



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Confirms Judge Dena M. Coggins for Federal Judgeship in Eastern District of California

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today voted 50-44 to confirm President Joseph R. Biden Jr.’s, nomination of California Superior Court Judge Dena M. Coggins to serve as a U.S. district judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.

“Our court could not be more pleased by the good news that the Senate has confirmed the nomination of Judge Dena M. Coggins as a United States District Judge,” said Chief District Judge Kimberly J. Mueller of the Eastern District of California. “Judge Coggins’ impressive record of public service has paved the way for her to join our bench without missing a beat. She’ll now be ready to do that once I’m able to take Senior Status in September, and the President signs her commission. Her confirmation and impending appointment are a credit to her and her family, and the Sacramento community at large.

“We also thank the U.S. Senate, and Senators Padilla and Butler in particular, for fulfilling the ‘advice and consent’ role so quickly and so well! To know we will not have to wait for our upcoming vacancy to be filled is a great relief to our chronically overburdened court,” Judge Mueller added.

Judge Coggins was nominated for the judgeship on Feb. 8, 2024, and had her nomination hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 6. Her nomination was reported to the Senate Floor on April 11. Upon taking her oath, Judge Coggins will fill a judgeship that will be vacant on Sept. 17, 2024, when Chief U.S. District Judge Kimberly J. Mueller assumes senior status. Judge Coggins will maintain chambers in Sacramento.

Judge Coggins has served as superior court judge for the Superior Court of California in Sacramento County since 2021, when Governor Gavin Newsom appointed her to the bench, and has served as the presiding judge of the Juvenile Court since 2023. Previously, Judge Coggins served as an administrative law judge in the General Jurisdiction Division and the Special Education Division for the State of California’s Office of Administrative Hearings from 2018 to

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2021 and from 2015 to 2017, respectively. She was the supervising attorney for the California Victim Compensation Board, State of California, from 2017 to 2018. She served as the deputy legal affairs secretary for the Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., State of Calif., from 2013 to 2015. Judge Coggins was in private practice as an associate at Downey Brand LLP in Sacramento from 2012 to 2013 and an associate at Morrison & Foerster LLP in San Francisco from 2007 to 2012.

A native of Sacramento, Judge Coggins received her Bachelor of Science from California State University, Sacramento, in 2003 and earned her Juris Doctor, with distinction, in 2006 from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, where she was the articles editor of the Global Business and Developmental/The Transnational Lawyer Journal. Following law school in spring 2006, Judge Coggins served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Kimberly J. Mueller of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California. In fall 2006, she was a legal intern at the Yolo County Public Defender's Office in Yolo County. From 1999 to 2004, Judge Coggins worked as an office clerk at CSU in Sacramento.

Judge Coggins serves as chair of several committees of the Sacramento Superior Court and its juvenile court, including the Juvenile Court Dependency and Delinquency Standing Committees. She also serves on the superior court's Executive Committee and Collaborative Court Committee. In the juvenile court, Judge Coggins serves on the Criminal Justice Cabinet, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council and its Realignment Subcommittee, the Juvenile Justice Diversion and Treatment Program Workgroup and the Sacramento County Child, Youth, and Family System of Care Interagency Leadership Team.

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California had 4,905 new case filings in calendar year 2023. The court is authorized six 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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