



# United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Katherine Rodriguez  
[mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov](mailto:mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov)

## **Senate Confirms New Judge for U.S. District Court for Western District of Washington**

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today voted 52-45 to confirm President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.’s, nomination of Tana Lin to serve as a U.S. district judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. Upon taking her oath, Lin will be the first Asian American Article III judge and the first woman of Asian descent appointed in the district.

Lin was nominated for the judgeship on April 29, 2021, and had her hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 9, 2021. The Senate Judiciary Committee reported her nomination to the Senate Floor on July 15, 2021. She fills a judgeship vacant since Feb. 6, 2016, when District Judge Marsha J. Pechman assumed senior status. Lin will maintain chambers in Seattle.

“I would like to thank President Biden for nominating and the Senate for confirming another highly qualified attorney to our federal bench. My colleagues and I are excited to welcome Ms. Lin to our court and looking forward to working with her. A strong work ethic, years of experience and specific expertise in handling complex litigation will serve her well in our busy district,” said Chief Judge Ricardo S. Martinez of the Western District of Washington. “In a district with a significant Asian American population and home to many Asian Pacific communities, her presence on our bench will only further enhance the public’s perception of fairness and impartiality that they expect when they come to federal court,” he added.

Lin has been of counsel since 2020 at Keller Rohrback LLP in Seattle, where she has practiced since 2004. Previously, she was a litigation coordinator for the Michigan Poverty Law Program in Ann Arbor, Michigan, from 2001 to 2004. She served as a senior trial attorney for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from 1999 to 2001. Lin worked at the U.S. Department of Justice, where she was a senior trial attorney from 1997 to 1999 and as a trial attorney from 1995 to 1997, when she received the U.S. DOJ’s Special Achievement Award. She served as a staff attorney for the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia from 1991 to 1995.

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Born in Taiwan, Lin immigrated to the United States with her family when she was three years old. She received her Juris Doctor in 1991 from New York University School of Law, where she was a Root Tilden Snow Scholar, and her Bachelor of Arts from Cornell University in 1987. She was an adjunct professor at Seattle University School of Law in 2020.

Lin served as board president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington; board president of the ACLU of Washington Foundation; and a council member of the Michigan Prisoner Reentry Advisory Council of the Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative.

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington had 3,626 new case filings in calendar year 2020 ending December 31. The court is authorized seven judgeships, two of which are currently vacant.

Appointed under Article III of the U.S. Constitution, federal district court judges are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior.

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