



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 21, 2012

Contact: David Madden (415) 355-8800

Senate Confirms Paul J. Watford to Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today confirmed President Obama’s nomination of Los Angeles attorney Paul J. Watford to serve as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The Senate voted 61-34.

Mr. Watford was nominated on October 17, 2011, and was favorably reported out of Senate Judiciary Committee on February 2, 2012. He is expected to receive his judicial commission shortly and will fill a judgeship left vacant when Circuit Judge Pamela Ann Rymer died on September 21, 2011.

Mr. Watford, 44, is a litigation partner at the Los Angeles law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson, LLP, where he has worked since 2001. His practice focuses primarily on appellate litigation in state and federal courts. Mr. Watford first joined the firm as an associate in 1996 then left in 1997 to serve as an assistant U.S. attorney until 2000 for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the Central District of California, where he worked in the Major Frauds Section, Criminal Division. He worked as an associate at Sidley & Austin LLP in Los Angeles from 2000 to 2001.

A native of Garden Grove, California, Mr. Watford received his B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1989 and his J.D. in 1994 from the University of California at Los Angeles, School of Law, where he was editor of the UCLA Law Review, and Order of the Coif. Following law school, he clerked for Ninth Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski, now chief judge, from 1994 to 1995, and for Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the Supreme Court from 1995 to 1996.

– more –

Mr. Watford has served as an appellate lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference from 2009 to 2011; as a member of the ABA's Amicus Curiae Committee from 2007 to 2010; and as co-chair of the American Bar Association Litigation Section's Appellate Practice Committee from 2005 to 2008.

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 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reported 12,141 new case filings in fiscal year 2011. The court is authorized 29 judgeships, two 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.

###