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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Senate Confirms Gonzalo P. Curiel for Southern District of California Judgeship**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Senate confirmed President Obama’s nomination of California (San Diego County) Superior Court Judge Gonzalo P. Curiel to serve as a district judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. Confirmation came on a voice vote Saturday, September 22, 2012.

Judge Curiel was nominated on November 10, 2011, and had his nomination hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 26, 2012. He fills a judgeship left vacant when District Judge Thomas J. Whelan took senior status on August 15, 2010.

Judge Curiel was appointed as a California Superior Court judge in San Diego by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006. Prior to his appointment, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Central District of California from 2002 to 2006, and from 1989 to 2002 for the Southern District of California, where he was deputy chief and then chief of the Narcotics Enforcement Section from 1999 to 2002. He engaged in private practice at Barbosa & Vera from 1986 to 1989 and at James, James & Manning from 1979 to 1986.

Judge Curiel received his B.A. from Indiana University in 1976 and his J.D. from Indiana University, School of Law, in 1979.

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California reported 9,254 total case filings and had the fourth highest criminal caseload in the nation with 5,873 cases in calendar year 2011. The court is authorized 13 judgeships and currently has no vacancy.

Federal district court judges, appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. Their current annual salary is \$174,000.