



# United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Jodi Halim Linker Appointed as New Federal Public Defender for Northern District of California**

SAN FRANCISCO — Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have selected Jodi Halim Linker as the next federal public defender for the Northern District of California. She succeeds Geoffrey Hansen, who has served as interim federal public defender since March 2021. Linker begins her four-year term today (March 4, 2022).

“Jodi Linker is a highly experienced criminal defense attorney and is well known and respected by both the bench and bar in the Northern District,” said Circuit Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw, who chairs the Ninth Circuit’s Standing Committee on Federal Public Defenders. “We are fortunate to have someone of her qualifications to serve as the district’s new federal public defender and are grateful to Geoffrey Hansen for providing steady and valuable leadership while we conducted our search.”

Linker said, “I am honored and humbled to be chosen to lead an office of tremendously talented individuals dedicated to providing the highest quality representation for our clients. The work we do is important; a strong public defender’s office is critical to ensuring that all of our rights are protected and that every person is treated with dignity and humanity. Building off our solid foundation, I am committed to making our office as strong as ever to bring excellence to that mission.”

Linker began working in the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of California in 2007 and represents financially eligible individuals charged with a broad range of federal offenses. She is a regular presenter at criminal defense training seminars locally and nationally and has been a guest lecturer at Stanford Law School and Hastings College of Law. Previously, Linker was an associate from 2004 to 2007 at Clarence, Dyer & Cohen in San Francisco. From 2003 to 2004, Linker served as a law clerk for District Judge Charles R. Breyer of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

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Raised in the Bay Area, Linker received her Bachelor of Arts degrees in international development studies and geography/environmental studies in 1995 from the University of California, Los Angeles, where she was a member of the UCLA's Women's Soccer Team. She received her Juris Doctor, Order of the Coif, in 2003 from Stanford Law School, where she was an articles review board member of the Stanford Environmental Law Journal.

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of California, headquartered in San Francisco, has divisional offices in Oakland and San Jose. The office has approximately 80 employees, which include attorneys, paralegals, investigators and administrative personnel. The office opened 1,932 cases and closed 1,327 cases in fiscal year 2020 ending September 30.

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, applicants are evaluated by both a local screening committee and the court's Standing Committee on Federal Public Defenders, applying Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines. Reappointment to additional terms is based on a comprehensive evaluation of the federal public defender's performance, including an invitation for public comment.

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