



# United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · [mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov](mailto:mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov)

## NEWS RELEASE

September 18, 2024

Contact: Katherine Rodriguez  
[mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov](mailto:mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov)

## **Senate Confirms Judge Michelle Williams Court for Federal Judgeship in Central District of California**

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today voted 49-44 to confirm President Joseph R. Biden Jr.’s nomination of Judge Michelle Williams Court, Los Angeles Superior Court, to serve as a U.S. district judge for the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

“We are thrilled that Judge Court will be joining us on the bench. Judge Court is an experienced and well respected state court judge and accomplished litigator who has dedicated her career to public service and to work in the public interest. We congratulate and welcome her to the Central District bench,” said Chief U.S. District Judge Dolly M. Gee, Central District of California.

Judge Court was nominated for the judgeship on April 30, 2024, and had her nomination hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 22, 2024. Her nomination was reported to the Senate floor on July 11, 2024. Upon taking her oath, Judge Court will fill a judgeship vacant since May 1, 2024, when District Judge Dale S. Fischer assumed senior status. Judge Court will maintain chambers in Los Angeles.

Judge Court has served as a California Superior Court judge for Los Angeles County since 2012, when she was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown. She previously was the assistant supervising judge of the L.A. Superior Court’s Civil Division from 2021 to 2022 before becoming the supervising judge of the Civil Division in 2023. Prior to Judge Court’s appointment to the bench, she was vice president and general counsel from 2009 to 2012 for Bet Tzedek Legal Services in Los Angeles, where she also was the director of litigation from 2004 to 2009 and deputy director of litigation from 2002 to 2004. She was an associate at Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach (now Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman LLC) in Knoxville, Tennessee, from 2000 to 2002.

Born in Great Falls, Montana, Judge Court earned her Bachelor of Arts from Pomona College in 1988 and her Juris Doctor in 1993 from Loyola Law School, where she was an adjunct professor in 2006. Following law school, she was an associate at Gilbert, Kelly, Crowley & Jennett LLP (now Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP) in Los Angeles from 1993 to 1994. She was an attorney for the ACLU of Southern California from 1994 to 1995 and was an associate at Litt & Marquez (now McLane, Bednarski + Litt) in Pasadena, Calif., from 1995 to 1999.

—more—



# United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · [mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov](mailto:mediarelease@ce9.uscourts.gov)

Page 2 of 2

Judge Court has received awards and recognitions, most recently as a Black History Month Honoree, Los Angeles County Bar Association (2024). Other awards include the Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award, California Women Lawyers (2023); Blaisdell Distinguished Alumni Award, Pomona College (2023); Ronald M. George Award for Judicial Excellence, Beverly Hills Bar Association (2023); Award for Outstanding Leadership and Dedication to the Legal Profession, Armenian Bar Association (2023); Presiding Judge's Leadership Award, Los Angeles Superior Court (2020); and Legendary Champion of Justice Award, California Association of Black Lawyers (2018).

Judge Court has been an elected member of the American Law Institute since 2016 and currently serves as a member of the board of governors of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers. She has served as trustee of the Los Angeles Law Library since 2013 and as president of its board of trustees since 2024.

The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California had 16,421 new case filings in calendar year 2023. The court is authorized 28 judgeships and currently has two vacancies.

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.

###