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NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Confirms Lawrence VanDyke to Seat on Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today confirmed President Donald Trump’s nomination of Deputy Assistant Attorney General Lawrence VanDyke to serve as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Senators gave their consent by a vote of 51-44.

Mr. VanDyke, who is expected to maintain chambers in Las Vegas or Reno, Nevada, was nominated to the court on October 15, 2019. He fills the seat of Circuit Judge Jay S. Bybee, who will assume senior status on December 31, 2019.

Mr. VanDyke joined the U.S. Department of Justice’s Environment and Natural Resources Division as the deputy assistant attorney general this year. Previously he served as the solicitor general for the states of Nevada and Montana, and before that position he served as the assistant solicitor general for the State of Texas. Earlier in his career he clerked for Circuit Judge Janice Rogers Brown of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and worked as an associate attorney at the Dallas and Washington, D.C., offices of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, LLP, before and after that clerkship. While in college, Mr. VanDyke was vice president of Performance Machinery Company and project manager of VanDyke Construction Company in Bozeman, Montana.

Born in Midland, Texas, Mr. VanDyke received his bachelor’s degree in English, with highest honors, and his Master of Construction Engineering Management from Montana State University in 1997 and 2000, respectively; his bachelor’s degree in theology from Bear Valley Bible Institute, summa cum laude, in 2002; and his juris doctor, magna cum laude, in 2005 from Harvard Law School, where he was editor of the Harvard Law Review and editor of the Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy.

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 currently filled.