



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Araceli Martínez-Olguín Is Confirmed for Federal Judgeship in Northern District of California

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today voted 48-48, with Vice President Kamala Harris voting in the affirmative to break the tie and confirm President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.’s, nomination of Araceli Martínez-Olguín to serve as a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of California.

“The judges in the Northern District are delighted to have Araceli Martínez-Olguín join us,” said Chief District Judge Richard Seeborg of the Northern District of California. “Her life experience and extensive background in important areas of federal practice will be a most welcome addition to our very active Court,” he noted.

Martínez-Olguín was nominated for the judgeship on Aug. 1, 2022, and had her hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Sept. 21, 2022. Her nomination was pending and thus was returned to the president when the Second Session of the 117th Congress adjourned on Jan. 3, 2023. She was renominated on Jan. 3, 2023, and her nomination was reported to the Senate floor on February 2. Following her oath, she will fill a judgeship vacant since Feb. 1, 2021, when District Judge Jeffrey S. White assumed senior status. Martínez-Olguín will maintain chambers in San Francisco.

Martínez-Olguín has worked for the National Immigration Law Center since 2018. Previously, she served as the managing attorney for the Immigrants’ Rights Project, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, in East Palo Alto, California, from 2017 to 2018, and as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights from 2016 to 2017. Martínez-Olguín also worked as a senior staff attorney, staff attorney, and Women’s Rights Project Fellow for the American Civil Liberties Union in San Francisco and New York, from 2013 to 2015 and from 2006 to 2010, respectively. She was a staff attorney for Legal Aid at Work (formerly Legal Aid Society – Employment Law Center) from 2010 to 2013.

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Born in Mexico City, Martínez-Olguín received her Juris Doctor from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, in 2004 and her undergraduate degree from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs in 1999. Between college and law school, Martínez-Olguín taught bilingual kindergarten in Oakland, California, as a member of Teach for America. Following law school, she served as a law clerk for District Judge David Briones of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas from 2004 to 2006.

Martínez-Olguín has received a number of awards including a OneJustice Executive Fellowship and Certificate in Nonprofit Management, 2017-2018; the Minority Bar Coalition Unity Award, 2017; and the Social Justice Prize, from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, Honorable Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice, 2010.

Martínez-Olguín has been an elected member of the American Law Institute since 2022. She served on the board of directors of the American Constitution Society, Bay Area Lawyer Chapter from 2015 to 2022. She was president and board member of the East Bay La Raza Lawyers Bar Association, from 2016 to 2018 and from 2013 to 2016, respectively. She was also president and secretary of the EBLRLA Scholarship Fund, from 2019 to 2022 and from 2017 to 2019, respectively. She was a board member of San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association from 2013 to 2015.

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California had 9,370 new case filings in calendar year 2022. The court is authorized 14 judgeships and currently has three vacancies.

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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