Senate Confirms New Judge for U.S. District Court for District of Arizona

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today voted 70-27 to confirm President Donald Trump’s nomination of Arizona Superior Court Judge John C. Hinderaker to serve as a U.S. district judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona.

Judge Hinderaker was nominated for the judgeship on December 2, 2019, and had his hearing on December 4, 2019. The Senate Judiciary Committee reported Judge Hinderaker’s nomination to the Senate floor on March 5, 2020. He fills a judgeship vacant since March 4, 2019, when District Judge Raner C. Collins assumed senior status. Judge Hinderaker will maintain chambers in Tucson.

Judge Hinderaker has served on the Pima County Superior Court since 2018, when he was appointed by Arizona Governor Doug Ducey. Previously, Judge Hinderaker engaged in private practice as an associate then partner at the Tucson law firm of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP from 1998 to 2003 and from 2003 to 2018, respectively. Judge Hinderaker was a research attorney in 1998 for the International Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade in Tucson.

Born in Indio, California, Judge Hinderaker received his Bachelor of Arts, with honors, in 1991 from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he received the Golden Eagle Award for Outstanding Student-Athlete for Varsity Men’s Water Polo in 1990. Judge Hinderaker was an NCAA Semi-Finalist for Men’s Water Polo in 1990. He attended the University of Houston Law Center’s Mexican Legal Studies Program in the summer of 1994. Judge Hinderaker received his Juris Doctor, magna cum laude and Order of the Coif, from the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law, in 1996. He served as judicial law clerk in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona for the late District Judge John M. Roll in 1996 and for the late Magistrate Judge Raymond T. Terlizzi from 1996 to 1998.
Judge Hinderaker has been a member of the Arizona Judges Association and the Arizona Women Lawyers Association since 2018, the American Bar Association since 2016, and the Pima County Bar Association since 1999. He served on the Arizona Judicial Performance Review Commission, from 2017 to 2018, and as a lawyer member of the commission’s Pima County Review Team in 2012, 2014 and 2016. Judge Hinderaker served on the Pima County Commission on Trial Court Appointments from 2005 to 2015.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona had 12,447 new case filings in calendar year 2019, up 11.2 percent from the previous calendar year. The court is authorized 13 judgeships, which includes one authorized temporary judgeship, all of which are currently filled.

Appointed under Article III of the U.S. Constitution, federal district court judges are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior.

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