



United States Courts for the District of Idaho

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NEWS RELEASE

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Elijah Watkins Appointed as Lawyer Representative by Federal Court

BOISE – The United States District and Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Idaho are pleased to announce the appointment of Elijah Watkins as the newest of the Court’s three lawyer representatives.

Mr. Watkins began serving a three-year term representing on January 1, 2025. He joins lawyer representatives Sam Angell of Idaho Falls and Howard Belodoff of Boise. Mr. Watkins filled the position vacated by Sonyalee Nutsch of Lewiston, who will continue for another two years in an ex-officio status along with Katie Ball of Boise.

Mr. Watkins is committed to improving the administration of justice and strengthening collaboration between the courts and the bar. He has served on the Local Rules Committee since 2021, where he has contributed to initiatives such as the district’s model discovery protective order. From 2015 to 2018, he participated in the Ninth Circuit’s prison reform efforts, working with judges, court staff, and other stakeholders to address systemic issues.

A dedicated mentor and educator, Elijah has presented at the Idaho Bench Bar Conference and served as a faculty member at the Idaho Trial Skills Academy, where he trained attorneys on trial advocacy. His commitment to service extends to his role as a board member of the Federal Defenders of Idaho since 2019, where he helps allocate resources for essential legal services.

Mr. Watkins is a graduate of Brigham Young University-Idaho (B.S.) and the University of Illinois College of Law (J.D.).

The lawyer representatives serve as liaisons between the federal bar and the U.S. Courts, and they assist the federal courts to improve the administration of justice.

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