



# United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **LA County Judge Serena R. Murillo Gets Senate Nod for Federal Judgeship in Central District of California**

SAN FRANCISCO – The U.S. Senate today voted 49-47 to confirm President Joseph R. Biden Jr.’s nomination of Judge Serena R. Murillo, Superior Court of California, Los Angeles County, to serve as a U.S. district judge for the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

“We are delighted to welcome Judge Murillo to the Central District bench and look forward to working with her in the years to come. Judge Murillo fills our last remaining vacancy, so it is gratifying to finally have our full complement of judges in service to the public,” said Chief U.S. District Judge Dolly M. Gee, Central District of California.

Judge Murillo was nominated for the judgeship on Nov. 18, 2024, and had her nomination hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Nov. 20, 2024. Her nomination was reported to the Senate floor on Dec. 12, 2024. Upon taking her oath, Judge Murillo will fill a judgeship vacant since May 31, 2024, when District Judge Cormac J. Carney assumed inactive senior status. Judge Murillo will maintain chambers in Los Angeles.

Judge Murillo has served as a judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court since 2015. She was an associate justice pro tem for the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Three, in Los Angeles from 2018 to 2019. Judge Murillo has been a lecturer in law at the University of Southern California, Gould School of Law, since 2022 and was a lecturer in law at the University of California, Irvine School of Law, in 2022. Before her appointment to the bench, she served as a deputy district attorney for the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office from 1997 to 2014 and was in private practice in L.A. as an associate attorney in 1997.

Born in Pomona, California, Judge Murillo received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, San Diego, in 1993 and her Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, in 1996.

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Judge Murillo is the recipient of the Carlos R. Moreno Judicial Excellence Award, Mexican Bar Association, in 2023; the Amigo de los Niños Award, Hollenbeck Youth Center, in 2019; and the California Chief Justice Award for Exemplary Service and Leadership to the Judicial Branch in 2018.

Judge Murillo has served on several committees of the Los Angeles Superior Court, including the Executive Committee since 2023; the Judicial Education Governing Committee since 2018 and as its chair since 2022; the Bail Committee since 2017; the Judicial Mentor Committee from 2020 to 2022; the Research Attorney Committee from 2021 to 2022; the Community Outreach Committee from 2017 to 2020; and the Domestic Violence Committee from 2017 to 2018.

Judge Murillo has been a member of the California Judges Association since 2015; the California Latino Judges Association since 2015 and its Endorsement Committee since 2022; the Latino Judicial Officers Association since 2015, serving as co-chair from 2020 to 2024; and the Mexican American Bar Association since 2007. She was a member of the American Inns of Court, Criminal Justice Inn, from 2013 to 2018, and its Executive Board from 2016 to 2018.

The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California had 16,973 new case filings in fiscal year 2024. The court is authorized 28 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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