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United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Confirms US Magistrate Judge Bridget Bade to Seat on Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today confirmed President Trump’s nomination of U.S. Magistrate Judge Bridget S. Bade of Phoenix, Arizona, to serve as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Senators gave their consent by a vote of 78-21.

Judge Bade was nominated to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on January 23, 2019. The Senate Judiciary Committee reported her nomination favorably to the Senate floor on February 7, 2019. She fills a judgeship vacant since October 11, 2016, when Judge Barry G. Silverman of Phoenix assumed senior status.

Judge Bade, 53, was appointed a federal magistrate judge in 2012 and maintains chambers in the Sandra Day O’Connor U.S. Courthouse in Phoenix. As a magistrate judge, she presides over a variety of civil matters with responsibility for all aspects of case management through jury or bench trial. She has been responsible for pretrial management of civil rights cases, conducted settlement conferences, and prepared reports and recommendations in habeas corpus cases. She conducted preliminary criminal matters, including initial appearances, arraignments, and preliminary hearings, and reviewed and issued search warrants, arrest warrants, and criminal complaints. She also presided in misdemeanor criminal matters through trial and sentencing.

Prior to coming onto the bench, Judge Bade served from 2006 to 2012 as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Arizona, working in the Civil and Appellate Divisions of the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Her government service also includes working in the U.S. Department of Justice from 1991 to 1995, through the Attorney General’s Honors Program, as a trial attorney in the Environmental Torts Section of the Civil Division. She received DOJ Special Achievement Awards in 1993 and 1994, and USAO Performance Awards in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010.

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Judge Bade also practiced in the private sector in Phoenix for more than a decade. From 2005 to 2006, she was as a special counsel at Steptoe & Johnson LLP, where she specialized in complex civil litigation focusing on environmental, toxic tort, intellectual property and commercial litigation. From 1995 to 2005, she was a shareholder in the firm of Beshears Wallwork Bellamy, where her complex civil litigation practice focused on representation of plaintiffs and defendants in environmental, toxic tort, intellectual property, commercial, and class action litigation.

A Phoenix native, Judge Bade received her B.A, summa cum laude, from Arizona State University in 1987, and her J.D. in 1990, cum laude, from the ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, where she served as articles editor of the Arizona State Law Journal. Following law school, she clerked for Circuit Judge Edith H. Jones of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit from 1990 to 1991.

Judge Bade serves on her court's Local Rules of Practice Advisory Committee and Magistrate Judges Utilization Committee, and is a judicial liaison to the Federal Bar Association's Phoenix Chapter. She is also active in civics education as a member of the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee and chairs the organizing committee for District of Arizona's annual civics contest for high school students. She is a past member of the American Bar Association, the Maricopa County Bar Association, the Arizona Women Lawyers Association, and the Arizona Association of Defense Counsel.

Judge Bade is a frequent speaker and presenter at various conferences and programs sponsored by the District of Arizona, the FBA Phoenix Chapter, and the State Bar of Arizona. She also has participated in programs offered by the Minority Bar Conference, the ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, and the Hispanic Bar Association. She was the recipient of Arizona State Law Journal's John S. Lancy Distinguished Alumni Award in 2017.

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 10,502 new case filings in calendar year 2018. The court is authorized 29 judgeships and currently has four vacancies.

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