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**United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

April 28, 2014

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## **Senate Confirms Michelle T. Friedland to Seat on Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The United States Senate today confirmed President Obama’s nomination of San Francisco attorney Michelle T. Friedland to serve as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Confirmation came by a vote of 51-40.

Judge Friedland was first nominated to the court on August 1, 2013. Her nomination was among those not acted upon by the Senate in the last session of Congress. She was renominated by the president on January 6, 2014, and favorably reported to the Senate floor on January 16, 2014. She will fill a judgeship vacant since April 1, 2013, when Judge Raymond C. Fisher of Pasadena, California, assumed senior status. Judge Friedland will maintain chambers in San Francisco.

With the confirmation of Judge Friedland, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals will begin operating with 29 active judges for the first time. Congress expanded the Ninth Circuit bench to 28 judgeships in 1984 and added the 29<sup>th</sup> seat in 2009.

“The Ninth Circuit is the nation’s busiest federal appellate court. Having a full bench will bolster the court’s ability to dispense justice and resolve disputes in a fair and timely manner,” said Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of Pasadena. “We welcome the appointment of Ms. Friedland and look forward to her contributions to the work of our court.”

As a result of vacancies, the court had not operated with its full complement of authorized judges since 1992. It began 2014 with two vacancies, one of which was filled in March with the confirmation of Judge John B. Owens.

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At age 41, Judge Friedland ranks fourth among the youngest appointees to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. That group is led by Chief Judge Kozinski, appointed in 1985 at age 35; former judge now U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, appointed in 1975 at age 38; and Senior Circuit Judge Mary M. Schroeder of Phoenix, appointed in 1979 at age 38.

Prior to coming onto the bench, Judge Friedland had been a litigation partner in the San Francisco law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP since 2010. Her practice focused primarily on antitrust litigation, appellate matters, and constitutional and academic affairs litigation for higher education institutions. She joined the firm in 2004 and has extensive litigation experience at the trial and appellate levels in state and federal courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States.

Prior to practicing law, Judge Friedland lectured at Stanford Law School, where she taught federal jurisdiction and environmental law from 2002 to 2004. Before that, she clerked for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the Supreme Court, from 2001 to 2002, and for Judge David Tatel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit from 2000 to 2001.

Born in Berkeley, California, Judge Friedland received her undergraduate degree with honors from Stanford University in 1995. After studying at Oxford University on a Fulbright Scholarship, she attended Stanford Law School, where she received her J.D. in 2000, graduating second in her class.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by executive branch agencies and federal trial courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court normally meets monthly in Seattle, Washington; San Francisco, California; and Pasadena, California; every other month in Portland, Oregon; three times per year in Honolulu, Hawaii; and twice a year in Anchorage, Alaska.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit had 12,826 new case filings in fiscal year 2013. The court is authorized 29 judgeships.

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