

2-28-2019

# 10th Annual Chief Justice Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture: Judicial Insights with Judge Michelle T. Friedland

Golden Gate University School of Law

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## Recommended Citation

Golden Gate University School of Law, "10th Annual Chief Justice Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture: Judicial Insights with Judge Michelle T. Friedland" (2019). *Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture Series*. 33.  
<https://digitalcommons.law.ggu.edu/rongorge/33>

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**GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF LAW**



*Golden Gate University Law Review Presents:*

**Judicial Insights with  
Judge Michelle T. Friedland**

TENTH ANNUAL CHIEF JUSTICE RONALD M. GEORGE DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

**February 28, 2019**

# 10th Annual Ronald M. George Lecture

*The Annual Chief Justice Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture Series, named after legendary former Chief Justice of California Ronald M. George, shines a light on the vital role of the courts by bringing together judicial leaders to share their perspectives on critical issues facing the judiciary.*

*Golden Gate University Law Review's Ninth Circuit Survey* is the only law review in the nation dedicated exclusively to decisions issued by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Every year the *Survey* showcases key decisions of the court over a variety of legal fields, delving beyond the results of the Ninth Circuit cases to analyze the underlying reasoning, effect, and possible implications on future law, and this year's *Survey* is no different.

The Introduction of this year's *Survey*, written by the Honorable Michelle T. Friedland, provides insightful commentary that touches on the court's history, caseload, and procedures. The *Survey* features two Notes written by Golden Gate University School of Law students, which you will have the opportunity to hear about from the authors. Each exploring a different area of the law, the Notes in this edition analyze key decisions recently issued by the Ninth Circuit that involve 1) the *Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act* in connection with art restitution claims, and 2) undocumented immigrants and their status as a "habitual drunkard" in determining issues of deportation.

Today, we are honored to welcome the Honorable Michelle T. Friedland, United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Honorable Alexandra Robert Gordon, Superior Court Judge of the San Francisco County Superior Court.

# Agenda

## February 28, 2019

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### TENTH ANNUAL CHIEF JUSTICE RONALD M. GEORGE DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT COURT  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

**5:00 p.m.** **WELCOME** — Anthony Niedwiecki  
*Dean, Golden Gate University School of Law*

**LAW REVIEW INTRODUCTION** — Stephanie Nathaniel (JD 19)  
*Editor-in-Chief, Golden Gate University Law Review*

Nicholas Joy (JD 19)  
*Cassirer v. Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection Foundation:*  
The Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act Was Unveiled  
But Congress Still Has Work To Do

Corey Timpson (JD 19)  
*Ledezma-Cosino v. Sessions: The Ninth Circuit Maintains*  
Archaic View That Alcoholism is a Moral Character Flaw

**5:30 p.m.** **INTRODUCTIONS**  
Jennifer Babcock  
*Associate Professor, Golden Gate University School of Law*

**5:40 p.m.** **IN CONVERSATION**  
Hon. Michelle T. Friedland  
*Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit*

Alexandra Robert Gordon  
*Judge, Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco*

**6:40 p.m.** **CLOSING REMARKS**  
Anthony Niedwiecki  
*Dean, Golden Gate University School of Law*

**6:45 p.m.** **REFRESHMENTS SERVED**



*The Honorable*

# Judge Michelle T. Friedland

United States Circuit Judge of the  
United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Michelle T. Friedland was nominated by President Obama to serve as a judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on January 6, 2014, and she was confirmed by the United States Senate on April 28, 2014. The Ninth Circuit includes all of the federal courts in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and the Pacific Islands. In nominating Judge Friedland, President Obama commended her remarkable legal career as “a [testament] to the kind of thoughtful and diligent [judge]” she would be on the Ninth Circuit.

Michelle Friedland was born in Berkeley, California. In 1995, she earned her undergraduate degree with honors in ecology and population biology from Stanford University, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She then studied political theory for a year at Oxford University on a Fulbright Scholarship. In 2000, she earned her law degree from Stanford Law School, where she was inducted into the Order of the Coif, received the Urban A. Sonthheimer Award for graduating second in her class, and won the award for best student note.

After graduating law school, Judge Friedland clerked for Judge David Tatel of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit until 2001, and for United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor from 2001 to 2002. After completing these two distinguished clerkships, Judge Friedland returned to Stanford Law School as a lecturer on Federal Jurisdiction and Environmental Law. In 2004, Judge Friedland joined the firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson as an associate, and she was made partner in 2010. Thereafter, she taught at the University of Virginia School of Law as an adjunct professor, teaching a seminar on Constitutional Issues in Higher Education.

Prior to her appointment to the Ninth Circuit, Judge Friedland served as co-chair of The Bar Association of San Francisco’s Amicus Committee. She also served as a board member of the Silicon Valley Campaign for Legal Services, a non-profit organization that raises money for legal aid agencies serving low-income persons in Silicon Valley. In recognition of her *pro bono* commitments, the State Bar of California named her a recipient of the 2013 President’s Pro Bono Service Award.





*The Honorable*

# Alexandra Robert Gordon

Superior Court Judge of the Superior Court of California,  
County of San Francisco

Alexandra Robert Gordon is an experienced trial and appellate litigator and a newly appointed Superior Court Judge. On October 26, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown appointed Judge Gordon to a judgeship in the San Francisco County Superior Court. From 2009 until her judicial appointment in 2018, Judge Gordon served as a Deputy Attorney General in the Government Law Section of the California Department of Justice. She has represented the constitutional officers of the State of California in a wide array of litigation, in both state and federal trial and appellate courts. Judge Gordon has handled many high-profile cases from the trial court to the United States Supreme Court, including challenges to California's law prohibiting the possession of large-capacity magazines, banning possession of shark fin, and requiring the disclosure of major donor information by charitable organizations. In 2014, Judge Gordon was awarded the California Lawyer of the Year Award for her work defending the constitutionality of a state law prohibiting mental health professionals from engaging in treatments intended to change the sexual orientation of a minor.

Prior to joining the California Department of Justice, Judge Gordon was a Ninth Circuit Staff Attorney managing the Court's Criminal/Habeas Unit from 2003 to 2009. From 1999 to 2001, Judge Gordon practiced commercial litigation at a San Francisco law firm, and from 1998 to 1999, Judge Gordon clerked for District Judge Robert W. Sweet of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Judge Gordon received her Bachelor of Arts in history from Brown University, graduating with academic honors and winning the Department of History's prize for outstanding honors thesis. After graduating from Brown, Judge Gordon attended Oxford University as a Marshall Scholar (M.Phil., English literature, 1993) before earning her J.D. with honors at Harvard Law School in 1998. Prior to attending law school, she was a speechwriter for First Lady Hillary Clinton and for Ronald Brown, U.S. Secretary of Commerce.





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