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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **White House Announces Two Nominees for Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The White House today announced President Obama's nominations of attorneys Michelle T. Friedland and John B. Owens to serve as judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

If confirmed by the Senate, Ms. Friedland will fill a judgeship vacant since April 1, 2013, when Judge Raymond C. Fisher assumed senior status. Mr. Owens will fill a judgeship vacant since December 31, 2004, when Judge Stephen Trott assumed senior status.

Both nominees are litigation partners in the California law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP. Ms. Friedland, 41, who works in the firm's San Francisco office, has extensive litigation experience at the trial and appellate levels in state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Her practice focuses primarily on antitrust litigation, appellate matters, and constitutional and academic affairs litigation for higher education institutions. She joined the firm in 2004 and became a partner in 2010.

Prior to practicing law, Ms. Friedland was a lecturer at Stanford Law School, where she taught federal jurisdiction and environmental law from 2002 to 2004. Before that, she served as a law clerk to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the U.S. Supreme Court, from 2001 to 2002, and to Judge David Tatel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, from 2000 to 2001.

Born in Berkeley, Ms. Friedland received her undergraduate degree with honors from Stanford University in 1995. After studying at Oxford University on a Fulbright Scholarship, she attended Stanford Law School, where she received her J.D. in 2000, graduating second in her class.

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Mr. Owens, 41, has been a litigation partner in the Los Angeles office of Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP since January 2012. His practice focuses on representing individuals and corporations in government investigations, and conducting internal investigations into allegations of corporate misconduct.

Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Owens served for 11 years as a federal prosecutor, focusing on white collar and border crime cases. He worked as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Central District of California in Los Angeles from 2001 to 2004, when he transferred to the Southern District of California in San Diego. He became chief of the Criminal Division in the Southern District in 2010, overseeing all criminal prosecutions in one of the busiest and most productive U.S. attorney offices in the nation.

Mr. Owens also worked as a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Consumer Litigation from 1998 to 1999, and as a litigation associate at the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers LLP in Washington, D.C., from 2000 to 2001.

Born in Washington, D.C., Mr. Owens received his B.A. with high distinction in 1993 from the University of California, Berkeley, and then attended Stanford Law School, where he graduated first in his class in 1996. After law school, he clerked for Judge J. Clifford Wallace of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and then clerked for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by federal trial courts and certain executive branch administrative agencies in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court, which reported 12,684 appeals filed in fiscal year 2012, is authorized 29 judgeships and currently has two vacancies.

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