

Biography of Hon. Jacqueline H. Nguyen

Jacqueline H. Nguyen is a Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in a 91-3 vote on May 7, 2012. Judge Nguyen is the first and currently the only Asian American woman on the federal Court of Appeals. Prior to her elevation, Judge Nguyen was a trial judge for nearly ten years. From 2009 to 2012, she served as a district judge on the U.S. District Court, Central District of California. Prior to that, she served for seven years as a judge on the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Before she began her judicial career, Judge Nguyen was an Assistant United States Attorney from 1995 to 2002 in the United States Attorney's Office, Central District of California, including a stint as a Deputy Chief in the General Crimes Section. Judge Nguyen began her legal career in private practice at the law firm of Musick, Peeler & Garrett in Los Angeles, from 1991 to 1995.

Judge Nguyen received her A.B. from Occidental College in 1987, and her J.D. from UCLA Law School in 1991.

Judge Nguyen has long been active in the legal community. As a lawyer, she served on the board of various bar associations, including the Women Lawyers' Association of Los Angeles County, the Southern California Chinese Lawyers' Association and the Japanese American Bar Association. Judge Nguyen co-founded and served as President of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association from 1999 to 2000. As a judge, Judge Nguyen has served on many court committees, including currently the Ninth Circuit's Executive Committee, Court-Council Committee on Bankruptcy Judge Appointments, and the Standing Committee on Federal Public Defenders. She also serves on the national Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules. She is active in the ABA's Judicial Division, Appellate Judges Conference.

Judge Nguyen was born in Dalat, Vietnam. In 1975, when she was 10 years old, her family were among the over 100,000 refugees evacuated to the United States following the fall of South Vietnam to communist forces.