



Public Information Office  
**United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit**  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Judicial Misconduct, Disability Orders Will Be Posted Online**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Orders pertaining to the disposition of judicial misconduct and disability complaints against federal judges sitting in the Ninth Circuit will be publicly available via the Internet, beginning January 2008.

The orders, which are issued by the Chief Judge and/or Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, will be posted at [http://www.ce9.uscourts.gov/misconduct/judicial\\_misconduct.html](http://www.ce9.uscourts.gov/misconduct/judicial_misconduct.html) as they become available. Paper copies of the orders will continue to be kept on file and available to the public at the James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco, the Ninth Circuit headquarters.

Congress enacted a judicial misconduct statute in 1980, establishing a process for filing and investigating complaints and reporting their disposition. In the Ninth Circuit, orders issued by the chief judge or a special Judicial Council committee appointed by the chief judge to investigate a complaint had been available only in paper form and only by physically searching court records in San Francisco.

In addition to providing access to orders, the Ninth Circuit web site also provides links to the rules governing the complaint process, and to a required form used to make a complaint.

A committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, national governing body for the federal courts, is currently revising the rules governing judicial conduct and disability. The full Judicial Conference US is expected to review the new rules in March 2008.

The Ninth Circuit encompasses Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It includes the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the federal trial and bankruptcy courts in the 15 judicial districts that make up the circuit.

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