



Public Information Office  
**United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Idaho Attorney Ryan D. Nelson  
Nominated to Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – President Trump has nominated attorney Ryan D. Nelson of Idaho Falls, Idaho, to serve as a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The White House announced the nomination today.

If confirmed by the Senate, Mr. Nelson would fill a judgeship scheduled to be vacant when Circuit Judge N. Randy Smith of Pocatello, Idaho, assumes senior status on August 11, 2018.

Mr. Nelson has served as general counsel of Melaleuca, Inc., based in Idaho Falls since 2009. He served previously as special counsel for U.S. Supreme Court nominations to the Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He also served as deputy general counsel to the White House Office of Management and Budget and deputy assistant attorney general in the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the United States Department of Justice. Earlier in his career, Mr. Nelson engaged in private practice in the Washington, D.C., office of Sidley Austin LLP.

Mr. Nelson received his B.A. from Brigham Young University and his J.D. from BYU Law School, graduating with honors and inducted into the Order of the Coif. While in law school, he was a lead articles editor of the BYU Law Review. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and to Judge Charles Brower and Richard Mosk of the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal at the Hague.

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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, Washington; 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.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit had 11,096 case filings in fiscal year 2017. The court is authorized 29 judgeships, seven of which are currently vacant, and a future vacancy scheduled to occur when Circuit Judge N. Randy Smith assumes senior status in August 2018.

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