



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · (415) 355-8901 Fax

NEWS RELEASE

April 7, 2020

Contact: Katherine Rodriguez, (415) 355-8800

**Jon M. Sands Reappointed
Federal Public Defender for District of Arizona**

SAN FRANCISCO — The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the reappointment of Federal Public Defender Jon M. Sands for the District of Arizona to a fifth four-year term. First appointed to lead the office in 2004, his reappointment is effective September 1, 2020.

Mr. Sands is supported by 190 attorneys and support staff working in offices in Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff, Yuma, and Salt Lake City. In addition to criminal defense and appeals, the office represents capital prisoners in habeas corpus proceedings and reported 8,922 new criminal cases opened in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

Mr. Sands has worked in the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Arizona since 1987. He has chaired several national advisory committees and testifies regularly before the U.S. Sentencing Commission on sentencing policy issues. Mr. Sands also teaches courses at the Arizona State University College of Law.

“The Ninth Circuit is fortunate to have Jon Sands guiding one of the oldest and largest defender offices in the nation,” said Circuit Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw, who chairs the Ninth Circuit’s Standing Committee on Federal Public Defenders. “His appointment to a fifth term as Federal Public Defender is a testament to his superb leadership and unwavering commitment to the office’s mission under the Sixth Amendment to vigorously defend those in need.”

The Office of the Federal Public Defender was created by Congress to fulfill the constitutional requirement that financially eligible individuals charged with crimes in the federal justice system be provided with professional legal representation at no cost. By statute, judges of the courts of appeals select and appoint the federal public defender for a renewable four-year term. In the Ninth Circuit, FPD applicants are evaluated by both a local screening committee and the court’s Standing Committee on Federal Public Defenders, applying Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines. Reappointment to additional terms is based upon demonstration of highly satisfactory performance as determined by a broad survey and performance evaluation.

###