



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Confirms Sharad H. Desai for Federal Judgeship in the District of Arizona

SAN FRANCISCO – The U.S. Senate today voted 82-12 to confirm President Joseph R. Biden Jr.’s nomination of Sharad H. Desai to serve as a U.S. district judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona.

“The judges and staff of the District of Arizona congratulate Judge Desai on this significant achievement. Judge Desai is an intelligent, thoughtful and courteous attorney who will serve the District well in his new role,” said Chief U.S. District Judge Jennifer G. Zipp, District of Arizona.

Desai was nominated for the judgeship on Sept. 9, 2024, and had his nomination hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Sept. 25, 2024. His nomination was reported to the Senate floor on Nov. 14, 2024. Upon taking his oath, Desai will fill a judgeship vacant since Oct. 21, 2024, when Chief District Judge G. Murray Snow assumed senior status. Judge Desai will maintain chambers in Phoenix.

Desai has served as vice president and general counsel for Honeywell International Inc.’s Integrated Supply Chain and Information Technology Departments in Phoenix since 2023. Previously, he served in various other executive general counsel and litigation counsel roles at Honeywell starting in 2015. He was a litigation partner in private practice at Osborn Maledon, P.A., for eight years before joining Honeywell.

Born in Phoenix, Desai received his Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees in 2003 from the University of Arizona, where he was a Flinn Scholar, and his Juris Doctor in 2006 from New York University School of Law, where he was staff editor of the Annual Survey of American Law from 2004 to 2005 and was a Florence Allen Scholar in 2004. While in law school, he was a summer associate at Cravath, Swain & Moore LLP in 2005, a summer law clerk for Osborn Maledon, P.A., in 2005 and a summer law clerk for the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Arizona in 2004. Following law school, Desai clerked for the Honorable Rebecca White Berch, Arizona Supreme Court, from 2006 to 2007.

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Desai served on the Arizona State Bar Association's Legislative Subcommittee on Mental Health from 2012 to 2015, as a law school mentor for the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity from 2015 to 2017 and again from 2020 to 2022. He has been a member of the South Asian Bar Association of Arizona since 2018.

From 2016 to 2023, Desai was a member of the board of trustees for Childsplay, Inc, an internationally respected theater company that performs for children and families in Arizona, and was secretary of its board from 2019 to 2020.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona had 14,657 new case filings in fiscal year 2024. The court is authorized 13 judgeships, one of which is a temporary judgeship.

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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