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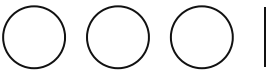
BAY AREA

Biden selects two judicial nominees for Northern District bench, continuing streak of diverse appointments



Chase DiFeliciano

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President Joe Biden announced new nominees to the federal judiciary on Friday, including two women of color he's nominating to the bench in the Northern District of California, which covers the Bay Area.

Samantha Laurey/The Chronicle

President Biden continued a run of nominating a diverse slate of judicial nominees to the federal bench, selecting two women of color to serve as judges in the Northern District of California.

If confirmed by the Senate, Judge Rita F. Lin, who currently serves as a San Francisco Superior Court judge, would be the second Asian American woman and the first Chinese American woman to serve as a judge in the district, which includes San Francisco, San Jose and a swath of western California counties from Monterey County to the Oregon border.

Araceli Martínez-Olguín, currently a supervising attorney at the nonprofit National Immigration Law Center, would be the second Latina to serve on the Northern District court if her nomination passes a Senate confirmation vote.

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Before her appointment as a Superior Court judge in San Francisco in 2018, Lin served as a federal prosecutor in the Northern District and practiced corporate law. She graduated from Harvard Law School in 2003.

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A UC Berkeley School of Law graduate, Martinez-Olguin was previously the managing attorney for the Immigrants' Rights Project at the nonprofit Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, worked at the American Civil Liberties Union and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

The judicial nominations were part of the latest round of eight, plus another to come, announced by the Biden administration. That brought the number of announced federal judicial nominees by the administration to 132.

"These choices also continue to fulfill the president's promise to 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," the White House said in a statement.

Biden had promised to appoint a diverse group of qualified lawyers and judges to the federal bench, and is outpacing his predecessors in doing so, [a report from late last year found](#).

Three-fourths of his nominees at the time of the report were women, and nearly three out of every five were racial minorities, with the judges nominated in

California representing even more diverse backgrounds.

Biden also nominated the first Black woman, Ketanji Brown Jackson, who was sworn in last month, to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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Last month, the Senate [confirmed Ana de Alba](#), a former Fresno County judge, to serve as a federal judge in the Eastern District of California. She is the daughter of immigrant farmworkers and the first Latina judge appointed in the district.

Still, the federal bench is 65% male and 72% white, according to the [report from the Center for Constitutional Rights](#).

The slate of federal judges appointed by Donald Trump was 76% male and 84% white, and those appointed by Barack Obama were 58% male and 64% white.

The report found that in contrast to many previous nominees who worked in corporate law or as prosecutors, Biden's nominees were more likely to have worked as public defenders, for nonprofits or in academia.

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