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NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit Judge M. Margaret McKeown Named to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences

SAN FRANCISCO – Judge M. Margaret McKeown of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on April 23, 2020. Founded in 1780 by John Adams, John Hancock and 60 other scholars, the academy is both an honorary society that celebrates the excellence of its members and an independent research center that brings together leaders from across disciplines, professions and perspectives to address significant challenges in society. The academy is committed to interdisciplinary, nonpartisan research that provides pragmatic solutions for complex challenges. She joins artists, scholars, scientists, and leaders in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors.

Judge McKeown is internationally recognized for her work on judicial ethics, gender issues, and international rule of law, and has gathered numerous accolades acknowledging her ardent pursuit of access to justice and her impact on the judiciary. Appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 1998, she is the former president of the Federal Judges Association and former chair of the ABA Rule of Law Initiative. She also chaired the ethics committee for federal judges, the Judicial Conference of the U.S. Committee on Codes of Conduct. She now chairs the ABA's Commission on the 19th Amendment, as we approach the centennial of its passage guaranteeing women's right to vote.

Judge McKeown has taken a leadership role in support of fair and equal treatment in addressing workplace harassment issues. Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas appointed her to chair the Ninth Circuit Ad Hoc Committee on Workplace Environment, and she was appointed to the Federal Judiciary Workplace Conduct Working Group by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.

Chief Judge Thomas reacted to the news of Judge McKeown's election to the Academy by saying that "Her dedication to the pursuit of fair and equal justice is making a tremendous impact in so many spheres both here in the U.S. and around the world."

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Being elected to the AAAS follows many past honors for Judge McKeown, including the prestigious 2019 John Marshall Award, presented by the American Bar Association’s Judicial Division and the Standing Committee on the American Judicial System; the 2010 ABA Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, the White House Fellows Foundation’s 2017 Legacy of Leadership Award, and the Girl Scouts’ “Cool Women” Award.

Born in Casper, Wyoming, Judge McKeown earned her B.A. from the University of Wyoming and her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she engaged in private practice for more than two decades in Seattle and Washington, D.C., including as the first woman partner with Perkins Coie. She resides in La Jolla, California.

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