



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov

NEWS RELEASE

May 12, 2022

Contact: William Cracraft
mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov

Chief Judge Murguia Receives ASU's Pastor Award for Public Service

SAN FRANCISCO – Chief Judge Mary H. Murguia, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, received the Congressman Ed Pastor Public Servant Leadership Award on April 22, 2022, from the Pastor Center for Politics and Public Service, Watts College, Arizona State University (ASU).

Created in 2016, the Congressman Pastor Center at ASU seeks to inspire future generations of leaders through student-centered opportunities that promote and encourage civic engagement and public service among ASU students and the broader community.

The late Congressman Pastor was the first in his family to graduate from college and his commitment to public service, starting as a teacher, then as a director of a nonprofit organization and finally the first Mexican American congressman to represent the state of Arizona, left lasting impressions on local and national political landscapes. He represented Arizona in the U.S. House of Representatives for 24 years.

The Pastor Center awarded Chief Judge Murguia the Congressman Ed Pastor Public Servant Leadership Award in recognition of her public service and “effectiveness at bridge-building, finding common-ground, building trust, collaboration and consensus, and selfless dedication to public good.”

“I am grateful and humbled to have received the Congressman Ed Pastor Public Servant Leadership Award,” said Chief Judge Murguia. “Public service has been so rewarding for me; I encourage others to engage in public service as well and hope they will find it as fulfilling as I have.”

“Judge Murguia has spent her career mentoring and encouraging women and minorities to consider careers in law,” said Alberto Olivas, Pastor Center executive director, in an [ASU website article](#). “She has worked to ensure that our justice system is equitable in its treatment of all members of society.”

—more—



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov

Page 2 of 2

Nominated by President William J. Clinton for a new judgeship for the U.S. District of Arizona and confirmed in October 2000, Judge Murguia was the first Latina to serve on the District of Arizona. She served in that capacity until she was elevated to the circuit court after nomination by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate on Dec. 22, 2010. Chief Judge Murguia was elevated to her position as chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on Dec. 3, 2021. Chief Judge Murguia is the first Latina to serve as chief judge of a federal appellate court in the United States.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit is the nation's largest federal appellate court with 29 authorized judgeships. It includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington state, and the territories of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prior to coming onto the federal bench, Chief Judge Murguia was district attorney for Wyandotte County, Kansas, and an assistant United States attorney for the District of Arizona. She simultaneously served in the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys and was principal deputy director of that office in 1999. Chief Judge Murguia had been suggested as a potential nominee to the Supreme Court in President Obama's second term and is the Ninth Circuit's 12th chief judge, and the second woman to hold that position on the court.

A native of Kansas City, Kansas, Chief Judge Murguia received bachelors' degrees in both art and science from the University of Kansas in 1982 and her Juris Doctor from the University of Kansas Law School in 1985.

###