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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Ninth Circuit Judge Richard C. Tallman Announces Intention to Take Senior Status**



*Ninth Circuit Judge  
Richard C. Tallman*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Circuit Judge Richard C. Tallman of Seattle, Washington, has announced that he will step down as an active judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Judge Tallman plans to assume senior status on March 3, 2018, his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. At that time, he will have almost 18 years of active service to the court.

In an August 10, 2017, letter informing President Trump of his intentions, Judge Tallman said he will continue to render service as a senior judge.

“It has been my honor and a distinct pleasure to serve the nation and the people of the western United States as a member of the federal judiciary,” Judge Tallman wrote.

Nominated to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals by President Clinton, Judge Tallman was confirmed by the Senate on May 24, 2000, and received his judicial commission the following day. Filling a seat previously held by another Seattle jurist, the late Senior Circuit Judge Betty Binns Fletcher, he currently ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in seniority among the court’s active judges.

In addition to his Ninth Circuit service, Judge Tallman also serves on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review, which hears appeals of decisions related to espionage and counter-terrorism investigations under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978. He was appointed to the court of review in 2014 by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., and plans to serve out the remainder of his seven-year term, which ends in January 2021.

Also by appointment of Chief Justice Roberts, Judge Tallman served on the U.S. Judicial Conference’s Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules from 2004 to 2011, and chaired the committee from 2007 to 2011.

Born in Oakland, California, Judge Tallman received his B.S.C. from the University of Santa Clara (now Santa Clara University), graduating summa cum laude in 1975. He received his J.D. in 1978 from Northwestern University School of Law, where he served as executive editor of the Northwestern University Law Review, 1977 to 1978. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to Judge Morell E. Sharp of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Judge Tallman continued his government service as a federal prosecutor. He worked in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., from 1979 to 1980, then served as an assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Washington, from 1980 to 1983.

Entering into private practice in Seattle, Judge Tallman was an associate and later a partner at Schweppe, Krug, Tausend & Beezer, P.S., from 1983 to 1989; a member of Bogle & Gates, P.L.L.C., from 1990 to 1999, where he chaired the White Collar Criminal Defense Practice Group; and a partner in Tallman & Severin LLP, from 1999 to 2000. At all three firms, he handled complex commercial litigation involving business issues collateral to white collar criminal matters.

Active in professional organizations, Judge Tallman served on the Board of Directors of the Federal Judges Association, from 2002 to 2006; has been a Law Board Member for the Northwestern University School of Law from 2004 to present; and co-moderated a week-long “Justice and Society” seminar in 2011 at the Aspen Institute in Aspen, Colorado. His civic involvement includes serving on the Executive Board of the Chief Seattle Council of the Boy Scouts of America, 1997 to 2007; as general counsel to Seattle-King County Crimestoppers, 1988 to 1999; and as chairman of the Edmonds Community College Foundation Board, 1990 to 1992.

Federal law allows an Article III judge to retire at their full current salary. Many judges choose, instead, to take senior status and continue to serve the judiciary at essentially no cost. The “Rule of 80” is the commonly used shorthand for the combination of age and years of service required before a judge may assume senior status. Eligibility begins at age 65 with 15 years of service. The years of required service decreases with increasing age, thus a judge seeking senior status at age 70 would need 10 years of service.

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.

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