



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Confirms Krissa M. Lanham to Serve as US District Judge for District of Arizona

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today voted 66-26 to confirm President Joseph R. Biden Jr.’s nomination of Krissa M. Lanham to serve as a U.S. district judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona.

“Krissa has been a contributing and valued member of the federal court family in Arizona for years. All of the district judges, many Arizona practitioners and much of the Circuit bench are familiar with the virtuosity of her work,” said Chief U.S. District Judge G. Murray Snow of the District of Arizona. “She is uncommonly bright, hard-working and kind. She has a longstanding reputation for great courtesy. The bench and the bar in Arizona are thrilled to have her join the district court bench,” he noted.

Lanham was nominated for the judgeship on Feb. 27, 2024, and had her hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 20. Her nomination was reported to the Senate floor on April 18. Upon taking her oath, she will fill a judgeship that will be vacant when U.S. District Judge Douglas L. Rayes assumes senior status on June 1, 2024. Lanham will maintain chambers in Phoenix.

Lanham has served as chief of the Appellate Division in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona since 2020. She joined the office as an assistant U.S. attorney in 2009 and served previously in the office as the medical marijuana coordinator, from 2010 to 2015; as the human trafficking coordinator from 2012 to 2015; and as deputy appellate chief from 2015 to 2020.

Born in Bangkok, Thailand, Lanham graduated in 2002 with a B.A., summa cum laude, from Yale University. Lanham earned her J.D. in 2007 from Yale Law School, where she was the student director of the Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, 2006-2007; the student director of the Orville H. Schell, Jr., Center for International Human Rights, 2005-2006;

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Page 2 of 2

and the senior comments editor, comments editor and editor of the Yale Journal of International Law, 2004-2007. Lanham also was a teaching assistant at Yale Law School from 2005 to 2006 and in Yale College from 2006 to 2007. Following law school, she clerked for the Honorable Robert N. Chatigny of the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut from 2007 to 2008 and then for the Honorable Barry G. Silverman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 2008 to 2009.

Lanham is the recipient of the Special Commendation for Dedication to Victims' Rights, the Distinguished Service Award and the Special Commendation Award from the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona. She also is the recipient of the Director's Award for Superior Performance as an AUSA—Appellate from the Executive Office of the U.S. Attorneys, and the Special Commendation for Outstanding Service in the Civil Division from the U.S. Department of Justice, Department of Justice.

Lanham has been a member of the Federal Bar Association since 2016 and has served as board member of the FBA Phoenix Chapter since 2022. She has been a Ninth Circuit appellate lawyer representative since 2018 and a member of the Ninth Circuit's Public Information and Community Outreach Committee since 2023.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona had 9,586 new case filings in calendar year 2023. The court is authorized one temporary and 12 permanent 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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