



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Confirms Hernán D. Vera for Federal Judgeship in Central District of California

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate voted, Tuesday (June 13), 51-48 to confirm President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.’s, nomination of Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Hernán D. Vera to serve as a U.S. district judge for the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

“We are excited to welcome Judge Vera to the Court, said Chief Judge of the Central District of California, Philip S. Gutierrez. “He brings with him impressive credentials and a lifelong commitment to public service. Judge Vera will be an excellent addition to our bench.”

Judge Vera was nominated for the judgeship on Sept. 20, 2021, and had his hearing on Oct. 20, 2021. His nomination was one of the 11 judicial nominations pending in the Ninth Circuit trial courts that was returned to the president when the First Session of the 117th Congress adjourned on Jan. 3, 2022. He was renominated on Jan. 3, 2022, and his nomination was placed on the Senate Executive Calendar on June 22, 2022. Following his oath, he will fill a judgeship vacant since Oct. 29, 2015, when District Judge Margaret M. Morrow, now retired, assumed senior status. Judge Vera will maintain chambers in Los Angeles.

Judge Vera has been a superior court judge since 2020 in the Juvenile Division of the Los Angeles Superior Court, where he handled dependency cases at the Edelman Children’s Court in Monterey Park, California. Before his appointment to the bench, he was a principal at Bird Marella P.C. in Los Angeles from 2015 to 2020. He was president and CEO and directing attorney of the Consumer Law Project at Public Counsel in Los Angeles from 2008 to 2014 and from 2002 to 2008, respectively. Judge Vera engaged in private practice at O’Melveny & Myers LLP in Los Angeles, where he was counsel, 2000-2002, and associate, 1997-2000 and 1994-1995. From 1996 to 1997, he was a staff attorney with the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund.

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From 2010 until present, Judge Vera has served on the board of directors of the State Justice Institute. In 2013, the California Supreme Court appointed Judge Vera to the board of trustees of the California State Bar for a three-year term. Throughout his public interest career, Judge Vera provided pro bono legal services to hundreds of individuals and nonprofit organizations, and he made pro bono work a significant priority when in private practice, averaging 200 to 300 hours of pro bono service per year.

In 2020, Judge Vera received a certificate of commendation from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for his service on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission. In 2012, he was named alumnus of the year by the UCLA La Raza Law Students Association.

Born in Escondido, California, Judge Vera received his Bachelor of Arts, with distinction, from Stanford University in 1991 and his Juris Doctor from the UCLA School of Law in 1994. He clerked for District Judge Consuelo B. Marshall of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California from 1995 to 1996.

The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California had 14,572 new case filings in calendar year 2022. The court is authorized 28 judgeships and currently has two 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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