



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to Remain Open During Government Shutdown

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit will continue normal operations during a federal government shutdown. In an [order](#) filed January 19, 2018, prior to the last government shutdown, Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas said the court has a constitutional duty to continue to hear and resolve cases.

“[J]udges rely on their personal staff, as well as the officers and employees of the Court, to perform functions necessary and essential to the continued resolution of cases,” the chief judge said in his order, which directed employees to report to work during their normally scheduled hours until further notice.

The directive applies to staff working in the Ninth Circuit courthouses in San Francisco and Pasadena, California, Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington. It also extends to the staffs of the Office of the Circuit Executive, which provides administrative support to the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit along with various services to federal trial courts in the Circuit, and the Ninth Circuit Library, which provides legal research.

The Judiciary nationally has sufficient reserves to fund operations for several weeks.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals convened for oral arguments this week and will remain in session next week at several locations. The court plans to adhere to its published calendar of oral arguments. Filing and noticing requirements will be in force, although the court may show flexibility when warranted by the circumstances. If any lawyers think they will be directly impacted by the shutdown they should contact and seek appropriate relief from the court.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the nation’s largest and busiest appellate court, hears appeals of cases decided by federal trial courts in the western states and Pacific islands and administrative decisions made by certain Executive Branch agencies.

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