



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Federal Judge in Hawai`i Assumes Additional Duties in Judiciary Governance

SAN FRANCISCO – United States District Judge Leslie E. Kobayashi of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawai`i was recently appointed on May 4, 2022, to serve on the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States (JCUS). The Executive Committee serves as the senior executive arm of the JCUS. The JCUS sets national administrative policy for the federal judiciary; approves the federal judiciary’s budget requests for Congress and performs numerous other statutory functions for the administration of the federal courts. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., who presides over the JCUS, has sole authority to make committee appointments. Judge Kobayashi’s open term is effective immediately.

Judge Kobayashi has served as district court representative for the JCUS since Oct. 1, 2021. As a member of the Executive Committee, Judge Kobayashi’s additional duties will include acting on behalf of all federal courts in matters requiring emergency action and on recommendations presented by the other advisory Conference committees to promote uniformity and efficiency across the federal judiciary.

“My appointment is an incredible opportunity to share the Ninth Circuit’s innovative work to support an open and independent judiciary in these unprecedented times, and I am honored to serve,” said Judge Kobayashi.

The JCUS operates through a network of 24 committees created to address and advise the Executive Committee on a wide variety of subjects pertaining to the federal courts such as court administration, information technology, rules of practice and procedure, security, and space and facilities. The JCUS Executive Committee meets biannually in Washington, D.C., to conduct business.

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Chief Judge Mary H. Murguia expressed her support and stated: “I am delighted that Judge Leslie E. Kobayashi was appointed to join the high ranks of the seven-member Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. In her new role, Judge Kobayashi, along with the other Executive Committee members, will no doubt contribute to the efficient administration of justice nationwide and will support the effective and expeditious administration of justice of the courts within the Ninth Circuit.”

Judge Kobayashi was nominated by President Barack Obama on April 21, 2010, to serve as a U.S. district judge for the District of Hawai`i and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Dec. 18, 2010. She received her judicial commission on Dec. 22, 2010.

Previously, Judge Kobayashi served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Hawai`i from 1999 to 2010. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she engaged in private practice for 16 years in Honolulu, where she handled a variety of civil trial matters. She served as a deputy prosecutor for the City and County of Honolulu from 1983 to 1984. Judge Kobayashi was admitted to practice in the Hawai`i state courts in 1983, the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawai`i in 1983 and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 1995.

Judge Kobayashi is a member of the Ninth Circuit’s Jury Instructions Committee and is an observer on the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, the governing body for federal district and bankruptcy courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. She served as a member of the Ninth Circuit’s Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, the Ninth Circuit Education Committee, the Conference Executive Committee, and as vice-chair of the Magistrate Judges Executive Board.

Born in Mount Holly, New Jersey, Judge Kobayashi received her Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School in 1983 and her Bachelor of Arts from Wellesley College in 1979. She was an adjunct professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, William S. Richardson School of Law, in 2000 and 2001.

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