



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · (415) 355-8901 Fax

NEWS RELEASE

May 7, 2012

Contact: David Madden (415) 355-8800

**Senate Confirms Judge Jacqueline H. Nguyen
to Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals**

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today confirmed President Obama’s nomination of the Hon. Jacqueline H. Nguyen, a federal trial court judge in Los Angeles, to serve as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The Senate voted 91-3.

Judge Nguyen, 46, was nominated on September 22, 2011, and had her hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on November 2, 2011. She fills a new judgeship authorized to the court, which became effective January 21, 2009. She is expected to receive her judicial commission shortly and will become the first judge of Vietnamese descent to sit on a federal appellate court.

Judge Nguyen was also the nation’s first federal district court judge of Vietnamese descent. She was previously appointed by President Obama to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, receiving her commission on December 4, 2009.

Prior to coming onto the federal bench, Judge Nguyen has served as a judge of the California (Los Angeles County) Superior Court from 2002 to 2009, and as a federal prosecutor in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California, from 1995 to 2002. While an assistant U.S. attorney, she was promoted to the post of deputy chief of the general crimes section and won the director’s award from the Department of Justice for superior performance. Judge Nguyen began her legal career at the law firm of Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP, where she was a litigation associate from 1991 to 1994.

– more –

Born in Dalat, Vietnam, Judge Nguyen and her family fled the country in 1975 as Saigon was in the process of falling during the latter stages of the Vietnam War. Her family was placed at a refugee camp in Camp Pendleton, California, where they lived in a tent city for over one month before settling in the Los Angeles area.

Judge Nguyen received her A.B. from Occidental College in 1987, and her J.D. from University of California at Los Angeles School of Law in 1991. She has been a member of numerous Asian-American bar groups, including the Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Orange County, the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association, the Korean American Bar Association, and the Japanese American Bar Association. She was also a board member of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by executive branch agencies and federal trial courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court normally meets monthly in Seattle, Washington; San Francisco, California; and Pasadena, California; every other month in Portland, Oregon; three times per year in Honolulu, Hawaii; and twice a year in Anchorage, Alaska.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit had 12,141 new case filings in fiscal year 2011. The court is authorized 29 judgeships, three of which are currently vacant.

Judges of the federal appellate courts and federal district courts, appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. The current annual salary of a circuit judge is \$184,500.

###