SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate voted today to confirm President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.’s, nominations of Nevada State Judge Cristina Dionne Silva and Professor Anne Rachel Traum to serve as U.S. district judges for the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada. The Senate voted 50-46 to confirm Judge Silva and 49-47 to confirm Professor Traum.

“We are delighted that these two highly accomplished individuals will join us as district judges and look forward to serving with them,” said Chief Judge Miranda Du of the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada.

Judge Silva was first nominated for the judgeship on Nov. 3, 2021, and had her hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Dec. 15, 2021. The confirmation process was not completed before the first session of the 117th Congress concluded. She was nominated again on Jan. 3, 2022, and her nomination was reported to the Senate Floor on Jan. 20, 2022. Upon taking her oath, Judge Silva will be the second Latina Article III judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada and only the third Hispanic Article III judge to serve on that court. She will fill a judgeship vacant since June 29, 2018, when District Judge James C. Mahan assumed senior status. Judge Silva will maintain chambers in Las Vegas.

Judge Silva has served as a state judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court of Nevada, Department IX, since 2019. From 2011 to 2019, she was an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Nevada, where she was deputy chief of the Organized Crime Strike Task Force, 2013-2018, and chief of the Criminal Division, 2018-2019.

Judge Silva was an assistant state attorney in Miami Dade State Attorney’s Office, Miami, Florida, from 2007 to 2010, when she was named assistant chief of litigation for the Domestic Violence Unit in that office. From January 2007 to April 2007, she was a legal extern at Ayuda, −more−
Inc. in Washington, D.C., and from August 2006 to November 2006, she was a legal intern at the Legal Momentum Immigrant Women’s Program in New York City.

From 2005 to 2007, she was a dean’s fellow at American University Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C., and an intern in the summer of 2006 in the chambers of Judge Vanessa Ruiz (Retired), District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Judge Silva was director of programs and outreach for the National Association of Women Judges, 2003-2004, then a consultant, 2004-2005. From 2001 to 2003, she was a development associate at the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (now defunct).

Born in El Paso, Texas, Judge Silva received her Bachelor of Arts from Wellesley College in 2001 and her Juris Doctor from the American University Washington College of Law in 2007.

In 2021, Judge Silva was recognized with the Crushing Stigma and Silos Award from the non-profit organization, There is No Hero in Heroin Foundation. She was named a “Top Attorney Under 40” by the Hispanic National Bar Association in 2019, a “Legal Elite - Government Attorney” that same year by Nevada Business Magazine, and received the Department of Homeland Security’s Certificate of Appreciation in 2013. She has been on the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department’s Multicultural Advisory Council since 2014.

Professor Traum was first nominated for the judgeship back in 2016 by President Barack Obama during the 114th Congress, but no action was taken at the close of the 114th Congress. President Biden nominated Traum during the first session of the 117th Congress, but the confirmation process was not completed before the first session of the 117th Congress concluded. She was nominated again on Jan. 3, 2022, and the Senate Judiciary Committee reported her nomination to the Senate Floor on Jan. 20, 2022. Upon taking her oath, Traum will fill a judgeship vacant since Feb. 1, 2016, when District Judge Robert C. Jones assumed senior status. She will maintain chambers in Reno.

Traum has been a professor of law and associate dean for experiential legal education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law, where she has taught since 2008. At the law school, Traum directed the Appellate Clinic, which she founded in 2009, and

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co-directed the Misdemeanor Clinic, which she co-founded in 2018. Previously, she served as special counsel for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Access to Justice, in Washington, D.C., from 2015 to 2016. Before joining UNLV, Traum served as an assistant federal public defender for the District of Nevada from 2002 to 2008. She was an assistant U.S. attorney in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada, Civil Division, from 2000 to 2002, and an attorney for the U.S. DOJ, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, in Washington, D.C., from 1998 to 2000.

Born in Redwood City, California, Traum received her Bachelor of Arts, with honors in history, from Brown University in 1991 and received her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, in 1996.

Traum served as an appellate lawyer representative for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, from 2009 to 2011, and a lawyer representative for the District of Nevada from 2013 to 2016. She has served on the Ninth Circuit’s Pro Se Litigation Committee since 2015.

Traum was instrumental in establishing the Nevada Appellate Pro Bono Program in 2013 and chaired the Nevada Board of Indigent Defense Services from 2020 to 2021. She was elected fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers in 2020.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada had 3,130 new case filings in calendar year 2021. The court is authorized seven judgeships.

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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