



NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit's First All-Alaskan Appellate Panel to Sit in Pasadena

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit will make judicial history this month when it convenes its first all-Alaskan appellate panel.

Circuit Judge Morgan Christen of Anchorage, Senior Circuit Judge Andrew J. Kleinfeld of Fairbanks, and Senior District Judge John W. Sedwick, also of Anchorage and sitting by designation, will hear oral arguments on October 11, 2013, at the Richard H. Chambers U.S. Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena, California. Three cases are on the docket with arguments scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom Three.

Appellate panels are randomly assigned and the all-Alaskan panel resulted from the luck of the draw.

“I was deeply honored to have been chosen to serve on this court and I have the greatest respect for my new colleagues. The opportunity to sit with two judges from my home state is truly special,” Judge Christen said. “I think the first all-Alaskan sitting will be a proud moment for us and for members of the bench and bar back home. I feel very fortunate to be a part of this bit of Ninth Circuit history.”

“I think all of us who represent Alaska on the federal courts consider it an honor and privilege,” said Judge Kleinfeld. “It really feels like Alaska is coming into its own with this first all-Alaskan panel being convened by the court.”

Judges Kleinfeld and Christen are the second and third Alaskans to serve on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Nominated by the first President Bush, Judge Kleinfeld came onto the court in 1991. He served as an active judge until 2010, when he assumed senior

status, creating a vacancy on the court. President Obama nominated Judge Christen to fill the vacancy. She came onto the court in January 2012 and is the first woman to represent Alaska on the Ninth Circuit bench.

Judge Sedwick has served for more than 20 years as a judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska. Also nominated by the first President Bush, he was confirmed in 1992 and served as chief judge of the district from 2002 to 2009. He assumed senior status in 2011.

The first Alaskan to sit on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals was the late Honorable Robert Boochever, who was nominated by President Carter and confirmed by the Senate in 1980. After serving as an active judge for six years, he assumed senior status in 1986. Judge Boochever died in 2011 at age 94.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by executive branch agencies and federal trial courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. All of the states are represented by at least one judge while states with large populations have multiple representatives.

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