a story to tell.