

PRESENTERS' BIOS

The Art of Appellate Advocacy: A View from the Ninth Circuit Bench

The Hon. Michael Daly Hawkins:

Judge Hawkins is a Senior Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals (9th Cir.), and a graduate of Arizona State University (BA, JD) and the University of Virginia (LLM). He also serves as Editor-in-Chief of Western Legal History, a publication of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society (NJCHS), the last issue of which was devoted to the competing claims & history of Water in the West. He served as Captain in the U.S. Marine Corps, and served as a Pro Tem judge on the Arizona Court of Appeals and later as the United States Attorney for Arizona.

The Hon. Richard C. Clifton:

Richard Clifton has been a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit since 2002, with chambers in Honolulu. After graduating from Princeton University and Yale Law School, he served one year as a law clerk for Judge Herbert Y.C. Choy, the first Hawaii resident to serve on the Ninth Circuit, and then practiced law in Honolulu for 25 years before being appointed to the court. He assumed senior status as a circuit judge on December 31, 2016, and continues to hear cases in that capacity.

He is the Immediate Past President of the Federal Judges Association and continues to serve on its Executive Committee. He served for ten years on the U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction, the last four years as its chair. He is a director of the American Judicature Society, the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society, and the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation, and a member of the American Law Institute and the Pacific Judicial Conference. He has twice served as an acting associate justice of the Appellate Division of the High Court of American Samoa.

Since 1979 he has taught intermittently at the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law. For 24 years he was a director of Hawaii Public Radio, six years as its Chairman. He is married and has two adult children. He is known to be a devoted fan of the Chicago Cubs (often suffering, but not as much as before 2016).

The Hon. Roopali H. Desai:

The Honorable Roopali H. Desai was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit by President Biden in 2022. Before joining the court, Judge Desai was in private practice as a partner in the Phoenix law firm Coppersmith Brockelman, where she

specialized in complex civil litigation and political law. She was a leading election lawyer in Arizona and handled numerous trials and appellate matters prior to becoming a judge.

Judge Desai is a professor of practice at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. She is also an elected member of the American Law Institute. Judge Desai started her legal career clerking for Chief Judge Emeritus Mary M. Schroeder on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She received her J.D., her M.P.H., and her B.A., all from the University of Arizona.

Judge Desai and her husband live in Phoenix with their three daughters.

Eric M. Fraser:

Eric is a partner and co-chair of the appellate practice at Osborn Maledon (Phoenix, AZ), where his practice focuses on major civil appeals. He coauthors a monthly column in *Arizona Attorney* magazine covering civil appeals, coedits the azapp.com blog, and contributes to SCOTUSblog. He is a Ninth Circuit Appellate Lawyer Representative and a former chair of the State Bar of Arizona's Appellate Practice Section. Eric received his J.D. and M.B.A. from the University of Chicago and his B.A. in Physics from Pomona College. Before joining private practice, Eric clerked for Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Susan V. Gelmis:

Susan is the Chief Deputy Clerk for Operations at the Ninth Circuit. She has been with the court for 35 years, previously serving as supervisor of the Motions and Pro Se Units in the Staff Attorneys' Office and as founder and director of the Circuit's Pro Bono Program for 22 years. Susan has served on numerous Circuit wide committees and task forces relating to prisoner and pro se litigation, and as liaison to the pro se law clerks in the district courts, organizing and speaking at Circuit wide and national conferences. In December 2015, Susan moved to the Clerk's Office to assume her current position, where she oversees all docketing and filing, records and calendaring systems and procedures, staffs the Circuit Rules Committee, and organizes and speaks at CLE programs around the Circuit. Susan is a 1987 graduate of NYU Law School and originally a native of New York.