



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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San Francisco Superior Court Judge Nominated to Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

SAN FRANCISCO –The White House has announced President Bush’s latest nominee for a federal judgeship in the United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit.

The nomination of San Francisco Superior Court Judge Carlos T. Bea to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals was announced Friday (April 11). If confirmed by the United States Senate, he will fill the vacancy created on Dec. 31, 1996, when Judge Charles E. Wiggins, also of California, took senior status.

Born in San Sebastian, Spain, Judge Bea has served on the San Francisco Superior Court since 1990. He received his undergraduate degree from Stanford University (1956) and his J.D. from Stanford University Law School (1958). Prior to his appointment to the Superior Court bench, he maintained a private law practice in San Francisco.

Since taking office, President Bush has made five nominations to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Two nominees have been confirmed: Circuit Judges Richard R. Clifton of Honolulu and Jay Scott Bybee of Las Vegas. There are currently three vacancies on the 28-judge court. Also awaiting confirmation are Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carolyn B. Kuhl, who appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 1, and California Court of Appeal Justice Consuelo Maria Callahan, who was nominated on February 12.

The United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit encompass Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, plus the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In addition to the Court of Appeals, there are 15 district and bankruptcy courts within the circuit. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is the busiest of the nation’s 12 regional circuit courts with 12,388 case filings in 2002.

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