



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Confirms Judge Angela M. Martinez to Serve as US District Judge for District of Arizona

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today voted 66-28 to confirm President Joseph R. Biden Jr.’s, nomination of U.S. Magistrate Judge Angela M. Martinez to serve as a U.S. district judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona.

“Judge Angela Martinez is the best kind of human being. She is open-minded, thoughtful, kind, thorough and a great colleague,” said Chief U.S. District Judge G. Murray Snow of the District of Arizona. “Although it was only for a short time, she became quickly appreciated as a Magistrate Judge for the Court, and she had practiced and worked in the federal court for years prior to that. We are lucky to have her join the district court bench,” he concluded.

Judge Martinez 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 when U.S. District Judge James A. Soto assumes senior status on July 1, 2024. Judge Martinez will maintain chambers in Tucson.

Judge Martinez has served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Arizona since 2023. Before joining the bench, Judge Martinez served as senior litigation counsel for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Tucson, Arizona, where she also served as a federal prosecutor for over 12 years prosecuting a wide range of criminal cases, including immigration related offenses, drug trafficking offenses, violent crimes and white-collar offenses. Prior to her career as a prosecutor, Judge Martinez served as a law clerk to the Honorable John M. Roll, 2000-2002, and the Honorable Jennifer G. Zipps, 2013-2015, of the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona. In 2008 and 2009 she served as an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, where she taught legal writing and oral advocacy to first-year law students. She also worked in private practice at the law firms of Lewis & Roca, 2002-2004, and Farhang & Medcoff, 2012-2013, where she primarily practiced employment law.

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Born in Tucson, Arizona, Judge Martinez received her B.A., cum laude, from the University of Arizona in 1995 and her J.D. from the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law, in 2000. As a law student she was a member of the Arizona Law Review and an Ares Fellow. Before law school, Judge Martinez worked as a team leader in therapeutic group homes and crisis shelters for at risk youth.

Judge Martinez has been a long standing member of the Arizona Minority Bar Association and a member of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association since 2023. She has been a member of the Morris K. Udall American Inn of Court since 2022 and served as a lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference for the District of Arizona from 2018 to 2022. Judge Martinez is a member of the Federal Bar Association, William D. Browning Tucson Chapter; was a member of the Arizona Women Lawyers Association's Steering Committee from 2014 to 2015; and a member of the Arizona Young Lawyers Association from 2000 to 2002.

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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