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NEWS RELEASE

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**White House Announces Nominees to U.S.
District Court for Western District of Washington**

SAN FRANCISCO – The White House announced Thursday, April 14, 2016, that President Obama has made nominations for two current vacancies and one future vacancy on the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington. Nominated for district judgeships were:

- King County (Washington) Superior Court Judge Beth M. Andrus, who will fill a judicial vacancy created when District Judge Robert S. Lasnik assumed senior status on January 27, 2016;
- Seattle attorney Kathleen M. O’Sullivan, who will fill a judicial vacancy created when District Judge Marsha J. Pechman assumed senior status on February 6, 2016; and
- Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Michael Diaz, who will fill a judicial vacancy that will occur on June 28, 2016, when District Judge James L. Robart assumes senior status.

Judge Andrus has served since 2010 on the King County (Washington) Superior Court. She is currently the court’s chief civil judge and was assistant presiding judge in 2015. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she engaged in private practice in Seattle, most recently as a partner in the law firm of Skellenger Bender, P.S., 1995 to 2010. She worked at the law firm of Miller Nash Wiener Hager & Carlsen (now Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP) from 1990 to 1995 and at Schweppe, Krug & Tausend (no longer operational) in Seattle in 1989.

Judge Andrus received her B.A., summa cum laude, from Wayne State University in 1985 and her J.D., cum laude, from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1988. Following law school, she clerked for Judge Gerald W. Heaney of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eight Circuit from 1988 to 1989.

Ms. O’Sullivan has been a partner since 2004 in the Seattle law firm of Perkins Coie, where she specializes in appellate and commercial litigation. She joined the law firm as an associate in

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1997. Ms. O'Sullivan received her B.A., cum laude, from Yale University in 1991 and her J.D., cum laude, from Georgetown University Law Center in 1996. Following law school, she clerked for Judge Harold H. Greene of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia from 1996 to 1997 and for Judge M. Margaret McKeown of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 1998 to 1999.

Mr. Diaz has served in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington since 2008. He has been the office's civil rights program coordinator since 2011. Prior to government service, he worked at the law firm of Yarmuth Wilsdon Calfo PLLC (now Yarmuth Wilsdon PLLC) in Seattle, where he litigated commercial and white collar matters. Mr. Diaz began his legal career as an associate with the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP (now Norton Rose Fulbright) in Houston from 2002 to 2006. He received his B.A., magna cum laude, from the University of Notre Dame in 1996 and his J.D. from Cornell Law School in 2002.

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington had 3,925 new case filings in fiscal year 2015. The court is authorized seven judgeships and has two current vacancies and one future vacancy.

Appointed under Article III of the Constitution, federal district court judges are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior.

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