

# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT

Chief Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski  
Senior Circuit Judge Procter Hug, Jr.  
Circuit Judge Sidney R. Thomas  
Circuit Judge Raymond C. Fisher  
Circuit Judge Ronald M. Gould  
Circuit Judge Johnnie B. Rawlinson



Cathy A. Catterson, Circuit &  
Court of Appeals Executive

Chief District Judge Audrey B. Collins  
Chief District Judge Roger L. Hunt  
Chief District Judge Vaughn R. Walker  
Senior District Judge Stephen M. McNamee  
Senior District Judge Robert H. Whaley

Chief Judges, U.S. District Courts of the  
Ninth Circuit

November 15, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

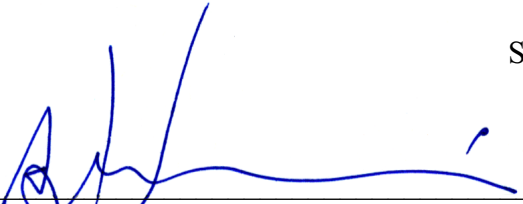
Gentlemen:

We write on behalf of the courts of the Ninth Circuit. As you know, the Ninth Circuit is by far the largest federal circuit in the country, encompassing the 9 western states, plus the territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Approximately one fifth of the population of the United States lives within the borders of the Ninth Circuit. Our case-load reflects the diversity of our territory and the people that inhabit it and is heavily impacted by increased immigration enforcement, drug interdiction activities, prison litigation, bankruptcy and environmental cases--to name just a few of the most active areas.

In order to do our work, and serve the public as Congress expects us to serve it, we need the resources to carry out our mission. While there are many areas of serious need, we write today to emphasize our desperate need for judges. Our need in that regard has been amply documented (*See* attached March 2009 Judicial Conference Recommendations for Additional Judgeships). Courts cannot do their work if authorized judicial positions remain vacant.

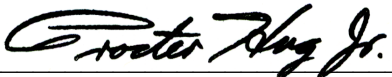
While we could certainly use more judges, and hope that Congress will soon approve the additional judgeships requested by the Judicial Conference, we would be greatly assisted if our judicial vacancies--some of which have been open for several years and declared "judicial emergencies"--were to be filled promptly. We respectfully request that the Senate act on judicial nominees without delay.

Sincerely,




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Alex Kozinski, Chief Judge,  
Ninth Circuit




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Procter Hug, Jr., Senior Judge,  
Ninth Circuit




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Sidney R. Thomas, Circuit Judge,  
Ninth Circuit




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Raymond C. Fisher, Circuit Judge,  
Ninth Circuit




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Ronald M. Gould, Circuit Judge,  
Ninth Circuit



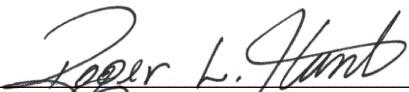
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Johnnie B. Rawlinson, Circuit Judge,  
Ninth Circuit




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Audrey B. Collins, Chief Judge,  
Central District of California




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Roger L. Hunt, Chief Judge,  
District of Nevada



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Vaughn R. Walker, Chief Judge,  
Northern District of California



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Robert H. Whaley, Senior Judge,  
Eastern District of Washington

**Chief Judges, U.S. District Courts of the Ninth Circuit:**



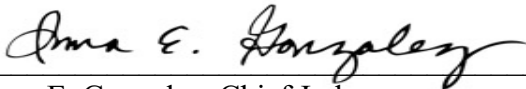
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Ralph R. Beistline, Chief Judge,  
District of Alaska



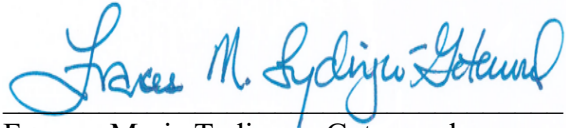
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Anthony W. Ishii, Chief Judge,  
Eastern District of California



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Irma E. Gonzalez, Chief Judge,  
Southern District of California



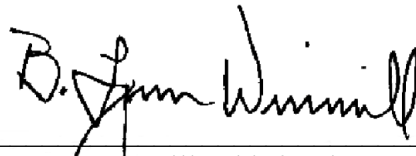
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Frances Marie Tydingco-Gatewood  
Chief Judge, District of Guam



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Susan Oki Mollway, Chief Judge,  
District of Hawaii




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B. Lynn Winmill, Chief Judge,  
District of Idaho



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Richard F. Cebull, Chief Judge,  
District of Montana



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Ann L. Aiken, Chief Judge,  
District of Oregon



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Lonny R. Suko, Chief Judge,  
Eastern District of Washington



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Robert S. Lasnik, Chief Judge,  
Western District of Washington

cc: Ninth Circuit Senators