



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · (415) 355-8901 Fax

Editor's Note: Media coverage of the conference is welcome. To obtain a media credential, contact the Public Information Office by July 25, 2008.

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: David Madden, (415) 355-8930

Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference Headed for Sun Valley, Idaho

SAN FRANCISCO – Federal judges from throughout the western United States will gather next month in Sun Valley, Idaho, for the 2008 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. The event, also attended by members of the federal bar, judiciary staff and other government officials, is scheduled for July 28-31 at the Sun Valley Inn and Lodge.

The conference is held annually pursuant to Section 333 of Title 28 of the United States Code “for the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice.”

In addition to attending various business meetings, attendees participate in a rich educational program focusing on important developments in law, economics, science and other fields of study. This year's conference also includes a review of Ninth Circuit cases before the Supreme Court of the United States.

The conference is being organized by a Conference Executive Committee chaired by Circuit Judge Richard R. Clifton of Honolulu. Attorney Kelli L. Sager of Los Angeles chairs the program subcommittee.

Special guests and speakers at this year's conference include Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter, who is scheduled to make welcoming remarks; Paul D. Clement, until recently the U.S. solicitor general in the Bush administration, who will speak during the opening session; and Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy of the Supreme Court of the United States, who will participate in the “Conversation with the Justice” segment that traditionally ends the conference.

The program schedule includes:

- **Decisions 2007-2008: A Supreme Court Review**
(Monday, July 28, 9 a.m.)
Circuit Judge Jay S. Bybee and Vikram Amar, a law professor at the University of California at Davis School of Law, present an overview of how the Ninth Circuit fared before the Supreme Court.
- **Special Welcome by Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter**
(Monday, July 28, 4:30 p.m.)
- **Executive Power: Does the President Have to Obey the Law?**
(Tuesday, July 29, 8:30 a.m.)
To what extent does the President’s obligation to “take care” that the law is faithfully executed permit the President to disregard a statutory command the President believes to be unconstitutional? Panelists include Kenneth W. Starr, dean of the Pepperdine University School of Law; Kathleen M. Sullivan, Stanford University law professor; Seth P. Waxman, attorney and former U.S. solicitor general; and law professor John Choon Yoo of the University of California Berkeley Law School.
- **The CSI Effect: From the Living Room to the Courtroom**
(Tuesday, July 29, 10:30 a.m.)
Popular television shows such as "CSI" and "Bones" have focused on the use of advances in forensic science and technology to solve crimes. Is the "science" shown on television fiction? This program will review research findings of interest to judges and lawyers concerning the so-called "CSI effect" on jurors, where the real-world evidence may or may not correspond to what they've seen on television. Panelists include Dan Gallipeau, president of Dispute Dynamics, Inc.; attorney Peter Neufeld, co-founder and co-director of The Innocence Project; Michael Saks, professor of law and psychology at Arizona State University; and Robert C. Shaler, director of the forensic science program at Pennsylvania State University. New York Times reporter Adam Liptak will moderate.
- **Breakfast with the Bench – Beyond the Vanishing Trial: Are We Training the Next Generation?**
(Wednesday, July 30, 8:00 a.m.)
Members of the bench and bar will consider whether we are training the next generation of lawyers to master federal practice. With a steady increase in filings, we should expect

more opportunities for younger lawyers to perform in court and in depositions. But anecdotal evidence indicates that fewer and fewer do so. Why? Are there solutions? Audience response systems will enable you to give your opinions and note takers at each table will list the creative solutions suggested to remedy this alarming trend. District Judge William Alsup of the Northern District of California will moderate.

- **Bigger, Hotter, Faster: The Nature of Fire in the West**
(Wednesday, July 30, 10:45 a.m.)

Representatives of the National Interagency Fire Center and other experts on wildfire management will give a special presentation about trends in new fire science with specific applications to the West, and also provide a glimpse into the world of fire fighting and fire management. Panelists include Richard Minnich, a professor in the earth sciences department of the University of California, Riverside; Jeanne Pincha-Tulley, forest fire chief in the Tahoe National Forest; and Wayne Williams, Forest Service smokejumper. Lyle Carlile, director of fire management for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Boise, Idaho, will moderate.

- **Spanning the Globe: Dilemmas of Law and Policy**
(Thursday, July 31, 8:30 a.m.)

Companies now operate in a global economy, challenged by differing standards of free expression, intellectual property rights and criminal liability. Our government and foreign governments contribute to a lack of common understanding of the role of law in the world. What practical challenges confront courts and counsel when business, law and litigation span the globe? Panelists include attorney Alejandro Mayorkas; Bruce Sewell, senior vice president and general counsel of Intel Corporation; attorney Linda Chatman Thomsen, director of the enforcement division at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; and attorney Kent Walker, vice president and general counsel of Google. Helen Stacy, Stanford University law professor will moderate.

- **Deconstructing Designer Diets: The Myths and the Realities**
(Thursday, July 31, 10:15 a.m.)

As our nation's obesity problem continues to grow, popular diets are in the news on a regular basis. Are these diets healthy and do any of them actually work? Dr. Melina Jampolis, a diet expert in San Francisco, will review the most popular diets and explain the science behind them as well as outline an approach to dieting based on the latest research and geared not only to weight loss but to optimal health.

- **Conversation with the Honorable Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy
(Thursday, July 31, 11:30 a.m.)**

The “Conversation with the Justice” features an informal conversation with Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy of the Supreme Court, who is the designated justice for the Ninth Circuit. The segment will be introduced by Circuit Judge Richard R. Clifton of Honolulu, who chairs the conference. Questions will be posed by Senior District Judge John C. Coughour of Seattle and attorneys Kelli Sager of Los Angeles and Joseph M. Meier of Boise.

The U.S. Courts for the Ninth Circuit consists of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the federal trial and bankruptcy courts and related court units for the Districts of Alaska, Arizona, Northern California, Central California, Eastern California, Southern California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Eastern Washington, Western Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Nearly 400 judges preside in Ninth Circuit courts.

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