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**United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **John T. Gorman Reappointed Federal Public Defender for District of Guam**

SAN FRANCISCO – Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced today the reappointment of Federal Public Defender John T. Gorman of the District of Guam.

First appointed to the office in 2003, Mr. Gorman was reappointed in 2007 and 2011. His appointment to a fourth term is effective November 17, 2015.

Mr. Gorman, 57, is supported by an assistant federal public defender and four office staff. His office in Mongmong, Guam, handled 113 new cases in fiscal year 2014. In addition to criminal defense and appeals, public defenders represent prisoners and witnesses and handle bail/pre-sentencing, and probation and parole revocation hearings.

A native of Mongmong, Mr. Gorman received his B.A. in journalism from Drake University in Iowa in 1980. He spent several years in the Peace Corps, working in Indochinese refugee camps in the Philippines, then entered law school at Northeastern University in Boston, where he received his J.D. in 1992.

While a law student, Mr. Gorman worked as a legal intern in the Boston area and as a law clerk to Justice Wendie Gershengorn of the Massachusetts Superior Court. Following law school, he served as a trial attorney with the Defender Association in Philadelphia. He relocated to Guam to work as a senior litigator in the Office of the Federal Public Defender in 1997.

Congress created the Office of the Federal Public Defender to fulfill the constitutional requirement that indigents charged with crimes in the federal justice system be provided with professional legal representation at no cost. Congress funds the offices of the Federal Public Defender through the Defender Services Division of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

By statute, judges of the courts of appeals select and appoint the federal public defender for a renewable term of four years. The court makes its initial appointment after a nationwide recruitment and the use of a local screening committee pursuant to Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines. Reappointments to additional terms are based upon demonstration of highly satisfactory performance as determined by a broad survey and performance evaluation.

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