



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Videos from 2017 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference Program Now Available

SAN FRANCISCO – Videos of educational programs presented at the 2017 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, held July 17-20, 2017, in San Francisco, are now available. The theme of the conference was "Law, Society, and Technology: The Challenges and Opportunities Ahead." The videos can be accessed from the Ninth Circuit website:

https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/judicial_conference/2017/video.html.

Inspired by San Francisco's proximity to Silicon Valley, the conference program included sessions focusing on how technology is shaping our future, our rights and the law. Also on the agenda were sessions on civil rights, civic education and citizenship, election law and the media. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the presidential directives which led to the unjust internment of tens of thousands of Japanese-American citizens at the outset of World War II. A first-day program recounted the extraordinary search for justice by three of those citizens - Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi and Minoru Yasui - who waited four decades to be exonerated of criminal convictions for violating government policies later proved to be unwarranted.

Several sessions touched on civics education including a conversation with director Thomas Kail and producer Jeffrey Seller of the historical musical "Hamilton," which has achieved critical acclaim and box office success. During a supplemental civics education program, winners of the 2017 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, an essay and video competition for high school students in the western states, were recognized. United States Supreme Court Justice Neil M. Gorsuch participated in conference program, speaking at a naturalization ceremony for new citizens and at the supplemental civics education program.

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Other video-recorded sessions dealt with the future of scientific evidence in the courtroom; how artificial intelligence will affect our society and legal systems; the state of public confidence in the election process; and the alarming growth of "fake news" in the Internet age. The program concluded with a look back at the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, which took the lives of four young African-American girls. Two former Alabama prosecutors provided a moving account of the tragedy and how the perpetrators were brought to justice.

The Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference is authorized by statute "for the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice within the circuit." 28 U.S.C. § 333. The conference provides an exceptional educational program and facilitates circuit governance through more than 30 business meetings. Conferees include judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the U.S. district courts and U.S. bankruptcy courts of the circuit, along with lawyers practicing in these courts, court staff and special guests.

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