



Public Information Office
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

February 25, 2016

Contact: David J. Madden (415) 355-8800

U.S. District Judge Lucy H. Koh Nominated to Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

SAN FRANCISCO – President Obama today announced the nomination of United States District Judge Lucy H. Koh of San Jose, California, to serve as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

If confirmed by the Senate, Judge Koh would fill a judgeship vacant since December 11, 2015, when Circuit Judge Harry Pregerson of Woodland Hills, California, assumed senior status.

Judge Koh, 47, was nominated to serve as a district judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California on January 20, 2010. She was confirmed by a unanimous Senate vote on June 7, 2010, and received her judicial commission on June 9, 2010. Prior to coming onto the federal bench, she was appointed to serve as a judge of the Santa Clara County (California) Superior Court in 2008 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Koh had been a litigation partner since 2002 with the law firm of McDermott, Will and Emery in Palo Alto, California, where she practiced appellate, commercial and criminal law, intellectual property, and litigation. She also worked as a senior associate at Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati in Palo Alto from 2000 to 2002.

Earlier in her career, Judge Koh served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Criminal Division of the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California in Los Angeles from 1997 to 2000. She worked from 1994 to 1997 in the Office of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of Justice, where she served as special assistant to the deputy attorney general from 1996 to 1997 and as special counsel from 1994 to 1996.

– more –

Judge Koh received her B.A., magna cum laude, from Harvard University in 1990 and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1993. Following law school, she served as a Women's Law and Public Policy fellow for the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary from 1993 to 1994.

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 11,870 case filings in fiscal year 2015. The court is authorized 29 judgeships, one of which is currently vacant. Two vacancies are scheduled to occur when Circuit Judges Barry G. Silverman and Richard R. Clifton, assume senior status in October and December 2016, respectively.

###