

**Robert Summerhays**  
**United States District Judge**  
**United States District Court for the**  
**Western District of Louisiana**

The Honorable Robert Summerhays was appointed to the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana in September 2018. Prior to his district court appointment, Judge Summerhays served as a United States Bankruptcy Judge in the Western District of Louisiana for 12 years, 7 years of which he served as Chief Bankruptcy Judge.

As a Bankruptcy Judge, Judge Summerhays managed an average docket of over 5,000 consumer bankruptcy cases and presided over a number of significant corporate restructurings, such as Piccadilly Cafeterias, Gulf Fleet Holdings, Saratoga Resources/Harvest Oil, American International Petroleum, the Louisiana subsidiary of German Pellets AG, and Progressive Acute Care. He has also mediated complex energy and healthcare bankruptcy cases.

Judge Summerhays is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and has lectured and written extensively on bankruptcy law. He was a member of the editorial board of the American Bankruptcy Law Journal from 2009 to 2015. He has also served as the Fifth Circuit representative to the Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group. Judge Summerhays is active in the Federal Bar Association and served as President of his local FBA chapter. In 2020, he judged the final round of the Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition in New York. Since 2012, Judge Summerhays has taught advanced business law at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Prior to his service as a Bankruptcy Judge, Judge Summerhays worked in private practice concentrating in federal court litigation. Judge Summerhays served as a law clerk for Judge W. Eugene Davis (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit) in Lafayette from 1994 to 1995. Judge Summerhays received his law degree in 1994 from The University of Texas at Austin, where he was an Associate Editor of the Texas Law Review.