



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**PRESS RELEASE**

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Date: January 3, 2023

**MAGISTRATE JUDGE KAREN L. STEVENSON  
APPOINTED CHIEF MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR THE  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

The United States District Court for the Central District of California announces the appointment of Magistrate Judge Karen L. Stevenson as chief magistrate judge, which became effective January 1, 2023. She succeeds Magistrate Judge Paul L. Abrams, who served as chief magistrate judge from January 2020 to December 2022. Judge Stevenson will serve a four-year term as chief magistrate judge and provide leadership to the magistrate judges of the Central District of California.

Judge Stevenson has served as a magistrate judge for the Central District of California since August 10, 2015. Before joining the bench, Judge Stevenson was Of Counsel in the Litigation Practice Group of Buchalter Nemer, APLC in Los Angeles, where she specialized in complex commercial matters, including securities litigation, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, unfair competition, and insurance coverage for policyholders. Judge Stevenson received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her master's degree in European history from Oxford University, England as a Rhodes Scholar, and her Juris Doctor, with distinction, from Stanford Law School.

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**KIRY K. GRAY  
DISTRICT COURT EXECUTIVE / CLERK OF COURT**