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United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · (415) 355-8901 Fax

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: David Madden (415) 355-8800

President Renominates 13 to Federal Courts in the Ninth Circuit

SAN FRANCISCO – President Obama has renominated 54 individuals to serve as judges of federal courts across the nation. The group includes 13 nominees previously put forward to serve on the federal bench in the Ninth Circuit. The White House announced the renominations on Monday, January 6, 2014.

Renominated to serve as circuit judges on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit were attorneys Michelle T. Friedland and John B. Owens. If confirmed by the Senate, Ms. Friedland will fill a judgeship vacant since April 1, 2013, when Judge Raymond C. Fisher assumed senior status. Mr. Owens will fill a judgeship vacant since December 31, 2004, when Judge Stephen Trott assumed senior status.

Both circuit nominees are litigation partners in the California law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP. Ms. Friedland, 41, joined the firm in 2004 and works in San Francisco, where her practice focuses primarily on antitrust litigation, constitutional and academic affairs litigation, and appellate matters. Mr. Owens, 42, joined the firm in 2012 and works in Los Angeles, where he represents individuals and corporations in government investigations, and conducts internal investigations into allegations of corporate misconduct.

Renominated to serve as district judges on the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona were:

- The Honorable Steven Paul Logan, 48, who currently serves on the Arizona federal court as a magistrate judge, to fill a judgeship vacant since January 30, 2013, when District Judge James A. Teilborg assumed senior status;
- The Honorable Douglas L. Rayes, 61, of the Maricopa County (Arizona) Superior Court, to fill a judgeship vacant since January 30, 2013, when District Judge Frederick J. Martone took senior status;

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- John Joseph Tuchi, 49, a chief assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Arizona, to fill a judgeship vacant since September 3, 2013, when Chief District Judge Roslyn O. Silver assumed senior status;
- Diane J. Humetewa, a former assistant U.S. attorney now serving as a special advisor on tribal relations to the president of Arizona State University, to fill a judgeship vacant since January 3, 2011, when District Judge Mary H. Murguia was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit;
- The Honorable James Alan Soto, of the Santa Cruz County (Arizona) Superior Court, to fill a vacancy created on December 31, 2012, when District Judge David C. Bury assumed senior status; and
- Rosemary Márquez, 45, a Tucson attorney, to fill a judgeship left vacant when District Frank R. Zapata took senior status on August 3, 2010.

Three of the renominations were for seats on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California:

- Vince Girdhari Chhabria, deputy city attorney for the City and County of San Francisco, to fill a judgeship vacant since July 1, 2013, when District Judge Susan Illston assumed senior status;
- The Honorable Beth Labson Freeman, 60, presiding judge of the San Mateo County (California) Superior Court, to fill a judgeship left vacant when District Judge Jeremy Fogel was appointed director of the Federal Judicial Center on October 2, 2011; and
- James Donato, 53, a San Francisco attorney, to fill a judgeship left vacant when Chief District Judge James Ware retired on August 31, 2012.

The remaining Ninth Circuit renominations were:

- The Honorable Cynthia Ann Bashant, a judge of the San Diego County Superior Court, to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. She would fill a judgeship vacant since March 29, 2013, when Judge Irma E. Gonzalez assumed senior status; and

- Stanley Allen Bastian, managing partner of the law firm Jeffers, Danielson, Sonn & Aylward, P.S., in Wenatchee, Washington, to serve as a district judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington. He would fill a judgeship vacant since June 7, 2012, when Judge Edward F. Shea assumed senior status.

Appointed under Article III of the Constitution, federal circuit and district court judges are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior.

A complete list of current judicial vacancies and nominees to federal courts of the Ninth Circuit can be found at: http://www.ce9.uscourts.gov/vacancies/Judicial_vacancies.pdf. For additional information about any of the nominees, contact David Madden, (415) 355-8930.

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