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Preface

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PREFACE

The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has shown that the impact and insights of its decisions are due to a diverse region, strong will, and perseverance. Being the largest of the circuit courts of appeals in the nation, the Ninth Circuit encompasses nine states, the Territories of Guam, the Northern Mariana islands, as well as an extraterritorial court in China, with a total of 15 judicial districts within the circuit.¹ As a result, the Ninth Circuit has the largest caseload, decisions which have not only helped to shape the region, but also impacted legal trends throughout the United States.

The Executive of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Cathy Catterson, wrote an inspirational introduction for the *Ninth Circuit Survey* that reflects on the 25th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake and the impact it had on the court. This introduction exhibits the just how dedicated and resilient the staff and judges of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals are, and highlights how the James R. Browning Courthouse became a National Landmark.

The Ninth Circuit Survey is the nation's only Law Review edition devoted solely to the work of the Ninth Circuit. The *GGU Law Ninth Circuit Survey* is dedicated to highlighting key decisions of the court, including some of the most important and interesting cases heard before the Ninth Circuit. The *Ninth Circuit Survey* aims to provide a meaningful and enlightening discussion into the current state of the law, the Ninth Circuit's decisions, and their implications on the future of the law.

I would like to express my gratitude to each of the contributing writers, as well as the Executive of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Cathy Catterson, for providing exceptional work to be published in this year's *Ninth Circuit Survey*. I would also like to thank the Law Review staff for their hard work and collaborative efforts, without which the publication of this issue would not have been possible. I am especially grateful to the Editorial Board for their hard work, dedication, and gracious contributions to the publication process, and the Law Review as a whole. On behalf of the entire Editorial Board, I would also like to

¹ Office of the Circuit Executive, United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit: 2012 Annual Report, 6 (2013), available at <http://www.ce9.uscourts.gov/publications/AnnualReport2013.pdf>.

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extend our gratitude to Professor Ed Baskauskas for providing his guidance and expertise to the Law Review. Finally, the Editorial Board would like to express its appreciation for the support provided by Dean Rachel VanCleave, as well as the staff and administration of Golden Gate University that aided in making this publication possible.

Ilon Oliveira
Editor-in-Chief