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NEWS RELEASE

November 6, 2019

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Senate Confirms Oregon Judge Danielle J. Hunsaker to Seat on Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today confirmed President Donald Trump’s nomination of Oregon Judge Danielle J. Hunsaker to serve as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Senators gave their consent by a vote of 73-17.

Judge Hunsaker, who is expected to maintain chambers in Portland, Oregon, was nominated to the court on September 19, 2019. After appearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Sept. 25, 2019, her nomination was reported to the Senate floor on October 24, 2019. She fills a judgeship vacant since December 2016, when Judge Diarmuid F. O’Scaannlain assumed senior status.

Judge Hunsaker had served as the presiding judge of the Washington County (Oregon) Circuit Court since June of this year; previously she served as the chief civil judge of that court from January to June 2019 and as a circuit judge from December 2017 to January 2019. Before joining the state court, Judge Hunsaker was in private practice in Portland, Oregon, first as a litigation associate at Stoel Rives LLP and later as an associate, then partner, with the law firm of Larkins Vacura Kayser LLP. She was an adjunct professor of law at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon, from 2011 to 2016.

Born in Roseburg, Oregon, Judge Hunsaker received her bachelor’s degree, cum laude, from the University of Idaho in 2001, and her juris doctor, summa cum laude, from that university’s law school in 2004. Following law school, Judge Hunsaker clerked for Judge Paul J. Kelly, Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit from 2004 to 2005. She clerked for Judge Michael W. Mosman of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon, from 2005 to 2007, and for Judge Diarmuid F. O’Scaannlain of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 2008.

Judge Hunsaker served as the District of Oregon lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, as co-chair of the Oregon lawyer representatives, and as a member of the Ninth Circuit's Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee. She also served on the District of Oregon Local Rules Committee, the Merit Selection Panel on the reappointment of a U.S. magistrate judge, the Oregon State Bar Federal Practice & Procedure Committee, and the Owen M. Panner Inn of Court.

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, all of which are now filled. Two future vacancies have been announced.

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