



# United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Senate Confirms John Chun for Federal Judgeship in Western District of Washington**

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today voted 49-47 to confirm President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.’s, nomination of Washington State Court of Appeals Judge John H. Chun to serve as a U.S. district judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Judge Chun was nominated for the judgeship on Sept. 30, 2021, and had his hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Nov. 17, 2021. The Senate did not act on his nomination during the first session of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. President Biden nominated Judge Chun again on Jan. 3, 2022, and his nomination was reported to the Senate Floor on Jan. 20, 2022. Following his oath, he will become the first Asian American man to serve as a district judge on that court. Judge Chun will fill a judgeship vacant since June 28, 2016, when District Judge James L. Robart assumed senior status. He will maintain chambers in Seattle.

“We are absolutely delighted to welcome another incredibly qualified and seasoned jurist to our bench,” said Chief District Judge Ricardo S. Martinez of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. “John Chun brings a wealth of skills, knowledge and expertise to our district from his many years of experience on the state trial bench as well as the court of appeals. He will be able to hit the ground running and continue to deliver justice to our community as we work to dig ourselves out of the pandemic backlog of cases. I would like to thank President Biden for his nomination of Judge Chun and congratulate Senators Murray and Cantwell for their excellent work in sending such highly qualified candidates for the President’s consideration.”

Judge Chun has served as a judge for the Washington State Court of Appeals, Division One, since his appointment in 2018. He ran unopposed to retain his seat in November 2019. From 2014 to 2018, he was a Washington State judge at King County Superior Court in Seattle.

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Judge Chun was a member at Summit Law Group in Seattle, 2006-2013. From 2005 to 2006, he was a partner at Preston, Gates, Ellis, LLP (now K&L Gates LLP) in Seattle. Judge Chun was an adjunct professor at the Seattle University School of Law, 2002-2005. From 1995 to 2005, he was with Mundt MacGregor LLP in Seattle, first as an associate, 1995-2001, then as a partner, 2002-2005. He was admitted to the Washington State Bar in 1995.

Judge Chun served as law clerk to Circuit Judge Eugene A Wright of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 1994 to 1995. In 1994, he was a summer intern with the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch, and was a summer associate with Stoel Rives Boley Jones & Grey (now Stoel Rives LLP).

In 1993, he was a summer associate at Hancock, Rothert & Bunshoft LLP (now Duane Morris LLP), and summer of 1992 was a research assistant for Professor Robert S. Summers and Professor James A. Henderson at Cornell Law School.

A child of South Korean immigrants, Judge Chun received his Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University in 1991 and his Juris Doctor from Cornell Law School in 1994, where he was a note editor for the Cornell Law Review.

Judge Chun has received numerous accolades throughout his career, including the Catlin Gabel School Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award in 2020. He was named a "Washington Litigation Star," Benchmark Litigation, in 2014 and a "Top 100 Washington Super Lawyer" in 2007, 2011 and 2013.

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington had 3,134 new case filings in the calendar year 2021. The court is authorized seven judgeships and has one vacancy and two future vacancies with a date to be determined.

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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