



**NEWS RELEASE**

December 3, 2015

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## **Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Assumes Additional Duties in Judiciary Governance**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has gained new duties with an appointment to the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the national policy-making body for the federal courts.

The appointment, made by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., of the Supreme Court of the United States, was announced December 1, 2015, by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

The U.S. Judicial Conference is composed of the chief judges of each judicial circuit, the chief judge of the Court of International Trade, and a district judge from each of the 11 regional judicial circuits. Operating through a network of committees, the conference addresses and advises the chief justice on a wide variety of subjects pertaining to the federal judicial system. The conference meets biannually in Washington to conduct business.

As a member of the Executive Committee, Judge Thomas will assume additional duties that include reviewing the jurisdiction of conference committees and preparing agendas for conference meetings. The Executive Committee also acts on behalf of the conference between sessions on matters requiring emergency action as authorized by the chief justice.

“I am extremely honored by the Chief Justice’s appointment and look forward to contributing further to the governance of our federal courts,” Judge Thomas said.

Judge Thomas, who has his chambers in Billings, Montana, was elevated to the chief judgeship of the Ninth Circuit in December 2014. He is the 11<sup>th</sup> chief judge in the history of the circuit and the third Montanan to wield the gavel. Nominated by President Clinton, Judge Thomas has served on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals since 1996.

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A native of Bozeman, Montana, Judge Thomas received his B.A. from Montana State University in 1975 and his J.D. from the University of Montana School of Law, graduating with honors in 1978. Prior to coming onto the federal bench, he had been in private practice in Billings from 1978 to 1995. He also was as an adjunct instructor of law at Rocky Mountain College in Billings from 1982 to 1995.

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