Senate Confirms L.A. Attorney Daniel P. Collins to Seat on Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate has confirmed President Trump’s nomination of Los Angeles attorney Daniel P. Collins to serve as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Senators gave their consent by a vote of 53-46 on Tuesday, May 21.

Judge Collins, who is expected to maintain chambers in Pasadena, California, was nominated to the court on February 6, 2019. After appearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 13, 2019, his nomination was reported to the Senate floor on April 4, 2019. He fills a judgeship vacant since December 11, 2015, when Judge Harry Pregerson of Woodland Hills, California, took senior status.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Collins had been a partner at the law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP, in Los Angeles since 2003 and from 1998 to 2001. Before that, he was an associate at the firm from 1996 to 1997. Judge Collins was an associate deputy attorney general in the Office of the Deputy Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., from 2001 to 2003. He served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California in Los Angeles from 1992 to 1996. He clerked for Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1991 to 1992 and was an attorney adviser in the Office of Legal Counsel at the DOJ in Washington from 1989 to 1991.

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, California; 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 10,502 new case filings in calendar year 2018. The court is authorized 29 judgeships and currently has 2 vacancies.