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Dicken nominates three judges to federal courts in California



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President Biden has nominated three more judges to serve on federal courts in California. (Susan Walsh / Associated Press)

BY SUMMER LIN | STAFF WRITER

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President Biden on Friday announced three more nominees to serve on federal courts in California, including the first out gay judge, the first Chinese American woman and the second Latina to serve on their respective courts.

If confirmed, Sacramento Superior Court Judge Daniel Calabretta would be the [first judge who has come out as gay](#) to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, according to a White House press release. Calabretta was among eight nominees announced by Biden to serve on federal courts and each must be approved by the U.S. Senate, needing 51 votes to be confirmed.

Biden also nominated Judge Rita Lin and attorney Araceli Martinez-Olguin for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. If confirmed, Lin will be the second Asian American Pacific Islander woman and the first Chinese American woman to serve on the court. Martinez-Olguin would be the second Latina.

The latest batch of nominees represents the 24th time Biden has nominated people for federal judicial positions, bringing the total of federal nominees to 132.

Calabretta became the first man who has come out as gay [appointed to the Sacramento County Superior Court](#) in 2019. Previously, Calabretta served as former Gov. Jerry Brown's [deputy legal affairs secretary](#) beginning in 2013. He was also a deputy attorney general at the California Department of Justice from 2008-13.

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Calabretta was an associate at Munger, Tolles & Olson in Los Angeles from 2005-08 and clerked for Justice John Paul Stevens at the U.S. Supreme Court, according to the White House press release. He received his bachelor's degree from Princeton University and his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 2003.

Lin has been a judge on the Superior Court of San Francisco County since 2018 and was an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of California from 2014-18, according to the White House. She was a partner at Morrison & Foerster and a law clerk for Judge Sandra Lynch on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Martinez-Olguin has been an attorney at the National Immigration Law Center since 2018 and previously worked at the Immigrants' Rights Project at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto. She was an attorney for the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the American Civil Liberties Union and Legal Aid at Work's National Origin and Immigrants' Rights Program.

The Biden administration noted its streak of diverse nominees, saying that the choices "ensure that the nation's courts reflect the diversity that is one of our greatest assets as a country — both in terms of personal and professional backgrounds."

Biden also nominated [Julie Rikelman](#), an abortion rights lawyer who most recently represented the Mississippi clinic at t

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overturn the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision. Rikelman was nominated to the U.S. U.S. Litigation Director for the Center for Reproductive Rights. She was previously vice

president of litigation at NBC Universal, senior associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett and an associate at Feldman & Orlansky.

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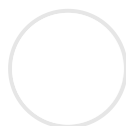


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Summer Lin is a reporter on the Fast Break Desk, the Los Angeles Times' breaking news team. Before coming to The Times, she covered breaking news for the Mercury News and national politics and California courts for McClatchy's publications, including the Sacramento Bee. An East Coast native, Lin moved to California after graduating from Boston College and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. In her free time, she enjoys hikes, skiing and a good Brooklyn bagel.

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