

Court of Appeals Officially Welcomes Newest Judges

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By OCE Public Information Office

Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit officially welcomed their two newest colleagues earlier this month. Investiture ceremonies for Judge Sandra Segal Ikuta and Judge Milan D. Smith, Jr., were held on November 6 and 10, respectively, at the Richard H. Chambers U.S. Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena. Both judges came onto the bench last summer and currently maintain chambers in Pasadena.



Photo courtesy of Nathanson's Photography

Judge Smith receives the oath of office from Chief Judge Schroeder while clasp hands with his wife, Kathleen D. Crane.

Judge Smith received the oath of office from Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder. Presentation of the black robe of office was performed by a dozen family members. Speakers included his brother, U.S. Senator Gordon H. Smith of Oregon; his wife, Kathleen D. Crane; Laura Schiller, chief of staff for California Senator Barbara Boxer; Jerry Epstein, president of the Los Angeles State Building Authority; Ann M. Noel, executive and legal affairs secretary for the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission; and Ira J. Tobin, retired superintendent of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. Pasadena Mayor William J. Bogaard opened the ceremony.

Judge Smith, 64, was confirmed by the Senate on May 16, 2006, and received his commission on May 18, 2006. He filled a judgeship vacant since June 30, 2004, when Judge A. Wallace Tashima took senior

status. An Oregon native, Mr. Smith had been managing partner of Smith Crane Robinson & Parker LLP in Torrance, a firm he helped found in 1972. He began his legal career with O'Melveny & Myers in Los Angeles, where he was an associate from 1969 to 1972.

His professional career includes a 1984 appointment by Gov. Deukmejian to the governing board of the Los Angeles State Building Authority, where he served as general counsel until coming onto the federal bench. Gov. Deukmejian also appointed him to the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission, where he served from 1987 to 1991.

Judge Smith received his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School in 1969 and his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University, graduating *cum laude*, in 1966.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is authorized 28 judgeships and currently has two vacancies. The court hears appeals of cases decided by federal trial courts, administrative agencies and state courts in 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. For calendar year 2005, the court reported 16,101 appeals filed.



Photo courtesy of Bruce Snell

Judge Ikuta receives the oath from Judge Kozinski, with her husband, Edward, beside her and daughter Lillian holding the Bible.

Judge Ikuta received the oath of office from Ninth Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski, for whom she clerked after graduation from law school. Her husband, Edward, and their daughter, Lillian, performed the investiture of the robe of office. Lillian also held a Bible provided by the family's pastor during the administration of the oath. Chief Judge Schroeder offered welcoming remarks. Also speaking were Judge Ikuta's former colleagues at O'Melveny & Myers LLP, Warren Christopher, former U.S. secretary of state and now a senior partner at the firm, and Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr., former counsel to President Reagan, who now chairs the Los Angeles firm.

Judge Ikuta, 52, was confirmed by the Senate on June 19, 2006, and received her commission on June 23, 2006. She filled a judgeship vacant since September 1, 2000, when Chief Judge Emeritus James R. Browning took senior status. A Los Angeles native, she formerly served as general counsel to the California Resources Agency, which oversees environmental protection and management of the state's natural, historical and cultural resources. Prior to being appointed to that post by Gov. Schwarzenegger, she was associated with the Los Angeles office of O'Melveny & Myers, joining the firm in 1990 as an associate and becoming a partner in 1997.

Judge Ikuta received her J.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law in 1988, and a Master of Science from Columbia University School of Journalism in 1978. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1976.