



# United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Judge M. Margaret McKeown Awarded Prestigious 2022 Professionalism Award**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Circuit Judge M. Margaret McKeown of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has received the prestigious 2022 American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Ninth Circuit. Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Mary H. Murguia presented the award during the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference July 18-21 in Big Sky, Montana.

The award was given in recognition of her dedication to access to justice issues and for her lifetime of public service. “Judge McKeown’s unwavering dedication to justice and the rule of law is invaluable,” said Chief Judge Murguia. “Her distinguished career goes hand in hand with her enthusiasm, and commitment to public service. She is a trail blazer and an inspiration to many, including myself. It was my honor to present Judge McKeown with the American Inns of Court Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award.”

“Throughout her life, Judge McKeown has worked to advance equal rights for women,” said Victoria Fuller, vice president and president-elect of the San Diego Appellate American Inn of Court, who nominated McKeown for the award on behalf of the Inn. “In one of her memorable speeches, she advises that the mantra should not be ‘lean in,’ which is internally focused, but instead should be ‘lean down and lift up those who follow.’”

Prior to taking the bench, Judge McKeown was a White House Fellow and the first woman partner at Perkins Coie LLP, where she specialized in antitrust and intellectual property law. She has been recognized for important contributions to help foster healthy and harassment-free work environments. She chairs the first Workplace Environment Committee for the Ninth Circuit and was appointed to the Federal Judiciary Workplace Conduct Working Group by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., of the U.S. Supreme Court.

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McKeown has a longstanding commitment to the international rule of law. She serves as a board member of the World Justice Project and was a featured speaker at the World Justice Forum 2022 at The Hague this spring. She is a special advisor to the ABA's Rule of Law Initiative and has helped Latin American countries make the transition to an oral, adversarial criminal justice system. She also chairs the Ninth Circuit Pacific Islands Committee, which offers judicial education in current and former U.S. territories.

McKeown serves on the board of the Teton Science Schools and is author of the forthcoming book *Citizen Justice: The Environmental Legacy of William O. Douglas—Public Advocate and Conservation Champion*.

Appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 1998, Judge McKeown will assume senior status effective upon the appointment of her successor.

Born in Casper, Wyoming, Judge McKeown earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wyoming and her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she engaged in private practice for more than two decades in Seattle and Washington, D.C.

The American Inns of Court professionalism award is given annually in each of the federal circuits to “a lawyer or judge whose life and practice display sterling character and unquestioned integrity, coupled with ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession and the rule of law.”

Judge McKeown played a key role in launching the San Diego Appellate Inn in 2016. Formerly a judicial master for the Lewis M. Welsh American Inn of Court in San Diego, she is now judicial master for the Appellate Inn.

The American Inns of Court with nearly 370 chapters nationwide, inspires the legal community to advance the rule of law by achieving the highest level of professionalism through example, education, and mentoring.

The U.S. Courts for the Ninth Circuit consists of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the federal trial and bankruptcy courts and related court units in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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