



NEWS RELEASE

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Rene L. Valladares Reappointed as Federal Public Defender for District of Nevada

SAN FRANCISCO — Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have approved the reappointment of Federal Public Defender Rene L. Valladares of the District of Nevada. His reappointment to a third term became effective August 3, 2019.

Mr. Valladares was appointed federal public defender for the District of Nevada in 2011. He has worked in the office since 1993 and served as chief of the Trial Unit in the Las Vegas division prior to his appointment to the top post. Mr. Valladares supervises 52 attorneys and 48 support staff, and his office opened 1,112 cases in fiscal year 2018, up almost 8 percent from the prior fiscal year.

Mr. Valladares began his legal career as a deputy public defender in Duval County Public Defender's Office in Florida. He later served as an associate with the law firm of Sheppard & White in Jacksonville, Florida.

Born in Nicaragua, Mr. Valadares emigrated to the United States at age 16. He received his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Florida in 1984 and 1987, respectively, and an LL.M. from the University of Miami in 1993. While in law school, he served as editor-in-chief of the Florida International Law Journal.

Mr. Valladares is an adjunct professor at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he teaches criminal pretrial advocacy and evidence skills. He is co-chair of the Federal Defenders' Performance Measurement Working Group and the Federal Defenders' Death Penalty Working Group.

The Office of the Federal Public Defender was created by Congress to fulfill the constitutional requirement that indigent individuals 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. A federal public defender may be reappointed if the court concludes that he or she is performing in a highly satisfactory manner based upon a broad survey and performance evaluation process.

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