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**United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Michael Filipovic Reappointed as Federal Public Defender for Western District of Washington**

SAN FRANCISCO — Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have approved the reappointment of Federal Public Defender Michael Filipovic of the Western District of Washington. Mr. Filipovic was first appointed to the office in 2014. His reappointment to a second four-year term is effective March 1, 2018.

Mr. Filipovic, 65, joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Washington in 1990 and has served as first assistant federal public defender from 2004 until his appointment as federal public defender. He worked previously as a defender for the Public Defender Association in King County, Washington, from 1981 to 1990, and supervised the Misdemeanor and Felony divisions during his last three years in that office. He also worked as a public defender in the Office of the Illinois Appellate Defender from 1978 to 1981.

A native of Chicago, Mr. Filipovic received his B.A. in criminal justice administration from the University of Illinois, Chicago, in 1974 and his J.D. from Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago-Kent College of Law, in 1977. In 2010, he was named Outstanding Assistant Federal Public Defender by the National Association of Federal Public Defenders.

The Office of the Federal Defender for the Western District of Washington, which opened 1,418 cases in fiscal year 2017, is headquartered in Seattle and maintains a fully-staffed branch office in Tacoma.

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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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