

Susan 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 of the Circuit's Pro Bono Program, which she directed 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 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, supports the Circuit Advisory Rules Committee and the Appellate Lawyer Representatives, 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.

Stephen M. Liacouras

Stephen is the Chief Circuit Mediator for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, where he supervises the court's seven full-time mediators and conducts mediations in civil appeals and administrative proceedings. Prior to being selected to lead the mediation team in 2018, he served as a Circuit Mediator for 17 years and successfully mediated to resolution over 1,000 appellate matters. Before joining the mediation office, Stephen practiced civil litigation at a small San Francisco firm, served as a supervising Ninth Circuit staff attorney, and worked as an in-house attorney for a technology company in Austin, Texas. Stephen has taught negotiation as an Adjunct Professor at UC Law San Francisco (formerly UC Hastings) and is a volunteer panel mediator for the U.S. District Court for Northern District of California. He received his J.D. from Yale Law School and then clerked for Chief Judge Dolores Sloviter on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Originally from Philadelphia, Stephen earned his B.A. in History from the University of California at Berkeley.

Judge Leonard J. Feldman

Judge Leonard J. Feldman was appointed to the Washington Court of Appeals by Governor Jay Inslee in March 2023. Before joining the court, Judge Feldman practiced as a litigation attorney at Heller Ehrman (1992-2008), Stoel Rives (2008-14), and Peterson Wampold Rosato Feldman & Luna (2014-23). As an attorney, Judge Feldman focused on appellate practice before the Ninth Circuit and the Washington appellate courts. He was counsel of record and argued in the United States Supreme Court in *City and County of San Francisco v. Sheehan* (2015) and *County of Los Angeles v. Mendez* (2017). From 1991-92, he served as

a law clerk to Judge Jerome Farris of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Judge Feldman currently teaches federal courts (and previously taught torts) at Seattle University School of Law. He was nominated to receive the Outstanding Faculty Award in 2021, 2023, and 2024 and is a co-author of Keeton, Sargentich, Keating, Fleming, and Feldman's Tort and Accident Law (5th ed. 2023). He is also a frequent writer and speaker on topics relating to appellate practice. Among other articles, he has co-authored three articles with Washington Court of Appeals Judge Stephen Dwyer regarding appellate brief writing, oral argument, and discretionary review.

In 2024, Judge Feldman was nominated by the Court of Appeals and confirmed as the court's representative to the Washington Court Reports Commission. In 2006, Judge Feldman received the Washington State Bar Association's Pro Bono Award for his work in appeals that raise important civil rights issues. He has also received two Certificates of Appreciation from the Ninth Circuit, one for his work as a District Coordinator for the Ninth Circuit Pro Bono Program and the other for teaching an appellate practice course at the University of Washington School of Law.

Judge Feldman received his undergraduate degree from the University of Washington in 1987. In 1991, he received his law degree from Harvard Law School, where he was twice awarded the Sears Prize (given to the top two students on the basis of grades) and graduated magna cum laude. Judge Feldman and his wife have lived most of their lives in the Seattle area, where they currently reside.

Rory Cosgrove

Rory is a shareholder at *Carney Badley Spellman* in Seattle. Rory focuses his practice exclusively on civil appeals and strategic-motions practice in state and federal courts. His appellate practice involves all types of litigation, including product liability, family law, personal injury, election contests, and real estate. For half of Rory's practice, he serves as embedded appellate counsel at trial. He is the president-elect of the Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, a co-district coordinator for the Ninth Circuit Pro Bono Program, and a former chair of the Appellate Section for the King County Bar Association. He has been recognized every year as a *Rising Star* by *Super Lawyers* since 2018.