



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Katherine Rodriguez, (415) 355-8800

Geoffrey Hansen Appointed as Interim Federal Public Defender for Northern District of California

SAN FRANCISCO — The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has appointed Geoffrey Hansen as interim federal public defender for the Northern District of California, effective March 8, 2021. He will serve in that role until the court fills the vacancy created by outgoing Federal Public Defender Steven G. Kalar, who is not seeking reappointment.

Mr. Hansen worked in the Office of the Federal Public Defender in the Northern District for nearly 40 years, from 1982 to 2020. He was appointed chief assistant of the office in 1988 and served in that position until retiring last April.

“The Court is grateful to Geoff for returning from retirement to serve in this critical role while we conduct a search for the new federal public defender,” said Circuit Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw, who chairs the Ninth Circuit’s Standing Committee on Federal Public Defenders. “He has stepped in before to effectively manage the office during a leadership change, and I know his being at the helm will assure a smooth transition.”

Mr. Hansen received his B.A. from Stanford University in 1974 and his J.D. from the University of California Berkeley School of Law in 1978. He is a former president of the Criminal Trial Lawyers Association of Northern California and has been serving as an adjunct professor of law at the University of California Hastings College of the Law since 1980.

Applications for the federal public defender position in the Northern District of California are being accepted through April 30, 2021. Further information and the application form are available at <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/fpd>.

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, federal public defender applicants are evaluated by both a local screening committee and the court’s Standing Committee on Federal Public Defenders, applying Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines.

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