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**United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Senate Confirms Judge Charles R. Breyer  
to Serve on US Sentencing Commission**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Senate has confirmed President Obama’s nomination of Senior District Judge Charles R. Breyer of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, to serve as a commissioner of the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Confirmation came by voice vote on Thursday, June 6, 2013.

Judge Breyer, 71, who has chambers in San Francisco, is the first federal judge from the Ninth Circuit to serve on the USSC, an independent body within the judiciary responsible for developing guidelines that prescribe a range of sentences for federal judges to use in criminal cases. Judge Breyer succeeds U.S. District Judge Ruben Castillo of the Northern District of Illinois.

First nominated to the commission on April 27, 2012, Judge Breyer was favorably reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 19, 2012, but did not receive a confirmation vote by the Senate in the last session of Congress. President Obama renominated him on April 15, 2013.

Nominated to the federal bench by President Clinton, Judge Breyer has served on the Northern District of California court since 1997. He assumed senior status on December 31, 2011, but continues to regularly hear cases and perform other duties.

Judge Breyer has been active in judicial governance, previously serving on the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit and as the U.S. district judge representative to the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the national governing body for federal courts. He currently serves on the JCUS Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, which determines the venue for litigation spanning multiple federal jurisdictions.

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Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Breyer had engaged in private practice in San Francisco at Coblenz, Cahen, McCabe and Breyer since 1980 and at Jacobs, Sills and Coblenz from 1974 to 1979. He served as assistant special prosecutor for the Watergate Special Prosecution Force at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., from 1973 to 1974 and as assistant district attorney for the City and County of San Francisco from 1967 to 1973 then as chief assistant in 1979.

A native of San Francisco, California, Judge Breyer received his A.B. from Harvard College in 1963 and his J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, in 1966. Following law school, he clerked for Judge Oliver J. Carter of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California from 1966 to 1967. Judge Breyer is the brother of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer.

Established under the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, the U.S. Sentencing Commission consists of seven voting members appointed by the president to six-year terms. The U.S. attorney general, or a designee thereof, serves as a non-voting member. The 1984 act requires that at least three members of the commission be federal judges, to be selected after considering a list of six judges recommended by the JCUS.

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