

JUDGE CAROLYN KUHL
Nominee to U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (California)
(Nominated June 22, 2001)

- Carolyn Kuhl has been a judge on the state trial court in Los Angeles since 1995. The American Bar Association rated Judge Kuhl “Well Qualified” to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Senators Leahy and Schumer have referred to the ABA rating as the “gold standard.”

Ninth Circuit

- Judge Kuhl has been nominated to the Ninth Circuit, which covers California, Arizona, Nevada, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and Hawaii.
- In a Senate speech, Democratic Senator Schumer recently described this circuit as follows: “The Ninth Circuit is by far the most liberal court in the country. Most of the nominees are Democratic from Democratic Presidents. It is the court that gave us the Pledge of Allegiance case which is way out of the mainstream on the left side.”
 - The 28-judge court has 17 judges appointed by Democrat Presidents and 8 judges appointed by Republican Presidents. President Bush has submitted nominees for the 3 current vacancies, including Carolyn Kuhl.
- The seat to which Judge Kuhl has been nominated has been designated as a “judicial emergency” by the Judicial Conference of the United States. Despite that, she has been waiting nearly two years for a vote by the Senate.

Background on Judge Kuhl

- Since 1995, Judge Carolyn Kuhl has served as a judge on the Los Angeles County Superior Court. She has served in both the civil and criminal divisions of the court, and is now the Supervising Judge of the Civil Division, the first woman to hold that position.
- From 1986 to 1995, Judge Kuhl was a partner in the prestigious Los Angeles law firm of Munger Tolles & Olson. Her practice focused on civil business litigation in both federal and state courts with a specialty in appellate litigation.
- From 1981 to 1986, Judge Kuhl served in the United States Department of Justice. She served as Deputy Solicitor General, Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Division, and as Special Assistant to Attorney General William French Smith.
 - As Deputy Solicitor General of the United States, she argued cases before the United States Supreme Court and supervised the work of the other attorneys in the office. As Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Division, Judge Kuhl supervised all civil appellate litigation handled by the Justice Department

nationwide. She also supervised civil trial litigation involving federal agency programs -- in particular, important cases raising critical constitutional or statutory issues.

- In 1977-78, Carolyn Kuhl clerked for Judge Anthony Kennedy, then a Judge on the Ninth Circuit.
- Judge Kuhl is a 1977 graduate of Duke Law School where she was an editor of the Duke Law Journal and graduated with honors. In 1974, she received a B.A. in Chemistry from Princeton University with honors. Judge Kuhl was in the second class of women ever to graduate from Princeton.
- Judge Kuhl has extraordinary bipartisan support.
 - A bipartisan group of 23 women judges on the Superior Court who serve with Judge Kuhl have written to the Judiciary Committee: “As sitting judges, we more than anyone appreciate the importance of an independent, fair-minded and principled judiciary. We believe that Carolyn Kuhl represents the best values of such a judiciary.”
 - A bipartisan group of nearly 100 judges who serve with her wrote: “We believe her elevation to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals will bring credit to all of us and to the Senate that confirms her. As an appellate judge, she will serve the people of our country with distinction, as she has done as a trial judge.”
 - For a full sample of her extraordinary bipartisan support, see the supporter quotes listed later in this document.
- In 1998, Judge Kuhl took the extraordinary step of writing to Chairman Hatch to express her support for Senate consideration of Judge Paez’s nomination to the 9th Circuit. Vilma Martinez, who is past President of MALDEF, recently noted the irony, stating: “Now that President Bush has nominated Kuhl to the 9th Circuit, many of the groups that supported Paez, ironically, have turned their fire on Kuhl, apparently to exact payback against Senate Republicans. This turnabout is not fair play. It is the continuation of a vicious cycle that punishes worthy judicial candidates.”
- Throughout her career, Judge Kuhl has dedicated herself to improving the law and the administration of justice.
 - She was elected to the prestigious American Law Institute.
 - Since joining the state bench, Judge Kuhl has served as Chair of the Superior Court’s Research Attorney Committee and on the Superior Court’s Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution and Judicial Council Task Force on Jury Instructions.

- In addition, she has served as the supervising judge of the Complex Litigation Program and the Civil Division. Judge Kuhl has participated in court programs to introduce youth to the state court system.
- She has been on her court's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, and has assisted in the supervision of the program by which the Superior Court provides free mediation services to the public in civil and family law cases.
- Judge Kuhl has been a role model for many women in the law.

A group of 23 women colleagues wrote: "Judge Kuhl has been a mentor to new women judges who join our Court She has helped promote the judicial careers of women, both Republican and Democrat. She supported the Hon. Margaret Morrow when Judge Morrow was awaiting a hearing She is also a very decent, caring, honest and patient human being who is a delight to have as a professional colleague and friend."

Anne Egerton, who is currently a judge on the Los Angeles Superior Court, wrote: "Carolyn served as a mentor to me in those years. Having her guidance and support made a real difference to a young woman learning to navigate the world of male-dominated major corporate firms. At Munger Tolles, Carolyn also helped to organize and actively participated in lunches and other activities of the women attorneys at the firm. We joined together from time to time to discuss issues of common concern to us as lawyers, mothers, and colleagues."

- Judge Kuhl was born in Missouri. She is married and is the mother of two daughters.