



**NEWS RELEASE**

December 2, 2013

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## **Court of Appeals to Open En Banc Proceedings to Internet Viewing**

SAN FRANCISCO – Internet users will soon have a seat in the courtroom when exceptionally important cases are argued before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The nation's busiest federal appellate court plans to provide live video streaming of its en banc proceedings, beginning with five cases (calendar and case summaries attached) scheduled for oral arguments December 9-11, 2013, in the James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco. Effective December 9, Internet users will find links to the video streams [here](#) or by visiting [www.ca9.uscourts.gov](http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov) and clicking on the link labeled “En Banc Video Streaming.”

It is believed to be the first time a federal appellate court will use its technology to deliver live video of a proceeding over the Internet. Broadcast and cable news networks have previously provided live coverage of Ninth Circuit court proceedings, including Internet viewing.

“The Ninth Circuit has a long history of using advances in technology to make the court more accessible and transparent,” said Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Alex Kozinski. “Video streaming is a way to open the court's doors even wider so that more people can see and hear what transpires in the courtroom, particularly in regard to some of our most important cases.”

An en banc court is used to resolve intra-circuit conflicts of law and other legal questions considered to be of exceptional importance. On average, only about 20 cases receive en banc review each year. Rather than a three-judge appellate panel, an en banc court consists of the chief judge of the circuit and 10 judges drawn at random.

En banc proceedings are held quarterly, usually in the Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco and the Richard H. Chambers U.S. Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena, California. Since 2010, the court has video streamed en banc proceedings to all of its courthouses. Thus, an en banc court convened in Pasadena can be observed at the San Francisco courthouse, the William K. Nakamura U.S. Courthouse in Seattle and the Pioneer Courthouse in Portland, Oregon.

Beginning with this month's docket, anyone with a sufficiently fast Internet connection will be able to watch en banc proceedings at home, work or elsewhere. Likely audiences include lawyers, parties to cases, law school students and faculty, news media and the general public. The court is working with an outside provider to ensure sufficient bandwidth is available for satisfactory viewing.

Considered a leader in the use of technology to increase public access, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is one of two federal appellate courts to allow the news media to use cameras in the courtroom. Since the early 1990s, Ninth Circuit appellate panels have granted 378 media requests for still and video photography of often high-profile cases.

Since 2003, the court has been using its own technology to provide public access to digital audio recordings of all oral arguments heard at all locations on a next-day basis. Video recording capability was later added. Today, all 11 courtrooms in the four Ninth Circuit courthouses are video equipped. Three courtrooms – one each in San Francisco, Pasadena and Portland – are equipped with high-definition video cameras.

Digital files containing audio and video recordings of court proceedings are available online at <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/media/>.

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, San Francisco and Pasadena, California; every other month in Portland, Oregon; three times per year in Honolulu, Hawaii; and twice a year in Anchorage, Alaska. A complete schedule of cases is available online at <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov>.

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