



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Confirms Judge Shanlyn A. S. Park for Federal Judgeship in District of Hawaii

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today voted 53-45 to confirm President Joseph R. Biden Jr.’s nomination of Hawaii State Court Judge Shanlyn A.S. Park to serve as a U.S. district judge for the District of Hawaii. Judge Park will be the first native Hawaiian U.S. District judge.

“Judge Park’s unique combination of experience, tenacity and genuine kindness will be a huge asset to the federal bench. We are excited to have her join us as our colleague in 2024,” said Chief U.S. District Judge Derrick K. Watson.

Judge Park was nominated for the judgeship on Sept. 27, 2023 and had her hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on October 4. Her nomination was placed on the Senate Executive Calendar on October 4. Following her oath, she will fill a judgeship that will be vacant when U.S. District Judge Leslie E. Kobayashi assumes senior status on Oct. 9, 2024. Judge Park will maintain chambers in Honolulu.

Judge Park has served as a circuit court judge for the First Circuit of Hawaii since 2021. Prior to her appointment to the state bench, she was of counsel for Gallagher Kane Amai & Reyes in Honolulu in 2021. She was of counsel then a partner at McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP in Honolulu from 2017 to 2018 and from 2019 to 2021, respectively, and an associate attorney at Hisaka Stone & Goto in Honolulu from 1996 to 1997. Judge Park has served the District of Hawaii since 1997, when she joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender, where she served as a senior litigator, 2013-2017, and as an assistant FPD, 1997-2013. She also served at the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii as a lawyer representative from 2019-2021; as a criminal justice panel attorney, 2017-2021; and as a pro bono counsel in 2020.

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Born in Honolulu, Judge Park received her Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, from Chaminade University of Honolulu in 1991 and her Juris Doctor in 1995 from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, William S. Richardson School of Law, where she was an adjunct professor during the spring semesters, 2001-2006. She externed for the Honorable Francis I. Yamashita of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii and clerked for Judge Yamashita from 1993 to 1995 and from 1995 to 1996, respectively. Judge Park clerked for the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission from 1994 to 1995.

Judge Park was a board member of the Hawaii State Bar Foundation and a board member of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii in 2021. She was vice president and secretary for Project Focus of Hawaii, 2008-2021; and chair, vice chair and board member of the Sacred Hearts Academy Board of Directors, 2015-2016, 2014-2015 and 2011-2014, respectively.

Judge Park was recognized in 2021 by the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii for providing pro bono services. She received recognition in 2017 from the Sisters of Sacred Hearts for her outstanding service as a board member.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii had 659 new case filings in fiscal year 2023. The court is authorized four judgeships, which includes a temporary judgeship, all of which are currently filled.

Appointed under Article III of the U.S. Constitution, federal district court judges are nominated by the president, confirmed by the U.S. Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior.

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