



# United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Northern District of California Clerk Susan Soong Named Ninth Circuit's New Circuit Executive**

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Susan Soong, currently the clerk of court for the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, has been selected as the new circuit executive for the U.S. Courts for the Ninth Circuit. The appointment was announced today by Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

“We are extremely pleased to have Sue assume this important leadership position. She brings a wealth of experience and proven leadership abilities,” Judge Thomas said.

As circuit executive, Soong will report directly to the chief judge of the court of appeals and serve as the secretary of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, the governing body for federal courts in the western states and Pacific islands. She will lead the Office of the Circuit Executive, whose 47 employees provide a wide variety of services to all of the federal courts of the circuit. Soong is expected to assume her new duties on October 11.

“Sue Soong is exceptionally well suited to serve as the circuit executive for the Ninth Circuit,” said Elizabeth “Libby” Smith, who started a new position as associate director of program services at the Administrative Office of the United States Courts on September 27.

“Sue is extremely well regarded within the Ninth Circuit, and nationally, for the breadth and depth of her knowledge on issues related to appellate and district courts, and for partnering with court unit executives from across all court unit types on issues of mutual concern. Sue is sure to hit the ground running as an advocate for the Ninth Circuit,” added Smith.

“Sue Soong has been a tremendous clerk for this court and will no doubt continue to provide valuable leadership in her new role with our circuit,” said Chief Judge Richard Seeborg of the Northern District of California.

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“I am very grateful for this opportunity to continue to serve the Ninth Judicial Circuit as circuit executive,” said Soong. “I am indebted to the Northern District of California judges and colleagues, who have been inspirational in their commitment to justice, excellence, innovation, and teamwork.”

Soong succeeds Smith who took over position from Cathy A. Catterson, who retired in 2017.

Soong has been clerk of court for the Northern District of California since 2015. From 2009 to 2015, she was chief deputy clerk of operations for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and a staff attorney from 1994 to 2009. From mid-2011 to mid-2012, she was a Director’s Leadership Program Resident at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in Washington, D.C.

Soong is the clerk’s representative on the Judicial Conference of the U.S. Advisory Committee on Civil Rules and sits on the Ninth Circuit’s Jury Trial Improvement Committee.

Soong also plays the violin and viola in several Bay Area chamber music groups.

Soong received her J.D., magna cum laude, from the University of Buffalo School of Law in 1994 and was admitted to the California Bar the same year. She received a Bachelor of Arts in human biology from Stanford University in 1990.

The Office of the Circuit Executive works with the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the federal trial and bankruptcy courts in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The office provides expertise in court management, education and training, human resources, legal matters, public information, space and facilities, and information technology.

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