



# United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Rene L. Valladares Reappointed as Federal Public Defender for District of Nevada**

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have approved the reappointment of Federal Public Defender Rene L. Valladares of the District of Nevada to a fourth four-year term. First appointed to lead the office in 2011, his reappointment is effective Aug. 3, 2023.

“Rene L. Valladares is an outstanding defender, whose leadership, commitment to service, and excellent representation for indigent clients stand apart,” said Circuit Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw, who chairs the Ninth Circuit’s Standing Committee on Federal Public Defenders.

Valladares joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Nevada in 1993 and served as chief of the Trial Unit in the Las Vegas Division before becoming FPD. Valladares supervises 52 attorneys and 48 support staff. His office opened 927 cases and closed 1,116 cases in fiscal year 2022.

Valladares began his legal career as a deputy public defender for Duval County Public Defender’s Office in Florida. He engaged in private practice as an associate with the law firm of Sheppard & White in Jacksonville, Florida.

Born in Nicaragua, Valladares emigrated to the United States when he was 16. He received his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor from the University of Florida in 1984 and 1987, respectively, and a Master of Laws from the University of Miami in 1993. While in law school, he served as editor-in-chief of the Florida International Law Journal.

Valladares recently authored “A Defender’s Guide to Federal Evidence: A Trial Practice Handbook for Criminal Defense Attorneys” and is an adjunct professor at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he teaches pretrial litigation. He is a member of the Judicial Conference of the U.S. Committee on Evidence Rules Advisory and a member of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts’ Defender Services Performance Measurement Working Group. He concluded his term as a member of the AO’s Death Penalty Representation Working Group in August 2020.

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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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