



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov

NEWS RELEASE

September 14, 2021

Contact: Katherine Rodriguez

mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov

Senate Confirms New Judge for U.S. District Court for Western District of Washington

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today voted 54-41 to confirm President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.’s, nomination of Washington Superior Court Judge David G. Estudillo to serve as a U.S. district judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Judge Estudillo was nominated for the judgeship on April 29, 2021, and had his hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 9, 2021. The Senate Judiciary Committee reported Judge Estudillo’s nomination to the Senate Floor on July 15, 2021. He fills a judgeship vacant since Feb. 28, 2019, when District Judge Ronald B. Leighton assumed senior status. Judge Estudillo will maintain chambers in Tacoma.

Judge Estudillo has served as the presiding judge of the Grant County Superior Court in Ephrata, Washington. He was appointed to the Superior Court by Washington State Governor Jay Inslee in 2015 and subsequently elected to his position by the voters of Grant County in 2016 and 2020. Prior to his appointment to the Superior Court, from 2005 to 2015, Judge Estudillo owned and operated Estudillo Law Firm, PLLC, where he focused on immigration law and general civil litigation. From 2002 to 2005, Judge Estudillo also practiced at the Seattle law firm of Scheer and Zehnder LLP, where he focused on complex, multiparty civil litigation. He began his legal career at the Wenatchee law firm of Jeffers, Danielson, Sonn & Aylward, P.S. Judge Estudillo received his Juris Doctor from the University of Washington School of Law in 1999 and his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington in 1996.

Judge Estudillo was born in Sunnyside, Washington, and is the ninth child of immigrants from Mexico. His parents arrived in the United States via the Bracero Program. Being fluent in Spanish, Judge Estudillo often provided pro bono representation as an attorney to Spanish speaking immigrants in removal proceedings before the Seattle and Tacoma Immigration Court. He assisted with the filing and presentation of claims for asylum, withholding of removal,

–more–



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov

Convention Against Torture Act and cancellation of removal. He also volunteered at Citizenship Day Clinics where he assisted immigrants in preparing applications for naturalization and frequently presented information on immigration law at community forums.

At the time of his Senate confirmation vote, Judge Estudillo was serving as the president of the Washington State Superior Court Judges' Association. He also was an active member of the Association's Ethics Committee and Legislative Committee and was chair of its Rural Courts Committee. Judge Estudillo also was serving as a member of the Washington State Board for Judicial Administration and its Court Recovery Task Force.

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington had 3,626 new case filings in calendar year 2020 ending December 31. The court is authorized seven judgeships, four of which are currently vacant.

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.

###