Senate Confirms Jennifer A. Dorsey for Federal Judgeship in Nevada

SAN FRANCISCO – The Senate today confirmed President Obama’s nomination of Las Vegas attorney Jennifer A. Dorsey to serve as a district judge for the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. Confirmation came by a vote of 54-41.

Ms. Dorsey, 42, fills a judgeship vacant since July 9, 2012, when District Judge Kent J. Dawson assumed senior status. She was originally nominated for the seat on September 19, 2012, but did not receive a confirmation vote by the Senate in the last session of Congress. President Obama renominated her on January 3, 2013.

Ms. Dorsey has been an equity partner with the law firm of Kemp, Jones & Coulthard LLP since 2004 and has been with the firm since 1997. Her practice focused primarily on civil appeals, class actions, and complex commercial litigation before state and federal courts. She worked as a law clerk at Totaro & Shanahan in Santa Ana, California, from 1996 to 1997.

A native of Las Vegas, Ms. Dorsey received her B.A., cum laude, from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas in 1994 and her J.D., cum laude, from Pepperdine University School of Law, where she was a staff member of the Pepperdine Law Review. She served as a congressional intern for U.S. Senator Richard Bryan and as judicial extern for Circuit Judge Stephen Reinhardt of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

In 2012, Ms. Dorsey was named as one of Benchmark Litigation’s Top 250 Women in Litigation and Nevada Business Magazine’s Legal Elite. She is co-recipient of the Legal Aid of the Southern Nevada’s Pro Bono Project’s Vince Consul Memorial Award in 2011.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada had 3,419 new case filings in fiscal year 2012. The court is authorized seven judgeships and currently has one vacancy.

Federal district court judges, 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 $174,000.

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