



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit Clerk Cathy Catterson Gains New Title, Additional Duties

SAN FRANCISCO – Cathy A. Catterson, the longtime Clerk of Court for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, will see her duties expand as the new head of the Office of the Circuit Executive, the administrative arm of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, which governs federal courts in the western states.

Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of Pasadena announced the appointment today. Judge Kozinski said Ms. Catterson will have the new title of Circuit and Court of Appeals Executive.

“Cathy is a dedicated public servant who has done an outstanding job over the years as our clerk of court. I am pleased that she has agreed to accept these additional duties and confident that her performance in this new role also will be exemplary,” Judge Kozinski said.

Appointed Clerk of Court/Court Executive in 1985, Ms. Catterson serves as chief administrative officer for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the largest and busiest federal appellate court in the nation with 50 judges and nearly 14,000 filings in 2006. She manages a staff of more than 200, including staff attorneys and mediators. The circuit is headquartered in San Francisco with divisional offices in Pasadena, Portland and Seattle.

The Office of the Circuit Executive, which is located in San Francisco, assists the Judicial Council in achieving its goals and objectives by providing professional services in the areas of public information; judicial conference and education; legal affairs; space and facilities; court management and research; information technology; and human resources. The office, which currently has a staff of 34, works closely with judges, clerks and other staff in the federal district and bankruptcy courts of the circuit.

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The position of Circuit Executive has been vacant since June 1, when Dr. Gregory B. Walters, who had held the job for 18 years, resigned to take a position in Washington, D.C., as special assistant to James C. Duff, chief executive of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

A native of Queens, New York, Ms. Catterson received her undergraduate degree in 1974 from Catholic University of America, and her J.D. in 1978 from George Mason University Law School. She served as a law clerk to the late U.S. District Judge Edward J. Devitt of St. Paul, Minnesota, and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the Fourth and Ninth Circuits, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, and the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Ms. Catterson joined the staff of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1979 as a senior case expeditor and also worked as chief deputy clerk from 1982 to her appointment as clerk of court/court executive.

Ms. Catterson also served as staff assistant to the late Senator Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.), while attending college and law school.

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 court of appeals and the federal trial and bankruptcy courts in 15 judicial districts within the circuit.

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