



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Public Information Office

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Editor's Note: Media coverage of the conference is welcome. Advanced media registration will be required. To register, contact the Public Information Office by July 9, 2007.

NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference Brings Federal Bench, Bar to Honolulu

SAN FRANCISCO – The 2007 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, which brings together the bench and bar from federal courts throughout the western United States, will be held July 16-19 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel in Honolulu.

Some 800 judges, judiciary employees, representatives of government agencies and private attorneys are expected to participate in the conference, which includes various business meetings and a rich educational program focusing on drug abuse policy, secrecy and privacy in the electronic age, and the role of courts in wartime.

Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle is scheduled to welcome attendees at the opening session and the closing segment features remarks by Associate Justice John Paul Stevens of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The theme of the conference is “Collision Course: When Liberty and Order Clash.” The program includes:

- **Special Welcome by Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle
(Monday, July 16, 4 p.m.)**
- **Reexamining Drug Abuse Policy: Theory, Science and Practice
(Tuesday, July 17, 8:30 a.m.)**

The "war on drugs" still rages. The number of persons sentenced for federal drug offenses has risen from 52,782 persons in 1995 to 74,276 in 2003, an increase of 49 percent. Do these statistics represent progress, defeat, or the expected results of the use of the criminal justice system to prevent drug abuse? Panelists include state and federal judges, an official of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and representatives of organizations involved in drug treatment and policy research.

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Office of the Circuit Executive

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- **Secrecy in the Electronic Age**
(Tuesday, July 17, 10:30 a.m.)
 In the Internet age, courts are having to balance the presumptive constitutional rights of the public and press to attend court proceedings and inspect court records against other important public concerns, such as litigants' rights to financial and personal privacy, companies' rights to protect trade secrets and other proprietary information, and the rights of jurors and other involuntary players in the judicial system. Panelists include media advocates, a federal court judge and clerk, and former federal prosecutor.
- **Breakfast with the Bench – Confidentiality in the Courts**
(Wednesday, July 18, 8:30 a.m.)
 Members of the bench and bar will participate in table discussions about secrecy in the electronic age and examine how the definition of confidentiality in the courts has changed as a result of the Internet.
- **Killer Asteroids and What We Can Do About Them**
(Wednesday, July 18, 10:30 a.m.)
 Three astronomers from the University of Hawaii's Institute for Astronomy will discuss the risks and probabilities of the earth colliding with a wandering asteroid, and whether anything can be done to avert such a potential catastrophe.
- **The Role of the Courts in Wartime: A Historical Perspective**
(Thursday, July 19, 8:30 a.m.)
 History has shown that government may seek to expand its authority in times of national crisis, sometimes at the expense of individual rights. Since the judiciary must determine the constitutionality of the wartime actions taken by the executive and legislative branches, courts are left to pass judgment on often severe restrictions of civil liberties. This panel will look at the normative role courts should play and assess past activities of the judiciary in light of recent events.
- **Wellness Program: The Eyes Have It**
(Thursday, July 19, 10:15 a.m.)
 This segment, reserved for health and wellness issues, features a medical professional discussing prevention of eye diseases, cataracts, LASIK surgery, and other advances in ophthalmology to preserve your sight.

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- **Conversation with the Justice**
(Thursday, July 19, 11:30 a.m.)

The “Conversation with the Justice” features an informal conversation with Associate Justice John Paul Stevens of the U.S. Supreme Court, who last attended the conference in 2002.

The conference is being organized by a Conference Executive Committee chaired by Chief District Judge Robert S. Lasnik of Seattle. Circuit Judge Richard R. Clifton of Honolulu chairs the program subcommittee. Ninth Circuit Chief Circuit Judge Mary M. Schroeder will preside over the opening session and participate in other parts of the conference, including the introduction of Justice Stevens.

The Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference meet pursuant to Section 333 of Title 28 of the United States Code for “the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice within such circuit.” The U.S. Courts for the Ninth Circuit consists of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the district and bankruptcy courts and related court units for the Districts of Alaska, Arizona, Northern California, Central California, Eastern California, Southern California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Eastern Washington, Western Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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