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Preface

Courtney Brown
Golden Gate University School of Law

Anna Nicolopoulos
Golden Gate University School of Law

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PREFACE

The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit is the largest court of appeals in the country and issues decisions that affect the lives of fifty-four million people living in nine different states.¹ The Ninth Circuit encompasses fifteen judicial districts² and handles around 20 percent of the federal case load.³ The court establishes influential precedent for a large portion of the United States, and has consistently impacted legal trends throughout the United States.

The Ninth Circuit judges are presented with challenging caseloads, both in quantity and subject matter, which are the result of an immense number of appeals filed each year.⁴ Decisions by the Ninth Circuit often concern controversial legal issues, thrust onto the national stage as they are ripe for consideration by the United States Supreme Court. With many innovative technology companies calling the Ninth Circuit home, some of the most significant cases addressing copyright, trademark, trade secrets, privacy, and other related legal issues are heard in the Ninth Circuit. In her introduction to this issue, Ninth Circuit Judge M. Margaret McKeown discusses the Ninth Circuit's role in dealing with evolving technology and how that challenges existing law.

We are pleased to present this year's *GGU Law Review Ninth Circuit Survey*, the nation's only law review edition devoted exclusively to the decisions of the Ninth Circuit. This *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. We offer our thanks to each of the authors for their work in creating their articles. We would like to especially thank Judge M. Margaret McKeown, who graciously provided the introduction to this issue.

¹ *The Crucial Importance of the Ninth Circuit*, CIVILRIGHTS.ORG (Apr. 14, 2003), <http://www.civilrights.org/judiciary/courts/ninth-circuit.html>.

² Office of the Circuit Executive, United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit: 2012 Annual Report, 6 (2012), <http://www.ce9.uscourts.gov/publications/AnnualReport2012.pdf>.

³ Williams, Carol, *U.S. Supreme Court Again Rejects Most Decisions by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals*, LOS ANGELES TIMES (June 18, 2011), <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/jul/18/local/la-me-ninth-circuit-scorecard-20110718>.

⁴ Office of the Circuit Executive, United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit: 2012 Annual Report, 60 (2012), <http://www.ce9.uscourts.gov/publications/AnnualReport2012.pdf>.

Behind this *Survey* stands a group of individuals without whom the publication of this issue would not have been possible. A law review issue is never an individual effort, but instead the result of much collaboration and this issue is no exception. Many thanks to the Law Review Staff Writers, Associate Editors, and Board Members who have contributed immensely to this process.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, we would like to express our appreciation to Dean Rachel Van Cleave, as well as the faculty and staff of Golden Gate University School of Law, without whose support the Law Review would not be possible. We are especially grateful for Professor Jennifer Pesetsky's tireless assistance.

We would like to express our gratitude to Dean Emerita Drucilla Stender Ramey who has remained an advocate for the journal and has provided us with continued support. We would also like to extend thanks to Adjunct Faculty Advisor Deanne Morton for providing her editorial guidance and expertise to *Golden Gate University Law Review*.

As Editor-in-Chief and Executive Ninth Circuit Survey Editor, we have had the pleasure of working with so many talented minds to ensure this issue contributes to the important dialogue arising out of the work of the Ninth Circuit. It is our privilege to present this edition of the *Golden Gate University Law Review Ninth Circuit Survey*.

Courtney Brown
Editor-in-Chief

Anna Nicolopoulos
Executive Ninth Circuit Survey Editor