



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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**Arizona Federal Judge Mary H. Murguia
Nominated to Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals**

SAN FRANCISCO – President Obama has nominated federal trial court Judge Mary H. Murguia of Arizona to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The White House announced the nomination March 25.

Upon Senate confirmation, Judge Murguia would fill a seat vacant since February 12, 2010, when Ninth Circuit Judge Michael Daly Hawkins, also of Arizona, took senior status.

Judge Murguia, 49, has served on the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona since 2000. Nominated by President Clinton, she is the first Latina to serve on the Arizona federal bench. Judge Murguia maintains chambers in Phoenix.

Prior to coming onto the bench, Judge Murguia was a federal and state prosecutor. She worked in the criminal section of the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona from 1990 to 2000, serving as chief criminal deputy from 1994 to 1998. In 1998, Judge Murguia joined the Executive Office for United States Attorneys at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., where she served as counsel to the director's staff, principal deputy director and director.

Judge Murguia began her legal career in 1985 with the Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office in Kansas City, Kansas.

Born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas, Judge Murguia received both a B.S. and B.A. from the University of Kansas in 1982. She earned her J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1985.

Judges of the federal appellate courts, appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. Their current annual salary is \$184,500.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the nation's largest and busiest appellate court, hears appeals of cases decided by federal trial courts and certain executive branch administrative agencies in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court reported 12,223 appeals filed in 2009.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, one of two border courts in the Ninth Circuit, had 9,612 case filings in 2009, up more than 46 percent from the prior year. A majority of the court's docket involves criminal cases, primarily illegal immigration and drug smuggling. The court is authorized 12 permanent judgeships and one temporary judgeship and currently has one vacancy.

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