



**NEWS RELEASE**

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Contact: David J. Madden (415) 355-8800

## **White House Announces Judicial Nominations for Federal Courts in California**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The White House today announced President Obama’s nominations of two federal magistrate judges in San Francisco and a Los Angeles attorney to serve as district judges on federal trial courts in California.

United States Magistrate Judges Edward M. Chen and Richard G. Seeborg were nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Both men have served on the Northern District bench since 2001. Dolly Gee, a managing partner in the law firm of Schwartz, Steinsapir, Dohrmann & Sommers LLP in Los Angeles, was nominated to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Judge Chen, 56, who sits in San Francisco, was recently reappointed to a second eight-year term on the Northern District court. Prior to coming onto the federal bench, he worked as a staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, Northern California chapter, from 1985 to 2001, and as an associate at the San Francisco firm of Coblenz, Cahen, McCabe & Breyer from 1982 to 1985.

Judge Chen received his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1975, and his J.D. from Boalt Hall School of Law in 1979. After law school, he served judicial clerkships for U.S. District Judge Charles B. Renfrew of the Northern District of California, and U.S. Circuit Judge James R. Browning of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Judge Seeborg, 52, who sits in San Jose, also was recently reappointed to a second term on the Northern District court. Prior to coming onto the federal bench, he worked at the law firm of Morrison & Foerster, in both Palo Alto and San Francisco, where he served as an equity partner from 1998 to 2000 and as an associate from 1982 to 1991. In between his two tenures at Morrison & Foerster, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney in San Jose.

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Judge Seeborg received his undergraduate degree from Yale College in 1978 and his J.D. from the Columbia University School of Law in 1981. After law school, he served a judicial clerkship for U.S. District Judge John H. Pratt of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Ms. Gee, 50, practices labor and employment litigation. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1981 and her J.D. from UCLA Law School in 1984. After graduating from law school, she clerked for U.S. District Judge Milton Schwartz of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California. She has worked as a regional coordinator for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, supervising delegate elections, and has been an arbitrator for the Kaiser Permanente Independent Arbitration System since 2000. She is a member of the board of directors of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California and a past president of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association.

The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California had 14,444 case filings in 2008. The court is authorized 28 judgeships, four of which are vacant. Ms. Gee was nominated to fill the vacancy created October 5, 2008, when District Judge George P. Schiavelli resigned.

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California had 6,694 case filings in 2008. The court is authorized 14 judgeships and also has four vacancies. Judge Chen was nominated to fill the judgeship left vacant by the resignation of District Judge Martin J. Jenkins on April 4, 2008. Judge Seeborg was nominated to fill the vacancy created June 30, 2009, when District Judge Maxine M. Chesney assumed senior status.

District court judges, appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and receive lifetime appointments. Their current annual salary is \$174,000.

Magistrate judges are appointed by majority vote of the active district judges of the court. They have jurisdiction over matters assigned by statute as well as those delegated by the district judges. A full-time magistrate judge serves a term of eight years and receives a salary of \$160,080.

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